

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

JULY — SEPTEMBER 2018

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A newly completed tabernacle, located on the South Africa campground in Bapsfontein, was dedicated in a service held on March 21, 2018.

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If we follow God's Word, it will unerringly lead us to the Haven of Rest where we shall be richly satisfied for all eternity.

"God, You Stop Dolly!"

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My mother knew there was power in prayer and her petition was . . . "God, You stop Dolly!"

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VIEWPOINT

Though I was only twelve years old in 1965, I can still remember some of the landmark events that took place that year. As a baseball fan, I was aware of the nation's first indoor baseball game, held on April 9 in a 260-acre stadium called the Houston Astrodome. I also recall mom's worrying about her four sons as the war in Vietnam escalated and more young men were drafted into military service. The same year, the 630-foot St. Louis Gateway Arch was completed.

Since we were not church people, we were unaware of how the social revolution of the 1960s affected the Christian world. And we certainly had no awareness of the Apostolic Faith leadership transition that resulted when General Overseer Raymond Crawford died on June 3, 1965, passing the mantle to Reverend Loyce C. Carver.

Just two months earlier, on April 4, 1965, Brother Ray had preached what would be his final sermon (see page 41). His text that day was taken from John 17, where Jesus prayed for His disciples and believers of following generations to be sanctified.

Although Brother Ray delivered the sermon in 1965, it is timeless. He delivered similar sermons during the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression of the 1930s, the war years of the 1940s,

and the relatively peaceful decade of the 1950s. His message is timeless because Jesus' prayer is timeless! Christians are still called to live lives of distinction and separation from the morally degrading influences of society, even when those influences are generally accepted and even promoted. While we are in the world, we are not to be "of the world" (John 17:16). Like the disciples of Jesus' day, we too are called to devote ourselves to God. When we do, we can expect the same result—the Lord will sanctify us, eradicating carnality and empowering us to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

We should not be surprised if some oppose the way of holiness. Jesus and His disciples faced opposition and even hatred. During those times, we remember that Jesus' prayer for His followers included this petition: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

May the content of this magazine inspire you to experience what Jesus prayed for and what Brother Ray preached. And may God cause your hope of Jesus' soon return to shine brighter than ever before.

DARREL LEE, Superintendent General



from the WORD



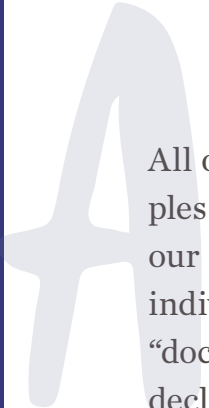
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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15

OUR SPIRITUAL FRAMEWORK

The importance and benefits of sound doctrine.

From a sermon by
DARREL LEE



All of us embrace a framework of beliefs—a set of principles or convictions by which we order our lives and make our choices. We refer to the beliefs held and taught by an individual, church, political party, or other group as their “doctrine.” Even those who claim they have no doctrine are declaring one principle of their belief system by that very statement: they do not believe in much of anything!

Another definition of the word doctrine is “something that is taught.” Doctrine is instruction; it is teaching or training. It is similar to the foundation and framework of a building in that it holds everything in place. If we were to take away the framework of a building, the structure would collapse. Similarly, if we take away the framework of Biblical doctrine from our Christian lives, what is left would not withstand the pressures of this world. Having a solid doctrinal framework is a vital necessity for our spiritual wellbeing.

The Apostle Paul repeatedly instructed the younger pastor, Timothy, regarding doctrine, indicating that he felt the subject was of great importance. One such admonition is found in 1 Timothy 4:16, where we read, “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.” Paul gave Timothy two reasons to be faithful to the doctrine and instruction that had been delivered to him. The first reason was that he might save himself; the second was that he might save those who heard him. Today, we do our best to uphold the same doctrine for the same reasons.

A RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD AND TRANSMIT TRUTH

Earlier in the same epistle, Paul reminded Timothy that he had left him in Ephesus for the purpose of teaching and preaching doctrine. Paul wanted Timothy to understand that he had a responsibility to both uphold and transmit the truths he had learned. In 1 Timothy 4:6, he encouraged his son in the faith, “If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.” In verse 11, Paul directly stated again, “These things command and teach.”

Paul made no attempt to hide what he stood for, nor do we. In our quarterly magazine, we include a list of Bible doctrines that have been printed in each edition since this work began in 1906. Seventeen doctrines are emphasized. That is not to suggest that these seventeen are the only teachings upheld by the Apostolic Faith. For example,

the doctrine of Creation is not listed. This does not mean that believing God created the world is unimportant, or that we do not support such a teaching. The Bible is full of instruction and we embrace all the teachings of the Word of God.

DIVINE AUTHORITY

The instruction in Scripture is not of our own devising or interpretation. In John 7:16-17 Jesus stated, “My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” The Jewish religious leaders were outraged at Jesus’ boldness because He had never been formally educated in religion. However, He established a Higher Authority for His teaching than anything those teachers could offer: His message was from God the Father, and He was not hesitant to state that fact.

It is fashionable in the world today to avoid organized religion—although to me, that means to embrace disorganized religion! Recently a young woman at my dentist’s office commented that she is “spiritual but not religious.” I am not sure of the distinction. Furthermore, I am not sure if she is sure of the distinction. That is not a critique of the young woman; she was simply voicing the common perspective of the world.

Similarly, many today are reluctant to state definitively that they believe and stand for the whole Word of God. However, it does not really matter if one’s belief system is identified as spiritual or religious, organized or disorganized. What really matters is this: Are we saved? We need to be saved! A starting point of Bible doctrine is that “Ye must be born again” (John 3:7). That



Doctrine is instruction; it is teaching or training.

It is similar to the foundation and framework of a building in that it holds everything in place.

is a teaching of the Bible, and it is a precept worth embracing. We want something that will get us to Heaven, and following through by personally experiencing that simple doctrinal teaching is necessary to achieve our eternal goal.

The foundation of Paul's faith was his conversion on the Damascus road, together with an understanding of the writings of Moses and the prophets. The foundation of our faith must also be built upon an experience of being saved, and gaining knowledge through instruction, teaching, and understanding of the writings of Paul and others before him. That is doctrine; it is profitable; we benefit by it. We must take the Word of God and digest and embrace it, reading the Bible in a systematic manner. That approach will engrave Scripture on our minds and hearts so the Holy Spirit can bring it to our remembrance in time of need.

SOUND DOCTRINE

In 1 Timothy 1:3, the Apostle instructed Timothy to "charge some that they teach no other doctrine," noting that there were those who had "turned aside unto vain jangling." In chapter 4, he reiterated that false teachers would arise, stating that "the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils [teachings contrary to sound doctrine]" (1 Timothy 4:1).

While everyone has a framework of beliefs, Paul's admonition to Timothy and later to Titus was to uphold sound doctrine. Sound, or "healthy," doctrine provides a pattern that, when followed, promotes healthy faith and love.

With respect to our physical bodies, we know what it is to be healthy by

experiencing the opposite, which is to be unhealthy. When we suffer from ill health, we employ certain measures to minimize or eliminate the impairing condition so we can once again enjoy good health. In order to maintain good health, we are told to engage in 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week, eat a balanced diet including lots of vegetables, drink at least eight glasses of water per day, and get seven to eight hours of sleep per night. We are familiar with these guidelines, even if we do not achieve those goals every week. We understand that following through on sound instruction regarding our physical health has benefits.

Believing and following through on sound instruction regarding our spiritual lives has benefits as well, and those benefits extend beyond this life to the life that is to come. Weak instruction produces anemic Christians. Following good, sound Biblical doctrine will produce Christians who have vigor and the strength to endure to the end.

We may have limited control over our physical fitness even if we carefully comply with sound advice regarding our health. This is particularly true later in life. However, we can manage our spiritual fitness—early in life, in middle age, and later in life. We have control over that. We want to capitalize on what we learn in the Word of God and make sure that we put it into practice in every phase of life.

THE BENEFITS OF SOUND DOCTRINE

One benefit of following sound doctrine is that when temptation comes, we are able to stand against it. Sometimes we see the temptation coming and think, "I am not even the least bit interested." At other times it

is more subtle. We must be spiritually fit to recognize temptation for what it is—an enticement to something that will hinder or harm us spiritually—so we can avoid it, flee from it, and not put ourselves in a position where we would be subject to it.

Another benefit of sound doctrine is that it reveals our spiritual condition. Just as going to the doctor for a check-up will reveal our physical condition, sound doctrine indicates what areas need help. It points out what we can work on and what we can take to the Lord in prayer.

Sound doctrine exposes sin—willful transgressions of God’s law. It also exposes imperfections or frailties in our character or actions that are rooted in human weakness rather than defiance of God. While the Word of God reveals those things to our hearts, it is not enough to simply identify them. Sound doctrine also puts us in a position where we can take action. We can take the areas that need correction to the Lord! We can ask Him to help us with what we can improve; we can also ask that His power change what only He can change. That is the beauty of sound doctrine.

A WARNING ABOUT DISCERNMENT

We want to be cautious about the Bible study material we use to be sure it aligns to the Word of God. Most of us are careful where we eat, and would avoid eating in an establishment that did not meet the regulatory criteria for safety in food handling. Similarly, we want to be careful what kind of religious material we digest.

Every so often, a sample religious magazine shows up in my mailbox.

Typically, it will have an attractive cover and interesting titles. However, my first question is always who produced it. I want to know the organization’s doctrinal persuasion—what their teaching and instruction is based upon. Once I identify the publisher, I frequently realize that the organization embraces a doctrinal perspective that is very different from what we believe the Bible teaches.

Most of the Bible study materials on the market today are Calvinistic in nature—they tend to accommodate occasional (if not frequent) sin. Although at times, that perspective is presented in a subtle manner, we need to be aware of it. We must guard against being influenced by a doctrinal perspective that accepts sinning as a part of life and rejects the Biblical teaching that a person can live in victory. There is victory in Jesus; there is power in the Blood to help us live without sinning. That is Scriptural, and we want to be steadfast in adhering to that truth.

All of us have more lessons to learn; all of us are works in progress. However, by the grace of God, we are saved works in progress. And we can live in victory as long as we learn and do our best to live up to the doctrines and teachings of the Word of God.

AN IMPACT ON OTHERS

Our determination to read the Bible and live by it will have an impact on others. Remember Paul’s words in our opening text, where he told Timothy that if he would take heed to himself and to the doctrine and continue in them, he would “both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” We have

influence! We can take this Gospel that God has put in our hearts wherever we go. We need not debate our doctrine nor feel apologetic about taking a stand. We can simply declare, “I am saved! I was delivered from sin!” We may not know if the people we associate with have heard the message before, but we do know they need to hear it. And they need to hear from us that we have victory in Jesus.

Today, if your life is not built on the doctrine of Jesus Christ, you can look Heaven’s way and ask God to plant His truth deep within your heart. As you learn, embrace, and practice the sound doctrine of the Word of God, you will find that you have a framework that will sustain you when the storms of life come. ■



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

THE HOLY TRINITY

An overview of the nature and roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Adapted from the
APOSTOLIC FAITH MINISTER'S MANUAL

Belief in the Divine Trinity is at the core of the Christian faith. The Holy Trinity consists of three Persons in one who are equally and eternally the one true God: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As separate and distinct Persons, each possesses recognizable personalities and qualities. While having individual roles, the three members of the Godhead are in a perfect and complete state of unity as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority; there is only one God. No Person in the Godhead either exists or operates separately or independently of the others.

