

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

JANUARY - MARCH 2021

Safe in the Storm

When our trust is in the Master of the storm,
we have no reason to fear



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I SERVE A MIRACLE
WORKING GOD



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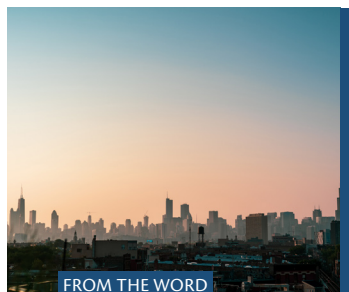
FROM THE WORD

WHEN WE HAVE TRUST IN THE MASTE OF THE STORM, WE HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR



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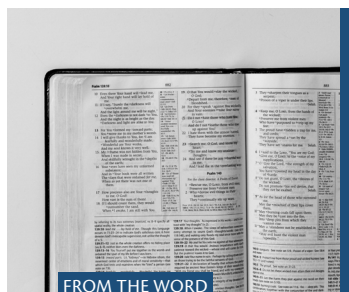
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VIEWPOINT

By Darrel Lee, Superintendent General



FEW IN THIS LIFE HAPPEN TO BE ROYALS, BUT ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ROYAL LINEAGE OF CHRIST.

Riding as a passenger in a small van around Nigeria in early 2002 was an adventure. From Abuja we drove north to Jos and back again. Another trek took us from Port Harcourt to Aba to Ikot Enwang and finally to Lagos. During our hours-long road trips, I was comfortably seated behind the driver, taking in sites that were new to me. Our pace varied from swift in the sparsely inhabited countryside, to slow in the densely populated villages, to a standstill in the Lagos gridlock. I enjoyed capturing every moment.

As we journeyed, I was aware of a young man squeezed between suitcases, half-seated and half-reclined behind me. The sun was beating through the back window upon him. He must be really hot, I thought. Besides benefiting from his help in managing our luggage, our entire entourage and congregations numbering in the thousands were blessed by his rich baritone solos. I learned much later that in addition to his superb musical skills and holding a degree in Mathematics, Tony Ademuyiwa was the son of a king. Wow, it does not seem like a prince should be the one crunched uncomfortably in the back of a van.

The first time I ever met a king was on that same trip (though it was not Brother Tony's father, who had passed away in 1999). The royal encounter was both intimidating and surprising. As a guest in his court, I was escorted to a seat beside him. I did not blend in well; I wore a suit while the king wore a robe and crown, and brandished a scepter. How was one to act around a real king? What should one say? I was not sure. Thankfully, he broke the ice. During a moment of silence in the midst of the welcoming ceremony, he turned my way and inquired, "How's

it going?" Startled (having not expected a king to speak to me at all, let alone in a casual manner), I briefly replied, "Very well, and how are you?" He was fine. The conversation was short, but that king's courtesy to this awkward stranger made a memorable impression.

Considering the honor and prestige that is normally afforded to royalty, what brought someone like Brother Tony from growing up in the luxury of a palace to the discomfort of traveling in the back of a minivan? You will have to read his testimony to learn the details, but it centers on the day in 1982 when he became a child of the King of kings. He declares that God accomplished in a moment of time what his disciplinarian kingly father could not accomplish in seventeen years—a change of heart. After that, rather than following the traditions of his earthly family, Brother Tony's life was patterned after the King who made Himself poor that we might become rich.

While most of us lack the palace experience, once we are saved we share a common royal spiritual lineage in Christ. Hattie Buell wrote in her 1877 hymn, "With Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the king." In her words, each of us is "an heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown." Despite any discomfort in our current circumstances, Jesus promises us a bright and hopeful future. James 2:5 says we are "heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him." It is our prayer that every reader of this magazine will both experience and appreciate being royalty in the eyes of the Lord.

D Lee

From
THE WORD

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

— Psalm 119:5-6

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2020: LOOKING BACK & LOOKING AHEAD

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE FACED CHALLENGES IN THE PAST YEAR, WE DON'T NEED TO LOOK AT THOSE AS TIMES OF DEFEAT. WE CAN LOOK AT THEM AS TIMES THE LORD HELPED US



By Darrel Lee

As we look forward at the beginning of a new year, it is also good to look back over the past year of 2020 and remember how God has helped us.

