



THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

OUR CLASSICS
HEWED TO FIT

FROM THE WORD
FORSAKE & FOLLOW

WITNESS
VICTORY IN LOSS

WITNESS
THE GOLDEN RULE

PURPOSE
IN PAIN

FROM THE WORD

**I Will Make You
Fishers of Men, 6**

A Message to Exiles, 9

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VIEWPOINT

THE GOSPEL CONTINUES TO BE EFFECTIVE IN VARIOUS AREAS AROUND THE WORLD.



THE MESSAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE is consistent from one issue to the next. Out of curiosity, I looked back one hundred years to the fall of 1917, and noted that *The Apostolic Faith* magazine used Jude 3 as its motto and featured the same list of Bible doctrines you will see on page 47 of this issue. That issue looked back eleven years to the 1906 Azusa Street Revival from which our church sprang, and included testimonies of divine healing and deliverance from tobacco and alcoholism. Sermons from our church services were on subjects such as the atonement, the power of Jesus Christ to save, consecration, and more.

Fifty years later, in 1967, our magazine used the same motto and list of Bible doctrines. It referred to the recently concluded Portland camp meeting, and included photos of those who were water baptized. Again, there were multiple testimonies of deliverance from sin. Sermons included the soon return of Jesus, God's plan for the ages, and the Great White Throne judgement.

In 1917, we read how the Apostolic Faith work was impacting readers in Toronto, Canada, and Monrovia, Liberia. In 1967, we read of our missionaries going to South Korea and of a visitor to our camp meeting from Haiti. In this issue you will read that the Apostolic Faith work is growing in Chile, and of our first India pastor to attend camp meeting.

If Jesus carries another fifty years, in 2067 you can expect something similar. It is true that some aspects have changed. The identities of the preachers and authors are different. In 1917, there were sermons by Florence Crawford, and in 1967, by Loyce Carver. Both of these went Home to their reward long ago, which will be true of most of the authors in this issue by 2067. In addition, the manner in which we express ourselves changes with time. It used to be that "cool" described the weather, "email" was not a word, and "text" referred to words on a piece of paper. However, the identity of the authors and the way we express ourselves are secondary to the message.

The message is consistent because what you read in this magazine springs from the inspiration of the Bible.

This issue of *The Apostolic Faith* includes the same sound doctrine and victorious testimonies (though

the names and accounts are different) that we have published for 110 years. Outreach efforts continue to go on as they have for more than a century. The Gospel continues to be effective in various areas around the world; you will find the testimony of a young minister here in Portland, and a woman in Cameroon. Camp meetings continue to be a blessing; you will see news articles about recent camp meetings both here at headquarters and in Chile.

As you read this magazine, we pray that the consistent message of this Latter Rain Gospel will motivate and inspire you to an ever-closer walk with the Lord.

from the **WORD**

FROM THE WORD

I Will Make You Fishers of Men, 6

A Message to Exiles, 9

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I will make you **FISHERS OF MEN**



THIS SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION OF A FISHERMAN GIVES INSIGHT INTO HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WITH OTHERS.

BY DARREL LEE

IN MATTHEW 4:19, WE READ JESUS' WORDS TO FISHERMEN BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN." That invitation extends to us as well, because in the Great Commission, Christ charged His followers to go into all the world and "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Jesus wants us to take part in the divine activity of God on this earth by carrying His truth to those who do not know Him. We all need to "go fishing"!

Years ago, when I was working on a presentation regarding evangelizing for a meeting of ministers, my wife Debbie drew a sketch of a fisherman, a fish, a tackle box, a bear, a hook, and a pond to depict our responsibility to be actively engaged in the task of reaching souls for Christ.



THE FISHERMAN

The fisherman represents us. The man in the sketch is the only person fishing, at least by that pond, but "fishing" is what we are called to do. Our responsibility is to share the Gospel, whether there are others around us who are serving God or not.

Shadrach Ajayi, the youngest son of Sam and Shade Ajayi in our Portland congregation, was an illustration of

being a fisher of men. Shadrach lived for just seventy-three days and then passed away, but during his short life on this earth, his parents let it be known that Shadrach was a missionary. And indeed he was. Everyone who entered that hospital room heard a prayer on behalf of Shadrach. When a new nurse or doctor came on duty, Brother Sam always would ask everyone present to join in prayer, even though prayer had just been made with someone else who had walked in the room a few minutes earlier. Gospel literature was handed out in Shadrach's name. Even when Shadrach passed away and the people from the funeral home were transporting his tiny body out on a gurney, Brother Sam stopped them and said, "Before you go, let's have a prayer," and everyone present prayed once again.

The Shadrach of the Book of Daniel also was a missionary away from home. He was a Hebrew—a missionary in the country of the Chaldeans. Shadrach Ajayi was an American from Henry Street in Portland, Oregon, and a missionary away from home at the Oregon Health & Science University hospital. Interestingly, both Shadrachs found themselves being missionaries in circumstances that were quite the opposite of what they would have planned. Shadrach of the Bible had been carried away from his home as a captive, but he became a missionary to the Chaldeans. Shadrach of Henry Street had been taken to the OHSU because of physical challenges, but once there he became a missionary to all who entered his hospital room.

That illustrates what it is to be a fisher of men. We want to be among those who fulfill the Great Commission, even when our plans go in a different way than we anticipated.

THE FISH



The fish represents a human soul. That individual may be a nurse, a doctor, the mortician, a classmate, a grocery store clerk, or a fellow employee, because wherever we go we cross paths with individuals. Every one of those people has a soul and thus is a potential candidate for the message we share.

We do not want to postpone our outreach efforts until sometime in the future. Jesus told His disciples, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

The concept of harvest time is familiar to all of us. Even those who have never lived in a farming environment at some point probably have had a little patch of backyard garden, or some pots with tomatoes or herbs growing out on the deck. We tend our plants carefully and look ahead with anticipation to the time when our green beans will be ready to pick or sun-ripened tomatoes can be plucked from the vines.

As the disciples of Jesus looked upon wheat fields which were not yet ripened, they commented that harvest was still four months away. While we have to wait until harvest time to gather what our plants produce, Jesus said, with respect to souls of men, "Don't look out and say that there are yet four months until harvest. Go now! The fields are white and ready to harvest!"

There are souls to be saved in our world today. A generation that is "ripe" to hear the sound doctrine of the Latter Rain Gospel exists all around us. We want to lift up our eyes and take notice of our opportunities. We want to be aware of those who need the Gospel. The time is now! Even if it is not apparent that the harvest is ready, in our field of labor the time of harvest is now, not four months from now.

THE TACKLE BOX



The tackle box represents our tools—what God has given us to work with as we seek to win souls.

We may not feel we have much in the way of capabilities or resources. However, what we have is enough! Think of God's words to Moses when he expressed reluctance to go before Pharaoh and say, "Let my people go." The Lord asked Moses, "What is in your hand?" When he replied that he had a rod, the message was, "Use it." Like Moses, we are to use what God has given us, rather than to lament what we feel we lack.

Scripture tells us that Paul's bodily presence was "weak" and his speech "contemptible." However, the Apostle was bold in delivering God's message. We, too, are called to utilize what God has equipped us with. We have the Word of the Lord. We have the sound doctrine of this Gospel. We can be bold and courageous as we proclaim it, because it is a message the world needs.

Prayer is another tool that we have in our tackle box, and how effective prayer is! When Peter and John passed

by the impotent man at the Beautiful Gate, they were going to a prayer meeting. When God revealed to Cornelius that Peter would be coming, he was in prayer! We could go on and on with examples from Scripture. In our day as well, more can be done through prayer than we can imagine.

THE BEAR



Did you notice the bear in the sketch? The bear is after the fish and the fisherman, and not necessarily in that order! We are told in the Bible that our adversary goes about as a “roaring lion, . . . seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Most of us probably do not have lions roaming about in our vicinity, but we can expect to face adversity as we fish for souls. The enemy may appear as a roaring lion, a subtle serpent, an angel of light, or even a hungry bear, but he will show up. However, we can be courageous and expect that God will be with us as we do our best to fulfill the Great Commission.

A fisherman does not go fishing because it is easy. A fisherman gets up early, braves the elements, and incurs a great deal of expense for one reason: so he can catch fish. A true fisherman goes fishing because he enjoys fishing. How much more should we be willing to endure a bit of discomfort and adversity to win the souls of men?

THE HOOK



The hook represents what we have to offer—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus did not disguise the hook. He was not vague about the demands of the Gospel nor did He strive to make it look appealing. In fact, He said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 16:24-25). The Gospel has demands! We make no attempt to conceal the requirements of discipleship.

The hook implies pain. It is painful to come to God because we must acknowledge that we are sinners. We live in

a religious world where sin frequently is glossed over and excused, and as a result, no deliverance is found. We do not try to hide the fact that coming to God may be a painful process. It requires confession and taking responsibility for one’s misdeeds and rebellion against God. But when an individual truly repents, his contrition and purpose to turn away from all sin provides a foundation for a solid Christian walk thereafter.

Sticking with the Gospel after one is saved is also painful in a sense, because it demands self-denial and taking up a cross daily. Again, we make no attempt to disguise that necessity. However, when a person experiences the results of making a full surrender to God and allowing Him to take control of their lives, they find wholehearted discipleship brings great blessing.

THE POND



The pond represents where we find ourselves today. The question is whether or not we see the pond we are standing beside. It has been said, “Vision is the ability to see opportunities within one’s current circumstances.” Those words are attributed to a variety of sources, but whatever the origin, they apply to our opportunities for reaching out with the Gospel.

Circumstances are rarely ideal. I think of Shadrach Ajayi’s parents, who were able to see their son’s terminal illness as a potential opportunity to reach souls. We could point to examples in the Word of God—think of the little maiden who served Naaman’s wife, or the three Hebrew children who were captives in Babylon. In both cases the individuals were in less than optimum situations, but they saw their “pond” and took advantage of the opportunity to be a missionary. Rather than focusing on the challenges that surround us, we want to zero in on the opportunities that exist in our present circumstances, even though those circumstances may be less than ideal.

So, notice the pond where you are. It may not be a big pond but it has a fish in it. Start fishing! The Lord has called you to be a fisher of men. There are fish that need to be caught and we want to obey the Lord’s Great Commission and do our best to evangelize the world.

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

A MESSAGE TO **EXILES**

AN ANCIENT MESSAGE WITH
CONTEMPORARY CONTENT.

From a youth presentation given
by Peter Sletmoe

THE TERM “OPEN LETTER” IS USED TO describe a message that is addressed to a certain individual or group, but is intended to be read by a larger audience. Someone might write an open letter to a politician or celebrity and, rather than delivering the message directly to the recipient, publish it online for millions to read. The point is to state one’s opinion in a way that will capture much attention.

Some time ago while studying Jeremiah 29, I realized it actually includes an open letter from God to the Children of Israel, as recorded by the prophet Jeremiah. A key difference with this open letter is that it was not an opinion piece; Jeremiah began with the phrase “Thus saith the Lord of hosts” because it was dictated directly by God. The letter is addressed to the Jewish exiles in Babylon, but it has a timeless message which is still applicable in our day. Indeed, the fact that God included it in Scripture indicates that it was intended for us as well.

The situation facing God’s people when this letter was written is not unlike the situation facing believers now. At the time, some of the Children of Israel were living as exiles in the land of Babylon, far from their home. It was an unfamiliar place—the culture, food, and language were all foreign to them. In addition, Babylonian society was extremely sinful, filled with ungodly practices. The Israelites longed to return to their own land.

The letter penned by Jeremiah instructed the people regarding how God wanted them to live while in exile.