Although it is not possible for the human mind to fully grasp this concept of three completely united in one, faith can firmly lay hold of it as a spiritual truth. This doctrine is clearly presented throughout the Bible.

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

Consider the first chapter of Genesis. Verse 26 says, “And God said, Let us make man in our image.” The plural forms “us” and “our” indicate that the Godhead consists of more than one individual. The Hebrew word Elohim is translated “God,” and this plural form of the name of God occurs in many Scriptures. In Genesis 1:1, the original language uses the plural form of “God” and the singular form of “created.” This harmonizes with the rest of Biblical teaching on the Trinity, for it shows the plurality of God unified in one action, the creation of the world.

The mysterious reality of the Triune God was illustrated much more completely when Jesus Christ came to earth. The angel announced to Mary that she would bear the “Son of the Highest” and this would come to pass by the Holy Ghost. God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, would send His Son Jesus in the form of a baby. (See Luke 1:26-35).

At the start of Jesus’ public ministry, He went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. Matthew 3:16-17 says, “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” What a beautiful picture of God in three distinct Persons!

The Trinity was again demonstrated when, before Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He described the Holy Spirit’s work to His disciples. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26; see also John 15:26).

The baptismal formula given by Jesus in the Great Commission is, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Later, when Paul the Apostle wrote to the believers at Corinth, he pronounced a blessing upon them. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

GOD THE FATHER

The Bible ascribes attributes and actions to each of the

Persons of the Trinity, some of which are shared by all three. God the Father is the Supreme Being, owing His existence to nothing or no one beyond Himself. He is the first Person of the Trinity and is eternal in existence, as He had no beginning and will never cease to exist. He is omnipotent, or all-powerful; He is omniscient, knowing all things; and He is omnipresent, meaning not limited to any particular geographical place or spatial location, but everywhere at the same time. God declares of Himself, “I am the Lord, I change not,” (Malachi 3:6), indicating that He is immutable.

John 4:24 states that “God is a Spirit,” which means He is a living Being who is infinite and free of all limitations, having none of the physical constraints associated with matter. He possesses and exercises the functions of a rational and intelligent nature; and possesses moral attributes such as holiness, righteousness, goodness, grace, mercy, and truth. Love is a central attribute of God, for 1 John 4:8 declares, “God is love.” Many Biblical passages indicate that God is personal in nature. He has self-awareness, a will, and feelings. He makes choices, and relates to other personal beings.

God the Father is the unseen Creator of all things, visible and invisible. While the Triune God was active in all the works relative to creation and redemption, it was the Father who was primary in the institution of the redemptive plan of salvation. He is the One to whom the redeemed are reconciled through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, His Son.

GOD THE SON

The Eternal Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the second Person of the Godhead. His relationship with the Father had no beginning, but existed from eternity. He declares himself to be one with the Father, saying, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).

Scripture identifies Jesus Christ as the Word, stating, “the Word was God” (John 1:1) and “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Jesus took man’s nature and was born of a virgin; He who always was truly God, became truly man as well. His purpose in coming to the world was to redeem man from his fallen state through His substitutionary work on the Cross. Jesus knew from before time began the price He would pay for the redemption of all people. He suffered, was crucified, died and was buried, and afterward rose again from the dead, “that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). After His ascension, He took his rightful place on the right hand of God (see Hebrews 1:3) where He makes intercession for

humanity. He will one day return to this earth, where He will rule and reign in righteousness.

Jesus Christ accepted worship while He was on earth, and He will be worshiped by every creature in the universe. As the second Person of the Divine Trinity, He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. He is unchanging in His person, purposes, and nature. His deity is seen in the authority He had while on earth in human form, as well as the part He will take in the events leading up to the final dissolution of the earth and the establishing of the new Heaven and the new earth.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Ghost, also referred to in Scripture as the Holy Spirit, is the third Person in the Trinity. He must be recognized and honored as such, and never referred to as a force, a thing, or “it.” God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are coequal, and the Holy Spirit possesses the same divine attributes of eternal existence, omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence as the other two Persons of the Divine Trinity.

Many roles are ascribed to the Holy Spirit. He is the agent who leads men to repentance. He proclaims Jesus and glorifies Him; He does not draw attention to or glorify Himself. He ministers to believers. He is the specific agent in the world to lead believers into deeper experiences with God, to call and empower disciples for service, and to lead individuals into all truth. He bestows spiritual gifts, produces spiritual fruit in Christ’s followers, and assists them in prayer.

Personal qualities such as active intelligence, volition, and the capability of being resisted, grieved, blasphemed, lied to, or tempted, are ascribed to Him. Many personal acts are performed by Him. Divine names are given to Him, divine attributes are credited to Him, and divine works are performed by Him. Jesus referred to Him as the Spirit of truth, the Comforter, and the Holy Ghost.

The message is clear: God the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to die for all mankind. Jesus suffered to the point of being forsaken by His beloved Father, died, and then rose triumphant over death, Hell, and the grave. Since then, people have been led by the Holy Spirit to pray to God through Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and man. Thanks be to God for the Trinity! ■



DESIGNED FOR A PURPOSE

*Just as an office is built to be used, so our lives
are meant to be filled with God's Spirit.*

From a sermon by
JOHN MUSGRAVE

Many of us have been watching with great interest as a new Apostolic Faith World Headquarters office building has been under construction. Several years ago, we hired an architect to begin designing that building. His design was based on a description of our staff needs and city building code requirements, as well as modern design standards. Once the plans were approved, we hired a builder to execute the construction of the edifice. He has been working diligently and, Lord willing, soon we will have a dedication service for the new office.

Of course, once the building is ready, we hope to move into it and use it. It will be a nice, new facility designed to meet our operational needs of today and for years to come; it would be unthinkable to not use that building. Imagine if we were to construct it, look at it, and talk about how good it is, but not use it! Or even to partially use it—to move in but never connect the electricity—would be absurd. We want to do just the opposite; we want to use all of the new building, as it was designed to be used, so that it will be productive for God's work.

The project of the new office building is in some ways comparable to God's plan of redemption. Knowing that mankind would fall into sin, God had a plan of redemption to restore what was lost in the fall. God is the Architect, or the Designer, of the plan. Christ is the Executor of God's plan because His death and resurrection made it a reality. Finally, the Holy Spirit (who

is also called the Holy Ghost) applies the plan to individual lives—He puts it into use. Redemption is for the whosoever will, but it is the role of the Holy Spirit to help us realize our need and to obtain the promises that have been made available to us through Christ in God's plan.

Just as it would be a shame to let a perfectly good office building go

unused, so it would be a travesty to not possess and use all that God has designed for us. We need to take advantage of every part of God's plan in order to be effective and productive in His service. To help us get there, we will look at the role of the Holy Spirit in God's plan for our lives, with special attention to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY GHOST: OUR GUIDE

The Holy Ghost helps us in many ways, and His main role is guiding us in spiritual matters. John 16:13 says, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak." The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth—that means He leads us along in God's plan. Beginning with the initial conviction for sins and continuing to the moment we cross over into eternity, it is the Holy Ghost who guides us to where God would have us to be, to a place where we can obtain all that God has designed for us. Here are a few ways the Holy Ghost operates in our lives:

CONVICTING OF SIN

John 16:8 speaks of the Holy Spirit saying, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of

righteousness, and of judgment." This is a description of Holy Ghost conviction—the initial contact between the Holy Spirit and an individual when He causes that person to realize he or she is a guilty sinner before God. Holy Ghost conviction is not a good feeling. Sometimes the recipient of it does not even know what he or she is experiencing, which is how it was for me. Before I was saved, I did not know anything about this verse from John 16, but I experienced Holy Ghost conviction and understood clearly that God wanted something from me.

Acts 2:37 describes a crowd's reaction to a sermon given by Peter: "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart." The phrase "pricked in their heart" is another reference to Holy Ghost conviction. This is what we hope for and expect in a good Gospel meeting—that the Holy Ghost will convict those who are not right

with God, letting them know that they need to make a change in their lives.

BEARING WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRITS

When a person is born again, it is the Holy Spirit who gives a personal confirmation that the work of salvation is done. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." The day I was saved, I did not know this verse either. Yet, when I finally dropped to my knees, told God I was sorry for my sins, and asked Jesus to come into my heart, I did not have to wonder if it had happened. I knew the transaction had taken place because His Spirit bore witness with my spirit. There was no doubt about it! We do not have to wonder if we are saved because God's plan included this confirmation from the Holy Ghost.

REVEALING THE NEED FOR SANCTIFICATION

After our sins have been forgiven and we are saved, we need to seek God for a second application of Christ's Blood to eradicate our sin nature. This is called entire sanctification, and it is what will enable us to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God. Again, it is the Spirit

of God who will reveal our need to be sanctified, perhaps even convicting us to seek for that experience, and He will also witness with our spirits when that second work is done. First Corinthians 6:11 says, "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in

the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Thus, we see how the Spirit is the One who initiates our relationship with God through conviction, who witnesses to us when we are saved, who reveals the need for sanctification,

and who witnesses to us when we are sanctified. All of this is Him working

in our hearts to lead us into what God has designed for us—the place where

the purified heart can be filled with the Holy Spirit.

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A few weeks ago, an employee came to me with a document from the State of Oregon requesting that he fill out some paperwork in order to receive unclaimed funds. He was unsure about whether or not he should respond. I recognized the documents because years ago when I worked at a bank, we were required to send the Oregon State Land Board an annual report of dormant accounts and unclaimed safety deposit boxes. I encouraged the employee to supply the required identification, answer the questions, and send in the acknowledgement form. He did that, and later let me know that he had received funds for some uncashed State refund checks from years ago.

Think about that—there were funds available for him, but if he had ignored the letter or decided not to comply with the requirements, he would not have received them. This is how it is with the infilling of the Holy Spirit; the experience is available to all of us, but there are conditions which must be met in order to receive it.

In Luke 24:49 we find Jesus' command to His disciples to wait for the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." We do not know all the details of what occurred from the time the disciples received this command until the moment they were filled with the Holy Spirit, but we do know they did as they were instructed and they received the promise. They met the conditions that were required, and those conditions are the same ones we must meet today in order to receive the infilling of the

Holy Spirit. Thus, we can use the disciples' actions as a model.

BE SAVED

To begin with, we know that those who were gathered in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost were saved because in John 17 Jesus prayed for them saying, "Those that thou gavest me I have kept" (verse 12). When we are saved, we are in the Lord's hands, and we want to stay there. This prayer from the Lord lets us know that His disciples were "kept"—they were still saved.

BE SANCTIFIED

That same prayer from Jesus highlights the need to be entirely sanctified. In John 17:15-19 Jesus prayed for His disciples to be sanctified, and then stated in verse 22, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." When we look at the account of the Day of Pentecost, we read in Acts 1:14 and Acts 2:1 that the disciples were "in one accord." This is evidence of the unity for which Jesus had prayed to His Father; His prayer had been answered and they had been sanctified. We also must be sanctified before we can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

SEEK GOD IN PRAYER

After Jesus ascended, we read in Luke 24:52-53 that the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God." To receive the Holy Spirit, we have to seek God's face in prayer. I have never seen anyone receive the baptism who was

not in prayer. Matthew 7:7 tells us to ask, seek, and knock, and those are present-tense imperatives, meaning that we need to ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, and to knock and keep knocking. We must prevail in prayer, like Jacob who would not let go of the angel until he had received the blessing. We must have that same type of determination in prayer.

