

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

APRIL – JUNE 2017

FROM THE WORD
AN UNSHAKEABLE
TRUST IN GOD

WITNESS
A PLACE OF
PEACE

WORLD REPORT
PHILIPPINES HEADQUARTERS
CHURCH DEDICATION

OUR CLASSICS
GOD STEPPED ON
THE SCENE

STANDING *Together*



The new Philippines headquarters church. Read about the dedication on page 36.

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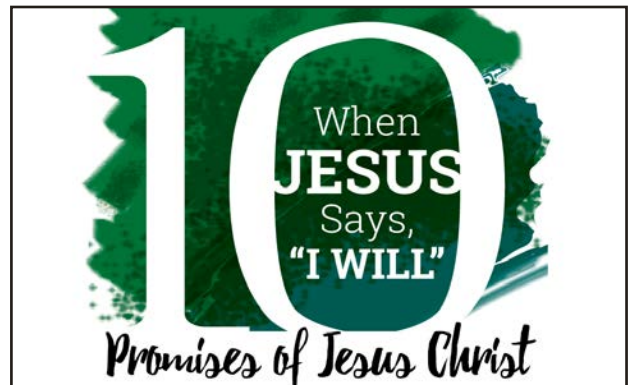


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VIEWPOINT

It is encouraging to reflect on how God has prospered the work in a beautiful region of the Philippines.

BY DARREL LEE

On January 22, 2017, Debbie and I were among those who celebrated the dedication of a new Philippines headquarters church in Bagong Sikat. (You can read more about the dedication service in the news article on page 36 of this magazine.) We had arrived from Portland a few days earlier and immediately had been taken on a nighttime tour. Our first impression of the new building was, “Wow, amazing!” The beautiful new structure stands in stark contrast to our organization’s modest beginnings in the Philippines.

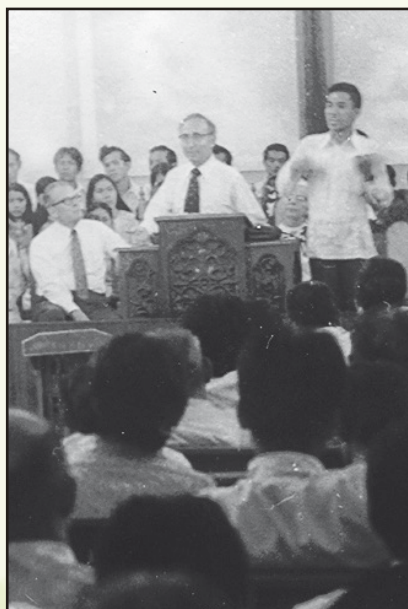
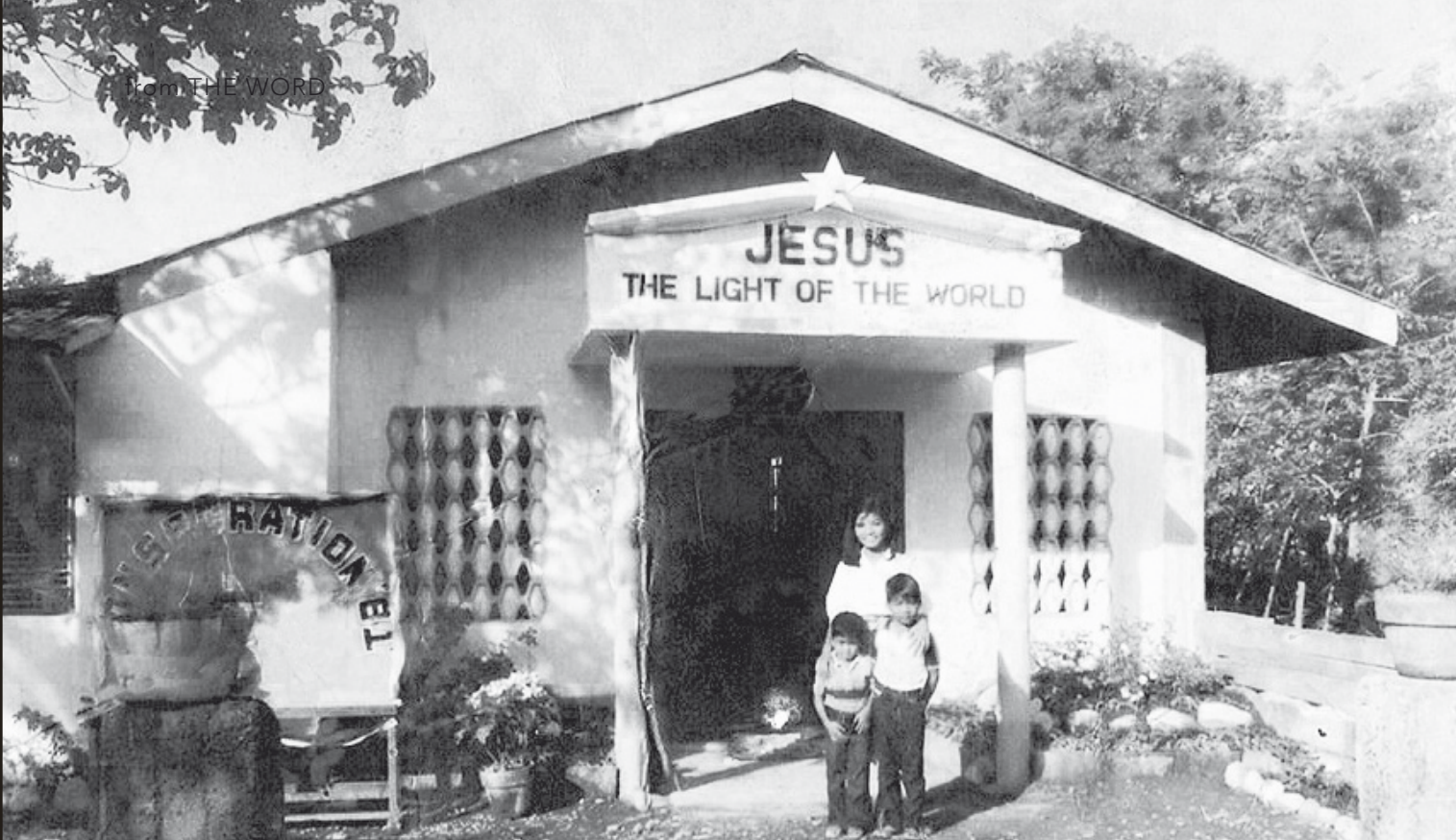
While living as a missionary in Japan in the late 1950s, Reverend Arthur Allen made initial outreach efforts into the Philippines on behalf of the Apostolic Faith work. He traveled to Manila, where he contacted those who had corresponded with the headquarters church in Portland. He found several small groups who had a desire to go deeper with the Lord, and reported, “They gathered in a place of worship between two houses. A few boards over the top and a little galvanized sheet metal over that for a roof, and a dirt floor—just a humble place—but we could feel the presence of God. As the Word went forth, the people began to weep. Their hearts were open, and God began to work in their lives. They asked that we might work together for the honor and glory of God.”

In 1976, General Overseer, Loyce Carver stopped in the Philippines on a two-month trip through several countries in Asia. In a report home he wrote: “We held a service in a barrio on Saturday evening. It was

dark when we pulled up in front of the farmhouse. A little candle was burning in their sitting area and another light in a room above. Soon, down the road came someone with a beaming light that they tied to a rafter, lighting up the whole courtyard. Several boys came along with an accordion and guitars; they put benches out under the mango trees and chairs next to the house. Then the service began. People came—farmers with their wives, young men, old men, and the children. The faces of the people revealed their deep hunger for the Word, a very touching scene.”

In 1984, Reverend Zenaida Ruiz was ordained and established as the leader of the Apostolic Faith work in the Philippines; she continues to serve in that role at our Bagong Sikat district headquarters.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Harold Barretts spearheaded a number of trips to the Philippines, especially after Brother Barrett “retired” from his years as a missionary in South Korea. Upon returning to his home in Portland, his heart remained in South Korea, Japan, and increasingly, in the Philippines. He would often come into my office when I served as our organization’s treasurer, bearing checks that needed to be wired to the Philippines. Much of those funds were from his own account! From his donations and those of others, groups in the Philippines were able to move their places of worship from under mango trees in rice paddies to newly constructed church buildings.



Top to bottom, left to right: Zenaída Ruiz's children in front of the first Bagong Sikat church building, which was dedicated in the 1960s; Zenaída Ruiz with missionaries Harold and Sally Barrett in 1989; Loyce Carver preaches at a meeting during his trip in 1976; the Carvers are welcomed by Filipino congregations.

Branch churches and new groups have continued to be established throughout the Philippines since Brother Harold's death in May of 2005. After his passing, Reverend Bill McKibben was appointed Director of the Philippines Work, as well as Japan and South Korea. He and his wife continue to make annual trips to those locations.

It is encouraging to reflect on how God has prospered the work in this beautiful region, and to feel the spirit of our brothers and sisters there as they continue to advance the Latter Rain Gospel in their field of service. It was a vivid reminder that wherever people are willing to consecrate their lives to God's cause, He will bring the increase.

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from **THE WORD**

form of and word
last heard of me,
love which is in Christ
show thyself approved
that needeth not to
vicing the world of truth
he Lord with all thine
not unto thine own
ways & knowledge
shall direct thy paths

AN UNSHAKEABLE TRUST IN GOD

THE ACCOUNT OF JOB'S SUFFERING GIVES INSIGHT INTO MAINTAINING A GODLY CHARACTER IN ADVERSITY.

FROM A SERMON BY DARREL LEE



The Book of Job examines the problem of human suffering. It is the account of a man of integrity, Job, who was the instrument in this divine object lesson. In Job 1:1 we read a description of Job: “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” It is noteworthy that all four of the characteristics ascribed to Job in this verse were favorable.

Job was a family man; he had seven sons and three daughters. He was also a wealthy individual; verse 3 details his possessions: “His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.”

Satan questioned Job's motives for serving God, asserting that this upright man did so only for the benefits he received. So God allowed Satan to test Job's faithfulness. He withdrew the protective hedge from around Job, and Satan took his possessions, his family, and finally his health. However, the enemy could not touch Job's most valuable asset—his faith and trust in God.

Along with the loss of everything he held dear, Job's sufferings included having to endure the accusations of his friends (using the term “friends” quite loosely). After all he had gone through, these men simply sat and stared at him for a week before they opened their mouths. Actually, it may have been easier for Job if they

had *never* opened their mouths. When they did speak, they seemed to be bursting with counsel and advice, but they were classic examples of those who utter words without knowledge (see Job 38:2). They clearly revealed the limitations of human wisdom.

Job questioned the reason for his suffering as he endured these terrible events. Why did God allow it? What was the reason he was going through this? He did not understand what was happening. Job asked questions of himself, of the friends who challenged him, and of God. Interestingly, God never answered his questions specifically. The understanding Job ultimately received was that God is God. He does not owe an explanation for what He allows or for what He does. He is sovereign!

The Lord spoke to Job out of a whirlwind, asking, “Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?” (Job 38:2). Job had protested that if only he had opportunity to stand in the presence of God and plead his case, he would fill his mouth with arguments. However, when God spoke, Job had little to say. He responded with the same words that God had used to him, “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge?” (Job 42:2-3). In effect he was saying, “Who am I to doubt God or to interrogate Him? Who am I to seek answers to the mysteries that God chooses to withhold?” Continuing on in verse 3 we read his acknowledgement: “Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.” There was no answer other than the fact that God was sovereign and did not need to justify Himself, and Job reached that conclusion. He realized that he did not need an answer if God chose not to provide it.



an Unsh TRILIST

At the conclusion of the trial, Job's prosperity and his standing in the community were restored, and he ended up living one hundred and forty more years. In Job 42:17 we read, "So Job died, being old and full of days." Job died a happy man! He was in the will of God, just as he had been during the period of time that he suffered.

All Job knew was that he was suffering in every way imaginable, and that his friends insisted hidden sin was the reason for the losses he had experienced. He did not know that he was engaged in a spiritual conflict.

Job did not know what was going on in the spiritual realm at his time of trial. He was unaware that Satan had accused him in the presence of God, implying that his loyalty to God could be bought. He did not know that God had granted permission for the protective hedge around him to be taken down so that his prosperity would disappear. He was unaware when Satan came back to God the second time and declared

that if Job's health were taken, he would curse God to His face. Job had no knowledge of the fact that in order to prove Satan wrong, God gave permission for Satan to afflict Job in his physical body. All Job knew was that he was suffering in every way imaginable, and that his friends insisted hidden sin was the reason for the losses he had experienced. He did not realize that he was engaged in a spiritual conflict.

The fact is, we are all engaged in spiritual conflict. Like Job, we do not know what is going on behind the scenes. What we do know is that we are engaged in spiritual warfare with the enemy of our souls. We also know what Job learned—that God is sovereign and He owes us no explanation for what He sends our way.