However, God let the Jewish people know that they would not be returning anytime soon. They had been exiled from Israel for sinning and God had ordained that even those who repented and turned from their sins

would remain in Babylon for seventy years. That meant most of them would live out the rest of their days there. The letter penned by Jeremiah instructed the people regarding how God wanted them to live while in exile.

This situation is relatable to Christians today because, in a sense, we are also exiles from our homeland. We are far away from the place we long for most—Heaven. The sinful cultures that surround us are unfamiliar and unwelcoming. The Bible calls us “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13) because we are not meant to remain forever in a world dominated by sin. Like the Jewish exiles, we are not at our final destination, but we are where God wants us to be for now, and we need to know how God wants us to live while we are here.

SEEK THE PEACE OF YOUR CITIES

THE LETTER TO THE JEWISH EXILES HAD three main points, the first of which is stated in verses 5-7 of Jeremiah 29. It begins, “Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters” (verses 5-6). With these words, God was reiterating that the Jewish people would stay in exile for an extended period. Even though Babylon was a sinful place, He wanted them to settle in and live righteously before the citizens of that land. What a witness they could be to people who knew very little about God! In fact, we know that some of the exiles, such as the prophets Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah did impact Babylonian history.

Verse 7 continues, “And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.” In other words, God wanted His people to be engaged and involved in the society where He had

Christians are not meant to retreat from the sinful world around us. On the contrary, we are to go “into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

placed them. He did not want the Jews to isolate themselves from the ungodly Babylonians, but to become a blessing to them.

This is an important message for believers today. Christians are not meant to retreat from the sinful world around us. On the contrary, we are to go “into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). God put us where we are for a reason, and He has a purpose for us to fulfill while here. We are not to avoid sinners, but to become a blessing to them by sharing the Gospel. Just like the Jewish exiles, we are to pursue careers and have families, and while doing so, to live in a way that will point others to God. We are to engage in bringing His peace to our communities and to pray for those around us.

Fulfilling this call will not be easy. The Prophet Daniel faced a den of lions because he insisted on praying regularly while living in exile. He and three Hebrew children ate a restricted diet rather than be defiled with the king’s meat, and eventually the three were thrown into a furnace for not worshipping an idol while in exile. We may or may not face such severe persecution for our faith, but following God will require sacrifice. Seeking to win lost souls for the Lord will at times rob us of our sleep and evict us from our comfort zones. It will require us to be willing to lay aside our dreams and ambitions. It can cause us to experience heartbreak, suffering, and loss. We will be asked to love the very people who boldly proclaim hatred for us. Many have given their finances, their health, and more, for the sake of the Gospel, and found it is all worth it. It is worth it to be part of God’s bigger plan to bring peace and blessing to others.

DON'T BE DECEIVED

THE SECOND POINT IN GOD'S OPEN LETTER is a warning to beware of false prophets. In the midst of the calamity of being taken captive by the Babylonians, many false prophets had come along and were doing what false prophets usually do—telling people exactly what they want to hear. False prophets comforted the exiles with promises that everything would be fine and they would go home soon. Because the Children of Israel believed those lies, they continued disobeying God by trying to return to Israel instead of becoming a blessing in Babylon. This was a huge problem.

False prophets are a challenge in our day as well. There are a multitude of teachers of false religions who cause people to miss God’s plan

of salvation. Additionally, there are many who bear the name “Christian” yet do not teach the true Word of God. It can be very confusing to have two professing Christians teaching contradictory doctrines, especially when the difference between the two might be the difference between eternal life and death.

We must take initiative in learning to distinguish what is true from what is false.

What is the believer to do? God’s message on this topic is recorded in Jeremiah 29:8-9, “Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you. . . . For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord.” This is a strong word of caution from God, and it indicates that it is our own responsibility to make sure we are not deceived. Certainly the Lord will help us, but we must take initiative in learning to distinguish what is true from what is false. We can do that by becoming familiar with the truth of God’s Word, so we can recognize when someone is speaking lies to us.

Scripture says, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Timothy 4:16). Notice this does not only say to study the doctrines of the Bible, but also to take heed and to continue in them. We have to cultivate such a love for the truth that we desire to know it, and also to conform our lives to it. As we embrace the truths that we learn in God’s Word, it will flourish in us. This is what will keep us from believing the lies that would cause us to go astray spiritually.

PROMISES OF HOPE, ASSURANCE, AND REWARD

THAT LAST PART OF THE LETTER IN Jeremiah 29 contains three promises. The first is in verse 10, “After seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.” Babylon was not a friendly place for the Jews, and they wanted to return to their own land. That was reality. Yet, they knew it was not God’s will for them to return yet. As they continued year after year in

captivity, how encouraging it must have been to hear these words of hope. The captivity would last a long time, but it would not last forever. One day, they would be delivered. What a hope!

God’s people are still people with hope! The Apostle Peter wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3-4). Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have a “lively hope” that one day the trials and temptations of this world will be over. The Bible says that Heaven is better than anything our minds can imagine. There will be no more tears, death, or suffering, and we will be with God forever. It will be wonderful! Until then, we must continue doing what God has called us to do and looking forward to that day with great hope.

Verse 11 offers the assurance: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11). We may not understand everything we go through in life, but we can rest assured that God’s plan for us is good. God is for us. Even when He ordains for us to go through difficult trials, we have this promise to remind us that His desire for us is good. If we let God have total control, our lives will turn out well in the end because everything He does is good.

The final promise is for a reward. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, “Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” God Himself is our reward. These verses guarantee that He is not out of reach; He has promised to be accessible to us. When we are obedient to Him, He will hear and answer our prayers. There could be no better reward. If we are ever discouraged by the sinful world around us, these promises of hope, assurance, and reward can keep us going until we make it to our own eternal home.

God’s open letter to the exiles in Babylon was penned over 2,500 years ago, but the principles of His message are still important for us today. May we all heed the instruction and take hold of the promises God offers.

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A PURPOSE IN PAIN

Adapted from the
Discipleship study series.

GOD HAS AN END IN VIEW FOR WHAT HE PERMITS US TO GO THROUGH AND IT IS FOR OUR ULTIMATE GOOD.

As a physician and orthopedic surgeon who specialized in the treatment of people with leprosy (Hansen's disease), Dr. Paul Brand became convinced of the value of pain through a frightening personal experience.

One night after an ocean voyage and a long train ride inland from the English coast, he wearily prepared to retire for some much needed sleep. As he began removing his shoes, he suddenly realized that he had no feeling in the heel of one foot. Immediately, fear swept over him. He knew that one of the first symptoms of leprosy is a loss of feeling. While he had been convinced there was no danger of contracting leprosy from his patients after the disease had reached a certain stage, the numbness in his heel terrified him. He removed his socks, found a pin, and stuck himself with it until he drew blood, but felt nothing.

Throughout a long, sleepless night, Dr. Brand considered what a dramatic change was about to occur in his life. He tried to envision himself living as a leper. He knew well the devastating effects of the disease which takes away the ability to feel pain. He pondered how his medical staff would be shattered; after all, they too had assumed they were immune. And how would he endure the forced separation from his family?

When morning came, Dr. Brand decided to prick his foot again. He took a pin in hand, poised it over his foot, and made a sharp, decisive stab—and yelled! His long train ride had apparently numbed a nerve, but the numbness

was only temporary. He once more could experience pain, and how he rejoiced! In a new and very personal way, he realized that pain is a gift of God.

As Christians, there will be times in our lives when we grapple with pain. While suffering is something we would prefer to avoid in the natural, we need to understand that pain is not always bad. Realizing that good can come from it—that God has a purpose in what He allows His children to go through—can help us keep an optimistic outlook of faith when the waves of trouble roll in.



DEFINING PAIN

When we hear the words *pain* or *suffering*, we might associate them with serious illness, injury, or other physical trauma. Certainly that often is the type of pain a person faces, but the scope of circumstances that bring suffering into our lives goes far beyond that. Take a moment and think of how you would define pain. What are some types of situations that can bring suffering into people's lives?

For reflection: The truth is, a broad range of pain-causing situations can come our way in life. While we may feel alone in our suffering, there likely are others around us who are hurting too, although perhaps for very different reasons.

PERFECTING THROUGH PRUNING

Some people find it difficult to accept the fact that a loving, all-powerful God would allow pain and trouble to come into the lives of His children. However, an honest examination of the Scriptures reveals this to be true. Jesus himself warned, "In the world ye shall have tribulation." Through our pain, we can experience God's process of refining the precious metal of Christian character. Romans 5:3-4 says that "tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope."

In John 15, Jesus taught about the Vine and

the branches, explaining, "Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth [prunes] it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:2). The "pruning" that God does in the life of a Christian, while painful, is vastly different from punishment. Ponder times in your life when you have experienced God's pruning, and note how it differed from punishment.

For reflection: Pruning is not done to inflict pain, but to remove parts of a plant in order to promote productivity. When God "prunes" us, He has an end result in view, and He determines what will best accomplish this in our lives.

TRUSTING IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

We need to settle in our hearts that what we face in life is not a random occurrence without divine purpose or design. The Psalmist asserted, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord" (Psalm 37:23). The Apostle Paul pointed out that God allows affliction to come upon us only for good, writing, "And we know 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). Acknowledging that God has a purpose for our trial will make it easier to bear. When we choose to trust in the overruling goodness, providence, and sovereignty of God, He will not fail us.

The Book of Job examines the problem of human suffering. Job, who was the instrument in this divine object lesson, was a man of impeccable integrity. God himself said of Job, "There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil" (Job 1:8). Yet God permitted this upright man to be tested in an extreme way: Satan was allowed to take Job's possessions, his family, and finally his health. However, the enemy could not touch Job's most valuable asset—his faith and trust in God. From our vantage point thousands of years later, what positive effects resulted from Job's time of affliction?

For reflection: Job is an example to us of how one who is surrendered to God can accept whatever God allows to come his way, even though he sees no good reason for it. The beautiful verses of encouragement found in the Book of Job have influenced believers for thousands of years. As Christians, we do not live for ourselves but for God (Romans 14:8), and our reaction to trials that come our way will undoubtedly impact the lives of others.

THE POSITIVES OF PAIN

Pain cannot be avoided, but many times it teaches us valuable truths that we could learn in no other way. We do not want any affliction to be wasted. There are lessons to be learned in the “valleys” of life and we want to learn them. Here are a few of those lessons, though Scripture gives many more.

- We can learn that there is always hope, and where our hope lies. Even in the darkest of times, the hope God provides will always remain. (See 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.)
- We can learn that life may change direction at any time because it is subject to forces beyond what our eyes can see. While we can plan our ways, it is God who determines our path. Our own plans are futile unless they are aligned to His. (See Jeremiah 10:23 and 29:11.)
- We can learn what it means to experience the comfort of God. He has ways of ministering to our suffering that can come in no other way. (See Psalm 18:2; Psalm 119:75-76.)
- We can learn God’s power to deliver. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. There is nothing too hard for Him! (See Psalm 34:19.)

What are some additional lessons that you have learned from times of pain?

For reflection: God’s intention is to make all trials into blessings for us. It is possible to rejoice and give glory to God even in times of great suffering if we recognize that every painful experience can provide us with new compassion and concern for others.

PRAYING FOR A MIRACLE

Sometimes God reaches down and changes circumstances supernaturally. Sometimes He does not. What determines whether God will perform a miracle? Is it all right to ask for one? Should we try to bolster our faith to reach out and claim the answer we desire? These questions may weigh upon the one who is hurting and sees no natural solution to his problem.

It is vital to understand that faith is not a means of coercing God into doing something He never intended to do. Whether or not He will perform a miracle is in His hands. In both the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:10) and in Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36), Jesus evidenced a spirit of submission to the will of God. In pondering His example, how do you think a submissive spirit might impact our prayers for a miraculous solution to what we face?