OBEY GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

It has been said that obedience is a key that unlocks the blessings of God. The Holy Spirit prompts us to do God's will in our walks with the Lord; it may be a prompting to make restitution, to change our plans, or to consecrate to God something dear to us. When we feel that prompting, it takes obedience on our part to receive the blessing God has for us. Hebrews 10:35-36 encourages us to "cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." When we have obeyed and "done the will of the God," then we have the confidence that when we ask, we will receive.

The disciples were told to tarry in Jerusalem. That was the specific instruction they were given, and they were rewarded for obeying. However, the specific instruction to tarry is not required of everyone. My great-grandmother received an Apostolic Faith paper in Illinois in 1916. In it she read about salvation, and she prayed right then and God saved her. She continued reading and learned about entire sanctification, so she got down again and prayed, and God entirely sanctified her. She went on

reading that paper and it told her about the baptism of the Holy Spirit; she got down again, and God baptized her, all in one evening! Tarrying is good, but it is not a requirement to receive the Holy Spirit. Obeying whatever God has instructed us specifically to do is a requirement.

EXERCISE FAITH

It took faith to get saved—when we confessed our sins and then asked Jesus into our hearts, we had to believe that He would do it. In a similar way, it also took faith to be sanctified, and it will take faith to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

If we need a boost of faith, may we remember that our church has more than one hundred years of testimonies of individuals for whom God has fulfilled the promise of the Holy Ghost! I received my baptism in the campground tabernacle, and I have watched many others receive it too. More than once, I have seen the Spirit of God fall so powerfully that we could not even hold service! The disciples did not have these types of testimonies; they just had instructions and a promise from God. They believed He would honor His Word when they met His conditions, and He did. We also need to simply believe that God is going to do what He said He would do.

RECEIVE THE WITNESS

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are endued, or filled, with power from on high. Acts 2:4 says, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them

utterance.” The Spirit bears witness in our hearts that the work is done, and God also bears witness to those around by speaking through us in a language that we never learned. James 3:8 says, “The tongue can no man tame,” yet when God baptizes us, He overrides our own physical body systems and speaks through us. The disciples did not have to figure out how to speak in tongues; they did not even know it was going to happen until it did happen. We also do not have to worry about how to speak in tongues. It will come naturally when God baptizes us because we have yielded control to Him.

DEVELOP A SPIRITUAL HUNGER

The disciples did not know how long they would have to tarry to receive the promise of the Holy Ghost, and yet the account does not make it sound like tarrying was an arduous task for them. Luke 24:52-53 says they “returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.”

At several camp meetings, I have had the privilege to work on the restaurant breakfast line. I have noticed that when the food line is temporarily out of a particular item, if people come along who are hungry for that item, they will tarry for it. They will wait until it is replenished from the kitchen. Likewise, if we get good and hungry for God, and we really want that blessing, we will be willing to tarry. We won’t be thinking, How much time do I have to spend to get this? No, if we have a hunger, we will tarry as long as it takes.

TRUST GOD ENOUGH TO LET GO

Recently, I was reminded of how my daughter learned to walk, back in the summer of 1993. She started by walking around while holding onto

my finger; she would not walk if she did not have my finger to hold. At that same time, I was seeking for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. After a camp meeting youth service on July 9, I went home and was feeling discouraged. I thought, I’ve done all God wants me to do, so why isn’t He filling me? As my daughter was trying to walk and hold onto my finger, I started trying to take my finger away so she would walk on her own. Just then the Holy Spirit impressed upon me, “John, you are doing the same thing. You have to let go and trust that I’m going to be here.” I learned that if we want to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we must trust Him. Trust that He is going to answer that prayer, and He will do it!

The Gospel is designed to go forward through the power of the Holy Spirit. After the account of the Day of Pentecost in Acts 1-2, the rest of the Book of Acts catalogs what the Apostles were able to do with the power of the Holy Ghost working through them. Thousands were saved and many miracles were performed! That is the way God designed it, and that is still His plan for us today—we are meant to enjoy victory in the Gospel, and to bear a powerful testimony to the world. The Holy Ghost will guide us into all truth and to receive all that God has planned for us. ■

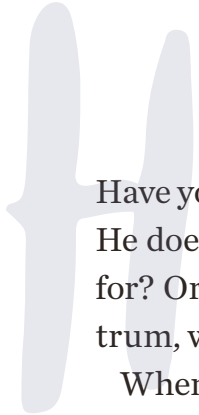


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A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE

*Having the right view of ourselves will
bring the most glory to God.*

From a sermon by
TRENT PAULSEN



Have you ever wondered why, given God's great love for us, He doesn't immediately give us every single thing we ask for? Or perhaps you are at the opposite end of the spectrum, wondering if we matter at all to Him.

When we think about God's view of us, some of us will have too low an opinion of ourselves, and others will have too high an opinion. Both of these extremes can be corrected by looking into God's Word and understanding what He says about humanity. The Bible declares the extent to which God values us and our position in relation to Him, as well as His view concerning our purpose, responsibility, and destiny.

WHAT IS OUR VALUE?

David was one who contemplated how much God values humanity. In Psalm 8:3-4 he wrote, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” In his youth, David spent a lot of time alone in the countryside as he tended his father’s sheep. This was well before electricity and city lights, so there must have been many nights where he gazed up at the stars. As we read these verses, it is easy to imagine him staring up at the night sky and wondering, When compared to this vast universe, to everything I can see, why would I matter to God? Why would He care about me? God had revealed to David that He places a high value on humanity. David went on to describe this in verse 5: “For thou hast made him [man] a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” This tells us that God elevated us above the rest of His earthly creation.

Our value is also brought out in the account of Creation. Genesis 1:26 says, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Of all God’s creation, man is the only being made in His image and given dominion over the rest. Additional singularities are found in Genesis 2:7, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” This is not recorded of any other creature; man is unique in this aspect.

One view that has been gaining popularity in society is that man is merely a slightly more sophisticated animal than all the rest, and a human life is no more important than that of any other creature. However, in years past, when Christianity was much more dominant in Western culture, the opposite view was prevalent. This can be seen in old news reports. I looked through some news articles of past disasters and noted that the word “souls” was used often to describe those who had died, as in, “There were a number of souls lost.” The same word was also used to describe the living. One account of the sinking of the Titanic stated there were not enough life boats to accommodate the 2,358 souls on board. The report was not referring to the number of dogs and cats on the ship. In fact, in every article, no matter how the word “souls” was used, it referred to humans. No explanation was needed for the reader. We have an inherent value, endowed by God at creation.

While it is important to understand that God values us highly, we don’t want to elevate ourselves above where He has placed us. We must remember that the first part of Genesis 2:7 says, “God formed man.” Different religions teach that man is equal to God, able to attain to the Godhead, or part of an “energy force” that is God. Any of these beliefs puts too high a value on mankind, and if we subscribe to them, our view of ourselves is too high. The Bible teaches that we are created beings, and God is our Creator.

WHAT IS OUR POSITION?

In Biblical times, the people of Israel often exalted themselves above God by forsaking His ways and choosing their own. To demonstrate their faulty

thinking, God offered an object lesson using a potter and his clay. It was seen through the eyes of Jeremiah the prophet, who later recorded, “Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it” (Jeremiah 18:3-7). God is like the potter. He sets up nations, decides how they are formed, and chooses to either prosper them or withhold His protection. This lesson was directed at the nation of Israel, but we can learn something from it as well: any person presuming to be in the potter’s position is thinking too highly of himself.

Individuals naturally tend to think that the world revolves around them. Children especially expect to get their own way, and often throw tantrums when they don’t. Eventually, most people grow out of this behavior. Some also quit being self-centered, but for Christians, that is not enough. Our lives need to be God-centered, fully surrendered to His will. God is the potter! If we will recognize our position as the clay in His hands, and daily submit to Him, He will mold and shape our lives into something useful.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

In 1 Corinthians 12:18-22, Paul compared the body of believers to the

human body, saying, “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary.”

Before we were born, God had a plan and a purpose for our lives. We are each called to a specific role in helping to spread the Gospel, and every one of these positions is important. To think that what God has called us to do doesn’t really matter, would be to think too lowly of ourselves.

Notice, though, that it is God who decides the area of service for the members. Verse 18 says, “God set the members . . .” Thinking too highly of ourselves would be to believe we know better than God regarding the most advantageous place for us to serve. God takes into account many factors that we cannot see, including His purpose in assigning the role we fill. He may choose a task that we are not comfortable with, but if we will submit to His direction, our lives will be blessed and will glorify Him.

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

When a person repents of his sin and asks God into his life, God changes his heart and takes up residence there. Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 3:16 that this person then becomes the temple of God: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” At salvation, God’s Spirit begins to work through us, impacting the world around us. There is no greater privilege that could

demonstrate how important we are to Him. Do we matter? Absolutely!

Paul continued in the next verse to say, “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (verse 17). When our bodies become God’s temple, He becomes the master of the house. If we behave otherwise by disobeying His Word and bringing corruption into His temple, we elevate ourselves above our position. Our responsibility is to become a type of priest, constantly maintaining a holy dwelling place where God can abide.

WHAT IS OUR DESTINY?

Many people use the Scripture, “Judge not, that ye be not judged,” to tell others not to judge them, because they want to continue in some type of doubtful behavior without condemnation. However, few seem to read further to learn that, “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged” (Matthew 7:1-2). Someday, every person will appear before the Almighty God. To think too highly of ourselves would be to think that our assessment is all that matters. We cannot live our lives by our own standards. We must submit to God’s righteousness, because someday we will stand before Him and give an account. Revelation 20:12 tells of that day: “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

If you are in an unsaved condition and know that you have done things that displease God, you might be fearful of having those things brought up at the final judgment. You need not fear; God values you so much that He

sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross for your sin. All you need to do is bow before God and tell Him you are sorry. Ask Him to come in and change your life. He will wipe away your guilt, remove your sins as far as the east is from the west, and write your name in the Book of Life.

Just as the dead will be judged according to their sinful deeds, the righteous will be rewarded for their labor in the Gospel. To think too lowly of ourselves would be to think that our daily lives don’t matter, that our contribution to the Gospel is not as important as what others are doing. God sees how we interact with those around us at home, work, and school, and He records how our simple faithfulness in obeying what He gives us to do has an impact on others. What we do matters to God, because we matter to Him.

WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

Have you been struggling with an opinion of yourself that is either too low or too high? Ask God to give you the proper perspective as you look to His Word for guidance. There, you will find that you were created by the omnipotent God, who values you highly, loves you more than anything else in His creation, and has a purpose for your life. ■



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Witness



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And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. — Revelation 12:11



COMFORT IN CRISIS

Derin and Michelle's trust in God sustained them when he was involved in a horrific accident.

By Derin and Michelle Madojutimi

DERIN'S TESTIMONY

GROWING UP, I WAS PART of a family of seven; three boys and two girls, plus my parents. I was born into this glorious Gospel. In Sunday school and at home, I was told that Jesus loves and cares for little children, and that gladdened my heart. I was taught that Heaven is for those who will seek forgiveness of sin and receive salvation, and Hell is for those who do not ask for forgiveness. Furthermore, I was made to know that Jesus would one day come and take me to where He is, but that I must always be obedient, so I would be able to follow Him when He comes.

Though I wanted to be ready to go with Jesus when the Trumpet sounded, that alone did not save me. During my third year in high school, I was living at a boarding house where I faced all kinds of challenges from my peers. I made some wrong decisions, and even became involved in fighting, though I rationalized that it was just to defend myself. When I returned home during holidays, I pretended to be that good son my family had always known. I remained obedient and respectful, but inside I knew something was missing. I struggled on my own to avoid anything sinful, but instead of the joy and freedom that salvation brings, I had the guilt and burden of sin.