In 1 Samuel 7, verses 11 and 12, we read of a time when the Prophet Samuel established a marker for the Children of Israel to help them remember. These verses tell us, “And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.”

The Children of Israel had been at Mizpeh twenty years earlier. In fact, twice before they had pitched their tents for battle at that location and had gone out against the Philistines. The first time, their forces were defeated and humiliated; four thousand of the Children of Israel were slain. The second time, the sons of Eli the High Priest determined to take the Ark of the Covenant with the army, perhaps superstitiously assuming that the sacred emblem would bring them victory. However, when they went out to battle, they were defeated once again.

In the second encounter, thirty thousand Israelites were slain, and among that number were the sons of Eli. Eli himself, upon hearing that the Ark of God had been captured by the Philistines, fell backward off the place where he was seated and broke his neck and died. Furthermore, his daughter-in-law went into labor and died after delivering a child she named Ichabod, which means “the glory is departed.” However, the glory of God had already departed from Israel, and at that point in time, the Ark had been taken as well.

The Philistines kept the Ark of the Covenant for seven months, but they were troubled by disease and the desecration of their gods during that time, so eventually they sent the sacred object back to Israel. The Ark ended up in Kirjath-jearim, just inside Israel’s border, and remained there for twenty years. Think of it: for twenty years, the Israelites were content to have the Ark of the Covenant, representative of the glory of God, abiding at a distance! Why so long? The children who had been ten years old when the Ark was brought to Kirjath-jearim were now thirty; those who had been thirty were now fifty. Why did the people continue in a state of helplessness for all those years?

We are told in 1 Samuel 7:2 that the people “lamented” during those twenty years—they cried aloud to the Lord. They had good reason to lament. Their cities were in ruins, their armies were defeated, and they were under Philistine domination, all because they were not right with God. Then Samuel called upon them to return to the Lord with all of their hearts, giving them three steps to take that would prove their determination. In simplified terms, they were to put away their strange gods, prepare their hearts, and serve God only.

A similar formula is necessary today: when a person purposes to come to God, the Bible says he must repent and turn his back on sin, turn toward God, and purpose to serve Him alone. In response to Samuel’s challenge, the Israelites fasted, confessed their sins, and prayed—all indicators that they were preparing their hearts.

The Philistines heard of the gathering of the Israelites. Twenty years after that first attack at Mizpeh, they came to battle again at the same spot, perhaps intending to crush what they assumed was a revolt. The Israelites saw that and cried out to God to save them from the hand of their enemies. Samuel also prayed for the people, and the Lord intervened. We are told in verse 10 that God sent a great thunder and “discomfited” the Philistines. Israel pursued and defeated their foe, winning a great victory.

Samuel wanted the people of Israel to remember, and he purposed to set up a stone that would be a reminder. We can visualize him looking around and wondering, “Where shall we set this marker? Where can we represent how God has helped us?” He decided that it should be right there at Mizpeh.

Perhaps some of those around him objected, saying, “You cannot put it here! We suffered two horrible defeats at this place. Why, we lost 34,000 men here twenty years ago, and the Ark of the Covenant was taken from us.” However, Samuel was determined. He set a stone up between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

This stone was not in remembrance of a defeat. It was in recognition of how God had helped them obtain a victory. It did not mark how they had failed, but how God had helped them succeed. It did not call attention to what man did, but what God did for man!

That is how I feel about the year 2020. We have heard much about how people are ready to “cancel” 2020, along with many other aspects of our history. We are not going to look back on 2020 as a year of defeat. Instead, we will regard it as a year of victory because we can say, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us!” A number of years from now, if Jesus tarries, 2020 will be remembered as the year God stood with us in a time of great difficulty and brought us through victorious. The fact is, every spiritual victory emerges as the result of a battle.

During July of 2020, we celebrated the one-hundred-year anniversary of our campground on Duke Street in Portland. God has helped many over the years on that piece of property. To individuals around the world, it serves as a reminder of victories God has won. Countless individuals have reached a low point in their lives where they realized their desperate need of God, and on that campground, they turned toward Him. They do not look back to the low spot—the remorse and regret that weighed them down before they prayed. They remember the place where God helped them, saved them, and they found relief from the heavy load they carried! They left the campground feeling joyful, forgiven, and with a new life in Christ—and that is what they commemorate.