As we fight our spiritual battles, we can learn some lessons from the man Job. Perhaps the most important truth to comprehend is that Job was the same man *before* he lost everything as he was in the midst of adversity. The mettle of this man was revealed in those testing times. He was a blessed man—he was prosperous; he had family around him who looked to him, and others in society sought his counsel as well. However, it was not until he lost all of those external benefits that his true character was revealed.

There are seven attributes in Job's life that we can learn from and model after.

Job was a man of integrity. The first attribute we can note about Job is that he was a man of integrity. That integrity, described in Job 1:1, had four aspects: Job was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." The word translated *perfect* is from a Hebrew word meaning, "gentle" or



Unshakeable IN GOD

“dear.” Perhaps some men in today’s society would not want to be characterized in that manner. However, the mark of true manhood is not the ability to bark orders as proof of one’s authority. In fact, an attempt to dominate and control may be a mark of one who *lacks* manliness. A perfect man in this sense might be one we would label a “gentleman.”

Job was not only “perfect” but he was also “upright.” This offers a picture of a straight, even path rather than a crooked and uneven one. As we look back on our lives, we want to see a record of unswerving principle. There is value in that! Our path is not constructed solely on Sundays when we are at church. It is also constructed at home and in the workplace and in the school on a daily basis. We want a straight and even track record wherever we go. This is what it means to be upright.

Perhaps the most important truth to comprehend is that Job was the same man before he lost everything as he was in the midst of adversity.

Job feared God; he was reverent toward Him and serious in his approach to the Almighty. We should have the same attitude and approach to the Lord. Job

eschewed evil—he abstained from even the appearance of wrongdoing. Like Job, we should not allow anything in our lives that would compromise our integrity. Temptation comes to everyone—we all will have opportunities to prove our character—but we want to turn away from anything that might compromise our testimony. Integrity is who we are when no one else is around. We want to be people of strong moral principles whether others can see what we are doing or not.

Job was a man of prayer. As a man of prayer, Job carried a burden for his family. In the description of this upright man we are told that he “rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all” (Job 1:5). His family knew that he prayed; they saw him pray. Others do not always know everything we encounter in life, but they learn a lot about us when they see us facing the heat of the battle—when things seem to be going horribly wrong. Job was a man of prayer, and we want that to be our testimony as well. Our prayerfulness can be an example to others.

Over the years, it has been interesting to watch our children, and now our grandchildren, model the behavior of the adults around them. When our son was young, I gave him a toy lawn mower. When I would mow our lawn, he would come along behind me, pushing his toy mower. When I washed the car, he wanted a rag to help wash it too, even when he was so young he could barely walk. Recently we were in Roseburg celebrating my dad’s ninetieth birthday. I saw my two-year-old grandson, Moses, going back and forth across the lawn with a little toy lawn mower. He was oblivious to the fact that many of the sixty or so people

present were watching him! He was modeling behavior that he had seen. Wherever you are in life, you are setting an example of behavior, and others are noticing. May our example include prayerfulness.

Job was consistent. Job's life was one of steadiness and consistency. In many ways he was predictable. According to chapter 29, he had been a respected magistrate and judge in the city, and was held in high regard for his good deeds in serving the people. He had helped manage the community and settle disputes to the extent that even the aged and the noble honored him. In his time of trial, though his friends assumed his suffering must have been caused by some great sin, they could not point to a single instance where Job's behavior could be faulted. He was that consistent, dependable, and reliable. He rightly could say, "My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined" (Job 23:11).

Job had hope. Even though Job was in despair regarding the trials that had come his way, he had hope. We might wonder how hope could exist in the face of despair, but it did in Job's case. In spite of his suffering, he knew there was a better day coming. He affirmed, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" (Job 19:25), and believed that in his flesh he would see God. Everything in his life seemed to have shattered into pieces around him, but his faith and trust in God still stood. In Job 23:10 we read, "He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." He did not know if that coming forth as gold would be in this life or the life to come, but he held fast to his hope in God.

Job trusted in God. Job trusted in God though he could not feel His presence. In Job 23:8-9 we read, "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, But I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him." At his lowest point, he exclaimed, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me" (Job 23:3-5). Though Job could not find God, he believed God was there and that He held the answers to what he was facing.

Job was trusted by God. God trusted Job. It is one thing to say, "I am going to trust in God," but can God trust us? God held Job up before Satan as an example of faithfulness. We read that when Satan appeared

before Him, the Lord asked, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" (Job 1:8). God himself could say of Job that he was His servant. After Satan had been permitted to take away Job's children and his wealth, God repeated those same words the second time, and added that in spite of the trouble that had befallen Job, "still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause" (Job 2:3). God knew that He could trust Job to triumph in this trial, so He did not hesitate to allow Satan to do his worst.

Job was patient in suffering. Finally, we see that Job endured his suffering with patience. In the New Testament, his patience is mentioned by the Apostle James. We read, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy" (James 5:10-11). We certainly do not aspire to go through what Job went through—we would rather learn from observing the patience of Job than have occasion to practice it! James said that in Job's patience we see "the end of the Lord" or in other words, we see the outcome. We learn from Job that it pays to be patient!

In Ecclesiastes 7:8 we read the words of Solomon, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." While we may know where a matter began, we do not always know where it will end. However, we do know that the end will be better than the beginning! Ultimately, the end is Heaven. Simply to make Heaven will more than reward a difficult journey.

James said that the Lord "is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." God is sympathetic to the hard places we go through. In Hebrews 4:15 we read, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." We have an advocate who intercedes for us even now. We see how God blessed and prospered Job in the end. And even if we do not see a positive outcome to our trials in this life, we will see it in the life to come.

Following the example of Job begins on our knees. That is where living a life of integrity and faithfulness starts, and that is how it will continue. Those who persist in trusting God through the hard places in life one day will be rewarded!

■ *Rev. Darrel Lee is Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith work and pastor of the headquarters church in Portland, Oregon.*

1 CORINTHIANS 5-11



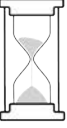




PART 2 OF A 3-PART STUDY ON 1 CORINTHIANS

O

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE		SETTING	KEY PEOPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Paul's intent in writing to the Corinthian church was to expose evil that persistently threatened to destroy Christianity.▶ The Gospel was applied to a host of issues, including	<ul style="list-style-type: none">immorality, marriage and adultery, intellectualism, public worship, and spiritual gifts.▶ The Christian church there was primarily made up of Gentiles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Corinth was a seaport city in southern Greece, and a major trade center. Its people were immoral and practiced idolatry.▶ The letter was written around A.D. 55.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Author: The Apostle Paul▶ Timothy, members of Chloe's household

POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 5-11

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump (5:6)	The saints shall judge the world (6:2)	Time is short (7:29)	Let not your liberty become a stumbling block (8:9)	Run that ye may obtain (9:23)	All passed through the sea (10:1)	Keep the ordinances (11:2)
						

B

BACKGROUND

CHAPTER 5 BEGINS THE SECOND major division of Paul's epistle. The Apostle knew it was imperative for the Corinthian converts to turn completely away from idolatry and the corruption so prevalent in their society. There had to be a clean break with the old sinful lifestyle, and the Corinthian believers had faltered at this point. The ethical and moral purity of some had degenerated, in at least one case to the level of public scandal.

Paul was very aware of the sensual and promiscuous practices in the Corinthian culture, but he also knew the Gospel deals completely with sin and that Christ had died to make men holy. Thus, he regarded any allowance of sin or opposition to a life of holiness as a perversion of the Gospel.

As in any congregation, the Corinthian believers were in varying stages of spiritual maturity. Some were solid in the faith, but

many were "babes in Christ," while others had been slow to abandon their pagan ways. They needed guidance, so in this portion of the letter, Paul addressed several practical issues of behavior, including immorality, the relationship between believers, specifics regarding marriage and adultery, spiritual liberty, and public worship.

Chapter 5



IN CHAPTER 5, PAUL ADDRESSED the immoral behavior that had been reported of one individual in the church, and the reprehensible neglect of those in authority who had failed to correct it. While Paul's instruction regarding discipline showed concern for the offender, it also emphasized the necessity of protecting the church from the infiltration of sin. In the interest of

maintaining purity, Paul commanded the believers "not to keep company" with the offender—a phrase which implies a close, habitual relationship. The purpose of the discipline was to motivate repentance and bring the offender back to God. His point was that church discipline is not negated by love, but rather is demanded by it.

Chapter 6



CHAPTER 6 FOCUSES ON THE settling of civil disputes between believers. The Corinthian church's witness was being damaged by legal disputes between members, and Paul asserted that Christians should be able to settle differences between themselves rather than taking problems to the secular courts. The Jews at Corinth had permission from Rome to apply their own laws in handling Jewish affairs. As a matter of principle, a Jew would never take a Jewish problem to a Gentile court for a solution. Paul felt that the Corinthian brethren should conduct themselves likewise and settle differences according to precepts established by Christ himself.

Unfortunately, the Greek members of the Corinthian church enjoyed public debate. Skill in presenting arguments and winning a debate had become almost a form of entertainment, and ultimately had led some of the brethren away from Christ's teachings. Paul questioned, "Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" Unbelievers watched the Early Church, as they do Christians today, to see if the followers of Christ lived the message they preached. Paul saw these forays into the secular legal system as detrimental to the Christian message.

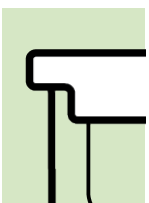
The second section of chapter six, beginning with verse 12, again deals with

immorality in the church. Paul reminded the believers that they had been washed and sanctified (or set apart for God), and as such, they were to glorify God in their bodies.

The statement in verse 12, "All things are lawful unto me," reflected a common perspective of the culture—that the soul was good but the body was bad. This concept affected behavior in two ways. Some thought that since the body was bad, it should be denied even the most basic needs. The other and more popular approach was to gratify every appetite of the body, assuming that what the body did could not affect the soul. Paul taught that although the physical body someday would cease to exist, it was designed to bring glory to God, and as such, Christ was to be Lord over the total being of humanity.

Another immoral practice popular among the Grecian population was the use of temple prostitutes. Paul reminded the believers that there could be no union between a body that belonged to Christ and that of a harlot. Paul knew that temptations would come, so he concluded by telling them to "flee fornication." They were not to underestimate the power of temptation, nor overestimate their abilities to resist.

Chapter 7



BEGINNING WITH CHAPTER 7, PAUL began addressing specific questions that had been asked in the letter from the Corinthian church. The first questions apparently had to do with marriage and singleness. Because Paul was addressing concerns in a particular setting where

prostitution and immorality were pervasive, this chapter must be understood in conjunction with what the rest of the Bible has to say on the topic.

From the beginning, God ordained that marriage is to take place between a single man and a single woman, and those two,



once united in marriage, were to be united for life. In response to questions posed to him, Paul taught that sex is not sinful as long as it takes place within marriage. Single Christians could marry if that was God's will for them. If a spouse left the marriage, Paul taught that the remaining spouse should not initiate a divorce. However, if a divorce took place, both individuals were to remain unmarried or reconcile their marriage if possible.

Continuing with his responses to specific questions, Paul explained that believers should stay in a Biblical marriage even if the marriage was with an unbeliever, noting that the children of such a marriage would be blessed by the fact that one parent was a follower of Christ. He

reminded believers of their responsibility to model Christian behavior before their unbelieving mates, because such an example could lead to their spouse's conversion. If the unbelieving spouse left the marriage, the believing spouse would not be condemned for the dissolution of the marriage, though no permission was given for remarriage.

Paul went on to give several examples illustrating that everyone should be content in all circumstances wherein they were called by God. By trusting God's sovereignty to reign in their lives, they could serve God acceptably whether they were married or unmarried, circumcised or uncircumcised, slaves or free men.

Chapter 8



BEGINNING WITH CHAPTER 8, THE Apostle began to show how the new faith of the Corinthian believers included responsibilities toward the Church as a whole, particularly with regard to the principle of spiritual liberty.

Paul started by addressing the subject of knowledge. Some members of the church apparently had built themselves up to be experts, but Paul pointed out that knowledge can lead to conceit, and that the first priority must be charity (love). True knowledge of God does not come through acquiring cognitive data, but rather by loving Him.

Next, Paul answered a question about eating meat that had been offered to idols. Meat was often brought to a butcher after it had been offered to idols, and then it was sold at a temple eatery or marketplace. Some wondered if it was right to consume this meat. Paul referred to the allowance to eat this meat as a "liberty," or a lawful right. His response was based on two timeless

principles that can help believers evaluate an action or make a decision: Is it Scripturally acceptable, and would it be a discouragement or stumbling block to someone else?

In reference to the first principle, Paul pointed out that idols to which the meat possibly had been offered were gods that did not really exist; therefore there was nothing wrong with the meat itself.