For reflection: While we certainly may pray for a miracle, we must never position ourselves against God’s will. In His prayer, Jesus reaffirmed His desire to do what God wanted, even though He knew that meant enduring excruciating pain and suffering. Any cry to the Almighty requesting a touch from His hand can be expressed by a child of God, but the basis for our prayers should always be, “Thy will be done.” We should never come to God demanding or thinking to earn a self-shaped answer to our request by our great faith. There may be times when disease, trials, or heartaches are not taken away, but they do not have to defeat us. If our trust is in God, then we will yield to whatever answer He sends because we have confidence that He knows what is best for us.

RESPONDING APPROPRIATELY TO TRIALS

God's Word lets us know that it is not strange or unusual for Christians to go through trials (see 1 Peter 4:12). We are assured that God is committed to making something beautiful, valuable, and eternally lasting of our lives, and for this reason He allows the "fiery trial" to come our way. Many times we think of exercising faith in terms of obtaining the removal of a problem. However, God can also give us grace that will carry us through life's challenges, and at times this may require even greater faith than being delivered. What are some ways we can cooperate with God in the spiritual refining process?

For reflection: While we praise God when He delivers us from troubling circumstances, we do not want to forget to praise Him as well for His strengthening and enabling grace that sustains us during times of suffering. Examples from the Word of God teach us that we can cooperate with God by patiently enduring, being content, keeping a spirit of gratitude, leaning on the grace of God, and looking forward to the time when God will free us from all suffering.

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

In 2 Corinthians 1:3 we find a beautiful description of God—one that offers special meaning to us in the time of trial. This Scripture refers to Him as "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." The next verse says He comforts us in all our tribulation. What a wonderful message of hope in our dark hour! The word *comfort* comes from the Greek words *para*, meaning "beside" or "alongside," and the word *kaleo*, meaning "to call." Together they mean "called alongside." No matter what our needs may be, God will be alongside us to share in our pain.

In Isaiah 53:4 we read, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows." Notice that this verse has no limits. It does not say He has borne some of our griefs

or carried part of our sorrows. Our suffering is always shared by Christ. What are some of the ways the Lord has ministered to you in your times of need?

For reflection: Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us that Jesus is our High Priest. He was made like us in every way, so He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses and is touched by our infirmities. We can confidently approach the Throne of Grace with our deepest feelings of grief, pain, suffering, and heartache. There we are sure to find "grace to help in time of need."

USING YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH PAIN

Who can know what it is like to stand at the bedside of a child and watch him draw his last breath? Who understands the pain of being forsaken by a trusted friend? Who can relate to facing a future that has been radically rearranged by illness? Someone who has gone through the same circumstance is often the one who can help the most.

There are people all around us who are hurting. One of the greatest blessings we can know in life is to be used by God to bring His solace to those who suffer. Are you willing to use your experience with pain to help someone else?



FORSAKE & FOLLOW

COMPLETE COMMITMENT REQUIRES A WILLINGNESS TO LET GO.

FROM A SERMON BY JOHN BAROS

On February 12, 2017, thousands of people forsook their homes and belongings, and fled for higher ground when an emergency evacuation was ordered for people living near America's highest dam, located in Oroville, California. An article published a few days later in the Sacramento Bee related, "North Sacramento Valley residents will never forget last Sunday night. It was the night they got stuck in the scariest traffic jam they will ever know. It began with a shock, a 4:21 p.m. Butte County sheriff's alert that the emergency spillway at Oroville Dam was crumbling and could fail within the hour. Residents of Oroville, Marysville, Yuba City, and other areas near the Feather River were ordered to flee, with the admonition: 'This is NOT a drill! This is NOT a drill! This is NOT a drill!' The spillway did not give way. But that alert unleashed a flood of its own, sending tens of thousands of cars simultaneously onto the roads, creating hours-long backups that left residents wondering if they would get to high ground before floodwaters overtook them."¹

Other news articles revealed that about 200,000 people were asked or ordered to immediately leave their homes and belongings and head for safety. The worst-case scenario envisioned was that within an hour, a flood 100 feet deep would be unleashed that could stretch up to forty miles. The residents in the path of the potential flood heard the sheriff's alert and took action. They made the decision that their lives were worth more than their stuff! They forsook everything and fled because they believed the warning.

In Luke chapter 5 we read of three fishermen who forsook everything, not because of an impending disaster, but because they had witnessed a miracle. Simon Peter, James, and John had been associated with Jesus, but they had not fully surrendered their lives to the will of God. That day everything changed.

After hearing Jesus teach by the seashore, the fishermen headed back out to sea again at Jesus' instruction, though they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. Miraculously, as soon as they let down their nets,

they enclosed “a great multitude of fishes.” Their catch was more than they could handle in their boat and their partner’s boat combined! In verse 9 we read that Simon and those with him were astonished at the draught of fishes they had taken. When they brought their ships to land, Simon, James, and John “forsook all, and followed him” (verse 11).

The Greek word translated here in the King James Version as “forsook” is translated differently elsewhere in Scripture. Sometimes it appears as “left” or “let go.” These men left all and let go of everything. Or we could say they laid aside everything; they abandoned or renounced all; they gave up or turned away from everything. When you study this word in all its various forms, it is rich.

The disciples’ decision to forsake all was not based on a burst of emotion. Perhaps there was emotion involved, but it really was an act of faith.

The disciples’ decision to forsake all was not based on a burst of emotion. Perhaps there was emotion involved, but it really was an act of faith. They were persuaded and convinced that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Christ. They had learned about Jesus from John the Baptist—Andrew had heard John’s assertion, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) and had told his brother, Simon (see John 1:40-42). They had listened to Jesus teach. But on this day, when they saw the miracle of the fishes, they were convinced. They believed beyond doubt that this was indeed the Christ, God’s Anointed One. And because they believed, they left their nets and their boats, forsook all, and followed Jesus.

God is still calling individuals today to follow Him and be willing to forsake all. Obedience to God’s call does not necessarily mean letting go of everything in a literal sense. While many through the years have left behind homes and businesses and families for the Gospel’s sake, to “forsake all” really is describing a condition of the heart. In our hearts we lay aside our wills and our plans, and replace them with God’s will and His plans. We purpose to put God first and follow Him. He assumes the place of pre-eminence above all else in our lives.

Followers of Christ throughout the centuries have forsaken all. Many of the pioneers of this organization sold their homes and possessions and moved across the country to become a part of the Apostolic Faith work. While “forsaking all” will not mean a cross-country move for everyone, the Gospel comes at the same price to each generation. We cannot obtain it cheaper than our forefathers did. It still costs everything! In our day as in theirs, every part of our lives must be yielded to God’s control.

FORSAKING OUR SINS

The starting point for a relationship with God is to forsake sin. In Isaiah 55:7 we read, “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; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Sin separates man from God, so we must turn away from wrongdoing; we must reject it entirely. We must come to the place where we say from the heart, “I am sick of living without God. I am willing to renounce my own way.” We have to abandon sin and turn completely to Jesus Christ. The beauty of our loving God is that when we do so, He will “abundantly pardon.” There is no sin that is too great for God to forgive if we turn from it to Him.

FORSAKING OUR EXPECTATIONS

God calls us to forsake our personal expectations and allow Him to choose in our lives. In 2 Kings 5, we read of Naaman, captain of the host of Syria. He was a great man in his country, and a man of valor, but he was afflicted with leprosy. When he went to the prophet of God seeking healing, he had expectations regarding how he should be treated and how God was going to accomplish the work. Thankfully, there were people around him who convinced him to humble himself and obey what the prophet said. Because he let go of his own expectations and in simple obedience dipped into the Jordan River seven times, he found healing. God calls us to let go of our own thinking and submit to His plan.

Holiness evangelist and author Oswald Chambers (1874-1917) referred to the importance of yielding to God’s plan, noting, “If you seek great things for yourself—‘God has called me for this and that’—you are putting a barrier to God’s use of you. As long as you have a personal interest in your own character, or any set ambition, you cannot get through into identification with God’s interests. You can only get there by losing forever any idea of yourself and by letting God take you right out into His purpose for the world.”²

Abandon your own expectations, and then God can use you more effectively. We put limitations on God when we say, “God, You have to do it this way.”

Abandon your own expectations, and then God can use you more effectively. We put limitations on God when we say, “God, You have to do it this way.”

FORSAKING OUR DOUBTS

Jesus calls us to let go of our doubts. When Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came to Jesus desperately asking for help because his little daughter was dying, Jesus immediately started for Jairus' house. As they were on the way, however, word came that Jairus' daughter had passed away. The girl's father probably felt that hope was gone; it was too late. But in Mark 5:36 we read, "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe." It is never too late with Jesus! Forsake the doubts. Let go of your own reasoning and simply believe God. He can do the impossible.

FORSAKING OUR STIPULATIONS OR CONDITIONS

We are called to forsake all, and that includes letting go of stipulations or conditions that we put on God. In Matthew 8:21-22 we find an account of one who expressed willingness to follow . . . but with conditions. We read, "And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." Sometimes we have great intentions. We say, "Yes, I will forsake all, but I need to do one more thing first. I want to accomplish this, or take care of that. I have a legitimate desire I want fulfilled first." Jesus responded to the man who wanted to bury his father that there can be no "let me do this first" attitude when it comes to following Him. He calls us to let go of our stipulations or conditions.

FORSAKING OUR COMFORT

There will be sacrifices; God does not promise us an easy way. The Son of Man did not even have a place of His own to lay His head! Following God wholeheartedly may not always be comfortable, but the blessings will be there, and they will far outweigh what we sacrifice. We cannot out give God! In Mark 10:28-30 we read, "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. . ." (as if Jesus did not know!) Jesus answered, "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

FORSAKING OUR OWN PLANS AND PERSPECTIVES

I was saved when I was twelve years old. How could a twelve-year-old fully understand what the words, "I will serve You for the rest of my life" meant? Of course I did not. However, I meant that commitment in a simple way, and God took me at my word and worked with that. He is still working with that! Even at that young age, I had to let go of control.

The Lord asked me to let go of my perspectives. For example, He showed me that I need to get out of my comfort zone. The first time He laid it on my heart to testify in church, I was terrified. I attempted to give God really good reasons why I should not even be considered for doing something like that. The Lord reminded me, "Who made your mouth?" like He did to Moses. He asked me to let go of my pride. When I yielded and stood to my feet, God gave me the needed grace.

After I was saved, there were restitutions I needed to make. They were embarrassing. I had to write letters and make some phone calls to straighten things out, but when I laid aside my fears and hesitations and simply stepped out in obedience, I experienced the nearness of God. There was such joy and peace and intimacy with Him! Do you want God to come close? Let go of what hinders!

Today, have you forsaken all for God? Have you made a commitment to serve Him wholeheartedly? If not, I urge you to do so. Acknowledge that you need God and are ready to let go of everything. When you make that surrender to God and mean it with all of your heart, you will find joy and fulfillment that you never dreamed possible. Now is the time to choose to yield all to God and promise to serve Him at whatever the cost and wherever He leads.