My dad had a spiritual memorial on the campground. In February of 1975, the film “A Thief in the Night” was shown in the tabernacle, and Dad prayed and was saved that evening. Some years later, in 1983, our daughter was saved after a children’s church service in the building next to the tabernacle, though she was just five years old at the time. She skipped down the pathway to our cabin after the service, eager to tell her mother (who had stayed in

“...when we testify, we remember and declare what God has done for us to this point.”

FROM THE WORD

the cabin so our son could nap) that she had gotten saved. Today, many years later, our children and grandchildren, along with thousands of others from around the world, have spiritual “markers” of victories won on the campground.

The testimony services that are part of most of our church services are about history—when we testify, we remember and declare what God has done for us to this point. During our campground commemorative service, we heard Jane Ewers testify and provide historical context for the early years of this Apostolic Faith work. Her grandparents were among the first to join with our founder, Florence Crawford, when Portland

However, as we look back over the past one hundred years, we also see periods of revival. Even at times when revival appeared to be lacking, many have been saved and have remained true to the Lord.

What do we see when we look forward? In Ecclesiastes 1:9 Solomon said, “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” So, when we look forward, we see much the same thing as we see when we look back. We know there will be more upheaval in this world, more unrest. There may be some periods of revival and other periods where revival seems to be lacking. The Gospel will be preached, and some



History provides context for the present and the future—it reminds us how God has helped in the past and that His help remains available today.

was established as the headquarters for this work. Jane's parents were saved in this Gospel, and Jane herself was saved after a camp meeting service for children. As we reflect back on the faithfulness of Jane's parents and grandparents, we also look at the present and see Jane and her son and grandchildren who participate in our work today. And as we look forward into the future, we pray that they will remain as faithful as those before Jane were.

History provides context for the present and the future—it reminds us how God has helped in the past and that His help remains available today. When that first camp meeting on Duke Street was held, World War I had just ended. Then came the roaring twenties, and the Great Depression of the thirties. World War II was in the forties, the Korean War in the fifties, and Vietnam in the sixties. There has been upheaval in every decade as we have gone from one crisis to another in the human race.

will embrace it and stick with it to the benefit of themselves and their descendants, while others will fall by the wayside. However, we cannot allow ourselves to become distracted by the fluctuation of circumstances and events that occur as the days come and go. Rather, we want to remember how God has helped us in times past, and be assured that He remains faithful today.

Florence Crawford and the saints of God in 1920 proclaimed, “Praise ye the Lord!” One hundred years later, we can repeat those words, “Praise ye the Lord!” We see victory when we look back over 2020. We see victories as we look forward if Jesus tarries. “Hitherto hath the LORD helped us,” and may He help us to carry on with an optimistic view into the year ahead, and to offer thanks to the great God who gives us victory over every challenge we face. ■

Reverend Darrel Lee is Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith Church.

MOVING FORWARD IN THE FAITH

STEPS TO TAKE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE
BLESSINGS GOD HAS PROMISED.

By Bob Bishop

As the Israelites were preparing to cross the Jordan River into the land of Canaan they received an encouraging message from God through their leader Joshua: "To morrow the LORD will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5). This was the day they had long been waiting for. God had first promised this land to their patriarch Abraham over four hundred years earlier, and had renewed that promise through their forefathers many times since. The Israelites had heard about and anticipated this blessing, and now they were about to receive it.

However, to get from where they were in the wilderness to inside the land that was promised to them, there were a few things the people needed to do in preparation. First, they would need to receive and obey instruction; second, focus on God and follow His leading; third, consecrate themselves; and finally, move forward in faith.

We too must make spiritual preparation to be able to progress in the Gospel and experience God's best for our lives—the blessings He has in store for us, and victory. We can do this by taking these same four actions.

RECEIVE AND OBEY INSTRUCTION

Like Moses before him, Joshua received direct communication from God with explicit instructions, and he conveyed these to the Israelites. As the people gathered at the Jordan and prepared to cross over to that blessing God had set before them, the command

went throughout the camp, "When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it" (Joshua 3:3). This first instruction was specific—the people were to wait until the priests took up the ark before starting out.