Paul's advice relating to the second principle highlights the importance of love. Although eating meat offered to idols was not a sin, idol worship was, and for that reason, many chose not to eat meat at all. Paul exhorted the Corinthian believers to be mindful of those who were "weak" in the faith, or in an undeveloped state of intellectual understanding or spiritual maturity. His concluding statement was: "Wherefore I will eat no flesh while the world standeth," showing that he was willing to forego his rights if exercising such a right would cause another person to stumble.

Chapter 9



HAVING ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLES OF liberty in Christ, Paul provided an illustration in chapter 9, using the example of his own life to prove that liberty is always subjected to a higher power.

His rhetorical question in verse 1, "Am I not free?" referenced the fact that he was not

bound by the Jewish ceremonial law. Along with all believers, he had freedom within the limits of the moral and spiritual law of God.

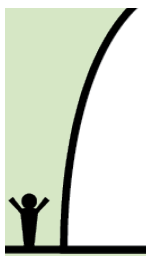
In subsequent verses, Paul went on to substantiate his authority as an Apostle with a series of rhetorical questions which could only be answered with a clear yes. Then, in



verses 15-22, he cited his own deportment in the ministry as an example of how Christian liberty should be exercised—with an emphasis on self-denying love. He concluded the chapter by expressing his desire to run the

race well and obtain the prize, bringing out once more that although liberty existed, he voluntarily disciplined himself in order to achieve that goal.

Chapter 10



PAUL CONCLUDED HIS DISCUSSION OF Christian liberty in chapter 10 by reminding the Corinthian church of errors made by the Children of Israel throughout their history. Using these examples, Paul charged the believers to beware of temptation and unbelief, to flee any practice that would move them toward idolatry, and to be guided by principles of thankfulness and expediency.

Paul was anxious to lead the Corinthian believers to maturity under grace. He made clear to them that the Christian life was not governed by legalism, but this did not justify lawlessness. He pointed them to the best example to follow: Jesus Christ, who was a model of supernatural love. Every act was to be judged by His standard.

Chapter 11



IN CHAPTER 11, PAUL ADDRESSED concerns related to public worship. The first sixteen verses deal with the practice of head covering. The point of Paul's concern in this passage was submission. In Corinth, Grecian women took a head covering at marriage as a sign of their married state and an indication that they were under their husbands' authority. Jewish women covered their heads at all times; to uncover their heads in public indicated they were morally loose. Some of the women in Corinth assumed that since Christianity made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles, servants and free, or males and females, they could remove their coverings.

Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand that by creating man first and then woman, God had set forth an order and established roles for men and women. Christ is the head of the man and man is the head of the woman. This order does not imply inferiority but establishes a system for working together in which the unique and complementary characteristics of men and women strengthen their marriages and usability. This is a submission by choice, not force, just as serving God is a submission

by choice. With regard to a woman covering her head, he declared that her long hair was sufficient.

In the culture of that day, for a man to wear a head covering while worshipping implied another authority had come between him and God. If a woman worshipped without her head covered, she indicated that she was not subjecting herself to her husband, and therefore not to God, either. This lack of subjection was not an inconsequential matter to Paul, or to God. So the Apostle set forth a principle: in any culture, God wants His people to submit to His authority and the order He has prescribed.

Paul also addressed the matter of hair length based on cultural perceptions. In Corinth, long hair on a man was thought to be an indicator of male prostitution. Female prostitutes cut their hair short or shaved their heads. Thus, the length of hair would have been important to a person's witness as a follower of Jesus Christ. Each aspect of a believer's life should bear out that he or she submits to and glorifies God. Anything that detracts from that witness should be avoided.

THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

AN EXCERPT FROM THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MINISTER'S MANUAL

Marriage is a sacred institution originated by God. According to Scripture, it is a covenant relationship which establishes a bond between a man and a woman that is dissolved only when death causes the inevitable separation.¹

God's design for marriage goes back to man's beginning. The first chapters of Genesis relate how God spoke the firmament into existence, and created water, dry land, vegetation, and every living creature. Then He created man. Although God deemed everything that He had made "very good," He proceeded to identify something that was **not** good: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). To address man's need for a suitable companion, God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam. Then He took one of Adam's ribs, and from it "made he a woman, and brought her unto the man" (Genesis 2:22).

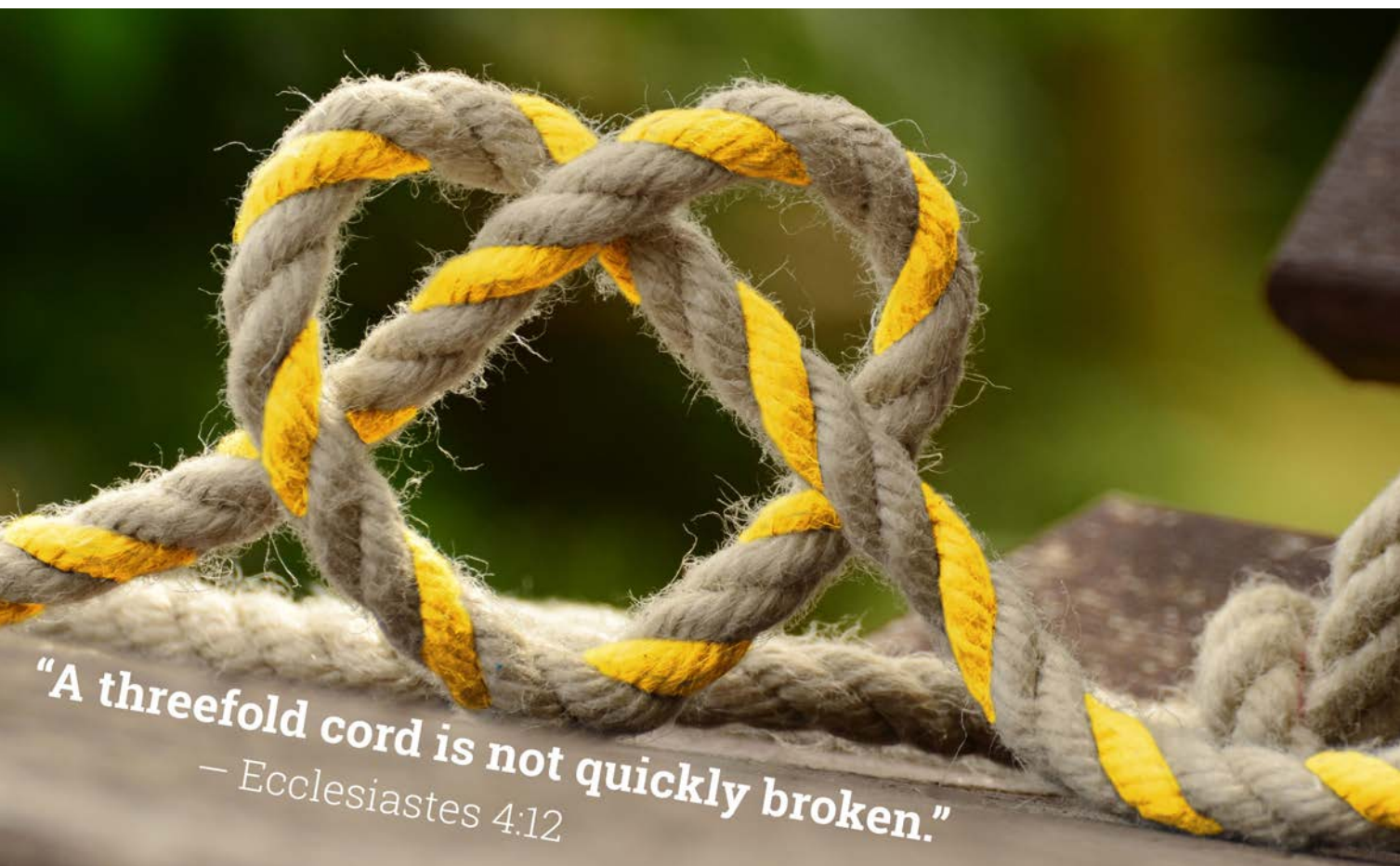
It is significant that in Genesis 2:23, the woman made from Adam's rib was referred to as "woman." In verse 25, she is referred to as Adam's "wife." Something had happened—God had instituted marriage! God had made the two as one. And He immediately gave the first Scriptural directive regarding this union: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Thus, according to God's decree, the marriage union transcends even the bond between parent and child.

Scripture gives several guidelines regarding who a person should marry. First, it is clear that marriage is to be between a man and a woman. Woman was specifically created by God to be a "help meet for him [man]" (Genesis 2:18, 20). The literal meaning of this phrase is "a helper corresponding to man"—one who was equal and adequate for him. She was perfectly and uniquely formed to complement man physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Although marriage, both Scripturally and traditionally, has been defined as the union of a man and woman as husband and wife, some are trying to revise that definition to say that marriage is the legal union of two *individuals*, irrespective of gender. However, the Bible is clear that a physical relationship between two men or two women is an abomination. Leviticus 18:22 says, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." Society may look at a same-sex union as an "alternative lifestyle" or simply a matter of choice, but such relationships are clearly condemned by God.²

Another basic guideline regarding the choice of a marriage partner is found in 2 Corinthians 6:14, which reads, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Those who are saved need to seek another believer as a marriage companion. That person needs to be more than just religious; the two need to be one in faith and doctrine.

Utmost care must be taken in choosing a marriage partner, for God's Word teaches that marriage is to be an exclusive relationship—a lifelong, faithful union with one's spouse. Mark 10:9 reads, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."



Divorce was never part of God's plan, because He intended marriage to be between one woman and one man, for life.

While the law of the land may allow for the dissolution of a marriage, in God's eyes that marriage exists until one of the marriage partners dies.

Divorce was never part of God's plan, because He intended marriage to be between one woman and one man, for life. The Prophet Malachi rebuked Jewish men for divorcing their wives, warning them, "Let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth," and then continuing, "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away [divorce]" (Malachi 2:15-16).

Under the Law of Moses, divorce was tolerated under certain conditions because of the hardness of the hearts of the people. When the Pharisees of Jesus' day questioned Him about this, He responded, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so" (Matthew 19:8). Jesus was restating that the divine intention for the covenant of marriage did not include dissolution of that sacred bond.

Jesus did provide one allowance for "putting away" of a wife. This is described in Matthew 19:9, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." This verse refers to the Jewish law concerning the vow of espousal. Under that law, the espousal was as binding as the marriage vow. The couple met to make the espousal agreement, but once

the arrangement had been made, the two individuals did not come together for about a year, allowing each of them time to prepare for the marriage. When that period was up, they came together and the marriage was consummated. If, during that espousal period, one broke the agreement by having a sexual union with another person, that was fornication. Under Jewish law, that was grounds for the marriage agreement to be dissolved.

Joseph is an example of this. In Matthew 1:18-19, we read, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.” Joseph knew he had not had physical relations with Mary, and yet she was found to be with child. All the evidence seemed to indicate that she had been unfaithful, but the angel of the Lord came and reassured him. Otherwise, he could have obtained a bill of divorcement and put her away because, in a normal situation, her pregnancy would have been proof of an act of fornication.

When a believer is married to an unbeliever, the saved individual is not given license to divorce the unsaved. The Bible says, “If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him” (1 Corinthians 7:12-13).

Paul goes on to say, “If the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?” (1 Corinthians 7:15-16). The faithfulness of a Christian spouse could cause the unsaved individual to turn to God.

Some teach that the phrase “not in bondage” in verse 15 means the believer is free to marry again. However, the Greek word *douloo*, translated “bondage” in this verse, is not the same word used in verse 39 where Paul says, “The wife is bound [*deo*] by the law as long as her husband liveth.” Paul was simply stating that if the unbelieving partner insisted on departing, the believing spouse would not come under any condemnation for the fact that the unbelieving spouse abandoned the marriage.

At times, a Christian’s marriage may end in divorce, in spite of his or her attempts to avoid that outcome. However, even when a believer has been abandoned and divorced by an unfaithful spouse, Scripture makes no allowance for remarriage while the first companion

God blesses and strengthens the one who purposes to live according to His instructions.

lives. There is still potential for the departed spouse to repent and desire to return to the marriage vow that was made before God, but if the believing spouse remarries, that restoration would not be possible. God blesses and strengthens the one who purposes to live according to His instructions, and helps him or her to continue to live a victorious life as a divorcee.

Romans 7:2-3 reinforce the prohibition against remarriage while the companion lives: “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress.” In Luke 16:18, we find the same instruction given concerning the man. “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.” Both the man who separated from his wife and married someone else, and the man who married the wife of another man are living in the state of adultery. Even though such a union may be legal according to the laws of land, is not right when measured by Scripture.

If individuals find themselves in a marriage situation that is inconsistent with what the Bible prescribes, they should start by giving their hearts and the situation to God. He has a marvelous way of untangling “impossible” conditions and providing a clear path for complying with His will.