After high school I entered university, and my sins grew wilder with the amusements of that environment. God continually spoke to my heart, but rather than acknowledging my errors and denouncing them, I responded by attempting to defend and justify my actions. It was easier to blame other people for my situations, rather than looking inward where the real problem lay. In an effort to find relief, I visited other religious ministries that taught different ways of getting saved. I read many books, attended seminars, and visited crusades where calls were made to those who desired to be born again. This all fascinated me, and I did go forward and repeated what they told us to say to be saved. However, my prayer was never truly sincere. I was looking for an easier way out of the guilt I felt, yet the burden of sin remained. I still found myself doing the sins I had done before, and I had no solace.

Like the Prodigal Son, I had wandered far away. I thank God who always brings His lost sheep back into the fold when they cry to Him for help. On my twenty-fourth birthday, I received a call from my mom. She asked if I had read my Bible and studied my Sunday school lesson. My response was a lie, telling her that I had. That call became a turning point in my life. After

Like the Prodigal Son,
I had wandered far away.



hanging up, a strong conviction came upon me. I began shivering as a weight of guilt came over me, and then I started to weep. I cried out to God for forgiveness and promised Him that if He saved me, I would serve Him the rest of my life. I thank God for his lovingkindness; He saved me that very day and turned my life around completely.

When God forgave my sins, I experienced complete freedom and He renewed my mind. At times in the past, I had been overwhelmed with fear and anxiety, but in God I found unshakable confidence. Later, as I consecrated my

life more deeply to God, He also sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Spirit. Since then, Jesus has been my Healer, my Provider—in fact, He is all in all to me!

I prayed for a spouse and God gave me a beautiful, loving wife in this Gospel who is a virtuous woman. One year after we were married, I was in a devastating car accident but God restored my life. God has done so much for me and I am forever grateful. He gave me a new life, and I know He will do the same for anyone who surrenders one-hundred percent to Him.

MICHELLE'S TESTIMONY

BORN AND RAISED IN THE city of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria, my godly parents introduced me to this Gospel at a very tender age. As an inquisitive little girl, I always wanted to know more about Jesus. I remember asking my dad many questions about God, and he did his best to explain the need to get saved, so that as a family we all could go to Heaven.

Going to Sunday school was something I loved. I enjoyed the songs and lessons that were taught. However, at first I really did not understand the Gospel message. I knew that I did naughty things, but I felt that if I could do more good things, they would outweigh the bad. I also thought that since my parents were saved, God would take me to Heaven because of my parents' salvation. After church services, I always loved to go to the altar, just for goings' sake and to please my mum. At the altar I would mutter a few words and then peek around to see other people crying and receiving something from God. Then I would leave the same way as I had come, unchanged.

As I grew older, I realized the need to repent and have my sins forgiven. However, I wanted to postpone my salvation until later in life. I told myself it would be better to get saved after I'd had all the fun one can have outside of church. That was my plan, but God had a better plan for me.

At the age of eleven, during a prayer meeting on a Wednesday, there was no preaching or altar call but I felt very sorry for my sins. God was dealing with my heart, and I began to confess my sins. All the wrong things I had done in the past were revealed to me like a movie playing before me. I wept bitterly to Jesus, and He saved my soul and filled me with so much joy and peace! In the parking lot that evening, I was so excited to share my experience with my family.

Since my early childhood, I had suffered with seizures. But when God saved me, He also healed me. The month that I was saved was the last month that I ever had convulsions. Not only had God completely changed my heart, but He broke the chains of that disease which had tormented me for so long. From then on, I was very happy to participate in the youth programs at church and to tell others about Jesus.

Upon entering the university, I grew slack spiritually. I continued going to church, but I stopped praying and reading my Bible as I should have. I was keeping bad company at school, and my friends enticed me to go deep into sin. Every time I went to church I felt guilty; I knew I had left the right path, yet I couldn't help myself. Not only did I forfeit my salvation, but I sank so low that I was convinced there could not be a way back to God for me. My grades were poor and my



life was unstable. It seemed everything was a complete mess, and even my relationship with my parents was affected, though they kept praying for me.

Thank God, He did not abandon me in that low state. During an Easter retreat at our local church, my heart was broken. I regretted all my sinful ways and asked God for forgiveness. I asked Him to take me back as His dear daughter, and God graciously restored my salvation. Despite my utter depravity and sinfulness, He forgave me. In that moment, I felt great relief and my heart bubbled with joy. I pressed forward and God sanctified me, and later that year He baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

After that, I felt the power of God in my life and began going from strength to strength. My life was transformed.

I cut off connections with my old friends, my grades in the university improved, and God saw me through the hurdles of university until I graduated.

There was a time when my father was very ill, diagnosed with bladder stones and other problems. My sister and I prayed for him, and God miraculously healed him! That increased my faith further in God's power to heal.

After graduating from the university, I had some suitors but I told God that I wanted to marry a godly man from the same household of faith, who also loved the heritage of this Gospel. That is exactly what God did for me; He gave me the desire of my heart and I married a loving man of God.

God has been so faithful to me, and He continues to demonstrate His goodness to me daily.



OCTOBER 8, 2014

THE ACCIDENT

SOMETIMES, LIFE CAN CHANGE IN a moment. For our family, that moment came on October 8, 2014, two days before our first wedding anniversary. Derin was involved in a near-fatal car accident in Paris, France, and this began our greatest test of faith and the clearest example of God's miraculous power in our lives.

Derin was walking on a pedestrian path when a van ran into him and projected him fifteen meters from the point of impact. The driver of the van fled the scene, and Derin was left unconscious on the road. From the police report, we understood that it was a passer-by who called the police and emergency services after twenty minutes had passed. When first responders arrived, he was unresponsive and bleeding profusely from the head.

When the accident occurred, I was in the United Kingdom studying for my master's degree while Derin was in France. I remember getting the call from the police saying my husband

had been involved in an accident. I was in shock; it felt as if my whole world came crashing down in a second. All I could say was, "God, please touch him; don't let him die." Many thoughts raced through my mind. I said to myself, I just got married, and now what will become of me? The devil was whispering to me that I was going to become the latest widow. I was in deep agony. I informed my mother-in-law, who later came to me, and we wept and prayed for God's intervention together. I felt deep sorrow and pain. But I thank God that at my darkest hour, Jesus was there whispering sweet peace to my soul, telling me that I should be still and witness His faithfulness. Indeed, our God is faithful.

Given the nature of the accident, the fact that Derin had not died on the spot was miraculous. He was admitted into the intensive care unit; medical scans showed that he had a severe hemorrhage in the left part of his brain, and also a fracture to his left shoulder bone. I left the United Kingdom

immediately for France, and as the news went out to our church family, brethren from all over the world began praying and offering their full support. I thank God for the love and unity of the brethren. Derin was intubated and remained unresponsive. The next several days were a rollercoaster of emotions for me, punctuated by the fact that the medical personnel told us that he might or might not survive, and that if he did, he could remain in a vegetative state. The doctors also said he may need to stay in the intensive care unit for a long time.

A war of faith was waging in my heart. I had always known that God could miraculously heal, but I did not know if God was going to heal Derin. All I could do was cry to God to help me through, praying in the Name of Jesus and trusting that His power is very real.

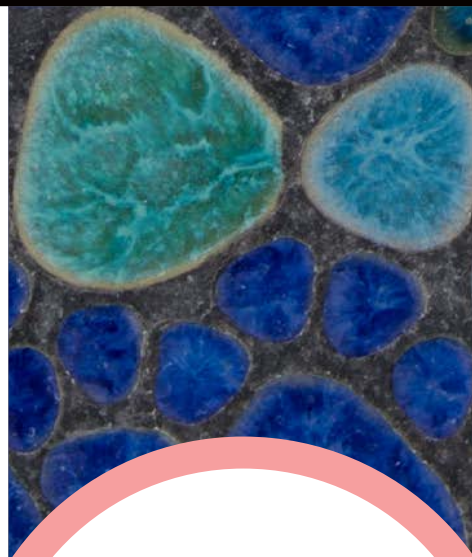
After a week in a coma, Derin opened his eyes. He was not fully aware of his environment, but this began a recovery that would shock doctors and prove the power of faith in Christ. His condition improved dramatically and he was discharged from the hospital two weeks later. The doctors in charge said they believed it was a miracle.

At home, we faced more challenges. For a couple of months, Derin did not recognize me as his wife. In fact, he did not even believe he'd had an accident, and sometimes he would tell me to pack my things and leave. Yet, God saw us through that difficult period. There has been a long process of rehabilitation, and Derin has had to learn to cope with ongoing migraines, but God has been with us.

It seemed at first that all our plans as a young couple were delayed by this accident, but we believe and know that God has better plans for us. I have learned to rely on Jesus, and every day He gives me strength and endurance. When I think about those initial moments after the accident, tears roll down my cheeks and I thank God for His goodness, mercy, and love.

By all statistics and doctors' reports, Derin should not have survived his accident. Just to see him alive today is amazing. To see him walking, talking, and even serving as a member of the web and audio/visual department of our church in Paris is unbelievable. It is a miracle. His faith is strong in spite of all he has gone through—it is even strengthened. We know our testimonies are not yet complete. God is still at work and will continue to do great and mighty things in our lives, for His glory. ■

Derin and Michelle Madojutimi are members of the Apostolic Faith Church in Paris, France.



“I have learned to
rely on Jesus.”



OVERWHELMED BY THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

What Melanie had learned in Sunday school became real in her heart one Easter Sunday.

By Melanie Ewers

GROWING UP, I COULD CLEARLY see the destructive power of sin. Grace and salvation, however, were not introduced to me until I learned about them in Sunday school. When I was about five years old, one of my neighbors began riding the Sunday school bus to the Apostolic Faith Church. I started attending with her and continued even after she moved away a short time later. For many years I learned Bible stories from kind, faithful Sunday school teachers and bus drivers. Most importantly, God's plan of salvation was presented and planted in my heart. I'm thankful that the Gospel is simple; from my earliest remembrance it made sense to me and I believed it. The contrast between the lives of people who lived for God and those who didn't made an impression on me. The difference was dramatic and I wanted what God's people had.

As I grew older, even though I wanted to be a Christian, I struggled with the thought of not fitting in. I knew living a Christian life was different and would separate me from my family and friends. Since I only attended Sunday school and not other church activities, my interaction with Christians was limited. Still, the Lord spoke to my heart. I had trouble going to sleep at night because of the fear I felt about not being right with Him. I would lie awake trying to negotiate with God. I would ask for His help and in exchange I would make a list of things I would try to do better. These prayers would give me a measure of peace, but when morning came, nothing had truly changed.



VICTORY WON ON EASTER DAY

By the time I was fourteen years old and in my first year of high school, my decisions were getting worse. My grades were very poor, my friends and I were participating in wrongful activities, and I was failing in many ways. I continued to hear God's voice, but I was getting further and further away from Him. I had gradually stopped attending Sunday school, but on Easter Sunday everything changed. I went to Sunday school that day, listened to a recording of the Easter message, and the Lord spoke to me directly. I considered the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross and it overwhelmed me. I knew I would never find love or acceptance anywhere that would match what He offered. That day, I knelt at an altar of prayer, asked the Lord to forgive me, and gave my life to Him.

The change was instant and dramatic. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I do not have any words that could better describe what happened that day. Even my desires were changed. Living God's way was no longer a struggle; it was all I wanted to do. And, to my surprise, my fears of not fitting in gave way to the greatest sense of acceptance and belonging I had ever known.