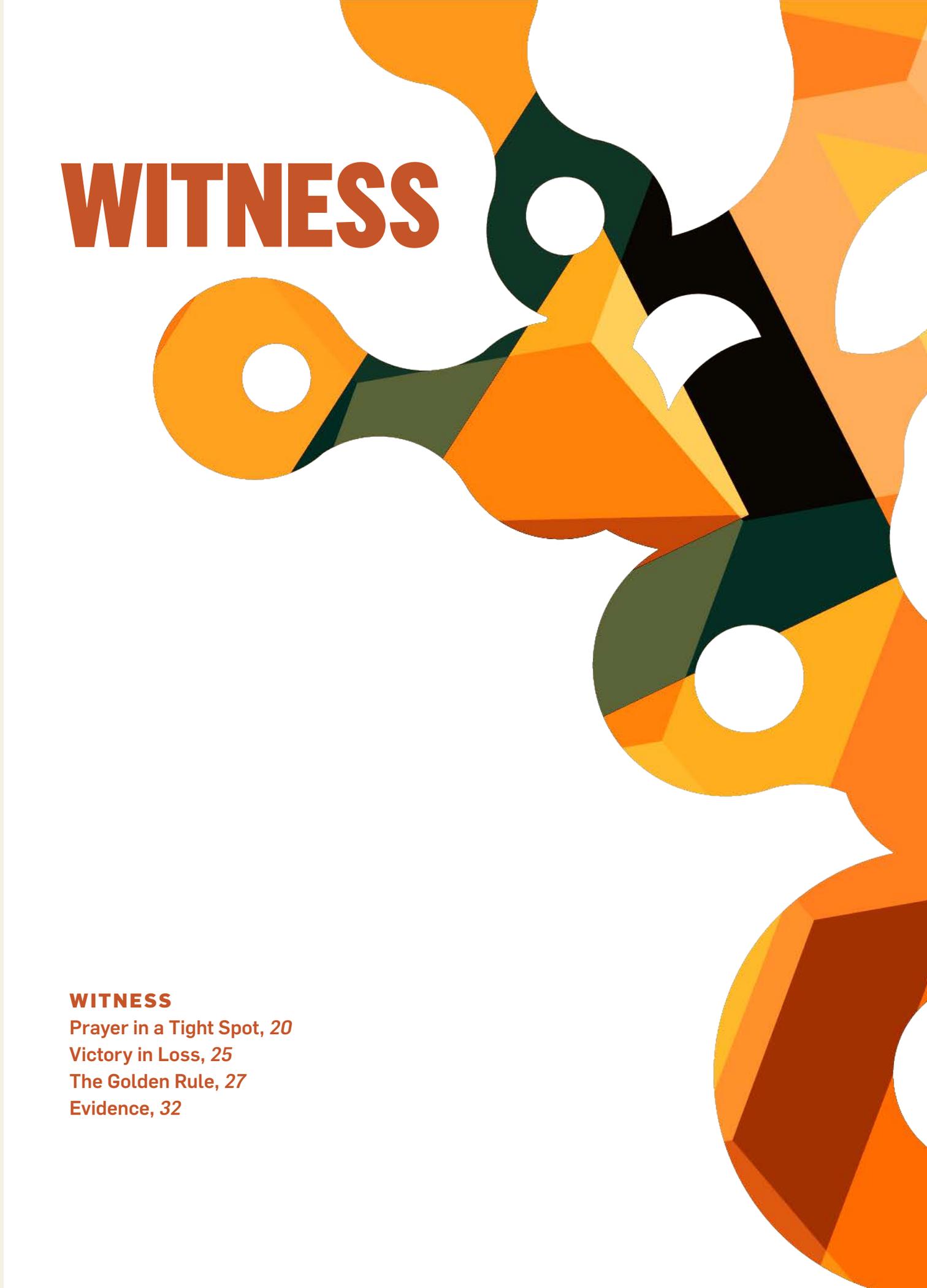
If you have made a commitment like that at some point, the logical follow-up question must be, "Is everything still fully surrendered to God? Are you still living a life of total abandonment to the Lord?" The peace that surpasses understanding is available to those who have forsaken all to follow God and who have kept their commitment.

¹ Bizjak, Tony. "Mass chaos' of Oroville evacuation prompts worry over exit strategy," The Sacramento Bee, February 17, 2017, <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/transportation/back-seat-driver/article133485154.html>.

² Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest* (Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 1995), Entry for November 10.

■ Rev. John Baros is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Medford, Oregon.

WITNESS

An abstract graphic design featuring overlapping organic shapes in various shades of orange, dark green, black, and white. The shapes are layered and partially transparent, creating a complex, layered effect. The overall composition is dynamic and modern.

WITNESS

Prayer in a Tight Spot, 20

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PRAYER
— in a —
TIGHT SPOT

BY CLARK WOLFE

WHEN HE SAW RED AND BLUE LIGHTS FLASHING FROM A POLICE CAR BEHIND HIM, CLARK TRIED TO STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH GOD.



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When I came to Jesus, I had absolutely nothing worthwhile to give Him. Rather, my offering was a broken life full of addiction, hatred, confusion, fear, restlessness, and a lot of heartache.

When something works for me, it seems that information needs to be shared so others can take advantage of it. By far the most important and best thing that has ever happened to me was experiencing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Nothing else has even come close and I love to tell others that God can do the same for them.

When I came to Jesus, I had absolutely nothing worthwhile to give Him. Rather, my offering was a broken life full of addiction, hatred, confusion, fear, restlessness, and a lot of heartache. Yet what Jesus wanted from me was the nothingness that I had. In exchange, He transformed my life, making me into a completely different person.

MY CHRISTIAN UPBRINGING

It wasn't as if the story of Jesus was new to me. Quite the opposite. My Christian heritage goes a long way back. My great-grandparents were a part of the Apostolic Faith Church when it was founded, and I grew up attending church and Sunday school. My dad worked in the church literature publishing department, so I was a familiar face

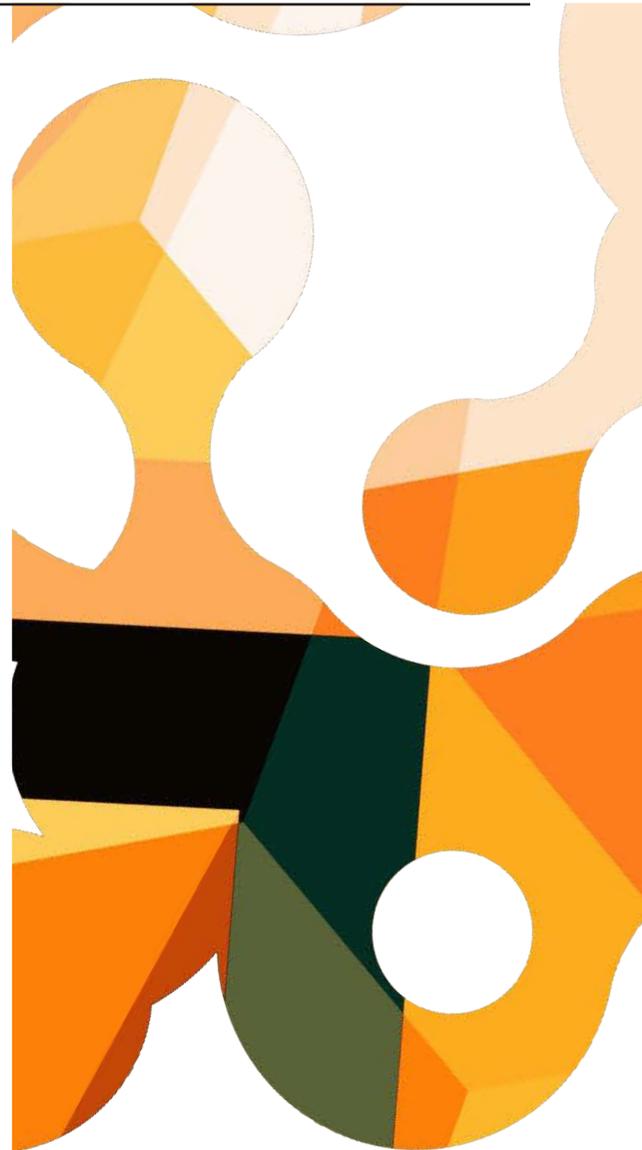
around the headquarters office. Sometimes there was an opportunity to help assemble literature or do some other project, and I liked that. However, something was missing inside. Several times when I was a child, God spoke to my heart, but I did not yield to that call. It seemed to me I would have more fun not serving God.

As time went by, I drifted away from my early teachings and became involved in drugs, alcohol, and other aspects of a life of sin. My heart became hardened, and eventually I did not really feel condemned for my activities. For the most part, it seemed the Lord had stopped speaking to my soul, or else I just did not hear Him because I was not listening. During my high school years, I claimed to not believe in God, and even harassed some fellow students who met at lunchtime to pray. Yet once in a while, God's conviction would cut right into my heart.

A DESPERATE PRAYER

One night I had been drinking alcohol and taking drugs and then was out driving with some of my friends. I had a gun in the car when a police officer pulled me over, and I knew that I could be in a great deal of trouble. I had tried to evade getting pulled over, but in my condition, I took a wrong turn down a dead-end street. A few moments later, the red and blue lights were flashing from the patrol car behind me. As I sat there waiting for the inevitable, I noticed that I could see our church's steeple. That night I told God if He would help me out of my situation, I would serve Him. Even though it was a pathetic prayer made only because I was in a tight spot, God heard it and extended mercy. The police officer let me off pretty easy. Afterwards the enemy of my soul told me it was just luck, but God's Spirit really put conviction on my heart.

A few nights later, I went to a Sunday evening service during our church's annual camp meeting. I felt so weighed down and tired of all my sinful activities. I had no idea that a revival was underway but soon found out that the evening service had been canceled because so many were still praying from the youth service hours earlier. As I sat in a chair near the back of the tabernacle, a close friend came and sat with me and eventually asked if I wanted to go pray. With no thought at all, I gave a quick "No thanks," but God continued to speak to my heart. Shortly after that, another friend who was praying called out to me from quite a distance, saying, "Clark, come and pray!" It startled me, and I quickly turned away hoping to be left alone. Seconds later, as I glanced back that direction, he was still looking at me and repeated his cry, seemingly a bit louder. Finally I yielded and walked over to where he was praying, knelt down, and simply asked God to make a change in my life. In that moment God transformed my heart and life in a way I didn't know was possible. By the time I looked up from praying, many were gathered around me in prayer, and my grandfather led them in singing an old hymn, "There's a new name written down in glory."



GROWING IN MY FAITH

Soon after that day, my grandfather took me out to breakfast and told me that when a person is born again, sometimes there will be challenges. He said that we are targeted; the enemy of our souls is like a lion, looking for any area of weakness so he can destroy us. Then he said a Christian needs to grow, to keep moving forward, and to seek the other experiences God has available. The necessity of doing exactly that became clear to me, so I began to seek God, and He was faithful to draw near to me. His Spirit spoke to my soul about some restitutions that I needed to make. Some of them were

hard, but I always prayed first, and God helped me.

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God had been so faithful to call for different consecrations, but there was one thing in particular that I had trouble yielding. That night I turned it over to God and said, ‘I give You everything that I have.’

One Sunday night while praying after a service, I felt that my life was fully consecrated to God. He came down and wonderfully, entirely sanctified me. He put a song in my heart and changed my attitude and the way that I thought.

During another camp meeting, I was hungry to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Many people were receiving from God, including my fiancée, and that made me want the experience even more. Yet, I did not receive the baptism during that camp meeting or the youth camp which followed. Before long, my thoughts were totally focused on that experience. At night I went to sleep thinking how much I needed my baptism, and in the morning, that was my first thought. It was hard to concentrate even at my job.

Later that fall, a group of young men spent a weekend attending our church in Yakima, Washington. Saturday evening was a youth song night, but afterward, some of us got down to pray. God had been so faithful to call for different consecrations, but there was one thing in particular that I had trouble yielding. That night I turned it over to God and said, “I give You everything that I have.” When the Lord would bring something to my mind, I would say, “Lord, that is Yours.” When He would bring up something else, I would say, “Lord, that is Yours. Whatever You want me to do, I will do; wherever You want me to go, I will go.” That night God came down and filled me with the Holy Ghost. The joy that experience brought is beyond explanation.