God’s plan for this most intimate of human relationships is a good one. As husbands and wives apply Biblical principles in building their marriages and keeping God first, He will be glorified and His divine purpose for this sacred union will be exemplified to the world.

¹ See Matthew 19:4-6 and Mark 10:5-9.

² See Genesis 19:1-13; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9.

WHEN JESUS SAID "I WILL"

WHAT GREATER ASSURANCE COULD WE HAVE THAN PROMISES FROM THE SON OF GOD HIMSELF?

FROM A SERMON BY ANDY CHASTEEN

T

The Word of God is instructive, encouraging, and full of promises. Some of the most beautiful and powerful of those promises are the words of Jesus himself. Over thirty times in the New Testament, the Lord stated "I will" do this or that. That number does not include instances when one of the Gospel writers quoted Jesus, or occasions when the Lord spoke in parables. These are times when Christ himself said "I will" in extending promises.

1

A PROMISE OF SALVATION

We begin with the promise recorded in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I *will* come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." If you are unsaved today, Jesus is knocking on your heart's door. The hope of eternal life begins at salvation. If you have not experienced the forgiveness of sin that only Jesus can give, you need to start there.

Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, waiting for us to open so He can enter. If we give Him access, He promises that He *will* come in, but the choice is ours. Jesus is not an intruder. He will not barge into a

person's heart. He knocks and waits, and it is up to us to grant Him entry. When we do, He gives us blessings that we do not deserve—forgiveness and peace and joy and comfort. The Bible says He sheds His love abroad in our hearts.

We want to be clear about what salvation is, because that is where our hope of eternal life begins. Salvation is not just acknowledging Christ. It is not simply confessing or accepting Christ. It is not just calling on His Name. It is not even saying the sinner's prayer, though all of these may lead us toward salvation. Salvation is an act of God, a miracle of transformation that occurs when we come to God in repentance and believing faith, and let Him take control of our lives.

A sinner must acknowledge his sinful condition. He must confess and believe that Jesus Christ is the only remedy for the sin problem. If there is no repentance—no turning from sin—there can be no salvation. But when a person turns away from sin and opens the door of his heart, the Lord enters in. Salvation occurs, and that individual begins a new life. Then and only then, all the promises in God's Word are within reach.

2

A PROMISE OF USABILITY

One of those "I will" promises that becomes ours at salvation is found in Matthew 4:19. "And he [Jesus] saith unto them, Follow me, and I *will* make you fishers of men." God is interested in making us what

He wants us to be, and that happens through following Jesus Christ. If we are obedient to the Lord, He promises to use us to spread His Gospel. We may feel inadequate, but the Lord will join with us to accomplish what needs to be accomplished. Notice that we are to “follow” Him. We do not walk shoulder to shoulder next to the Lord, and certainly do not move out in front of Him. We follow behind Him, step by step. Then He will lead us in the right path. In the spiritual realm, nothing of much value

decisions of life or instruction in righteousness, we need the Lord to help us, to show us. However, we must be close enough to see where He is pointing.

Some years ago when my son was young, the two of us were hunting together when I saw something on a distant hillside. I told him, “Look over there,” but the object was a long way off and he couldn’t see what I was looking at. So I told him, “Come here close to me and I will show you where I am pointing.” Have you ever

done that? If you are close together, the other person can look down your finger to see exactly where you are pointing. That is what the Lord wants to do with us. In effect, He says, “Come here close and I can show you. I can point you in the direction that I would like you to go.” God will give clear directions if we get close enough to Him.

Sometimes people complain that they cannot get an answer from God. Perhaps they are not truly seeking the Lord but are living their lives as they wish. Maybe they are even on the edge of disobedience, and then they wonder why life seems to be a guessing game. When we draw close to God, He will reveal His will. Get near to Him! Get to know Him intimately! Paul the Apostle said he longed to “know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” Those words describe a close relationship.

The Lord will help us get there and will give us clear direction when we do, although His guidance often comes step by step.

10

Promises of Jesus Christ

is achieved in one step—that is just a starting point. However, as we continue to follow God, He shapes us into what He wants us to be.

3

A PROMISE OF GUIDANCE

In Luke 6:47, Jesus preceded His parable about wise and foolish builders by saying, “Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I *will* shew you to whom he is like.” This is more than the Lord telling His listeners, “I am going to tell you a story about a wise man and a foolish man who built houses on rock and sand.” The Lord is promising to help us fully comprehend the truth He expounds if we will come to Him and listen, really paying attention.

There are great advantages to staying close enough to the Lord to hear His sayings. One of those advantages is that we will receive clear direction. The Lord says “I will show you.” In other words, “I will help you comprehend the way to go.” Whether we need direction in the

4

A PROMISE OF HEALING

In Matthew 8:2-3 we find Jesus’ promise regarding divine healing. A leper came to Jesus and worshipped him, saying, “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I *will*; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” This leprous man made a bold statement. He did not say, “If you *can* . . .” but “If you *will* . . .” There is a big difference!

The Lord can do whatever He wishes. In searching the Scriptures, not one time do we find Jesus saying of Himself, “I can.” That He can is a given. It was the leper’s faith that evoked a response from Jesus. The afflicted man’s words implied, “I believe that You can. If You will, You are able to do this.” We can do the same thing

when approaching the Lord. We can come with boldness—with respect and with reverence, but boldly, and in faith. In Hebrews 4:16, this is how we are encouraged to approach the Throne of Grace.

Jesus' response to the leprous man's statement of faith was "I will; be thou clean." Instantly the leper was cleansed! We believe in divine healing. Sometimes people who are afflicted are doubtful, wondering if healing is for them. Perhaps the enemy puts the question in their minds, What about Paul? He was not healed . . . how can I be sure healing is for me? If we are anointed with oil and prayed for by the elders of the church as the Bible says (see James 5:14), we can have faith in Jesus' promise. If healing does not happen right away, we can come for prayer once again. Until we hear from God as Paul did that what we are going through is His will and plan, we have the right and privilege to keep praying for healing and believing that the Lord will heal us. The Bible says they brought the sick to the Lord and He healed them all.

5 A PROMISE FOR OTHERS

In Matthew 8:7, we read about a centurion who came to the Lord on behalf of his servant. Jesus knew of this man's request before he asked it. When the centurion told the Lord that a servant in his house was sick, Jesus told him, "I *will* come and heal him." The centurion did not even need to ask! Our hearts tell the Lord all He needs to know, but our requests can activate our faith.

Jesus healed this servant because of another person's faith. What a beautiful picture of intercession! Many of us have had the opportunity to pray for someone who is not nearby in terms of proximity, and then have heard later that the Lord healed that one or took care of the problem. What a God we serve! The Lord can put a burden on our hearts in the middle of the day or night to pray for someone. We petition the Lord on behalf of that one, lifting our hearts to God and expecting Him to answer. Jesus responded to the centurion with "I will," and He will do the same for the requests we bring to Him on behalf of others.

6 A PROMISE OF WISDOM

In Luke 21:15 we find a promise regarding wisdom: "For I *will* give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." The Lord was speaking here of coming events. He said there was no need for His followers to dwell ahead of time on

what they would say in such circumstances, promising "I will give you a mouth and wisdom."

Claiming this promise takes action on our part. Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." The Word of God can give us what we need to address situations properly, but we must know God's Word. It will instruct us in how to speak and act with wisdom. Psalm 119:11 says "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." We can couple that with Proverbs 4:23, which cautions, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." If we hide the Word of God in our hearts, it gives us protection. If we place it down deep and keep it with diligence, we will have wisdom to address the issues of life. The Word of God is our reference and our weapon, but we need to know it to use it. When the Word of God is woven into us, we can access it and respond appropriately.

At times you may be asked what you think about this or that situation going on in our society. I like to respond that it does not matter what I think. What does the Word of God say about it? When someone questions you about an issue being debated in today's society, you can say, "I believe we should follow what the Bible says." The Word of God has power! It can give us the answers we need, but we have to know it. We cannot recall something we have never learned.

7 A PROMISE OF RENEWAL

A promise in Matthew 11:28 speaks to times when we need renewal. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I *will* give you rest." Jesus knows our lives can become busy. He knows that the pressures of life can get to us, so He says "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest." This also reads as, "I will refresh or renew you." God promises a refreshing, but we must come to Him.

Coming to Him does not mean just attending church. We have to make it all the way to Jesus to receive His rest. Church is a great place to be, but it is when we come to Jesus that we find rest for our souls. Make the effort! Get all the way to the Lord!

This verse certainly is an invitation to the unsaved. Sin is heavy; it weighs people down. Jesus can lift that burden of sin when one opens his heart and allows Him in. It also applies to any of the redeemed who are burdened or laden down. Come to Jesus! He will give you rest. In all of the cares and busyness of life, when we come to Jesus we find refreshing. Oh what a Lord we serve! He takes care of us.

8

A PROMISE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

In John 14:13-14, we find a promise of Jesus that is repeated. Verse 14 says, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I *will* do it." This was a repetition of the statement in verse 13: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." The repetition seems to emphasize that the Lord is on our side. That is why we pray "in Jesus' name." He wants us to know that He will work for us if we ask in His name, that the Father in Heaven may be glorified. We want to remind ourselves and those who may be listening that there is power in that Name. We do not want any doubt there.

While there is power in the Name of Jesus, we do need to understand that praying in Jesus' name is not a blank check by which we get whatever we want. When we pray in Jesus' name, we are praying that God will respond to our petitions according to His will. Jesus' desire is always that the Father in Heaven be glorified, so when we pray in Jesus' name, that is our desire as well. God knows what is best, and answers prayer in a manner that will glorify Him.

As we pray and draw close to God, we find assurance that it is always best to let Him choose for us. His will is always the best way. Like Jesus, we want to pray with a spirit of "Thy will be done." We want our hearts to be yielded, our spirits to say, "Take anything out of my life that may hinder. Add whatever You know will most glorify the Father." A prayer like that brings resolution to a lot of situations.

When we are enjoying those intimate one-on-one times with the Lord, we find that we simply have no desire to ask anything based on our own limited perspective of what would be best. The Lord is so close and the communion is so precious that our hearts naturally say, "Whatever You will, Lord. Whatever You want. Put my requests and my human thinking aside because You know what is best. You add and subtract whatever is needful in my life, and I will be happy with that." When we pray in that manner in Jesus' name, God can fill us with all His fullness.

9

THE PROMISE OF A COMFORTER

A couple of verses later in the same chapter, Jesus gives another wonderful promise. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16). In the prior verse, Jesus gave the requirement: "Keep my command-

ments." When we are obedient to God, Jesus promises to send His Holy Spirit to fill us.

While the presence of the Holy Spirit is a precious gift, we do not want to simply seek for the experience itself. We should seek to be close to God. We do not have to worry about when and where and how we will receive the Holy Spirit. We simply need to seek Him.

This will mean drawing near to Him. Can you fill a drinking glass from a pitcher that is across the room? Of course not! You need to place the glass close to the source of water. We need to be close to the Lord before He can fill us. Receiving the Holy Spirit cannot happen from a distance. When we get close, He can fill us. He *will* do so, and it will be a definite experience. Then, as we remain close to the Lord, He will abide with us forever.

10

A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

In John 14:3, we find a promise for our future. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I *will* come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Jesus is coming back to earth: He promised "I will come again." His desire for each one of us is not just that we be saved, sanctified, and filled with His Holy Spirit, but that we spend eternity with Him in a place He is preparing. The word translated *place* in this verse is very specific. Jesus said He was going to prepare a specific spot or location. He was not describing a general gathering. He was speaking to His disciples, and He told them, "I go to prepare a place for *you*." Each one of them could have inserted his name in that promise.

You can insert your name in it as well! He is preparing a specific spot for you. The Lord is expecting you. We can go to many places on this earth that have been prepared for guests, but one day the Great Host will escort us personally to an eternal dwelling place He has prepared especially for us. John 16:22 says, "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I *will* see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." The joy we share with Him there will last forever.

What a beautiful group of promises! And the best part is, we have these assurances from Jesus himself. Today, if you are in need of divine help, draw close to God. Look into the Word of God, rely on Him, and He will bring you the help you need. He promised!

■ Rev. Andy Chasteen is a minister and the music leader at the Apostolic Faith Church in Medford, Oregon.

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WITNESS



A PLACE

of Peace



BY LARRY & KAYE MONTGOMERY

God restored the love in our marriage and gave us peace that sustained us when we faced the hardest time in our lives.

Kaye shares her story ~

I t was back in 1974, in a little church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, when Jesus transformed my life. I was a miserable young mother at the time, having failed to find the happiness I longed for in life.

I was not born into a Christian home. My parents divorced a couple of months after my birth and the first part of my life was unhappy. When I was eight years old, though, my mother was wonderfully saved and our lifestyle became completely different. That change helped me realize that there were two kinds of lives, and that God was the answer.