The instructions that followed were also specific, and included an explanation of why it was so necessary that the Israelites obey: "For ye have not passed this way heretofore" (Joshua 3:4). God knew the way into the Promised Land, but for the Israelites, this was new territory—they had not passed this way before. They were about to receive a new experience from God, and needed direction; they needed to know how to proceed.

We also need direction when entering new spiritual territory, and God is still the best authority on how to receive His promises. Like Joshua, we have access to direct communication from Him—in the form of the Bible. When seeking His promises, we can look to His Word for specific instruction on how to proceed.

Joshua was confident that if the people would obey the words of the Lord, He would work on their behalf. God had previously given him a promise regarding this, saying, "Observe to do according to all that is written therein [in God's Law]: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8). This verse contains a spiritual principle which holds true today: obedience to God's Word always

brings His blessing.

If, like the Israelites, we will look to God's Word for instruction and be careful to obey the direction given, we will also have success in receiving His blessing on our lives and the spiritual experiences He has for us.

FOCUS ON GOD AND FOLLOW HIS LEADING

The second instruction the Israelites received was to follow the ark at a distance, keeping "a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure." This distance amounted to a little over half a mile. The reason given for this command was "that ye may know the way by which ye must go" (Joshua 3:4). The ark was a symbol of God's presence, and as it went ahead of the people, God's presence went ahead, leading the way.

Without the instruction to stay two thousand cubits back, there might have been a tendency for the Israelites to get out ahead of the ark in their excitement. If that were to happen, they would be without God's direction, and possibly with too

the work of Satan when we stop looking to God for guidance and start thinking we can handle things ourselves. Satan wants us to be self-reliant and will raise questions such as, "Does the Bible really mean that?" and "Is this Biblical principle relevant today?" There is no room in the Gospel for our own ideas, our own ways, our own interpretation of God's Word. We cannot choose which part is important to follow and which part is not—it is all important.

There is a precious promise from the Lord in Psalm 32:8 which says, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." If we will read God's Word and keep our focus on Him, He will guide us into a closer walk, preparing our hearts to receive His blessing on our lives.

CONSECRATE

After the Israelites had received the preliminary instructions, the next step given was to "Sanctify yourselves" (Joshua 3:5). To sanctify something

many ideas of how to proceed. This was no time for each person to have his own idea about how to enter the Promised Land. When they arrived at the Jordan River and saw it was swollen by flood waters, perhaps some thought it would be better to look for another place to cross. Maybe others thought they should stop and build a bridge. However, God knew the way and He had a plan. If the Israelites would stay focused on the ark in the lead and follow where it went, God would get them safely across the Jordan and into the Promised Land.

We don't want to get out ahead of God either; we want to be following rather than trying to lead. We do this by relying on God's Spirit to help us understand His Word and know how to apply it to our lives.

It is instinctive to want to do things our own way—to make decisions based on our reasoning rather than on God's Word and His leading. However, it is

is to set it apart for God's use. The word means to consecrate or dedicate something to God. In Old Testament times, people sanctified themselves by changing their clothes, washing, and separating from anything deemed by God to be unclean.

On this day, Joshua was in essence telling the people, "Prepare yourselves; let go of distractions and set yourselves apart for God's purpose." The Israelites needed to make sure there was nothing in their lives that would hinder their success in entering the Promised Land.

It is similar for us. If we want spiritual victory in our lives, we need to let go of anything that would hinder our relationship with God, and set ourselves apart for His service. We do this through prayer by first humbling ourselves—prayer is not simply bending our knees, but also bending our

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hearts in submission toward God. Then we ask the Holy Spirit to help us search our hearts and lay aside our own desires and plans. Finally, we seek more of God and His will in our lives.

Colossians 3:1-2 says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." As we set our hearts on the things which are above, God will give us a hunger for more. We will become less satisfied with the attractions of this earth and be able to consecrate further. Then as we continue to actively seek for more of God, He will fulfill His promises in our lives. Jesus said in Luke 6:21, "Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled."

Consecration will bring us into a closer walk with the Lord, and that is what He requires.

MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH

The previous generation of Israelites had been brought to this very point forty years earlier, but

had not been allowed to possess the land because of unbelief. Now they were again on the brink of claiming God's blessing, and they received that wonderful promise through Joshua: "To morrow the LORD will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5). Just as God had led their forefathers across the Red Sea out of Egypt, He was ready to open up the Jordan River and lead them into the Promised Land. If they would prepare their hearts and believe, this would be just one of many miracles they would experience in the future. God would go before them and defeat their enemies, enabling them to claim their inheritance.