God has been with me in all of life’s situations. While still a new Christian, I came down with pneumonia and was in the hospital for five days. The ministers came to pray for me, and that day I was able to go home. Three days later, I had to go and be x-rayed. The doctor came into the room and



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The choice to serve God was the best decision of my life.

said, “Clark, I cannot explain what has happened, but the pneumonia in your lungs is completely gone. It should have been there for another six weeks.” He was so baffled that he took me into another room and showed me the x-rays. I knew what had happened—God had healed me! Later, God used that simple answer to prayer as a reminder of what He can do.

THE THRILL OF TELLING OTHERS WHAT GOD CAN DO

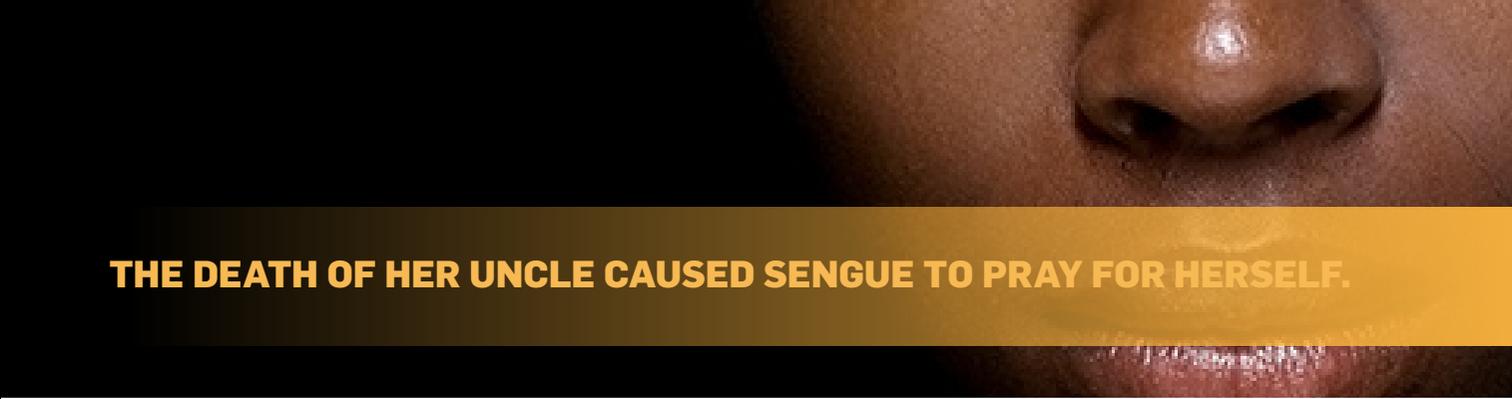
In recent years, it has been my privilege to visit our churches and some of our correspondents in India. It is exciting to see the response of those who are hearing the Gospel for the first time or have only recently come to know Jesus as their Savior. It is such a thrill to be able to share with others all that the Lord has done for me, and to participate in their joy as they give their lives to Him. One young couple made a particular impression on me. They came to a service and both prayed through to victory. Later in the week, I was asked to assist the pastor in their water baptismal service, and I can still see those two shining faces.

One year my wife and I planned to take our daughters with us on a trip to India. At the time, our older girl was six and the younger was eighteen months. Some of my co-workers had inquired about the details of my upcoming trip, and when they heard that our daughters were going, they questioned whether it was safe or wise to take the girls so far away and to another culture with conditions so different from home. They wondered if we were acting responsibly, yet we believed it would be a good experience for them.

While we were in India, one day we hired the daughter of one of the ministers to take care of our girls at the home where we were staying so we could attend a ministers’ meeting at the church. Both of the girls were asleep when we left. During the meeting, we received a call from the babysitter, and she was a little frantic. She said, “Addie is very sick!” and described her symptoms. We were forty-five minutes away from the house. When I told our leader that Addie was sick, he told another minister who turned to the rest of the group and put his hands up in the air, and then they all began to pray. That made me feel better! We told our driver that Addie was sick and we needed to go. He turned the forty-five-minute drive into about a twenty-minute one, and we prayed as he drove. When we arrived at the house, Addie was fine. We took her to the hospital just to be certain, but she did not have a fever or any of the other symptoms anymore. God had heard and answered prayer. Wherever we are and whether the need is great or small, He is able to help us. We cannot outgive the Lord.

The choice to serve God was the best decision of my life. And happily, anyone else can also make that decision and enjoy the great benefits of serving Him.

■ Rev. Clark Wolfe works at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office and is a minister at the church in Portland, Oregon.



THE DEATH OF HER UNCLE CAUSED SENGUE TO PRAY FOR HERSELF.

VICTORY in LOSS

BY SENGUE EPIE MARTHA

My heart is grateful to the Almighty God for making me part of this glorious Gospel. I am one of the many fortunate children who were born and raised in it. My family was part of the Apostolic Faith Church in Cameroon, and my parents did not relent in their efforts to bring me up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They did their best to instill the Word of God, His love, and the fear of the Lord in my heart. The Bible was an open Book in our home, and I was taken regularly to Sunday school.

Also, I was given the opportunity to participate in open air services, where I would recite memory verses and sing songs. One unforgettable memory verse was Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I thank God this verse was fulfilled in me.

While I was still a child, all of the operations of our church were suspended by the government of Cameroon due to a misconception of certain aspects of the doctrine. During the time that the church was closed, God gave my parents courage, perseverance, and wisdom to continue raising their children

in His Word. Times without number, they took us children into the heart of the forest to seek God and His mercy. Also, we were often awakened from our beds during the wee hours of the morning for Sunday school teachings and admonitions.

As I grew older, I did not go into outward sins, but I had sin in my heart. Though I knew my need to be saved, I was content with the prayers of my parents. I also relied on the prayers of my uncle who had been the leader of the Cameroon work. All of this changed in 1982 when I was thirty years old.

My uncle was traveling to Lagos, Nigeria, for camp meeting, and God called Him to Glory. This was a bitter pill for me to swallow. However, his tragic death did not send me away from God. Rather, it united me to Him. I made up my mind to pray through to salvation in order to see my beloved uncle again, and God saved me a few months after his death.

My conversion took place one night when a brother in Christ came to visit my family. As he was talking, God fixed my eyes on a sentence in an almanac. It said, "Jesus is coming soon." My heart melted, and I went to my room. There I knelt down in front of my

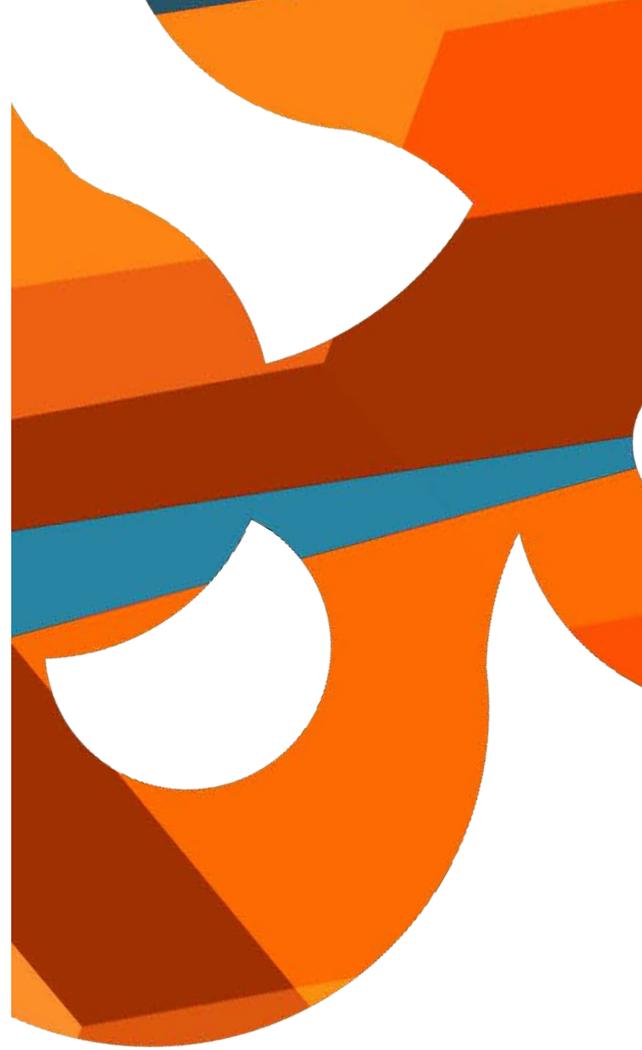
small bed, pleading for God's mercy. Within fifteen minutes, He saved me, sanctified me, and then baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

Two years after that, several who had been raised in the Gospel in Cameroon felt an urge to talk to God about the restoration of the Apostolic Faith Church there. We had a yearning to worship God, but there was no church where we could pour out our hearts to Him. We dedicated a long vacation period to holding prayer meetings. During this time, none of us went out. As we prayed, our request was soon granted.

A few months after the restoration of the church, five of us were arrested on our way to a prayer meeting. We were jailed for five days, but did not get discouraged. During that time, God encouraged me with the words of an old hymn: "In the days of early youth, none can help like Jesus. He will give you sweetest rest; all who trust in Him are blessed. None can help like Jesus. No! None like Jesus." We were strengthened by these words and looked to God who was faithful. In court, I was falsely charged with not having an identity card, but God undertook and I was acquitted. God has continued to be faithful. Today, our church in Cameroon is once more able to congregate and worship freely.

God has been personally faithful to me as well. Through the years, He has been everything to me. He healed me of paralysis and an eye problem. Also, after my parents died, He saw me through my education and He provided me with a job in a wonderful way.

Like Paul, I can ask, "Who shall separate me from the love of Christ?" Satan may fight, but I am persuaded that God is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. I love Jesus and owe Him the balance of my life.



■ Sengue Epie Martha is pastor of our church in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon. She has been instrumental in procuring a campground site for the Cameroon saints. The Douala congregation currently meets in a school, but has obtained land for the construction of a church.

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Like Paul, I can ask, "Who shall separate me from the love of Christ?"

APPLYING THE PRACTICAL GUIDANCE IN THE BIBLE BROUGHT
A BIG CHANGE IN JODIE'S MARRIAGE.

THE GOLDEN RULE

AND OTHER MARRIAGE ADVICE FROM GOD'S WORD

BY JODIE HINKLE

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Ashamed of my behavior, and realizing the error in using meanness as a defense against meanness, I finally was able to start giving kind responses.

As a child, I was taught the Golden Rule, which is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Growing up, I didn't know where this saying originated, but considered it to be good relationship advice. After becoming a Christian at age twenty-three, I started reading the Bible and learned that the Golden Rule was a Biblical principle taught by Jesus. He introduced it during His Sermon on the Mount when He summarized the last six of the Ten Commandments in this way: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

In continuing to read the Bible, I found that it contains a wealth of practical guidance concerning interacting with others. As God opened my eyes to these teachings and helped me apply them, there was a dramatic improvement in many of my relationships. This was especially true in my marriage, which was headed for divorce. Here are a few of the Biblical principles that helped make the difference.



GIVE A SOFT ANSWER

Shortly after receiving salvation, I prayed asking God to make others be nicer to me. From my point of view, no one could speak a civil word to me. My co-workers were especially brutal, and often I left work crying due to their biting sarcasm. It was not much better at home where my husband, who was not a Christian, spoke to me harshly. In response to my prayer, God brought Proverbs 15:1 to my attention: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." My first reaction was to say, "Why should I be the one to change? Yes, I say mean things too, but only in self-defense." However, I ultimately yielded.