When I was eleven years old, my mother died, and my Christian grandparents became my legal guardians. They were quite strict, and as I grew into my teens, it seemed to me that my friends were having more fun than I was. God was calling after my heart and every time I did something wrong, I felt condemned for it. I thought if I could just go to a different church, maybe there wouldn't be such conviction on my heart.

However, I discovered that no matter what church I went to, God was there. I kept thinking, One of these days when I am married and leave this strict home, I will be happy.

At the age of seventeen I graduated from high school, and married Larry soon after. It was not long before the two of us were arguing about almost everything, including religion. Larry had been brought up in the Apostolic Faith Church, but he was not a Christian either. Though he rarely attended church, he knew where he wanted to go when he was ready to seek salvation. I told him I didn't see it his way, but would go to his church sometimes.

I thought perhaps becoming a mother would bring happiness. However, our first child was born prematurely, and we did not know if he was going to make it. Lying there in the hospital bed, I promised the Lord that if He would help our baby live, I would find a church to attend. Our little boy did live, and I kept my promise and found a church. I even began singing in the choir, but still I had no happiness inside. I remember singing



Left to right: Larry and Kaye with most of their children and grandchildren in 2002; at Christmastime in 2013.



the song, "Do You Know My Jesus?" and feeling terribly convicted because I did not know Jesus personally.

Our marriage was fast becoming a wreck. In time we had a second child on the way, but Larry was running around with his friends and racing motorcycles. I was home alone a lot and was getting bitter. I began to think that maybe if I left our marriage, I would be happy.

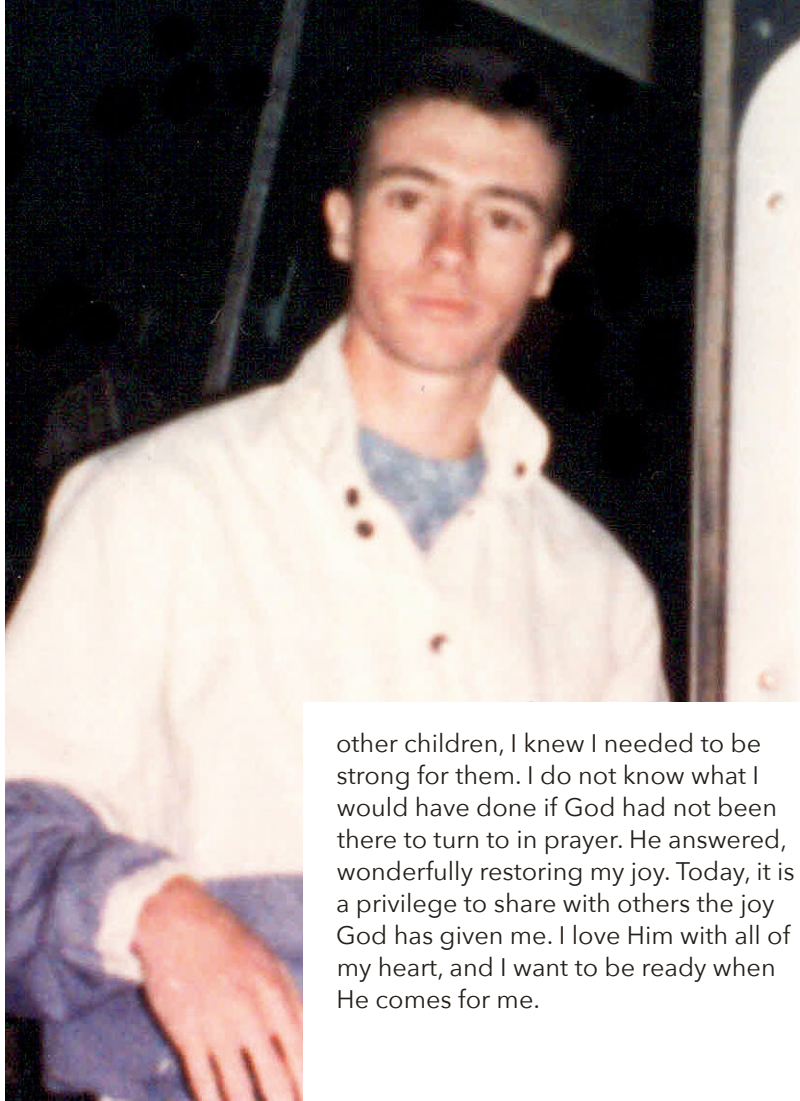
God was watching over us though. One Easter Sunday morning, my husband wanted to go to his church because it was Easter, and I went with him. I felt so miserable sitting there in the congregation, thinking I must be the worst sinner in the place. I wanted to get out and not come back for a long, long time. We went to his grandmother's house for lunch, and she invited us to come the next Sunday because revival meetings were starting. Without checking with me, my husband said, "We'll be here," and I was so angry at him!

That whole next week, it felt like a tug-of-war was going on in my heart. God was dealing with me, and at the same time, the enemy of my soul was telling me I couldn't live like a Christian and that I would have no friends—I might as well wait until I was old and couldn't have any fun to give my heart to God. By the time I pillowed my head on Saturday, I had made up my mind to fake a headache the next morning as an excuse not to go. Thankfully, the Lord worked on

my heart and I got up, got our little boy ready, and went with Larry to church.

That morning the preacher talked about the Lord's coming. I had never heard about that before, and God really tugged at my heart strings. When the congregation was singing the last song, my husband turned to me with tears running down his face and said, "Honey, do you want to go and pray?" I am not sure if I even answered him. I probably ran to the altar of prayer, because I knew that was my chance. There I poured out my heart to the Lord, telling Him I was sorry for the life I was living and the sins I had committed. I promised Him that if He would give me peace and happiness like the people in the church had, I would serve Him. The Lord came down in a moment's time and wonderfully saved me, wiping the slate clean. He saved Larry that same morning as well.

That day God gave me a new heart, a new life, and a new beginning, and I finally found the true happiness I had been searching for. Later, God sanctified me and filled me with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In the years since then, He has answered many prayers. There have been some difficult times and hard trials—the hardest one being the time when we lost our eighteen-year-old son due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound. I can't imagine a more difficult trial, but the Lord truly was my Comforter. I felt my joy was gone forever, but having two



When he told us that our son was gone, my chest felt like someone took a big chunk out of it. If I had not been sitting down, it would have knocked me to the floor. The pain was indescribable.

The last photo of the Montgomery's son, taken before he left for military service.

other children, I knew I needed to be strong for them. I do not know what I would have done if God had not been there to turn to in prayer. He answered, wonderfully restoring my joy. Today, it is a privilege to share with others the joy God has given me. I love Him with all of my heart, and I want to be ready when He comes for me.

Larry shares his story ~

God has shown great love and mercy toward me. He spoke to my heart when I was a young boy. Some veterans from the Apostolic Faith—Jim and Naomi Williams, and Elton and Sarah Hamilton—brought this Gospel to our part of Arkansas; they used to come to my grandmother's house and hold cottage meetings. As just a little child, I would sit there and listen as they sang the old hymns. Those songs touched my heart and sometimes I would cry while listening. I did not understand that God was speaking to me.

My mom and dad were very strict, and my younger brother and I could not do anything without someone letting our folks know. However, I have no regrets whatsoever about that. I don't feel like I have missed a thing in

life. I have never smoked, never been drunk, never took the Lord's name in vain, never used drugs. In fact, there is a whole list of things I never did, but living a life that looked good from the outside did not make a Christian out of me. I still needed to be saved.

I spent three years in the military and was overseas in Germany for about twenty-two months. Though Kaye and I had married and she was with me, there still were plenty of chances to do anything I wanted. However, God kept His hand over me and I did not go deep into sin. In fact, one time while I was in the service, a man asked me, "Are you a Christian?" I would have liked to say yes, but I knew the love of God was not down in my heart. Through the years, the Lord talked to me and I knew my need for salvation, but I put it off, thinking that some day when I got old I would turn my life over to Him.

How thankful I am that God kept dealing with my heart. In April of 1974, my grandmother invited myself, Kaye, and our young son to a church service in Fort Smith, Arkansas. That day God let me know that I needed to pray. Before, I had always counted the cost and turned away, but that day it was clear to me that I just needed to make things right with God. I am so glad that I found my way to an altar of prayer, and there God came down and made a wonderful change in my heart.

I have never looked back or regretted that decision for a minute.

Kaye was saved the same day. God restored the love in our marriage and blessed our family as we did our best to serve Him together. We used to sing a song sometimes about doing whatever it takes to draw closer to the Lord. Part of the lyrics said you would be willing for God to take the dearest things in your life, if that would make you more like Him. Though I hadn't personally experienced all of the words, I sang it from my heart and I meant it.

Then one day, when my wife and I had been saved for about fourteen years, the Lord allowed one of those dearest things to be taken from us. Sometimes we think we would like to be able to see down the road a ways, but it is better that God did not show me what was going to happen because I might have told Him I could not handle it. It is hard for me to convey the feelings that surround this part of our story, but from my perspective, there is nothing in the world harder than losing a child. The Word of God says that God's grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness, and that really is true. I do not know what we would have done without the Lord.

The evening that a military officer came to our house, we had no idea what was happening. After he greeted us, he told us, "You had better sit down." I said, "I don't need to sit down . . ." but he insisted, "Yes, you do." When he told us that our son was gone, my chest felt like someone took a big chunk out of it. If I had not been sitting down, it would have knocked me to the floor. The pain was indescribable.

When the officer left our house, Kaye and I hugged each other. We got down by the couch and opened God's Word to Psalm 121:2, "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." We knew God was where we must turn. But how do you continue on with life after something like that happens? For many, many days I was in a fog. I had a job and had to go back to work, but I hardly knew what I was doing; it was hard to concentrate. Sometimes while driving around town, I would think I saw my son. People reached out to us, sent us cards, and tried in every way to help. We appreciated all of that but they could not really provide the comfort we needed. It is only God's grace that helps in hard times like that, because you are not able to pray. You are hardly able to function. How grateful I am that God was there.

One Sunday morning at church, something in my heart said I simply could not go on living like that for the rest of my life. I remember nothing about that

meeting except that it seemed there was just too much sorrow and pain to bear. As I began to pray, I told the Lord I was not going to leave until He did something to help me get through this. There was no bargaining with God, just a desperate need. Even as I prayed, though, my prayer was that God would not take *all* the pain away. I did not want to be so hardened I could not recall my pain anymore; I wanted enough left to give me compassion for others going through a similar time.

The Lord came down and met me that morning. I cannot explain what He did, but somehow He replaced whatever had been taken out with His own presence. It was a new experience. I knew when it happened; it was that real. God had filled my heart. Did I know exactly how things would go forward from that point? No, but I knew it was going to be different, and it was. Truly I can say today that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Through the years since then, Kaye and I have been able to talk to folks along the way who had aching hearts and tell them that God will hold them through the storms. God has blessed our lives and although we never forget our son, we thank God for our daughter and her husband, our other son and his wife, and our six precious grandchildren. We have found that God is always there, working in our behalf, helping us along, giving us strength for our day.

It is good to serve the Lord. This Gospel is the most wonderful thing in our lives, and we look forward to the day when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death" (Revelation 21:4). Until then, I want to be all that He would have me to be, and follow Him every step of the way.

■ *Larry and Kaye Montgomery live in Yakima, Washington, where he is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church.*

TROUBLED TEEN *TRANSFORMED*

BY JAY LARRECHEA

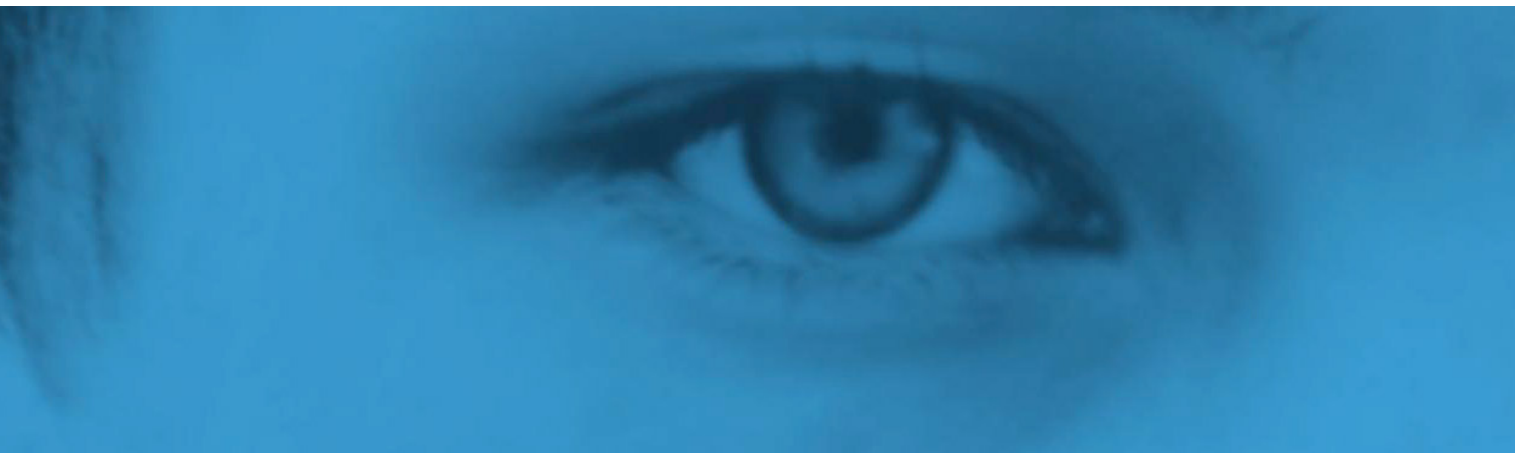
I was heading down the wrong road, and quickly becoming an ornery kid—that one mothers warn their kids not to hang out with.