The preparation had been made, and all that was left was to step out in faith and receive the promise. Maybe there were some in this group with lingering questions and feelings of uncertainty. They might have been wondering how God would get them across with the river at flood stage. Or, how they would defeat the giants if they were still in the land. However, despite what fears they may have had, the people were determined to

put their trust in God and go forward with Him.

Joshua gave the signal to the priests saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people." The priests obeyed, "and they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people" (Joshua 3:6). As the Israelites followed in faith, God parted the waters of the Jordan before them, and they went through on dry ground to victory.

We can have that same victory. Psalm 77:14 says, "Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people." God still does wonders among His people today, and wants to do this for us.

RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING

The Israelites made the proper preparations, taking the correct actions, and they were able to receive victory. We must do the same to receive God's promises and His blessing on our lives.

As we consider this account, we see that God provided the Israelites with everything necessary

to obtain His blessing. He made the promise, gave the instruction, and went before them. We also have been provided every opportunity to know God's promises, receive His instruction, and apply His Word to our lives through consecration and faith. We have been given the Bible, and the opportunity to study it. Throughout the year in our church services and camp meetings, we hear sermons preached on many doctrinal topics from the three spiritual foundational experiences to restitution to diving healing, and are given ample opportunity to apply these messages around the altars of prayer.

God has made the promises available. The question is, Are we hungry enough to obey, to consecrate the things that need consecrating, and move forward in faith? If we can do these things, God will bless our lives. ■

Reverend Bob Bishop is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Richmond, California.

SAFE IN THE STORM

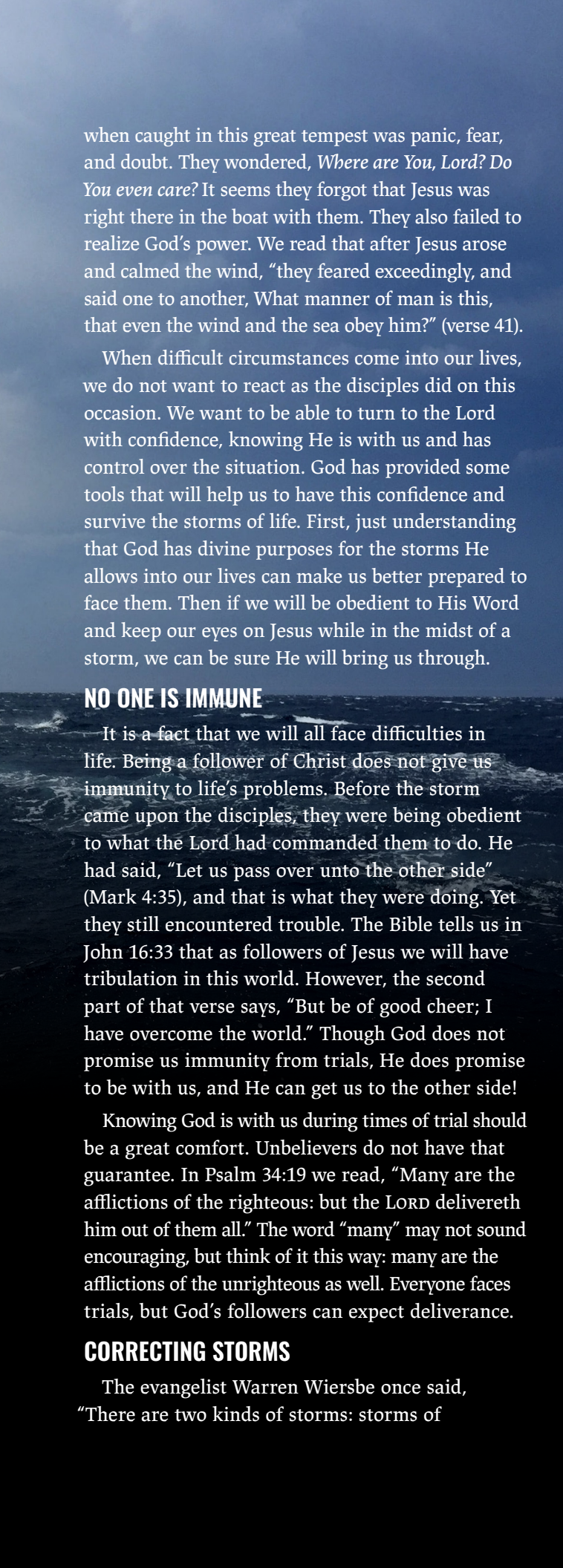
WHEN OUR TRUST IS IN THE MASTER OF THE STORM, WE HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR.