Over the next few weeks, I tried to put this verse into practice, but had developed a bad habit, and my responses remained less than kind. God provided help by prompting me to pause and think before speaking. Then, when I had trouble thinking

of something nice to say, He showed me to write out useful phrases in advance on cue cards. When I continued to struggle, He gave Scripture that revealed my wrong attitude. Romans 12:19-21 says, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Ashamed of my behavior, and realizing the error in using meanness as a defense against meanness, I finally was able to start giving kind responses. At first my co-workers were speechless and my husband was puzzled, but within a few months both relationships turned around. The people at work not only spoke kindly to me, but also left flowers, balloons, and chocolates at my desk. At home, my husband replaced his harsh words with kind ones. Gradually, it dawned on me that it was everyone else who had been acting in self-defense.



IRFANA KOUZNETSOVA/GETTYSTOCK

When someone wrongs us, our natural instinct is to retaliate, but the Bible teaches to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39). This is not because God wants to see His children taken advantage of, but because responding with His love is an effective way of stopping the cycle of retaliation by removing further incentive.

RESPECT OTHERS

Using Colossians 3:18-20, God showed me a picture of His plan for families: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” Our family did not resemble this admonition in any way. I would not submit to my husband on any issue, because I did not respect him. In return, he seemed to have more bitterness than affection for me, and because we were not united in how to discipline our children, they were misbehaved.

The Lord spoke to me about doing my part by supporting my husband’s decisions in such areas as finances, disciplining the children, and how much to work. My initial response was, “No, no, and no, because he can’t be trusted to make good decisions,” but the Lord gave me a simple exercise to change my perspective. He showed me to say something respectful to my husband each day such as, “Thank you for working hard to provide for our family.”

In a short time, I began to realize there were many reasons to respect my husband, and it grew easier to defer to his judgment. As his decisions began to be respected instead of criticized, he naturally became less bitter and more amiable toward me. Applying this principle of respect to other relationships yielded similarly positive results.

The Bible teaches us to “honour all men” (1 Peter 2:17) including our spouses, parents, employers, and rulers—even when we believe they are undeserving. Doing so

could alter our perspective and change the relationship for the better. More importantly, though, treating others with respect honors God; it acknowledges that each person is His creation and serves at His will.

CLEAVE TO YOUR SPOUSE

As God was teaching me to speak kindly and show respect to others, I also came across this verse in Genesis 2:24: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” God helped me see that my husband and I were cleaving to our respective

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God revealed to me that speaking poorly of my husband left my family with an unfair, negative impression of him that would last long after our arguments were mended.

families and not to each other. Among other things, we each confided in our own families while keeping secrets from each other, we looked to them to support our side during disagreements, and we spent our free time with separate groups of friends and family. For my part, I regularly called my parents after arguments with my husband, providing a long list of complaints and frustrations. And I never followed up those conversations by relating the times my husband apologized or we resolved matters. Also, I failed to convey his good qualities to them.

God revealed to me that speaking poorly of my husband left my family with an unfair, negative impression of him that would last long after our arguments were mended. And giving them incentive to rally to my defense was increasing the divide between us. With God’s help, I determined to speak only positively about my husband.

After a few months, my husband and I had a conversation about the change in my behavior. I told him

that lately, I had a strong desire to read and obey the Bible, but did not know why. Though he was not a Christian, he had been raised in the Gospel, so he knew what had happened and asked, “Don’t you know that you got saved?” I didn’t even know what that meant, so he continued, “Did you pray, repenting of your sin and asking God into your heart? I know you did, because the difference in our home has been like the difference between night and day.”

This conversation opened the way to making some other changes that would cause us to depend more on each

other instead of our separate support networks. My husband and I agreed not to bring anyone except God into our disagreements and to spend more time together. We also decided to quit keeping secrets from each other.

Breaking old habits was not easy, but God was patient and helped. Shortly after our conversation, I secretly loaned someone money after my husband had said not to. When the money was repaid, I went to the credit union at his worksite and put it back thinking he would never know. However, I had inadvertently parked right next to his car, and when I tried to leave, my car wouldn’t start. In addition, he was due to get off work at any minute. Realizing that God was intervening, I prayed, thanking Him for keeping me on track, and agreeing to tell my husband about the loan. With my next turn of the key in the ignition, the car started.

Ultimately, following the new rules of “cleaving to each other” had the effect of strengthening the bond between us and forming a protective hedge around our marriage. As that happened, others became more encouraging and supportive of our union.

God wants to see marriages succeed, for He ordained marriage to be for life. Knowing that “if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand”

(Mark 3:25), He gave spouses the instruction to cleave to each other and become one. As we commit to following this principle, He will help our marriages to stand.

LIVE PEACEABLY

One Sunday morning, my husband and I had a disagreement. An hour later, when it was time to leave

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In a marriage, it is more important to resolve minor issues than it is to be right.

our church service to begin. I said, “Lord, if he were right, I would apologize. But he is wrong, so what can be done? I will turn on the radio and obey the first words that come from it.” Those words were, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18), so I apologized.

In a marriage, it is more important to resolve minor issues than it is to be right. Offenses have an impact and are often remembered long after the reason for the argument is forgotten. Over time, these can add up and cause resentment. God would rather we remember the debt He forgave us, and in return be forgiving towards others (see Ephesians 4:32). When we forgive, it not only relieves the other person of a burden, but heals our own hearts as well.

FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE

I wanted my husband to work less and make some improvements to our house. When he would not, I asked God to make him give me what I wanted. In reply, God asked if I was giving my husband what he wanted, which was to make our house an

inviting place. My response was, “Why should I do something nice for someone who often fails to think of me? After he gives me what I want, I will give him what he wants.” However, God persuaded me to give His way a try, so I began making my husband breakfast and packing his lunches. At first, he was indifferent, but after a time, he became appreciative. This made me want to do more, so I began looking for opportunities to do nice things for him. When he saw an ad for Mexican food one day and said burritos sounded good, I immediately went to the kitchen and made burritos. Eventually, he began wanting to reciprocate. One example was when he surprised me with a new purse after the strap on my old one broke.

Not wanting to go to church with this unresolved, I sat down next to the radio and prayed while waiting for the broadcast of

When our motivation is to satisfy self, we can never get our fill, because there is always something more to be desired. Only when we put others first and “remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35) will we find true fulfillment.

God’s Word offers the best instruction for building good relationships. When we honestly attempt to apply His principles to our lives and personal situations, we will see positive results. In my life, one of the most positive results was that my husband was eventually won over by God’s love and was saved.

■ Jodie Hinkle is a member of the editorial staff at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office in Portland, Oregon.

EVIDENCE

First and foremost, I thank God for salvation. I also thank Him for everything He has done for me. Two days before Christmas, I was hit by a car while crossing the street near my work. The impact of my body made a huge dent in the car, and I landed on my back, hitting my head. It happened so fast, all I could do was call out to Jesus. The pain was the most I have ever been in, but I knew God was with me. The paramedics came and were asking me questions, but I couldn't think, so I just kept calling on Jesus. I passed out a couple of times, and they took me to the hospital. I am thankful that my family and friends prayed for me, because all the tests and scans came out good; I had no broken bones or internal injuries. For a time, I couldn't walk without help, but now I can; God healed my body completely.

After I was healed, I began having nightmares and flashbacks. I didn't know why God would let this happen after healing my body, but He is faithful. We had a youth weekend with the theme of "Avoiding Distractions to Focus on God." My main distraction was this anxiety, so on Sunday evening, I prayed, "Lord, let this thing pass from me." I have not had a nightmare since, and I give God all the glory for it.

→ *Janet Folarin of Hempstead, New York*

Thank God for all He has done for me. Several years ago when my family came to a Portland camp meeting, I had eczema on my arms. The rash was so painful that I couldn't bend my arms to play the violin. My dad pulled me aside and said, "Let's pray that God will heal you." I said okay, and he prayed for me with another minister. The next day, the rash was better, and it continued to improve with each day. It has never been that bad since. That answer to prayer really had an impact on me.

Then this past year, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. It was a shock and a very scary time, but God reminded me of when He healed my arms. I realized that if He could do that, He could heal anything whether physical, emotional, or otherwise. Also, the rash on my arms was a small problem, not really important, but God cared enough to heal me. So when I don't feel good about something that has happened in life, I can still know that God is good. He has shown that He is a kind God.

→ *Amelia Arechy of Richmond, California*

I came to the Portland camp meeting for only two reasons: I wanted to take cool pictures to send to my Filipino friends back home, and to attend my uncle's wedding. God had a different plan, though. After one of the youth services, He saved me, then sanctified me, and baptized me with the Holy Ghost. I just prayed, "Lord, take control of my life. I give You my all—one-hundred percent. From now on, You are going to be the Captain of my ship, the Leader of my life. I know You are God, and You will be my God." Then I asked Him to help me, because I knew I couldn't do this alone. Everything is different now.

→ *JC Ruiz of Muñoz, the Philippines*



I have a praise report to share. About three-and-a-half years ago, my daughter was having seizures in her sleep. The doctors did an EEG test and said she had an abnormality in her brain, but they didn't know the cause. They hoped she would just grow out of it. Two years ago was her first year at youth camp, and I went with her. On the first night, she came down with a migraine, and we went to the cabin so she could lie down. She was crying from the pain, but heard the music from the chapel service and wanted to go. She had already been prayed for, but I said we could pray and ask God to take away the pain. We poured our hearts out to the Lord, asking Him to heal her. Within two minutes, she sat up and said her headache was gone. Then last week, we took her back to the doctor for another EEG, and the abnormality in her brain was gone. Only our Lord can do those wonderful things! I am thankful that He is always with us.

 *Tricia Spakousky of Richmond, California*

There is power in the Blood of Jesus to save. When I was in college, God called me. I found a place to pray, and God saved me. There is also power in the Blood of Jesus to heal. In November of last year, I received a telephone call that my son, who was twenty-six years old, had been taken to the hospital after suffering cardiac arrest while playing basketball. All of his major organs had failed: his kidneys, lungs, liver, and heart. I called my pastor to let people know to pray and then drove ten hours to Birmingham, Alabama, where my son was. At the hospital, I was told he had only a ten percent chance of survival, and that if he did live, he would have brain damage because he had gone without oxygen for a time. However, the Almighty God came through. After my son was in a coma for six days, God raised him up. Today, he is able to walk and to work, and his mind is intact. We serve a mighty God!

 *Boniface Uzendu of St. Louis, Missouri*

The family I was born and brought up in was a Hindu family in India. We lived in a small village where there was no church and no minister, so I did not hear about Jesus Christ. The Indian people believe in 330 million gods, and my family served many of them. When I finished my primary classes, I wanted to go to college and become a teacher, but my parents were poor. In a way, my desire to go to school was my own god. About this time, I heard of Jesus, but did not believe in Him. I questioned, "If He was God, why did He die?" But no one gave me an answer.

When I was twenty-one, my friend joined a Bible school and was given eight-hundred rupees every month as a stipend. I wanted money to complete my education, so on August 6, 1996, I went to the school and joined. In class, the teacher taught from the Bible that it was God's plan for Jesus to die, and He did it for my sin. When I heard this, I cried in my heart and accepted the Lord Jesus as my Savior.

At first, my parents were against me, but then they saw God work. My father had an illness in his legs and had been to many doctors. I told him that if he would believe in Jesus, He would be healed. He said he would believe, and my Bible teacher came to our house and prayed for him. By the next day, he was completely healed. After that, both of my parents accepted Christ.

In 2000, my mother was baptized in water, but my father did not think it was necessary. After my mother died in 2014, I told him he needed to be baptized to meet her in Heaven. He agreed to do it, and last year I had the privilege of baptizing my father. Then he passed away in March of this year.

I thank God for leading the work in India. We have sixty churches and thirty-two pastors in the province of Maharashtra. We share the Gospel with Muslims and many receive it. I feel blessed to be here in Portland to share this good news.