My parents divorced when I was very young, and I grew up without a father. My mother worked to support my sister and me, so she couldn't always keep an eye on what we were doing.

At just ten years old I began smoking cigarettes, which I stole from my mother's boyfriend. At first it was just a cigarette here and there, but eventually I was smoking a pack a day. The next year, I started smoking marijuana and dabbling in a lot of other



A family photo of Jay with his wife, Christina, and their two daughters in February of 2017.



things. The year after that, I began standing outside liquor stores and asking guys who were going in to buy beer for me and my friends. I was headed down the wrong road, and quickly becoming an ornery kid—that one mothers warn their kids not to hang out with.

By the age of thirteen, I was pretty mixed up, but that year an event took place that would have a positive impact on my life: my mother got saved and started attending the Apostolic Faith Church in Denver, Colorado.

About that same time, I went to a Christian rock concert at another church and met a guy who told me, “Your heart is like a shoe.” He explained that we can stuff all kinds of things into our shoes, but the only things that will make them “happy” are feet. Then he said our hearts are similar in that only one thing can satisfy the hole in them, and that is Jesus. This made sense to me, so when he said, “Let’s go pray,” I went.

That night I prayed to accept Jesus, and really wanted to serve God, but I experienced no change in my heart. For the next two-and-a-half years, I tried to serve God in my own strength, and did not succeed in any way. I faithfully attended the church where I had prayed, going to the Friday and Saturday night worship concerts as well as the Sunday morning services. I was there doing my part and telling people about God, and I thought I was a Christian, but something didn’t feel right. After the services, my friends and I would go outside and talk about how great it was to be in church. Then we would light up our cigarettes and stand around smoking and cussing.

I was also smoking a lot of pot during this time. It was the first thing I did in the morning, and every night before bed, I would scrape out my pipe from the uses of the day so I could get high one more time. Meanwhile, I was supporting my habit by stealing from my mother and grandmother.

One day my mom said something that hit me like a ton of bricks. She said, “I don’t know how you

can think you are a Christian when you do such bad things.” I became angry at her for questioning my Christianity, and decided that if her church and my church couldn’t agree on what it meant to be a Christian, then I didn’t want any part of either of them. After that, my behavior spiraled out of control.

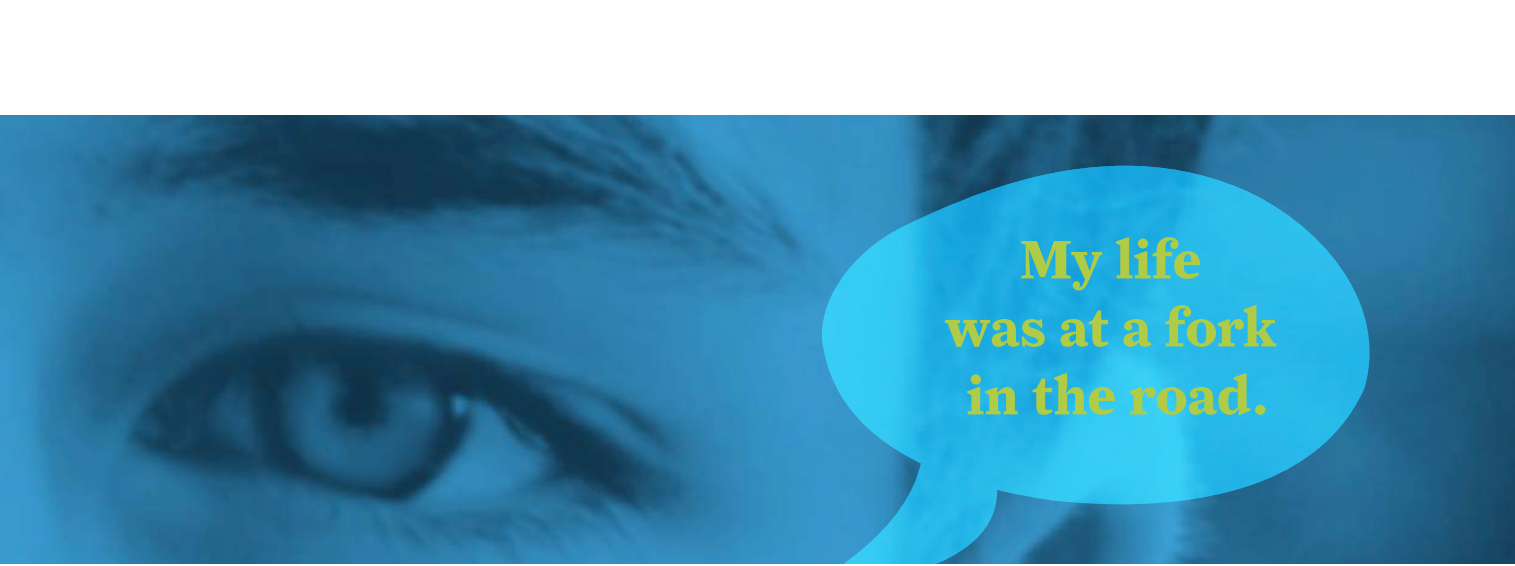
Three months later, I had another run-in with my mom. I had started driving and she was concerned that I would drive under the influence, so she asked a very pointed question: “Have you been smoking marijuana?” I had a pipe in my jacket pocket at the time, yet I immediately reacted with indignation, and became bitterly angry, wondering how she had the audacity to question my integrity.

God used these two incidents to speak to my heart and bring heavy conviction down on me. He dealt with me over how I could lie so convincingly and with such feeling, as if I believed the lie. Through this, I realized that my life was at a fork in the road, and if I went any further down the path I was on, I could be eternally lost.

A day or two later, I was cleaning my room and came across a cassette tape of an album by a Christian group. I put the tape in the cassette player and went out to the living room to sit down and listen to it. The song that played was about a girl who had walked away from God and the hard times she went through before finally surrendering and getting her heart right with Him again.

While sitting in my mom’s chair, I prayed out loud, “God, why me?” Wrapped up in those words were many thoughts such as, “I’m just sixteen and I’ve already made a mess of my life,” “I’m sorry,” and “I’m done with this.” God heard my prayer and met me. He came down and as fast as the snap of a finger made a change in my heart, turning my life around.

I didn’t realize the full impact of the change until the next day. I was driving my mom somewhere and made a confession to her. I said, “Mom, you asked



**My life
was at a fork
in the road.**

His behavior spinning out of control, Jay realized he had to make a decision.

me a question the other day and I lied to you.” The pot pipe was still in my jacket pocket, so I took it out and began to dismantle it right then while driving. I said, “I was smoking pot before, but now I have surrendered my life to God.” I started throwing the pipe out the window, piece by piece, and my mom’s jaw dropped. Confessing to her was very difficult, so this was evidence that something inside my heart really had changed.

About a week later, some friends came over to the house to hang out. When they arrived, one of them handed me a cigarette. Without thinking, I lit it and took a puff. I had smoked for six years and tried to quit many times without success, and anyone who smokes knows that feeling of needing to have one. There was nothing to it, though. I just thought, This is gross! Then I realized it had been a week since I had smoked a cigarette or even thought about it. The desire for cigarettes was completely gone.

It has been twenty-eight years since God made that miraculous change in my life. Since then He has blessed me in many ways. He has given me a beautiful family—a wife and two daughters—and has been faithful to see us through every difficult situation in life.

In the past when I would think about the friends I hung out with before being saved, I would wonder how I was so fortunate that God chose me. After all, I was no different than any of my friends. Now I know that God chooses everyone. The ground at the Cross is level. God is continually calling after every person. My life is blessed solely because I turned it over to God. Everything good in it is because of His blessing. God is not any different today than He was in 1988; what He did for me, He will do for anyone who answers His call and surrenders.

■ *Jay Larrechea attends the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.*

EVIDENCE



GOD HAS BLESSED

me so much over my whole life, and I'm thankful for that. He has saved and sanctified me. Recently in school I was thinking how God works out ways to use His people as testimonies. It can be small things such as praying over your food when the person across from you asks, "Are you feeling ok?" This morning in my physical education class, the girl next to me said, "Oh, I want to be done running; this is so hard. Do you want to just tell her [the teacher] that this is the last lap?" My reply was, "No, we should just tell her the right thing because that's honest and true." God makes ways to use us as testimonies. I am thankful, and I want to help draw others to Him.

✦ Julianne Luka



GOD SAVED ME a couple of years ago. Before that I had a lot of bad addictions and couldn't break free from them on my own. I would sin each day and then at night say "I'm sorry," but never really repent of those things or want to turn from them.

Then I had a terrible experience when I was on drugs and was not sleeping or eating for a few days. I knew I needed to pray, and had just the tiniest bit of hope that I could get saved. All it took was turning away from my sin, and God saved me in a moment of time. He made a change in me, and the drugs have not been a problem since.

Now I am working full time, I have good friends at church, and I read the Bible and pray each day. God turned my life around!

✦ Tim Hammer



I THANK THE Lord for saving my soul and changing my life. That Sunday morning when the Lord saved me, I was so happy that I could not eat my dinner. Driving home that day, we were singing in the car, and I was anxious to get back to church that evening. The very next day—a Monday—I gave my testimony to the men I worked with on the railroad.

The Lord showed me that I needed to make some restitutions. Previously I had worked in various golf pro-shops, and I used to help myself to this and that. So I went to the head of one shop and told him the Lord had saved me and changed my life. He said, "You know, I read that Book every day and I know what's in it; you are forgiven." I walked out feeling like I was walking on air. Then I jumped in my car and drove to another golf course and made another restitution. One by one, the Lord helped me make things right. I can certainly recommend the old-time religion.

✦ Arnold Amundson



RECENTLY MY MOTHER

went to Heaven. I am so glad that she had the courage to raise her four children to know the Gospel, even though our father was not a Christian. She showed my sisters and me the right way to go. We understood that it was not enough to know about God; we needed to pray ourselves.

One day when I came home from school, my older sister was praying with our mom. That struck me, and I decided that if my sister was going to pray, I had better pray too. We both had a good prayer meeting with our mother and were saved. Later, our other two sisters were saved as well.

The Lord was with us. It was not always easy being raised in a home where my dad was not saved. We prayed for him for many years, and it was a great miracle when he gave his life to God. He had a stroke and could not talk well, but through that he prayed and God changed his life.

The Lord has been good to me all these years. He showed me who to marry, and He gave us three children who are serving the Lord today. He has given me the privilege to be in the church music. Now I have the opportunity to help children give their hearts and service to the Lord. My cup runs over! I love the Lord with all my heart.

✦ Janice Calhoun



ON FEBRUARY 7, 1978,

God changed my life. The Lord took a man who was addicted to alcohol and made a new creature out of him. My job as a mailman caused me to walk the streets around these camp grounds, and God convicted my heart. One day I knelt beside the bed in my home and asked God to be merciful to me a sinner. God didn't just go the other way. He heard my prayer that morning. It seemed as if the roof of that house opened up and beauty came in.

God opened His Word to me. I had carried a Bible since 1948, but had never read or understood much. It was a brand new Book to me that morning—beautiful and wonderful. Also, I asked God to give me a good Christian family, and He gave me the family of God.

Now that I am older, God is still giving me strength and health. Every day I can get up and pray, "Thank You Lord. Thank You for another day to serve You in some small way." I'm looking forward to seeing Jesus some day.

✦ Al Smith



THIS MONTH IT

has been forty years since the Lord saved my soul. I am grateful to God because He came looking for me in a Muslim family. Someone invited me to church. As I entered the building, the Spirit of God spoke to my heart, "This is where I want you to be." It was so real that I looked behind me to see if somebody was actually talking to me.

After the service, I went forward to pray. It was as if my life came before me on a screen, and I started to cry. That day God showed me that I was a sinner. Back on the college campus, I was miserable throughout the next week. On January 20, 1977, my schedule included two lectures with a break between them. During that break, I went to my room to pray, and God saved me. Everything became new. Going to the next lecture, it was as if the campus was different; even the grass looked different to me.