By Dave Lambert

Technology is amazing. Satellite imaging, radar, and drones have made it fairly easy to track storms—particularly hurricanes. Not only that, but often meteorologists are able to predict the category of a hurricane and at times, estimate when it will reach landfall. Even though storms continue to cause devastation, this type of information can greatly minimize the loss of life, allowing people time to secure their home or business, or evacuate. If only life would operate that way! If we had the capability of knowing when a storm of life was approaching, we could prepare for it, or possibly run avoid it altogether.

We know life does not happen that way. Often trials come into our lives unexpectedly. Tragedy can strike suddenly. Perhaps you are in the middle of a storm today. Yesterday may have been a beautiful day with the sun shining and everything calm, but today, the rain is falling and the wind is blowing. What a difference a day can make!

The Bible tells of a time when Christ's disciples unexpectedly faced a storm. One account of this incident is given in Mark, chapter 4: "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he [Jesus] was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (verses 37-38). The immediate reaction of the disciples



when caught in this great tempest was panic, fear, and doubt. They wondered, *Where are You, Lord? Do You even care?* It seems they forgot that Jesus was right there in the boat with them. They also failed to realize God's power. We read that after Jesus arose and calmed the wind, "they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (verse 41).

When difficult circumstances come into our lives, we do not want to react as the disciples did on this occasion. We want to be able to turn to the Lord with confidence, knowing He is with us and has control over the situation. God has provided some tools that will help us to have this confidence and survive the storms of life. First, just understanding that God has divine purposes for the storms He allows into our lives can make us better prepared to face them. Then if we will be obedient to His Word and keep our eyes on Jesus while in the midst of a storm, we can be sure He will bring us through.

NO ONE IS IMMUNE

It is a fact that we will all face difficulties in life. Being a follower of Christ does not give us immunity to life's problems. Before the storm came upon the disciples, they were being obedient to what the Lord had commanded them to do. He had said, "Let us pass over unto the other side" (Mark 4:35), and that is what they were doing. Yet they still encountered trouble. The Bible tells us in John 16:33 that as followers of Jesus we will have tribulation in this world. However, the second part of that verse says, "But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Though God does not promise us immunity from trials, He does promise to be with us, and He can get us to the other side!

Knowing God is with us during times of trial should be a great comfort. Unbelievers do not have that guarantee. In Psalm 34:19 we read, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." The word "many" may not sound encouraging, but think of it this way: many are the afflictions of the unrighteous as well. Everyone faces trials, but God's followers can expect deliverance.

CORRECTING STORMS

The evangelist Warren Wiersbe once said, "There are two kinds of storms: storms of

correction, when God disciplines us; and storms of perfection, when God helps us to grow."¹

Storms that correct are ones that could have been avoided. Nevertheless, they have a purpose, and that purpose is often to get us back on course. Jonah was someone who veered away from God's plan and was brought back on course in this manner. He had received specific instructions from God to go to the city of Nineveh and preach. However, he had his own ideas and went in the opposite direction. In response to his disobedience, God sent a correcting storm. We read, "But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. Then the mariners were afraid" (Jonah 1:4-5). Jonah was not the only one affected by the storm.

We too can expect that disobedience or rebellion against the Lord will have an impact on those around us. In Jonah's situation, the impact was eventually good, but that is not always the case. Jonah encouraged the men to throw him overboard, and they, "took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows" (verses 15-16). These men were idol worshipers, and had previously called out to their false gods to save them. However, God proved Himself with the storm, and these men got on course. Soon Jonah would too.