 *Surya Gajbhiv of Maharashtra, India*

WORLD REPORT



CHILE

WORLD REPORT

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APOSTOLIC FAITH WORK CONTINUES TO GROW IN

CHILE

A presentation of the Apostolic Faith work in Chile was given on Monday evening, July 10, during the camp meeting in Portland, Oregon. The program included a multimedia presentation about recent camp meetings in Chile and an overview of how the work there began, as well as music presented by Chilean visitors and individuals who had attended a Chile camp meeting.

Sam Ajayi, Director of South America Work, opened the program by welcoming the audience and briefly telling how our churches in Chile came into existence after his first visit to Chile in 2011. The purpose of that initial trip was to meet with about twenty groups who showed interest in becoming part of the Apostolic Faith organization. Although the final consensus for most was that we adhere too closely to Biblical doctrine, one group from the town of Chimbarongo embraced the doctrines, and the first Apostolic Faith Church in Chile was formed in 2012.

Chimbarongo is the location of the Chile camp meeting, which was first held in 2013. It takes place for one week in February, with about fifty to seventy in attendance, and all services are conducted in both

Spanish and English. The multimedia presentation focused on that annual event, using photos, videos, and narration by Carrie Keju and Yvonne Wilson (two recent Chile camp meeting attendees) to transport viewers to South America for an hour.

Video clips from the camp meetings showed that the music in Chile is distinctive; their orchestra consists of several guitars, mandolins, and an occasional tambourine. The narrators described the music as “joyous” and “enthusiastic,” displaying how much the

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Testifying is a newer tradition for the Chilean churches, but they seem to have grasped the concept quickly.

Chilean saints love the Lord. Two evenings of music are held during the week of camp meeting: Monday and Saturday. On those evenings, nearly all members of the church participate in some way, either in a family group, choir, ensemble, or solo, and many visitors come to hear it.

Testifying is a newer tradition for the Chilean churches, but they seem to have grasped the concept quickly. One brother told how he had been sick and tried many remedies, including witch doctors, with no success, but one day he went to church and was saved and healed! Another brother gave a miraculous account of how God spared his home from a raging forest fire which took twelve lives. The flames encircled his home but did not harm him or the house. These and many other testimonies were an encouragement for all.

The narrators also commented that the prayer services were wonderful at the Chile camp meeting this year. They said that on one night, “there was weeping and praising and hallelujah’s being shouted. It might be a small crowd, but it is mighty in prayer . . . Just when it looked like we might be wrapping up to head for dinner, some of the musicians started softly playing and singing. The blessings started flowing again. People came back to the altars to pray more. Dinner that night was very late.”



Another special moment at the 2017 Chile camp meeting was an informal meeting between some of the visitors from the United States and the Chilean young people. The youth were challenged to commit themselves to growing in the Lord through

Bible study and prayer, and to hold each other accountable to receiving their deeper experiences. Afterward, those in attendance immediately showed a commitment to follow through. The visitors also had a chance to share personally with the youth on the topics of Christian growth, dating and marriage, friends, and being led by God in the big decisions of life. It was an encouraging experience for all.

On Saturday, the ordinances of Foot Washing and the Lord’s Supper were observed. Those in attendance said there was a tangible hunger for more of God at the service, and it was very blessed. The narrators commented, “The fellowship was sweet, and afterwards there were hugs all around.” In the afternoon a water baptismal service was held at a nearby river.

At the conclusion of the multimedia presentation, the group of delegates visiting from Chile sang “Rios de Agua Vivo” (“Rivers of Living Water”), with guitars, mandolin, and tambourine. Everyone could readily see that the Chilean music is indeed joyful and enthusiastic. All Americans who had ever visited Chile joined the Chileans to sing the song a second time, and finally the whole congregation was invited to join in singing it together.

Those of us who watched the presentation had a greater love and appreciation for our brothers and sisters in Chile, and no doubt will keep them in our prayers in the days to come.



WORK IN CHILE

The 1930s

A Chilean diplomat named Pedro Alvarez Muñoz travels to the United States for work and encounters the Apostolic Faith Church of Portland, Oregon. He takes our teachings to Chile and starts an Apostolic Faith Mission there, using the same seventeen core doctrines that we still uphold.

The 1950s

Alvarez Muñoz’s work grows to include a number of churches, but discord causes them to splinter into several groups. Some of these groups and others in Chile use our Spanish literature, though we still have no official church in the country.

The 1960s and 1970s

On behalf of the headquarters church, Apostolic Faith ministers correspond with leaders of several churches in Chile and make visits. However, contact between Portland and these groups is eventually lost.

April 2011

Sam Ajayi travels to Chile to meet with various church groups who show interest in joining our organization. One of them traces its roots back to us through Muñoz’s work and decides to become part of the Apostolic Faith of Portland, Oregon.

TESTIMONY

When I was a child, my brother became very ill. My grandmother took him to hospitals and doctors, but she found no medicine that could help him. Being Catholic, my grandmother took him to the priests, and they told her that all she could do was pray that God would have mercy on him. He was given just a few hours to live.

When they brought my brother home, he was unconscious. His eyes were not opening anymore, and he had not eaten in several days. He was very sick. Then, some Christians came by who were singing and preaching the Gospel. That day my grandmother said, "If it's true that the God of these evangelicals can heal, I will convert." She invited the pastor and the others to her house, and they anointed my brother with oil and prayed for him. Then God, in His mercy, performed a miracle and healed my brother. My grandmother kept her promise and gave her life to God, and then our family began to attend a Christian church.

That was forty-five years ago, and our family has been in the Gospel ever since. I was saved very young, and later sanctified and then baptized with the Holy Spirit. I praise the Lord for that. It was difficult for our family because my mother was a single mom and we did not have the economic support of a father, or a father to advise us and help us. We did not have electricity or running water back then, and sometimes we did not have enough food to eat. It was difficult to get to church, but we started to seek the Lord, and He blessed us and changed our lives.

At the beginning of this year, I began having a lot of pain in my heart. The pain was so great that I went to the hospital. They told me that my heart was enlarged, and that was what was causing the pain.



ISRAEL GAJARDO MONARDES

The doctor said it was a serious condition, and it worried me and my family, and we started to pray. God's Word says, "Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth," and I began to seek the Lord with fasting and prayer. Then one day, the Lord put it in my heart to be anointed and prayed for. When I obeyed, I felt the Lord do a work in me and heal me! I had not been able to move very much or eat because everything caused pain in my heart, but that day the Lord took the pain away. Afterwards, I went back to the doctor and they ran more tests, and they told me my heart was like that of a young man of fifteen years! I praise God, I glorify His name, and I give Him thanks for what He has done for me.

■ Rev. Israel Gajardo Monardes is Leader of the Apostolic Faith Work in Chile and Pastor of the headquarters church in Chimbarongo.

November 2011

Sam Ajayi returns to Chile to train the new congregations in our doctrines and practices. Significant changes are made: the Apostolic Faith logo is posted on their buildings; altar benches are installed at the front of their sanctuaries; collection plates are replaced with tithes boxes; a time for prayer is set aside before services, and a time for testimonies during services.

June 2012

The group of churches formally votes, as required by law, to become part of the Apostolic Faith of Portland, Oregon. A constitution is signed, presented to the Chilean government, and approved, making the church in Chile legally part of the Apostolic Faith family. Chimbarongo is made the headquarters of our work in Chile, and Pastor Mario Gonzales Cordova is named as the leader of the work in Chile.

February 2013

The first Chile Camp Meeting is held in Chimbarongo. Visitors attend from Brazil, Peru, the United States, and Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

February 2015

Pastor Mario retires and Israel Gajardo Monardes is named as pastor of the headquarters church and leader of the work in Chile, which now includes congregations in five locations.

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Victories Abound!

AT PORTLAND CAMP MEETING

This year's Portland camp meeting, which was held July 2-16, saw a record number of foreign visitors, and the blessings outpoured during the prayer services were numerous as well.

In the days leading to the camp meeting, guests began arriving from six continents and were met at the camp office with smiles and keys to their accommodations on the campground. Eighty-two delegates came representing our churches in Africa, thirty-seven from Asia, one from Australia, forty-four from Europe, and six from South America. In addition, North America was well represented by seventy from Canada and over 800 from within the United States.

The opening Sunday morning, enthusiastic attendees greeted one another, and then settled down to welcome the sweet presence of the Lord as the meeting began. The prelude set the tone for a Spirit-filled camp meeting as the orchestra played "Morning Praise" and was then joined by the choir for "Where Your Glory Dwells." For the message, Reverend Darrel Lee, Superintendent General, preached from Psalm 16:6, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." He spoke of the goodly heritage handed down through the Apostolic Faith organization, including the teaching of sound doctrine, prayer as a focal point of every service, and victorious living for all who are saved.

In the evening, Reverend Isaac Adigun, the Western Europe District Superintendent, took his text from Mark 5:25-29, and said, "Jesus is passing this way." He urged the camp meeting attendees to be spiritually hungry and determined to achieve the purpose for which they had come.

The annual Midsummer Concert was held on the first Monday evening. Beautiful uplifting pieces were presented by the orchestra and choir as well as various groups and soloists. Some performances recounted Biblical events and carried inspiring messages, such as when Randy Kaady sang "Shadrach," reminding everyone of the faithful stand taken by the

three Hebrew children. Other numbers had a patriotic theme, including the finale, "America the Beautiful." All of the music was wonderful, and knowing our musicians were lifting their voices and playing their instruments for the Lord made it even better.

Tuesday through Friday, a Bible teaching was presented each morning. These instructional times encouraged listeners to delve deeper into God's Word and apply the knowledge gained to their daily lives. The first teaching, given by Reverend John Baros, pastor in Medford, Oregon, focused on "Prevailing Prayer." Other subjects studied were: Absolute Truth, Power for Service, Apostolic Christianity, The Second Coming of Christ, Forgiveness, Eternal Heaven and Hell, and God's Perfect Word.



Children's church was held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with the theme of "Exploring God's Word." Through skits, interactive songs, object lessons, and sermonettes, the children learned of God's promises for them. Every child was encouraged to participate by singing in a choir for their grade level and telling something they were thankful for. At the close of each meeting, the altars filled as nearly all the children went forward to pray.

Youth services were held in the afternoon on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. These gave the young people an opportunity to participate in the work and hear messages relevant to their station in life. In the first meeting, a sermon from Philippians 4:19 urged them to seek God first. In another message,



they were encouraged to tarry in prayer for their Christian experiences. Heeding these admonitions, the young people prayed earnestly, and God rewarded their faith. After a few meetings, thirteen testified to receiving either salvation, sanctification, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Following one prayer meeting in which several received their baptism with the witness of speaking in a foreign language, someone commented, "It was just like in the Book of Acts where several nationalities came together and heard people speaking in their own languages." A group from South Korea had felt blessed when they heard a young person praising God in their language. Also, a woman originally from India had been delighted to hear a young man from the Philippines praising God in her native tongue of Hindi. And, a pastor's wife from the Dominican Republic rejoiced when she heard a young English-speaking girl pray, "Cristo me ama," which in English is "Christ loves me."

The evening services brought exhortations to victorious living. In one sermon, Reverend Johnny Wyatt, Jr., pastor from Brooklyn, New York, took his text from Luke 5:14-16 and stated that no matter how busy life becomes, time must be set aside for communion with God. In another sermon, Reverend Muiwa Olamijulo, from Nigeria, preached from Genesis 3:9-10, saying Christians must make themselves available for God's use. Reverend Michael Anthony, the Eastern Caribbean District Superintendent, urged everyone to "Choose Heaven's Citizenship," and Reverend Chris Hewlett, the Canada District Superintendent, encouraged his listeners to obtain "The Peace of God." Many were stirred by the messages and responded in prayer.