God has kept me by His grace. Later He sanctified me and filled me with His Holy Ghost. In forty years, I've been on the mountain top and in the valley, but I thank God for the power in the Blood of Jesus. When my husband and I were on a missionary trip to Peru, I was so very sick and unable to attend the meetings. Even as I slept, I was praying and pleading the Blood of Jesus. When I woke up, I was healed. That is the power in the Blood. I intend to follow God to the end and to keep pleading His Blood until I see Him face to face.

✦ Shade Ajayi

STANDING TOGETHER

A PERSONAL
REFLECTION FROM
TOM PRICKETT

THE AMAZING OLD-GROWTH trees in the forests along the northern coast of California literally took my breath away. I had never seen redwood trees before, except maybe in an encyclopedia. Craning my neck to peer toward the tree tops, I quickly realized that angle could not be maintained for very long without hurting my neck! Still, I couldn't stop myself from staring upward.

MY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT redwood trees up to that moment was based mainly on what I had read during my east coast upbringing. I remember thinking, If you could move one redwood to New York and plant it in your front yard, people would come from miles around to see it. You might even decide to build a fence around it and charge admission! However, your lone tree probably would have real problems with the snow and freezing winter temperatures common to New York. It seems evident that God knew where the redwoods would grow best, so we had better leave them where they are.

A BIT OF research on redwood trees reveals that these tallest of trees upon earth can live to be 2,000 years old and grow close to 400 feet in height. Just to put that number in perspective, that is taller than the Statue of Liberty from base of her pedestal to the tip of her torch! Redwoods grow together for a reason—essentially for protection from the kinds of catastrophes that come to trees. They have a shallow root system, and without nearby trees around to protect them from the wind, they would fall down. They need one another for support in their upward growth.

ANOTHER KIND OF growing is described in 2 Peter 3:18, where we read, "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." On my journey through the redwood forests of California, I noticed an unusual feeling while standing among those gigantic trees. It was like a special environment had been created just for them. Could our spiritual growth be enhanced by the right environment? It seems reasonable to assume that it could.

WHERE WOULD YOU expect to find a spiritual environment where you could thrive as a believer? Would it be where you worship God with others who love the Lord as you do? God

meets His people in church. True, He is with His people wherever they may be, but when believers get together to worship God in spirit and in truth, He is there. We read in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

NOTICE THAT IN the New Testament, Christians are always identified with other Christians. The images used to describe this relationship between the followers of Christ are a *body* and a *family*, united together with Christ as the head. Being part of the church is not joining an organization like we might join a civic or social institution. It is a much closer bond; we are essentially connected to other believers. Almost 250 times in the New Testament, Christians are called "brother," "sister," or "brethren," even though they were from different cultures, backgrounds, and races. It did not matter what their status was in this world because they were related to each other in Jesus Christ (see Galatians 3:26-28).

THE MIGHTY REDWOODS stand century after century, keeping at their never-ending task of holding each other up. They break the force of the wind through a team effort, just by keeping rank. As members of the Church—the Body of Christ—let's picture ourselves standing side by side with members of our church family, supporting and sustaining one another. To be a part of the Body of Christ may be the single most important thing we can do, for the end result is that the unit functions as it should.

WHAT ARE SOME ways we can do our part as a member of this spiritual unit? The first and most obvious way is to make a concerted effort to be in God's house regularly, in company with other members of the same body. Our very presence indicates that our church is important to us. When the Bible speaks of believers worshiping, in nearly all cases, they were worshiping *together* (see Acts 2:42; James 2:2). This isn't to say that we can't meet with God alone in our cars or our homes—of course we can! However, we are directly instructed not to forsake "the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is . . ." (Hebrews 10:25). There is a reason for that admonition; we need each other.

WE CAN HELP each other by faithfully performing our church-related responsibilities, even if our tasks are not particularly glorious or

highly visible. Someone has to vacuum the church and weed the flowerbeds occasionally. Our dedication can be an inspiration and encouragement to others "growing" around us. Plus, we will be setting a good example for younger generations coming along!

WE CAN ACTIVELY be involved in helping each other to grow in faith. Paul told the saints at Thessalonica, "Wherefore comfort [encourage] yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). An affirming word at just the right moment may make the difference for someone who is wavering in his or her faith.

WE CAN BE alert to needs within our church family, and offer assistance when we are able. In the Early Church, fellow Christians cared for each other's physical needs (Acts 9:36, 39), financial needs (Acts 4:32-35), emotional needs (Romans 12:15), and spiritual needs (Ephesians 4:12). Everything we have has been granted by God, so we should be willing to offer of ourselves and our resources to others.

CERTAINLY WE SHOULD support our brothers and sisters when they face difficulties. The Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Galatia, "Bear ye one another's burdens." In other words, be available to those who are hurting. Be just a phone call away with an "I'll meet you for coffee and we can talk about it." We may provide the extra stability that person needs when facing the winds of adversity. Remember, Christians are described as a *body* and a *family*. If your body and family are functioning correctly, pain is felt and taken care of.

IF I EVER return to the redwoods, no doubt they will appear exactly as I saw them the first time. They will express to me the stability I first saw, continuous and unchanging. When we enter a church of God's people, we feel the same stability. We know we can depend on our brothers and sisters in Christ to be there, doing their part, even in a world full of change and turmoil. What a wonderful and God-designed support system!

■ *Tom Pricskett is on the ministerial staff at the Apostolic Faith headquarters church in Portland, Oregon.*



WORLD REPORT

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INDIA

PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINES HEADQUARTERS CHURCH DEDICATION

A new headquarters church for the Apostolic Faith work in the Philippines was dedicated in Bagong Sikat on Sunday, January 22. The original headquarters church remains on the same site as the new building; it has been renamed “The Chapel” and will now be used for small gatherings. As the location for bi-annual camp meetings, that structure had been enlarged several times over the years to accommodate the growing work in the Philippines. In recent years, however, overflow crowds have made it necessary for some attendees to view the services by video. In light of this, it was decided that a larger facility was needed, and work began on the new building in January of 2016.

The new sanctuary is well-equipped to meet the needs of the annual camp meetings. It seats five hundred and is encircled by classrooms with accordion walls designed to fold open to allow for additional seating. The platform is also large with plenty of room for the expanding choir and orchestra.

Reverend Darrel Lee, Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith organization, and his wife, Debbie,

came from the headquarters church in Portland, Oregon, to attend the dedicatory event. They arrived on Tuesday, January 17, and were warmly welcomed by Reverend Zenaida Ruiz, leader of the work in the Philippines, and others of the Bagong Sikat congregation. The following day, they were joined by Reverend Bill McKibben, Director of Asia Work, and his wife, Lori, as well as several others from West Coast United States churches. By Thursday evening, out-of-town pastors and ministers from other Apostolic Faith churches in the Philippines began arriving for the dedication. The Filipino saints also welcomed three pastors from South Korea: Jeong Min Kim of Seoul, Young Doo Ra of Daejeon, and Ik Jin Choi of Daegu.

The official activities of the weekend began Friday evening with a musical presented by thirty young people, ages seventeen to twenty-three. It was titled, “A Deeper Relationship with God through Prayer,” and included choir, instrumental, and solo numbers. The young people concluded with a beautiful *a cappella* rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer,” presented by candlelight. Their voices filled the church, and it was inspiring to see their desire to give their talents back to the Lord.

Saturday morning began with a breakfast for ministers and their spouses, where a number of traditional Filipino dishes were served. After breakfast, the group assembled in the original church for a PowerPoint presentation on the church name, *The Apostolic Faith*, and the organization’s flagship publication which carries the same name on its masthead.

The Sunday dedication day events began with Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. in the original church. The adult classes were held outside as it was a beautiful, sunny day with ninety-degree weather. The young

A NATION OF ISLANDS

The Philippines includes roughly 7,641 islands, about 2,000 of which are inhabited. Our 21 churches are located mostly in the northern region.



ANNUAL EVENTS

The headquarters church hosts two major events each year: a camp meeting at Easter time and year-end consecration meetings.



Dedication attendees gather outside the new church for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

people met inside and were taught by a relatively young staff who have evidenced a determination to carry the Apostolic Faith work forward for as long as Jesus tarries.

Following Sunday school, attendees spent some time worshipping in the new prayer room before gathering outside the main entrance of the new building for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Reverend Lee and his wife were given the honor of cutting the ribbon, after which Reverend McKibben and his wife carried a large Bible into the church and placed it on a stand located in the narthex.

The ministers then proceeded into the church and took their places on the platform, followed by the choir and orchestra. As the congregation filed in, it became apparent that the sanctuary, designed to seat up to five hundred, and the overflow area which accommodates another three hundred, would not be sufficient. Approximately two hundred guests remained outside.

There were several music specials during the service, including “People Need the Lord” performed by the orchestra, and “Lord God Almighty” sung by the choir. The congregation also had an opportunity to lift their voices in worship, and a sweet spirit settled on the sanctuary. After an opening prayer, the dedication

message, and a Scripture reading, Reverend Ruiz gave the dedication prayer. Then the service closed with a time of prayer at the altar.

Following the dedication service, the choir and orchestra members served lunch to the entire congregation. The kitchen staff had worked for days to prepare the meal, and it was greatly appreciated by all. In the evening, an evangelistic service was held. The music, provided by the Bagong Sikat choir and orchestra, was wonderful, and the testimonies were inspiring. Afterward another meal was served for the congregation.

On Monday morning, a ministers’ meeting was held with about thirty in attendance. The concluding event of the dedication weekend took place in the evening, when everyone gathered outside the newly dedicated headquarters church for a sing-along. Paper bags filled with candles had been placed around the lawn, and the lights on the front of the church were on, creating an inviting atmosphere. Choruses were sung in both English and Tagalog, the native language of the Philippines, and musical numbers were presented by several branch churches as snacks were served to the listeners. It was a heart-warming and enjoyable conclusion to a memorable weekend of fellowship and rejoicing.



*Clockwise from top: The congregation during the dedication service;
Two attendees waiting for the service to begin; Sunday school students in class on dedication day; a young boy enjoying Sunday school.*



INDIA UPDATE

The first two weeks of 2017 were a busy time for our churches in India, with special services and Vacation Bible School activities held in a number of locations.

The New Year was welcomed with a December 31 watchnight service at our India headquarters church in Kaikavolu. Led by Reverend Rayudu Raju, the pastor and leader of the Apostolic Faith work in that area of India, the service was well-attended, with every chair filled and another fifty or so attendees sitting on the floor. Among the attendees was Reverend Clark Wolfe from Portland, Oregon, as well as Reverend Charles Schleicher and his wife, Antonia, of Madison, Wisconsin.

The celebratory service included music and testimonies as well as a message on the benefits of serving God, based on a Scripture reading from Psalm 103:1-5. At around 11:15 p.m., the congregation went to prayer, praying the old year out and the new year in, concluding just after midnight. Then a cake was brought out and everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship before departing for their homes around 2:00 a.m.

Despite being up late, everyone was back a few hours later for the Sunday morning service—in fact, the crowd was so large that there was standing room only, with some attendees looking in from the outside. After the service, the congregation gathered around the baptistery, and a water baptismal ceremony was held for five young ladies who had asked to be baptized. Then everyone was invited to stay for the annual New Year's Day feast which was prepared in



The India headquarters church in the city of Kaikavolu.

the campground kitchen and served outside. Shade from a newly added awning was especially appreciated by those who stood in line for food on this ninety-five-degree day, while the surrounding banana trees provided shade for the overflow seating.

Over the next two weeks, the visitors from the United States traveled to fourteen of our India churches for special meetings and Vacation Bible Schools (VBS), with several locations taking a turn at hosting the events. The Apostolic Faith Church in Masakapali was the first VBS location, and about sixty-five children participated there. The lesson,

ELEVEN YEARS AGO

The first time an Apostolic Faith minister visited India was in 2006. The headquarters church was dedicated in 2010.



OUR CORNER OF INDIA

There are now fourteen Apostolic Faith churches in India, all located in the eastern state of Andhra Pradesh.



Left to right: Members of the Kaikavolu church at the watchnight service on New Year's Eve; Vacation Bible School students excited to take home their gift bags.

which was on faith, was conducted on the church roof to take advantage of the sunlight, as the power had gone out in the building, leaving it dark. At the close, each child was given a gift bag containing soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, cookies, chips, candy, a lunch container, and ten rupees, which they were especially excited about.

As the services and VBS events continued over the next days, each occasion was special in its own way. The U.S. visitors wrote home that the blessings were too many to number, including five saved in Durganagar, where over one hundred gathered, filling the small church past its capacity of about sixty. These five converts were very enthusiastic about scheduling their water baptism, and arrangements were made to

transport them to the headquarters church to utilize the campground baptistry. Vacation Bible School continued throughout the following week among our India churches. On the final Saturday afternoon, VBS was held at the Nadimpalem church, with children from our Yanam and Uppongala locations joining. Our hope is that all the children who attended will continue to be touched by the love of Jesus.