That night my mind went back to all of the nighttime prayers I had previously prayed, and I hoped that this wonderful change was real and permanent. I didn't want morning to come and find myself back to life as usual. I was not disappointed! The salvation of the Lord was genuine and lasting.

Salvation was life changing, but I am also extremely grateful that the Lord directed me to a church that values and encourages prayer. A special room for prayer is open before church services and the altar of prayer is open following the meetings. During the days, months, and years that have followed, I have found that spending time there has been an anchor for my soul and essential

for spiritual survival. The Lord has met me there often and has always provided the strength, guidance, joy, and peace to move forward in my walk with Him.

LEARNING ABOUT A DEEPER WALK WITH GOD

After I was saved there was a lot to learn about growing in the Lord. He was faithful to direct my steps and provide what I needed, when I needed it. If God wanted me to be sanctified, then that was what I wanted too, but I wasn't sure if I was qualified. Was I old enough? Had I been saved long enough? Did I know enough about the Bible? I wondered all of these things, but felt uncomfortable asking.

Then one night after church while praying at the altar, an older saint asked me what I was seeking for. Her question answered all of my questions. Surely this wise, godly woman would know if I were qualified to be seeking for an experience! I replied "my sanctification." She prayed with me, and the Lord wonderfully sanctified me.

During the summer between my junior and senior years of high school, a spirit of revival fell in a mighty way. I had the opportunity to attend services at the Portland camp meeting and I witnessed many friends receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was an amazing experience. Those powerful prayer services continued to encourage my walk with the Lord. However, discouragement came when camp meeting ended. I had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I was struggling to understand why God had passed over me and seemingly blessed everyone else. As I worked through my discouragement, I spent time reading the Bible and praying. During this period of time, I learned one of many important lessons about "walking by faith rather than sight." As I prayed quietly, I determined that I would daily do my best to serve the Lord regardless of how I felt. I committed to Him that even if He never sent another blessing my way, I would still serve Him. I meant it, and in the quiet of my room He filled me with His precious Holy Spirit.

COMFORT IN TRAGEDY

As I continued to consecrate decisions to the Lord, He provided guidance and blessed my life. He opened doors for me to complete a college education in nursing, and gave me a wonderful boyfriend who later became my husband. However, challenges came during my first year in college that really shook my faith.

As I finished my first semester, I planned to visit family for Christmas break. I was looking forward to spending time and sharing gifts with them. I especially looked forward to visiting

an uncle whom I had not seen for some time. I did not have any siblings and he was only a few years older than me, so we had grown up together. I had been praying for him and was hopeful that he would be moved to get saved himself.

As Christmas morning arrived, we gathered and waited for the time of celebration to begin. When my uncle did not come out of his room to join us immediately, we delayed awhile longer. As more time went by, we impatiently called out for him. Our impatience soon turned to concern. Our concern turned to tragedy when a family member entered his room to find that he had died.

The grief and turmoil I felt was intense. I turned to God for answers, but I was also feeling angry and a sense of betrayal that He had allowed this tragedy to happen. As the days passed my confusion seemed to grow. I was taking a required religious studies class at the time and that added to my uncertainty. However, a project in that same class unexpectedly offered much-needed clarity. I was required to interview a religious leader of a faith different from my own. When I met that person, one thing became very clear: this man was more confused than I was! I was anxious for the interview to end and I left with great appreciation for the living, mighty God that I serve. I recognized the need to stop questioning Him and trust His sovereignty and perfect plan for my life. Through the grief and pain I began to find His comfort and strength priceless.

Romans 8:28 states, "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," and I have found that to be true. I am now a hospice nurse, working with terminally ill patients and their families, and I can see how the Lord has used my uncle's death and other painful experiences to allow me to reach others who are going through difficult circumstances. I can relate to their sense of loss. It is my constant prayer that God can use me in this role to be an extension of His kindness and compassion.

Many years have gone by and the privilege of serving the Lord has only grown more precious to me. I reflect on His work in my life with amazement and gratitude. God gave me a wonderful, godly husband, and blessed us with two children who also love the Lord. He has filled our home with joy. There is a great feeling of peace and security knowing that He holds my future and it is with excitement that I anticipate meeting Him in Heaven one day. ■

Melanie Ewers and her family attend the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, where she is a Sunday school teacher in the Primary Department.

EVIDENCE

Yvonne Wilson

We were honored to go to the Chile camp meeting again this year and had a very good time. The camp meeting was wonderful. The people there are lovely. Going a second time, we knew what to expect, and one of those things was that we would feel at home with our South American family. It instantly felt like home, because of the Spirit of the Lord.

I'll just focus in on one particular service. It was Wednesday night and the sermon was on falling into the hands of God. The preacher said that whatever we put into the hands of God is magnified and made greater. After that we had a really good altar service. Everybody just flew to the front of the church. As we were kneeling there, the Spirit of God was so strong. Normally, one person

will get blessed and then another, but this time it seemed everyone was being blessed simultaneously. It was a corporate blessing. After a long time, it looked like the altar service was winding down. Then one by one, people started praying again. We were scheduled to eat dinner after the service, but at 10:30 it became clear that dinner wasn't going to happen, so the cooks came out of the kitchen. It was a time of renewal for all of us. I am thankful that when we seek the Lord with all our hearts, He will be found.

Merrill Mixer

When I was a teenager, I found myself on the wrong path. I thought I was okay with God even though I was just bungling my way through life. However, God sent His Son looking for me when I wasn't looking for Him, and that is just a wonderful thing. I realized what I was doing wasn't pleasing to the Lord. I asked for forgiveness and He saved me. That was the best decision I ever made.

I want to give God thanks for some recent blessings, too. My family was privileged to go to Peru with a team from our church and I was asked to be the translator. Forty years ago I would have felt confident in that role, because I had been in Costa Rica for a year. At this time, though, I was really worried. I'm so thankful people were praying for me. I had to pray, "Lord, You're going to have

to do this because I can't." There were times when I was translating and didn't know the right word to use. I would just start talking and the word would come. I can't take credit for that. I have to give thanks to the Lord. My translating wasn't always perfect, but when I leaned on the Lord, He really did help me. We had a great time in Peru. I thank the Lord for His goodness to me and the way He has directed me all the days of my life. It really was the best decision when I gave my life to Him.



Elaida Ruiz Fiegalan

I remember vividly sitting alone on a church pew at the age of five and feeling God grip my heart with His presence. From then on, I knew there is a God and I wanted to do something to serve Him. My early years were spent in America and my first trip to Portland camp meeting was when I was four years old. I still remember the scent of roses and my worn leather shoes, the top side of which I grinded along the asphalt pavement leaving memorable scratches.

When my family moved back home to the Philippines, we had little money and many challenges. I am a pastor's daughter and our house was in the wing of the Bagong Sikat church. We did not have a television, and I am an introvert who prefers staying home, so the heroes and heroines of the Bible were my constant "go to." Reading Bible stories and remembering better days in America were my consolation in the hard times of my childhood.

When I was seven years old, my family moved to Manila where my dad got a job.

It was there that my parents started taking me to piano lessons. We would still go home to the Bagong Sikat church every weekend, and when I was nine years old our headquarters in Portland sent money for a piano and I started accompanying congregational singing.

Though I had always prayed and often felt the Lord touch my heart, it was not until age eleven that I was saved. Later I started teaching Sunday school (with four students at first) and joined the church choir. In 1994 (the first time Brother Bill McKibben visited the Philippines with Brother Harold Barrett), I was sanctified and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Life has taken a lot of twists and turns; it has not always been easy, but God has brought me through. I turned fifty years old in June and I am still serving the Lord. Life is easier now and I have a Christian husband and three children. All the glory and honor is the Lord's.

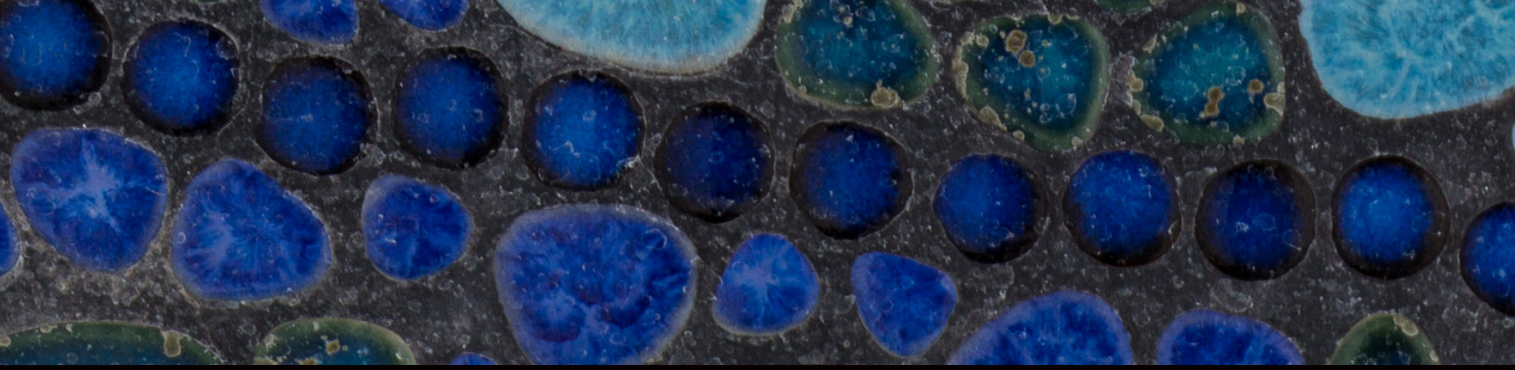
Marcus Luka

God saved me during special meetings on March 12, 2014. I had kept making the same mistake over and over, but finally I just went down to the altar and said, "If You can take care of this problem and save me, I will not backslide." God has kept me since. He also sanctified me and filled me with His Holy Spirit.

The Lord has helped me with a lot of problems, though I am still young. I was born deaf, and I can hear now. God also helps me at school. One time I was called out of one of my classes while the teacher was handing out a test. The

timing was not convenient. On my way back to the class, I prayed, "Please help me finish the test. This is important." I had just enough time, and finished the test as the bell rang. I wasn't rushed either, and received a good grade.

This is my first year in high school, and I am very thankful that I have a lot of friends from this church there. They encourage me not to go in the wrong direction. I am thankful that God has helped me and I can serve Him with everything that I have.



Gary Sletmoe

God is good. He saved me at my first youth camp when I was nine and made a very real change in my life. He's been with me every step of the way since then. I have had two recent answers to prayer that let me know God is always with us, even in the small things.

We had a water leak somewhere in our house and didn't know where. While we tried to pinpoint it, our water bill was extremely high. We went back and forth with the water company, but didn't get any answers. We had no idea what repair would be needed if we found the leak, but in my mind it was going to be expensive. Then, a woman from the water company said, "It was our fault; the problem was on our end. It was no fault of yours, so we are going to refund you any extra expense you paid on your bill." My first

thought was, God is good! He answers prayer.

Also, I have a little iPad that I use for work. The kids use it also and it broke one day. It was shattered; not just a little crack on the screen. I went in to work kind of sheepishly and said, "I have to replace this. How much is it going to be?" The people at work said it wasn't a problem, they would send it off at no charge to me. In the meantime, they gave me another one to use.

So God takes care of the little things. He also takes care of the big stuff. I'm really thankful that He's there every single step of the way and I can always count on Him. It is good to serve God.