Toward the close of camp meeting, a water baptismal service was held for thirty candidates. We thank God for this glorious camp meeting in which many victories were won.



OUR CLASSICS



OUR CLASSICS

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Construction of the tabernacle on the Portland campground. It was completed in 1921.



THE WOOD TO FIT

From a sermon by Rene Cassell

Republished from the September-October 1997 edition of this magazine.

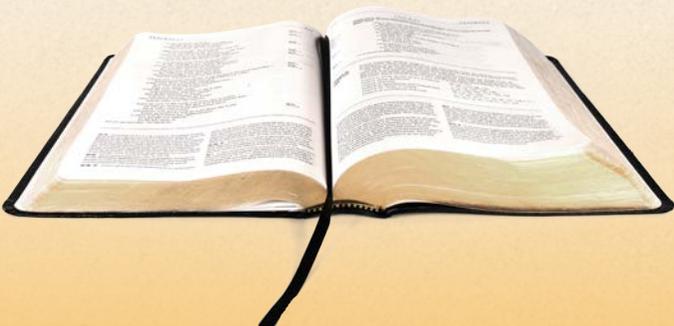
**In order to be used, we must be shaped
by the hand of God.**

“*We must fit into the Gospel
and not expect the Gospel to
be made to fit us. **We cannot
change the Word of God.**
If we do not measure up,
we do not fit.*”

Imagine a cedar tree standing in the forests of Lebanon, tall and beautiful. A bird flies by and, seeing the cedar tree, makes its nest there. A squirrel climbs the trunk and sits on a branch to nibble a nut. A weary traveler sits down, puts his back against the tree, and takes a nap, so thankful that the tree is there. If that cedar tree could talk, I believe it would be proud of what it is. But do you think the only purpose for a cedar tree is to provide a place for birds to build their nests? for squirrels to sit? for a weary traveler to rest?

In 1 Kings 5 we read of another use for cedar trees. God had a plan to build a temple, and King Solomon was chosen to put that plan into effect. King Solomon knew he needed good material to build a temple for the Lord. He found it in the forests of Lebanon, where there were beautiful cedar trees. The cedar tree was fulfilling its purpose in nature, yet God had another use for the tree.

Before the cedar tree could be used as part of the Temple, a procedure was necessary. It could not be taken to Jerusalem the way it was. It would not have fit. So King Solomon told Hiram, King of Tyre, that he



wanted skillful workers to hew those cedar trees for the Temple. We read, "And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house" (1 Kings 5:18).

Hewing Trees

Let us consider the process of being hewed and fitted. One day a lumberjack walks up to the grand cedar tree with an ax in his hand and begins to chop at the trunk. Eventually the cedar tree falls to the ground, down as low as possible. Very humiliating, isn't it? Yet, it had to be brought down in order to be worked on.

Though the cedar is on the ground, it still cannot be used the way it is. So the lumberman starts chopping off its branches, one at a time. If that cedar tree had feelings and could talk, it would say, "Oh, those are my beautiful branches you are cutting!" There is nothing wrong with the branches, but in order for the cedar to be useable, its branches must be removed. The cedar must be hewed to fit.

Once the branches are off, the cedar must be conveyed to the site. Perhaps an ox is brought and hooked to this tree, and the once proud, beautiful cedar is pulled through the mud. Then it has to be submerged in water and floated to the place where the stones and wood for the Temple are being prepared.

There the builder begins to chop once more. He takes a slab off on that side, then a slab off this side. The master builder comes by with his rule and does some measuring. "It is still too thick," he says. "You need to take off a little more here." Or he might say, "It's a little crooked. Cut out that bend." There is a special place where that cedar is to be placed in the Temple, so it must be made to fit. Perhaps it is needed for a beam. It may be for the threshold. It may just be for a floor plank. What? Will people walk over this proud cedar tree that was once so beautiful? Yes, they will.

Spiritual Hewing

God is building a spiritual house—a glorious Church. Who will make up that Church? God does not take a drunkard out of a nightclub and immediately say, "Here is a preacher." Some hewing must take place before that one can stand at the pulpit. A shaping process must go on before he qualifies. Salvation is the beginning point. God has a place designed for us in His Church, but first we must be saved—cut down. The lumberjack can't cut the branches off the tall cedar tree until the tree is down on the ground. Just so, the proud attitudes we

are displaying must go in order for God to make us fit.

Before that cedar qualifies to be even a floor board, it has to go through a process. Ephesians 2:10 declares that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." The great Architect of Heaven has a master plan, and those who qualify for His building must be willing to be shaped according to that plan. If you are not submissive, you will find this a very painful procedure. But if you are willing to yield to the work of God, getting fitted for His Kingdom will be much smoother.

Every so often we may get checked. In Revelation 11:1, we read, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein." The Master Builder comes by and holds His rule to us, to see if we are still measuring up. We must fit into the Gospel and not expect the Gospel to be made to fit us. We cannot change the Word of God. If we do not measure up, we do not fit.

“We cannot all be the board that makes the altar. Someone has to be the doorpost, the floor plank, and the threshold, but **we are all in God's plan.**”

In Romans 1:29-31, we find a list of things that will cause us not to fit. We read, "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful." The rule of God will detect if any of these are present in our lives, whether or not they can be seen from the outside. When a tree is cut down, the lumberjack might find that, though the tree looked good, it is rotten at the center. Then it must be rejected. When God puts His rule up to us, it will check what is on the inside. We might look good on the outside, but what about the heart?

A Purpose For Each One

The Master Builder has a place for everyone, but we must be made to fit his plan. Consider putting up a wall. Some of the studs are put in place, and it looks good. Then one is cut a little too long, but put up anyway and pounded into place. At first it seems to fit, but in looking at the others, they seem too short. Are they really too short? No! The best thing to do is take out the board that is too long, cut off a little, and put it back. Then the wall is perfectly aligned. The whole wall can be thrown off with just one misfit, and an entire congregation can present a wrong picture if one person does not fit in place.



God has differing uses for the material with which He is building. In Ephesians 4:11-12 we read, “And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” We cannot all be the board that makes the altar. Someone has to be the doorpost, the floor plank, and the threshold, but we are all in God’s plan.

We want to be securely attached. Paul cautions us to be “no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.” We must be fastened tightly into God’s structure. When you get in place, ask the Lord to fasten you. You do not want to fall out of place like a stud not fastened securely. We need to be secured where God puts us.

Fixing Warped Boards

Sometimes a piece of wood gets out of shape after it is in a building. Years ago, I did most of my own work in building a house. After some time went by, I noticed that one piece of wood had become warped. There was nothing wrong with that piece at first, but eventually it got out of shape. In order to correct the

“ The Master Builder has a place for everyone, **but we must be made to fit his plan.** ”

problem, I had to do some work on it. That can happen in the church. If we are not careful, we can get out of order and warp a little. But if we let God have His way, He will work on us so we fit again without being removed. It is possible. We make mistakes, and sometimes we may get discouraged or a little out of line. God can put us back in shape, but we must let Him.

Sometimes there are pieces of wood which must be removed. Perhaps they become so warped they cannot be corrected. Other times, a piece of wood gets old and deteriorates, and it must be replaced through no fault of the piece itself. It served its purpose, but now another piece must be found to fit where the first one was removed. As old-timers pass on, God needs others to fill in. Are you the piece He can put into place to make another good threshold or floor board? You must be willing.

The Final Product

Isn’t it wonderful when everyone has gone through the process, the rules have been held up, and everyone is the right thickness, the right length, and securely in place? What a beautiful temple! What a body! What a Church! It is wonderful to be part of the Church when Christ pours out His blessings, but the most glorious time will be when the Trumpet of God sounds and when He says, “I’m coming for my Church.” We will be so glad that we were fitted into the Church of God. Then we can take our departure to be forever with the Lord.



■ Rev. Rene Cassell was the District Superintendent of the Apostolic Faith work in Canada until his retirement in 2013.



Decades after living in India, Tillie again served foreigners when they visited our headquarters church in Portland, Oregon.

ASSIGNMENT: INDIA

Tillie was serving God in a foreign land, and loved her work. So why did she feel something was missing?

My first night in India as a missionary, I was told, “Pay no attention to the lizards on the ceiling, but be sure to shake your slippers in the morning before you put them on; scorpions like to crawl into slippers to keep cool. Also, be sure to tuck the net in tightly around your bedding so nothing can crawl in beside you.” There were not only scorpions and lizards crawling around, but also snakes, including cobras! I went to bed that night wondering how I could ever stay there to fulfill my six-year assignment, but I did.

While there, I learned what it was like to live in a land where God was not known. I saw the superstition and darkness that enveloped that land, and the suffering and sorrow that accompany those things.

All this caused me to realize the responsibility I had to teach the truth of God’s Word.

I considered myself well qualified for this assignment, because I had a good educational background. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, I had taught high school for a number of years and then worked as a congressional secretary in Washington, D.C. Also, my family members were professing Christians, and I had attended church from the time I was a little girl. I had taught Sunday school and been active in youth organizations.

However, my family did not know about salvation, and I was just as active in worldly amusements. Deep in my heart, I knew that a Christian should not be doing the things I was doing, but I didn’t know that if I gave my heart fully to God, He would take away my love for those activities. One day I decided to do what I knew was right. I gave up those worldly amusements in my own strength, and put more time into reading the Bible and praying. Surely now I was a Christian!

It was after this that I accepted the missionary call to teach in India. At the end of my six-year term, I returned to Washington, D.C., on furlough. I was disappointed when the door of my return to India was closed, but accepted a position in my church as Welfare Secretary. Later, I was employed by the Board of Missions to visit the churches of our denomination and arouse interest in missions. I also taught a Bible class and organized a Young Women’s Missionary Society.

My brother was a member of Congress, and I became his private secretary. About this time, two of my brother’s sons, who had been quite incorrigible,

were out on the West Coast visiting relatives. While there, they attended an Apostolic Faith Church service and were converted. My brother was so impressed with the sudden change in their lives that he urged me to attend an Apostolic Faith Church camp meeting convention being held in Portland, Oregon.

That summer I attended the camp meeting. While there, I decided to seek what I thought I needed—the baptism of the Holy Ghost—but I didn’t get far. Then I heard a teaching on sanctification. I decided that maybe sanctification was what I needed. I began to pray for the Lord to sanctify me, but again there was no answer. Then I heard that if a person is really born again, he knows it. That sounded reasonable, but I did not know when I had been born again.

I searched my heart and compared my Christian experience with the Word of God. The Lord revealed to me that I had merely a profession of Christianity. What was I to do? How could I confess that I was not saved after having been a missionary and active in Christian work for years? At the close of a service, though, I could not keep back the tears. I knelt at the altar of prayer and asked God’s forgiveness. I asked Him to show me my true self; and what He showed me wasn’t very pleasant. I admitted it all and then stood on the promise that “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). He was gracious to me and saved my soul, and I knew I was saved!

How good it was to have a salvation that I knew about! After I had that solid foundation on which to build, I soon received my sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. My only regret is that I did not have this spiritual equipment while serving on foreign soil.



My desire was to remain with the people of God who had prayed for me and with me. I have never been sorry I made that decision. God had a missionary work for me to do right at home, and what a rewarding life it has been! The Lord rewarded me by permitting me to work in the Apostolic Faith headquarters office. For many years I have had the glorious opportunity of helping to send the Gospel into all the world, in many different languages. I thank the Lord with all my heart. Best of all, I can look forward with assurance to the prize of eternal life.

■ For many years, Tillie Nelson helped in the Editorial Department of the Apostolic Faith Church headquarters office, where the Gospel message has been translated into many languages and made available throughout the world. Sister Tillie was ninety-two years of age when she went to be with her Savior on March 23, 1972.

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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