On the visitors' last Sunday morning in India, the Kaikavolu church held their quarterly ordinance service. Many were in attendance and the blessings overflowed. During the time of prayer that preceded the taking of the emblems, one woman was saved, six were sanctified, and six received the baptism of the Holy Spirit! Please continue to pray for the work of the Lord in India.

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OUR CLASSICS



Workers load a truck with mailbags of Gospel literature in the 1930s.

GOD STEPPED ON THE SCENE

By Don Wolfe

As young parents, my wife and I enjoyed God's blessings. We had two little girls, and then our first son, Gary, was born. Of course, we were elated at his birth. However, soon after bringing him home from the hospital, we realized that something was seriously wrong. His bodily

functions were not working correctly.

The pediatricians we saw did not seem to know what to do, giving conflicting advice. He began getting pale, weak, and very distended. This condition worsened through his first two years. Eventually, Gary had to be examined at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) hospital, where specialists were equipped to deal with unusual conditions.

That very night the situation came to a head when, after an all-night vigil, he could not hold down even a spoonful of water. Gary was admitted to OHSU the next day. After he was changed into a hospital gown, he was whisked away, crying his heart out. His mother and I were heartbroken. The staff told us that we might as well leave and try to get some rest. We spent that difficult afternoon with my wife's parents. When we called

the hospital later in the day they said, "We have been trying to get in touch with you. We have a team standing by to perform an emergency surgery, but we need your signature. Please come sign the papers." What a shock! We weren't ready for that at all.

When we first saw Gary after the surgery, his tiny body was connected to tubes everywhere. As he gradually gained strength he seemed to be doing better, but soon the same symptoms started once more. During the next year he underwent five more operations. He would come home for a while, the symptoms would recur, and he would have to go back in again. Gary would not even cry; he would just grit his teeth. From birth, pain had been his way of life. After the last operation, we were assured, "This should take care of the problem." At first he seemed to be doing fine. Then the familiar signs of trouble came back.

His condition became so critical that we stayed in his room around the clock. We had called the church time after time requesting prayer, but on one particular night, we called once more. Before putting him down for the night, we decided to take Gary around the hospital ward for a short ride in a wheelchair. He was too weak to hold up his head, so we propped him up and tied him into the chair with flannel straps, his head resting on a pillow. As we came out of his room and started down the corridor, I looked up at the clock on the wall. It was ten minutes to eight; lights were being dimmed around the ward. I thought, They are probably praying at the church right now for Gary.

WHEN THEIR LITTLE
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SUDDENLY GARY'S
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HE SAID, "DADDY,
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THAT HELD HIM IN THE
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Suddenly Gary's head snapped up off the pillow and he said, "Daddy, me walk!" I didn't question him. I just untied the straps that held him in the chair, and turned him loose. He took off, running and laughing and giggling. I can assure you, that caused a real stir among the nurses! There could be no doubt: Gary had had a visit from the Lord. We took him home the next day.

Before his release we were cautioned that he would not be able to eat normally, and that the trauma he had experienced would very likely affect him psychologically. However, the professionals predicted incorrectly on all counts. God had done a perfect job on Gary. Today he is a healthy man, and the father of three children. He is a born-again Christian and works full-time in the Lord's service.

God's miraculous intervention became a landmark in our family, an experience we have looked back to many times. We thank God for His wonderful goodness to us.

■ *Don Wolfe is the retired Director of Music of the Portland Apostolic Faith Church. His son Gary has worked at the headquarters church office in Portland for thirty-nine years.*

Four generations of Wolfes in 1983. Oldest to youngest: Don H., Don W., Gary, and Clark.



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I FOUND A



By Ollie Talley

AFTER FORTY-EIGHT YEARS OF LIVING A SINFUL LIFE, OLLIE EXPERIENCED AN INSTANT TRANSFORMATION.

For forty-eight years I lived without any understanding of what it meant to be a Christian. When I was a child, my mother told me that God knew everything I was doing, so I thought I just needed to be careful and do the best I could.

I can look back now and see how God watched out for me even before I knew Him. During World War II, my PT boat was attacked and sunk. When planes started strafing the water after our boat blew up, something caused me to pray, "Lord, if only it would rain maybe they wouldn't see me." And it rained! Afterward, however, I assumed I had just lucked out, not realizing then the power of prayer.

A few years later I prayed again. A doctor had just told me that a sore on my lower lip was cancerous. I was bound by cigarettes and already had tried to quit many times. One time I stopped for an entire month. Then my wife threw a pack of cigarettes down on the

table, saying, "I can't stand you this way! You are so mean and irritable!" So I went back to smoking. But this day, after leaving the doctor's office, I sat in the car alone. I bowed my head and said, "Lord, I've tried to quit so many times. If You will just help me, I will never have another smoke as long as I live." Immediately, the desire was gone! It was just as if I had never smoked. However, I still didn't know God.

God was working

One Sunday I was invited to a morning service at the Apostolic Faith Church in Medford, Oregon. My wife and I went. It was just before taxes were due and I hadn't yet made out my return, so I had told my wife not to plan anything for the afternoon or evening. As we started to leave the church after the service, someone said missionaries from Korea would be there that night to show pictures. They asked if we would come.

I meant to say no, but the words that came out were, "We'll be here." That was a surprise to me! God had started working in my life, though I didn't recognize it.

The next day I had a dental appointment, and the Lord used that time to speak to my soul. I had been in many dentists' chairs before, and there had been nothing to cause me to be afraid. I had no pain, but suddenly a fear came over me. It was a quiet stillness, and I felt like I was going to take my last breath. That caused me to pray again. I said, "Lord, if You will help the dentist get this tooth out, I will go to church every Sunday if that is what You want." At that moment the fear left.



Ollie with his wife, Dottie.

"Lord, forgive me!"

The next night I went to church again. I knew the Lord was there. For the first time in my life, I heard people tell of victory over sin. When the invitation was given to come forward and pray, the love of God drew me. I knelt down and said, "Lord, forgive me if I am a sinner." Suddenly there was no doubt; God showed me that I was a sinner, all right! He showed me forty-eight years of sinning—what a sight! I cried out, "O Lord, forgive me! It will never happen again!" At that moment the greatest surprise came to me that ever came to anybody. God gave me peace that passes all

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understanding. He put joy in my soul, and right then gave me the strength and power to walk uprightly before Him. I knew that my sins were forgiven and that I had been born again.

When I got home that night, my wife already had gone to bed. I turned on the hall light and stood in the doorway. My wife told me later that she could see my face glow from where she was. I said, "Darling, the Lord saved me tonight." She said, "God bless you, Honey," just like she knew what it meant. The next Friday night the Lord saved her too.

A deeper love

A few days after my wife was saved, we were standing in the kitchen. After twenty-five years of living together in a sinful life, she turned from the sink and said, "Ollie, forgive me for anything I have ever done to hurt you." There was nothing I could think of to forgive her for, because the Lord had delivered me from resentful thoughts. There was just happiness and joy. I felt like a newly-married person, and in my heart there was a deeper love for my wife than I had ever known.

Before I was saved, I had been so selfish. My son had grown up and graduated, married, and left home before I realized there was something else besides business and my pleasure. I had been a slave to the bowling alley, going there almost every day of the week. Finally my wife had said I might as well move my bed down there! When I got saved, though, the Lord changed all of that. In fact, all the old habits I had tried to get rid of left instantly.

A changed life

Though not a heavy drinker, before being saved I would put away quite a bit of beer. Every evening after work, one of my brothers and I would pick up a six-pack of beer, start drinking it on the way home, and finish it up at his house. About the time I got saved we quit working together, but a couple of

weeks later I was at his house to divide some checks that had come in. Someone went to the refrigerator and asked my brother if he wanted a beer. Then he said, "Ollie, you wouldn't want one, would you?" That was the first time I realized I had been delivered! I had gone more than two weeks without drinking; the thought of having a beer never entered my mind.

Other things in my life changed too. I used to watch television until two o'clock in the morning. The next day at work I would feel dragged out and tired, and would be mad at myself and think, Oh, how weak you are, Ollie. After I was saved, something came up about television at a prayer breakfast, and I said, "You know, I forgot I have a television!" I hadn't even turned it on since I had been saved.

The Lord gave me a hunger for His truth. We had a Bible that my mother had given us when we were first married, but I had never looked at it before I was saved. Now, first thing in the morning I put the coffee pot on and then sit down and read the Bible. Next I pray. And how the Lord blesses my soul!

Restitutions to make

The Lord put it in my heart to make restitution. I had worked for a large contractor, storing plastic drain fittings. One time when my neighbor needed some fittings, I let him have them. Another time, I gave some to one of my brothers. After I was saved, I made it right with the contractor, saying, "I wasn't honest before, but the Lord has saved me and established my paths in righteousness. I owe you for some plastic fittings. You can be assured this will never happen again." I asked

if he would forgive me, and the Lord blessed me for doing this. Less than a month after I paid that restitution, this man gave me a \$100 bonus. You just can't outgive the Lord!

The Lord has been my Healer too, many times. One morning I woke up and my back had slipped out of place. Another man and I had a concrete job to do that day, but I could hardly make it from the bedroom to the kitchen. I said, "O Lord, who is going to help Doyle today?" The concrete was coming early and there was no one lined up to work with him.

I was trying to get to the phone to call him, but as I got to the chair by the phone, I just sank down on my knees. I said again, "O Lord, who is going to help Doyle?" It was just as if the Lord said, "I am." He began to bless my soul, and He healed me while He blessed me. I came up praising the Lord. The Lord sent me out in good shape.

My heart is thankful when I think of these blessings. And they don't happen just once in a while! The Lord walks with me every day. He has given me a beautiful life, and I love Him with all my heart and soul. I pray each day that He will keep me strong in the faith. The Lord has been so good to me!

■ *Ollie Talley was born in Oklahoma in 1921 and lived in several cities before settling in Medford, Oregon in 1967. He became a Christian on April 14, 1970, and attended the Medford Apostolic Faith Church until God called him to Heaven on March 29, 2012.*

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Acknowledge—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

Confess—"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Repent—"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

Forsake—"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him . . . for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

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

If you are a new Christian, write us and request the tract entitled, "Starting Out."

A Statement of Bible Doctrine

WE BELIEVE IN THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE, AND ENDORSE ALL THE TEACHINGS CONTAINED IN IT. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF OUR BASIC DOCTRINES.

The Divine Trinity consists of three Persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, perfectly united as one. Matthew 3:16,17; 1 John 5:7.

Repentance is a godly sorrow for and a renouncing of all sin. Isaiah 55:7; Matthew 4:17.

Justification (or salvation) is the act of God's grace through which we receive forgiveness for sins and stand before God as though we had never sinned. Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Entire Sanctification, the act of God's grace whereby we are made holy, is the second definite work and is subsequent to justification. John 17:15-21; Hebrews 13:12.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the endowment of power upon the sanctified life, and is evidenced by speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. John 14:16-17,26; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4.

Divine Healing of sickness is provided through the atonement. James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24.

The Second Coming of Jesus will be as literal and visible as His going away (Acts 1:9-11) and will consist of two appearances. First, He comes to catch away His waiting Bride. Matthew 24:40-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. Second, He comes to execute judgment upon the ungodly. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15.

The Tribulation will occur between Christ's coming for His Bride and His return in judgment. Isaiah 26:20-21; Revelation 9 and 16.

Christ's Millennial Reign is the 1000 years of peaceful reign by Jesus on earth. Isaiah 11 and 35; Revelation 20:1-6.

The Great White Throne Judgment is the final judgment when all the wicked dead will stand before God. Revelation 20:11-15.

The New Heaven and The New Earth will replace the present heaven and earth, which will be destroyed after the Great White Throne Judgment. 2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 21:1-3.

Eternal Heaven and Eternal Hell are literal places of final and eternal destiny. Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:22-28.

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman that is binding before God for life. Neither person has a right to marry again while the first companion lives. Mark 10:6-12; Romans 7:1-3.

Restitution is necessary, wherein wrongs against others are righted. Ezekiel 33:15; Matthew 5:23-24.

Water Baptism is by one immersion "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 3:16; 28:19.

The Lord's Supper is an institution ordained by Jesus so that we might remember His death until He returns. Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23,26.

Foot Washing is practiced according to the example and commandment Jesus gave. John 13:14-15.



You may obtain additional information about these doctrines and learn about our other publications in both English and foreign languages by writing to the Apostolic Faith Church at 6615 SE 52nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97206, U.S.A. or visiting our website at www.apostolicfaith.org.

Before these magazines are sent out, they are always prayed over for the healing of the sick and the salvation of souls.

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