Janelle Parker

God called after my heart when I was just a young girl. I was raised in a Christian home, and because I had gone to church all of my life and had been taught to pray, I thought I was a Christian. However, I couldn't remember when I had ever actually prayed and asked Jesus to forgive me. Then one night when I was thirteen, I was sitting in church at the Midwest camp meeting in Illinois, and God spoke to my heart. He let me know that I needed to give my heart to Him. I am so thankful that I did. It was the best decision I ever made.

I also want to give God thanks for something He did for me recently. For about ten years, I had carpal tunnel syndrome and it became really, really bad.

I went home from church on a Sunday morning and told my husband, "I don't know what I am going to do. The pain is getting so bad, I don't know if I'm even going to be able to play the piano anymore." He said, "You just might have to quit playing the piano." I didn't want to do that, so I said, "No, I'm going to ask God to heal me." That night, I went in the prayer room and put in a simple prayer request. Since then, I have not had one ounce of pain. I am so thankful that God is good and He cares about us.





Jill Andersen

In my early twenties God called after my heart, and He helped me to listen to that call. During special meetings in Chehalis, Washington, I went and prayed, and God heard my prayer. Though it was simple, I meant what I said. I was sorry for the wrong things I had done and wanted to serve God.

When I was first saved, God placed the song “It Is Well with My Soul” in my head and in my heart. I could just feel His peace. A lot has happened since then—I

went to school, graduated from college, got married, and had three little ones—and I can still say that it is well with my soul. I am so thankful for the peace that God put in my heart. It is there no matter what comes my way.

I am also thankful for the true Gospel taught here. I want to serve God and be an example to my children; I want them to always know that I was faithful to Him.



Shawn Worthington

I’m thankful that I was raised in a Christian home and taught the right way to go. When I was five years old, I understood that I needed to be saved, and asked the Lord into my life. He saved me and it was real. I remember the night that it happened. Even though I was very young, God made a big change in my life.

As I have grown up the Lord has continued to be with me. I have made further decisions to serve Him and have not regretted them. The Lord leads my wife

and me as we raise four daughters, and now they are starting to make decisions to follow Him. I am thankful for that.

I am also thankful for the times God meets us in a special way, because no matter what trials come, we can look back to those times and know deep down in our hearts that this Gospel is real. I thank God for the hope of Heaven.



Rob Moen

I am thankful for the day God called after my heart. I was raised in a Christian home, so in one sense, God was always calling after me. However, there came a time when He pinpointed me and asked which way I wanted to go. It was August 10, 1990, at youth camp during a skit. The skit was of a few people checking out at a grocery store. The clerk was scanning their wrists and foreheads. There was a little humor involved, but they were illustrating something that could be coming in the future. I am thankful God gave me

a tender heart to hear the message of the skit. I decided that I wanted to be ready when the trumpet sounds on the last day. I prayed that morning, and God saved my soul. I wasn’t carrying a lot of sins, but God made a change in my heart that has lasted.

Since then, God has blessed me over and over. He brought a wife into my life and two sons. I am so thankful for all God has done for me.



CHOOSING WISELY

Thought-provoking tips for
making decisions
we will never regret.

By Bobbi Downey

At about six years of age, I made the choice to cut my hair. It was not the wisest choice I ever made. While at school, I realized my bangs were hanging in my eyes and needed to be trimmed. The teacher turned off the lights and started a movie, so I took advantage of the darkness. Taking my blunt school scissors, I leaned underneath my little desk and carefully snipped across my bangs. The annoyance was removed, and the problem promptly forgotten. What a surprise I had when, upon arriving home, my mother expressed her shock at my appearance! She sternly asked if I had cut my bangs (as if there was any question about it). I wondered in amazement, How did she know?

We all make choices daily—from the least important, like whether to put jam or honey on our toast, to potentially life-changing, like whether or not to wear our seatbelts while

driving. Some decisions will be forgotten almost as soon as they are made, while others can drastically affect our lives forever, as well as the lives of those around us.

Looking back on this event in my childhood, I am reminded that although some choices we make may seem small or insignificant at the moment, they can sometimes have obvious or long-lasting consequences. My hair-trimming session did not cause any permanent damage, but I'm sure my appearance suffered for a time.

Many of the daily choices we make will have an impact on our spiritual lives. That impact can be a lot more serious than a bad haircut, so it is vital that we pray about our decisions, great and small, and are quick to obey God's voice. He knows the future, He sees our hearts, and He knows what is best for us.

In the oft-quoted words of Joshua, we read the challenge: “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15). The choice to follow Jesus is the first of many good choices we can make. And as we continue to follow Him in every area of our lives, He will lead us into a closer walk with Him and help us be a positive influence on others.

I can recall various times in my life where the Lord taught me to seek His will in my daily choices. Following His direction in these decisions has always brought good results, and ultimately, His blessing. Here are a few examples.

MAKING GOOD USE OF MEDIA

I have always enjoyed a variety of styles of music. As a teenager, I liked anything from opera to country to pop, and Christian music as well as secular. However, over time I began to realize that each song had a message, and with the secular music, that message wasn't always beneficial to my spiritual walk. Some songs encouraged a self-centered, proud attitude. Others glorified actions that were against Biblical principles. Many of them played on the emotions. I realized that when I was not careful in my choices when listening to this type of music, it affected my attitude in a negative way, and could even make me feel unhappy and discontented. On the other hand, music that carried the message of the Gospel made me feel encouraged, uplifted, and happy. While listening to Christian music, the Lord's presence could be felt and my heart would draw closer to Him.

Similarly, I learned that movies, books, and other forms of media can have a positive or negative effect. For instance, as a young person I noticed that while sitting in a church service or kneeling down to pray, scenes from a movie that I had recently seen would replay through my mind. This made me realize that I needed to be careful what kind of movies I watched!

Today there are many options available for recreation, literally at our fingertips. We can take advantage of that, and make sure what we choose is positive and uplifting. For instance, podcasts, audio books, and videos can be found of sermons, inspiring stories of missionaries, or historical figures that had an impact on various revivals throughout the years. Even dramatized audio versions of the Bible are available, which I have enjoyed very much in my morning devotions.

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

From a child I was taught to read the Bible and pray daily. It always made sense to me that choosing to do this would be beneficial to my relationship with the Lord. But as I grew up, I began to see just how important it is not to only “go through the motions,” but to really put earnest effort into it. So many times in my devotions the Lord has met me in a special way, giving encouragement, comfort, instruction, and blessing. Starting the day this way can get us off on the right foot for making good decisions throughout the day as well as keeping that communication line open with the Lord.

When I was in my early twenties, I moved out of my parents' house. At that time, I was seeking my sanctification. Spending time in my daily devotions took on a whole new meaning as, in my own little place, I really poured out my heart to the Lord. On many occasions His presence would come down and meet me there. Those were precious times, and I believe they drew me closer to that experience, which I eventually received.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Experts say that anywhere from 50,000 to 80,000 thoughts go through our minds in just one day. Growing up I remember hearing an expression quoted by a wise pastor: “You cannot keep a bird from flying over your head, but you can keep it from building a nest in your hair.” In effect, he was saying that we can't control all the thoughts that go through our heads, but we can choose which ones we will dwell on.

What we choose to let our minds focus on will affect our attitudes. It will affect our ability to forgive. It will affect our frame of mind, and our feeling of contentment (or lack thereof). And sooner or later, what we dwell on will come out of our mouths.

In my own life, there have been times when a frustrating phone call regarding personal business has left me feeling upset. Someone who takes my spot in a parking lot, or cuts me off on the road can try my patience. But I've learned that dwelling on these negative actions of others is not beneficial. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on

these things.” If we do this, we will feel peace instead of frustration.

PLEASANT CONVERSATION

Philippians 1:27 says, “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.” The tongue is a powerful weapon, for good or evil. The words we choose can have a huge effect on those around us, as well as our own spiritual condition. We want our words to lift up the name of Jesus. If they do, it will encourage our own hearts as well as others.

I cannot count the times I have been encouraged by the words of others. Often it is just little things they have said, but the end result is very positive! Letting someone know you are praying for him or her, sharing even a small answer to prayer, or just stating a heart-felt “God is good!” can have an amazing impact on those you speak with.

FORGIVENESS

Every day we come in contact with any number of people, from close friends and relatives to complete strangers. We all have different personalities, interests, and shortcomings. During the course of a day it is quite possible that at least one of these people will do something that hurts our feelings or frustrates us. Being quick to forgive minor offences as well as the bigger ones can impact us spiritually and also affect our testimony to others.

Forgiveness is a two-part choice, not just a feeling. It is choosing not to retaliate—an outward choice—and not to dwell on the perceived wrong—an inward choice. If we do our best in both of these areas, God will help us to truly forgive.

One way that helps us do this is to try to always give the other person the benefit of the doubt, knowing there is often a reason for their actions which we may not be aware of. For example, if we say hello to someone and he or she doesn’t respond, it’s possible that person simply didn’t hear us, or was too focused on personal concerns to notice us. More often than not, there is a reason for people’s actions other than an intent to hurt or offend. Choosing to remember this and to quickly forgive can give us peace of mind as well as to help us maintain good relationships with others.

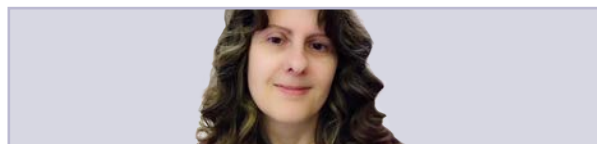
WHEN IN DOUBT

Sometimes we are faced with decisions when there doesn’t seem to be an obvious answer. Anytime we don’t know what to do, it can be helpful to step back and consider two questions: could our choice have even the slightest negative effect spiritually? And, could this choice hurt our testimony in any way? In answering these questions, the best choice can become clearer.

I faced one such situation when taking a class at a university. The teacher offered extra help to anyone who wanted it, and I was definitely interested. However, when I saw the meeting location—a bar and grill—and that the group consisted of the female teacher and two young men, as a young married woman, I hesitated. It wouldn’t have been sinful for me to join in, but it gave me pause. How would it look? Would it put my testimony in doubt? Because there was a question in this regard, I did not attend. The Lord blessed my carefulness, and I received an A in the class even without the extra help.

CHOOSE CHRIST

We want to do all we can, on a daily basis, to keep our hearts in tune with Jesus, and lift up His name. Some of the examples listed above may not seem like big choices—selecting a radio station, opening the Bible, having a conversation...but they do matter! In the second part of the verse stated earlier, Joshua affirmed, “as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Like Joshua, let’s daily choose to serve Christ! ■



Bobbi Downey is a member of the Editorial Staff at the Apostolic Faith Church Headquarters Office in Portland, Oregon.



World Report



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As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. — Proverbs 25:25



2018 ZAMBIA CAMP MEETING

**ZAMBIA'S
ANNUAL
EASTER
CAMP MEET-
ING TOOK
PLACE APRIL 1-15,
AND REVEREND
DARREL LEE, THE
SUPERINTENDENT
GENERAL, WAS WELCOMED
THERE FOR HIS FIRST VISIT.**

He arrived the evening before at the Eastern Africa headquarters in Lusaka, the site of the camp meeting, accompanied by his son, Randy, and eight-year-old grandson, Oscar.

Making this a truly momentous occasion, Reverend Lee was joined by the three leaders of the Apostolic Faith work in Africa: Reverend Timothy Kaibula, who oversaw the camp meeting as the District Superintendent of Eastern Africa, Reverend Oniyas Gumbo, the District Superintendent of Southern Africa, and Reverend Emmanuel Adeniran, the District Superintendent of Western and Central Africa.

The first service was well-attended with about 1500 people inside and an overflow of about 1000 standing outside. It began with the Sunday school children marching in, singing, and waving flags of the different countries represented at the camp meeting. In addition to the United States, there were delegates from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, the Congo, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. The students presented a program of singing, recitations, and a skit depicting the five wise and five foolish virgins. This brought out the camp meeting theme of "Behold He Cometh. Are You Ready?"

The choir sang beautifully throughout the service. Before the Scripture reading from Luke 24, they sang "The Resurrection Morn," and before the message, "I'll Be Waiting in Paradise." The sermon was taken from Luke 24:18, "And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou

only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" It focused on knowing Jesus as Savior, not as a stranger. At the close of the service, there was a rush to the altar, and the Spirit of God descended, pouring out His blessings on hungry hearts.

The annual camp meeting concert was held the next evening, and many different instruments were heard. The flutes were featured in "Arise O Zion," the brass in "Jesus Is Coming Again," and the strings in "The Meeting in the Air." The organ played throughout the concert and was featured in several songs including "Meet You by the River." Solos, duets, and ensembles also highlighted the evening, including one beautiful soprano voice singing "The Holy City."

The choir sang in a variety of languages. They sang "Simukai Imi Mose" or "Rise Up Everyone" in the Shona language, and "Ninatamani" or "I Wish" in Swahili. They also sang in Bemba, Namwanga, and Tonga, as well as English. Toward the end of the program, they sang "Panono Panono" or "Little by Little" in the Bemba language, and many in the congregation were moved to pray. A few songs later, after "I Can Almost Hear the Sound of the Trumpet," written by Ted Friesen, the concert came to an early close as many had gone to the altars seeking God.

Afterward, Reverend Lee's grandson, Oscar, pronounced the concert "Awesome," and anyone who attended would agree that it was a wonderful performance followed by a wonderful prayer meeting.

For the next three weeks, the camp meeting continued with morning teachings, afternoon youth services, and evening evangelistic services. At the close, sixty-three people were baptized in water, and many more reported blessings, including thirty-one who were sanctified, thirty-two who received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and 119 who were healed. We thank God for His presence during the camp meeting and the many blessings poured out. ■

SHORT

FOUR CHURCHES DEDICATED IN ROMANIA



FOUR APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCHES WERE DEDICATED IN ROMANIA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

The first took place on Wednesday, May 2, in Margaratesti. There were about seventy in attendance, including the town mayor and his wife. The pastor, Reverend Aurel Crucero, opened the meeting and gave a brief history of the work in Margaratesti, which began in January 2009 with a small group of people meeting in a tiny chapel provided by the city. The chapel still stands next to the new church building and serves as a Sunday school department. As the humble beginnings of the congregation were recounted, the handful of people who had made up the original group shed tears of gratitude for the beautiful new church they have today.

The second dedication was held on Thursday, May 3, for the Craiova church, which is the largest Pentecostal church in the Oltenia Province of Romania. It is pastored by Reverend Pavel Balnoiu, who oversees our southern Romania work. There were just over one hundred in attendance, filling the sanctuary. As there were several visitors present, the message focused on the need to devote one's life to God.

Next, the church at Motatei Sat was dedicated on Friday, May 4. The work in this location began in January 2009 with about a dozen people meeting in the house of the pastor, Reverend Mitita Udrea. In 2010, property was donated by some in the congregation for use as a church site. For years, Reverend Udrea labored to build the church, making cinder blocks one at a time and then testing their integrity by throwing them on the ground. Today, this congregation has a beautiful church building with room to grow. Thirty attended the dedication service. The sermon, taken from Acts 3:1, used the account of Peter and John going to the Temple to pray to show that the dedication of a church as a house of prayer is what makes the difference in people's lives.

Another dedication followed on Sunday, May 6, for the church in Bucharest, pastored by Reverend Gheorghe Macovei, the Eastern Romania District Superintendent. The building was filled to capacity as over seventy were in attendance. There

were several music specials during the service including selections by the youth group and a ladies' choir. The dedicatory sermon was taken from Deuteronomy 12:11 and referenced the dwelling places built by the Jewish people for the worship of God, from the Tabernacle to the Second Temple. It was noted that God's presence filled these buildings, but what He really desires is to dwell in hearts.

During the service, a history of the Apostolic Faith organization and how it eventually led to the work in Bucharest was recounted. The aspect that has stood out most about this location through the years is the fellowship that has abounded since the beginning. This congregation has always enjoyed coming together, and has hated to part, even after a long service. That was the case on this day also; as delegates from other Apostolic Faith churches departed for home, they left the saints at Bucharest continuing in fellowship. ■



TAKES

A VIBRANT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM IN IQUITOS, PERU

SAM AJAYI, DIRECTOR OF SOUTH AMERICA WORK, AND HIS WIFE SHADE, VISITED THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH IN IQUITOS, PERU, ON MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 13. THE WORK IN IQUITOS, WHICH IS THE LARGEST CITY IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON, BEGAN IN 2011. Since then it has produced a vibrant Sunday school run by the pastor, Reverend Modesto Aranda, and his wife Clara. Over sixty children participate in the program during the dry season of the year.

The congregation lives in an area that receives heavy rainfall all year with flooding nearly every April. For this reason, all of the buildings, including the Iquitos church, are on raised platforms, accessed during the rainy season by a patchwork of makeshift wooden bridges linking the neighborhoods.

As the rainy season had just concluded, only thirty children were able to attend Sunday school on Mother's Day. However, they came accompanied by their parents and other family members. They enjoyed singing action choruses such as "I'm in the Lord's Army," and listening to the Bible story. They also recited their memory verses and colored pages from the lesson. Toward the close, the children were challenged to have good attendance, participate in class, and bring their friends to church. They were happy to hear that meeting these challenges would result in a reward at the end of the year.

Following Sunday school each week, the children are served a full meal, and this week they also received a sweet

treat in honor of Mother's Day. Many of the parents stayed even longer to share a Mother's Day cake and learn more about salvation. ■



(Center) Sunday school students in Iquitos, Peru.

(Below, left to right) **IN PERU:** A student works on his lesson; students show off their work; Teacher Clara helps students during class time. **IN SOUTH AFRICA:** dedication attendees gather inside the newly dedicated building; the orchestra plays during the dedication service held under an awning; the new tabernacle.



SHORT

CAMPGROUND TABERNACLE DEDICATED IN SOUTH AFRICA



**A NEWLY
COMPLETED
TABERNACLE,
LOCATED ON
THE SOUTH
AFRICA CAMP-
GROUND IN
BAPSFONTEIN,
WAS DEDICATED
IN A SERVICE
HELD ON MARCH
21, 2018.**

The dedication service was held under an awning near the new building. It began with an organ prelude followed by the orchestra playing “Plea from Africa” and “Nditungamire Jehovah,” which is Shona for “Lead Me to Jehovah.”

A variety of music was presented throughout the service, including two songs by the choir: “The Gospel of Jesus Christ Must Shine” and “To God Be the Glory.” Several numbers were sung in native languages. One of these was “Waye Khon’ e Mandulo,” or “Ancient of Days,” presented by the youth choir in the Zulu language.

The Scripture reading was taken from 2 Chronicles 6:40,42; 7:1-3, which speaks of the glory of the Lord filling the Temple in answer to King Solomon’s prayer. The dedicatory sermon was taken from 2 Chronicles 7:12, 15, and 16, including “Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place” (verse 15). It brought out that the dedication of a church building involves an action on man’s part followed by an action on God’s part. Man’s part is to set the building aside for God’s use and glory. When this is done properly, God will do His part and bear witness to the consecration by filling the building with His Spirit, blessing those who attend, and answering prayer.

Reverend Oniyas Gumbo, district Superintendent of Southern Africa, gave the dedicatory prayer, and then everyone gathered at the tabernacle for a ribbon-cutting ceremony before going inside to hear a brief history of the campground. The land was purchased in 2001, and the first camp meeting was held there in 2006 in a large tent. The tent continued to be used for the annual fall camp meetings as several other buildings were added over the years, including cooking facilities and guest accommodations. Construction of the tabernacle, which has the capacity to seat 1700, began in 2017 and was completed in less than five months—an amazing accomplishment!

As the Lord tarries, reports are expected of many blessings received as a result of those who gather to worship in this tabernacle. ■



TAKES



Our Classics



41 THE ESSENCE OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY by Raymond Crawford

45 "GOD, YOU STOP DOLLY!" by Dolly Walker

Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise. — Proverbs 22:17



If we follow God's Word, it will unerringly lead us to the Haven of Rest where we shall be richly satisfied for all eternity.

By Raymond Crawford

The last sermon given by Raymond Crawford at the Portland headquarters church, on April 4, 1965.

To be a Christian is a tremendous responsibility. It is a call to live a holy and blameless life before God in this present world, and to let your light so shine that others may be won to Christ.

In the seventeenth chapter of John is found Christ's prayer to the Father on behalf of His disciples. Christ prayed not only for those who were with Him at that time, but for all who would believe on Him in ages to come.

All born-again Christians are included in that distinguished company for whom Christ prayed as He lifted His heart to the Father and said: "And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John 17:13-20).

How glad we are for those wonderful words of Jesus that set forth the teaching of sanctification! The words of Jesus are the truths of God—the law of God. And “the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Psalm 19:7). God’s truth will ever stand unchanged. Just as it always was, so will it always be. God’s Word is immutable. It cannot be improved, because in itself the Word of God is perfect.

Men are attempting to change the Bible, but what needs to be changed are the hearts and lives of men. Sinful man needs to be changed to conform to God’s truths which have stood the test of ages. There are many today who would take the “teeth” out of the “sharp threshing instrument”—God’s Word. They would modify it, water it down, and cause it to mean nothing, whereas it means everything to those who hear it and heed it.

TRUE DISCIPLES

Jesus uttered a vital truth in His prayer when He said of the disciples, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” There is a definite mark of identification resting upon the child of God, the true disciple of Christ. The word “Christian” has become commonplace, even applied to people who are no more Christian than some of the pagans throughout the world. Having the label of “Christian” is not sufficient. Just to say that we believe in God is not enough.

The Word of God tells us, “He that cometh to God must believe that he is . . .” but to believe there is a God is only the first step. That same verse of Scripture continues by saying we must believe that “he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

The wise men of old diligently sought until they found the Christ. Today, truly wise men will seek diligently for Christ’s salvation when they learn that a Redeemer has come and that they can be saved from their sins.

A RADICAL CHANGE

Many of us have experienced a wonderful transformation in our lives in answer to our faith. That change took place because of our thorough repentance and a full surrender of our lives to Christ. A person cannot know anything of the power of Christ’s redeeming grace until he has repented, forsaken his sinful ways—renounced them and turned his back upon them forever. Then and only then does he know the efficacy of redeeming grace, for only then is he given power to “go and sin no more.”

How important it is that we be redeemed and made ready to meet God! It is certain that we will meet Him either at

the Throne of Grace or at the Throne of Judgment, for “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

It is possible even after having been saved to lose that spiritual life we once had, again become dead in trespasses and sins, and in the end meet God wholly unprepared. To carry the name Christian is not enough to escape God’s judgment if one is dead spiritually.

The sinner is dead unto God and the things of God. The one who is truly a Christian is alive unto Christ and His righteousness. His espousal to Christ makes him despise everything that is contrary to the Lord’s will and wishes. He centers his affections upon pleasing the Lord. That is the attitude of a real Christian.

ASSURANCE OF OUR STANDING

How do we know that we are saved? God’s Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. Possibly we, like Jacob of old, wrestled in prayer before we received the deeper things of God. God answered our prayer when we prayed with persistence. And we have kept the faith only because we have fought a good fight against the adversaries of our souls: against false teachers, false doctrine, false causes. It means something to walk in the straight and narrow way. It means something to go right down the center of the road, not to be extreme one way or the other.

Those who are serving God with their whole hearts, fervently keeping in the center of His holy will, can rest assured that they are still saved and have kept the faith.

LOVE FOR GOD BRINGS HATRED OF SIN

What is the center of our affections? It is whatever our hearts are wrapped up in. If we really love Christ, we carry a continuous love for Him that enables us to renounce sin, to resist temptation, to overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.

What is our testimony? It is not merely what we say with our mouths, but what we live. What we do speaks louder many times than what we say.

Those who have pledged their allegiance to Jesus Christ, to His Kingdom, and to His Gospel, are the true disciples of Christ—people who are triumphant over the adversary and enemy of their souls.

The genuine Christian, the overcomer, meets temptations with a positive and definite “No!” His denouncement of sin comes from a heart that is devoted to Christ. The center of his affections is in the beloved Son of God, and that person is

going to fulfill Christ's expectation of him and will be a living testimony in this world of sin.

Sin is hideous in the sight of God. He does not look upon it with any degree of allowance. Paul the Apostle once said, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). True repentance brings a transformation in a life that makes a Christian such as Paul defined—a new creature in Christ Jesus.

A SECOND NEED

The prayer that Christ prayed for His disciples thrills the heart of the true Christian: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). In other words, cleanse their hearts; make them pure and holy.

"Sanctification" is fast becoming an obsolete word in so-called Christian circles today, but it is still in the Bible. Holiness is still in the economy of God; it is still on the spiritual menu. If you are hungry, you will find that all the spiritual "vitamins" necessary for spiritual development, physique, and strength are found in the Word of God.

God does not want an army of undernourished and anemic Christians. He wants Christian soldiers who are fit for the battle. The Lord has provided all the equipment we need for that battle: the sword, the breastplate, the helmet. The armor in all its fullness is described for us in Ephesians 6:11-18. But unless we are willing to come to God and ask Him for what we need with persistent earnestness, we are going to fall out of the ranks, unfitted, unequipped for service in the Master's Kingdom.

COUNT THE COST

Oh, if we could but grasp the importance of the things that God has provided for us! Some get converted, or at least come to God for conversion, and as Jesus said, they haven't first counted the cost. The Christian life is not something that can just be sauntered into without a determination of the will. God help us to get a sense of values along spiritual lines, to know what is necessary in order to attain the Kingdom of God!

When the Apostle was penning his epistle to the church of Philippi, he told them that they should be "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation" (Philippians 2:15). Strong words! But it takes strong prayer and determination to produce that kind of life. Do not think for a moment that salvation is just a casual affair. Don't think that one can become a possessor of God's salvation without the consciousness of having it down deep in the heart.

This business of serving God is a serious matter! Taking the name of "Christian" upon our lips is more than breath and the formation of words. It takes real persistence in prayer. That is why the Old Testament saints thrived. Think of Jacob, Daniel, the Hebrew Children, and other worthies of old who prevailed in prayer!

In Isaiah 45:11, God's words are: "Command ye me." Think of it! And then many generations later, Jesus came and said, "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12). It pays to be in earnest—to show ardent zeal and exert ourselves intensely in our prayers, and this can be the case when we are praying in accordance with the will of God.

LETTING OUR LIGHTS SHINE

Jesus, in His prayer, said to the Father: "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" (John 17:18). He told His disciples: "Ye are my witnesses." He intended very soon to leave this earth and He commissioned His disciples to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ, that sinners might be converted and find "joy unspeakable" and be "full of glory."

God is looking for men and women today who will cut the shoreline, launch out into the deep, take hold of the promises of God, bear witness of the truth, and win souls for Him.

Jesus said to the disciples, "Ye are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). Rest assured that if salt has not lost its savor, it is going to make things "smart" a bit here and there. There will be a reaction, an effect. That is what happens when the true child of God bears witness to the truth.

Jesus also said to His followers, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). He wants each of us to let our light shine; and when it shines, somebody is going to catch a gleam of that light of truth. Even if men pay no heed to it, our lives lived for Christ will condemn them in the day of judgment.

It is true that light has come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light. People are not taking the way of salvation in vast numbers; but some here and there are getting a glimpse of the glory of God and are seeking and finding salvation.

The purpose for letting our lights shine is that men may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven. Oh, that men might see good works in us—not evil works! The greatest stumbling block before an unbelieving world is the inconsistency of people who make a profession of religion and do not live in accordance with the standard of God's Word.

THE KEEPING POWER OF CHRIST

Can the Lord keep our souls? Oh, yes! He can keep that which we commit unto Him against that day—the day of judgment, the day in which every man’s works will be tried to determine of what sort they are. Scripture tells us that He is able to keep. Jude 24 speaks of “him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” He will keep us if we follow instructions from the Word of God. Every phase of life is represented in the Book of God, and in it can be found the answer to our every problem.

We challenge you, unsaved friend, backslider, or one who only professes faith in God without a testimony that backs up that profession, to put God’s promises to the test. Do not pass judgment upon something that you have never tried. Do not say there is nothing to God’s promises if you have never tried them. God’s Word is true. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His Word shall never pass away.

Some ask, “How do you account for the terrible drifting toward sin and the entrance of the ways of the world into religious organizations today?” We account for it simply by reading God’s Word, which says, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

The Word describes the conditions of the human heart in these days, and after that, it concludes by saying those people who are falling away from the truth have a “form of godliness” but deny “the power thereof.” Imagine the audacity of denying the power of God! We know there is power in the Gospel of Jesus Christ—it is the power of God unto salvation unto all who believe.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). That is the teaching found in God’s Book. If we forsake the Bible, we are certain to go astray and it could be in any direction. But if we follow God’s Word, it will unerringly lead us to the Haven of Rest where we shall be richly satisfied for all eternity. Think of basking in the sunlight of God’s presence, among the holy angels forever and ever!

Let me repeat, God’s call is a call to holiness. Heaven is a holy place; God is a holy God; and He has given us a holy Bible to direct our steps. By conforming our lives to the truths of His holy Book, we will not miss the appointed goal before us. Glory to God!

It is your privilege to attain that heavenly goal. What is your decision? The choice is yours whether or not you will make yourself ready for God’s eternal kingdom and be present when the roll is called and the saints are rewarded. Will you be there?

May this be the day, the time, the hour, the moment when you count the cost and pay the price. Yes, there is a price—it is the forsaking of all sin and a full committal of your life unto God. It may be that the price is what is keeping you out of the Kingdom. You had better decide to meet God’s terms. Come to Him in honesty, sincerity, true purpose of heart, and see what He will do for you. The riches in Christ Jesus will be yours here below, and you will be the possessor of life eternal hereafter if you are faithful to the end. ■



Reverend Raymond Crawford, son of the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church, succeeded his mother in the position of General Overseer of the work on June 20, 1936, and led the organization until his death on June 3, 1965. He was a fearless defender of the Gospel truths, and during his fifty-five years of ministry, faithfully admonished Christian brethren around the world to fight the good fight of faith.



My mother knew there was power in prayer and her petition was . . . “God, You stop Dolly!”

By Dolly Walker

Article from Tract 59 and HW 102-1, published January 2009.

The most important thing to my mother, in bringing up her eleven children, was that we would know Jesus and serve Him. Though times were hard and we were unable to travel the twelve miles to the nearest Apostolic Faith Church, Mother made it a practice to have family worship in our home. She would get on her knees and say, “Everybody pray.” Then she would go around to us children on her knees, laying her hands on our backs one at a time and pray for us.

Those times of prayer made me uncomfortable, because deep in my heart I wanted the ways of the world. When Mother would come to me, she would say, “O God, You stop Dolly in her wild career!” I would wish she would quit, but my mother knew there was power in prayer. When she would get to the end of her prayers, she would say, “God, when I’ve done all I can do and justice is satisfied, I want my children to be with me in Your Kingdom.” Many times she would then break down and start praying all over again, and it would seem as though she prevailed another hour for me.

In spite of those prayers, I went my own way, though I had felt the call of God from my earliest childhood. At the age of fourteen I left home. I was supposed to be going away to work, but in my mind it was getting away from the family altar and from the mother who was praying so earnestly for me. To my surprise, once I got away from home, I missed it. I went to the shows and danced the heels off my shoes in a dance hall. But wherever I went, my mother’s prayers followed me, “God, You stop Dolly.” After just a few weeks, conviction settled so heavily on my heart that I went back to our little country home and began seeking the Lord.

I didn’t want my mother to know I was praying, because I thought if I could get rid of the awful conviction that was making me so miserable, I could go on my way. However, instead of lessening, the conviction became greater. One day I went into the backyard where I thought I could pray in secret. When I came out of my place of prayer, my mother was standing under the hickory nut tree.

Then I knew that she was aware I was seeking the Lord. Somehow arrangements were made, and a little later she said that I was to go to the church service that night. I went and cried my heart out to Jesus, but I did not really pray through. Mother had said that when you got saved you would know it, and I wanted to know that I was saved.

By the next day, word had gotten out that Dolly wanted to be saved. That night, as I knelt and prayed after a little cottage meeting, I promised Jesus if He would come into my heart and make me happy, I would serve Him. I will never forget what happened. As I raised my head toward the sky, peace dropped into my heart. I knew that God had forgiven my sins and that my name was written in Heaven. Oh, the peace, the joy that I felt! The next day I realized how complete that change was. I felt entirely different inside and out.

The day I was saved was August 15, 1941. The following Sunday, Mother took us to the Apostolic Faith meeting that was held near Flomaton, Alabama. I knew there was more, and I wanted whatever God had for me. A real revival was breaking out; the night I was saved, three other young people had given their lives to the Lord also. As I knelt that Sunday, seeking the Lord for sanctification, the altars were filled with seekers. Some were seeking salvation, others sanctification. The Lord came down and sanctified me and some others also. The minister saw the glory of God on my face and he said, "Look at that smile!" I didn't realize I was smiling, but I knew that something had taken place in my heart that was different from salvation. Somehow I felt that God had cleansed me.

Shortly after I felt that blessed experience of sanctification take place, the Sunday school superintendent knelt by me and said, "Dolly, God will baptize you if you will believe it." He encouraged me to praise the Lord. As I praised Jesus, each praise got better, sweeter, and deeper, until it seemed all I wanted to do was praise the Lord. Then the Spirit of the Lord took over and baptized my soul with the Holy Spirit, and I heard myself speaking in a language I had never learned.

That was a beginning. The Lord kept me through high school with victory. I knew that God was calling me and that I wanted to dedicate my life in service for Him. By the time

I was nineteen years of age, I made the consecration to do anything Jesus wanted me to do.

God has given me a wonderful life. Someday, by His grace, I know I am going to walk on streets of gold. There I want to see Jesus—the One who died for me. On that day it will be my privilege to bow before Him and to thank Him for His redeeming grace. It is my determination to be faithful to the Lord and never to compromise this wonderful Gospel. ■



Reverend Dolly Walker was born in 1925 and was saved in 1941. She later became a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church, serving in Kansas and other areas of the Midwest, and is still remembered by many for the messages she preached at Portland camp meeting children's services. She went to Newfoundland, Canada, as a missionary in 1974 and was the District Overseer of Newfoundland Work from 1978 until the day she went to be with her Lord on August 18, 1988.

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

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

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).

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 5414 SE Duke Street, 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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