God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and in the belly of the fish, Jonah prayed, "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and the waves passed over me" (Jonah 2:2-3). The storm had its desired effect. Jonah went on to close his prayer with, "I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD" (verse 9). God caused the fish to spit out Jonah onto land, and immediately Jonah did what the Lord had initially asked. This whole situation could have been avoided if Jonah had simply obeyed the Lord in the first place, but

when he didn't, God sent this correcting storm. God's hand was in it from the beginning to the end.

Perhaps you are in the midst of a correcting storm. It will likely continue for as long as you refuse to yield to the Lord. In Psalm 107:25-30 we read, "For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven." God sends correcting storms for a purpose. The Lord loves us and wants to get us back on course. If we are willing to let the Lord correct us, He will speak peace to the storms in our lives.

PERFECTING STORMS

Some storms are designed to strengthen our faith and confidence in the Lord. When we encounter a storm, we have the opportunity to learn that He can calm it, and that His strength is made perfect in weakness. The Lord in His love allows difficulties to come our way so we can prove Him. The disciples experienced this while out on the sea one day without Jesus. A storm arose, and then they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. Peter asked to step out of the boat and walk to meet Him, and when the Lord summoned him, he did so. However, when he saw how violent the wind was, he feared and began to sink into the waves. Jesus caught him, and when they were safely in the boat, the wind ceased. As the sea calmed, the disciples worshiped the Lord saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). This is the first time Scripture mentions that the disciples publicly confessed His deity. It took a storm to prove who He

was, but it got their attention. Sometimes it takes a trial to perfect us.

STORMS THAT BENEFIT OTHERS

There are times when the Lord allows us to go through adversity to benefit someone else. The Apostle Paul experienced this. In Acts 27, we read that he was being taken by ship to Rome to stand trial. In the Mediterranean Sea the crew and passengers encountered a storm so powerful that "neither sun nor stars in many days appeared" (verse 20). It was a desperate time for the men on that ship. They did all they could to survive, including throwing everything overboard, but eventually they lost all hope. In that setting, Paul stood among the men and told them to be of good cheer, for the Lord had appeared to him and said there would be no loss of life. The ship would be lost, but every soul would be saved.

Paul had no experience with ships or sailing, but he had experienced some storms of life. Even more importantly, he knew the Master of the storm! God had brought him through many dangerous situations in the past, and in this situation, God brought him through again. Paul, along with all the crew and passengers, safely washed ashore on an island. As they interacted with the inhabitants

there, they learned of a man on the island who was deathly ill, but Paul prayed for him, and he was healed. God's hand had been in the storm from the very beginning! Perhaps God is allowing difficult circumstances in your life for the purpose of encouraging and strengthening someone else.



...they both heard the instructions for building wisely, they each built a house, and they faced the same set of circumstances.



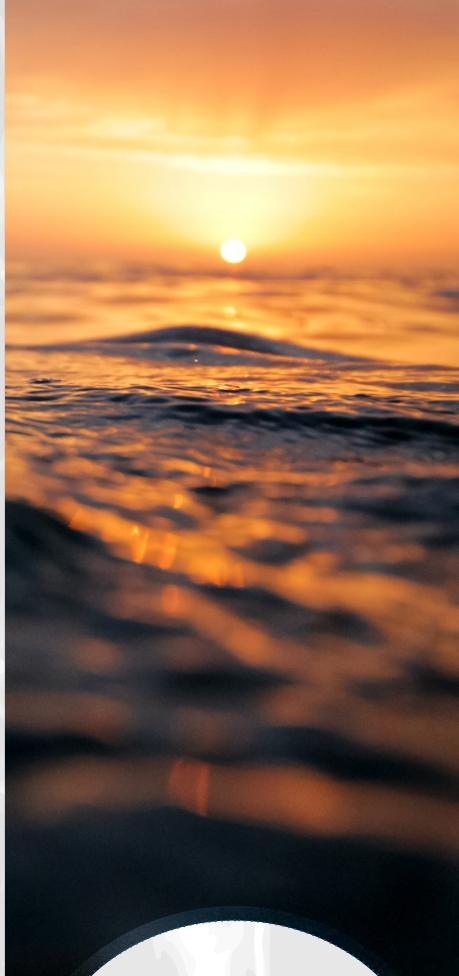
OVERCOMING THROUGH OBEDIENCE

When trials come, one tool for overcoming them is to be obedient to the Word of the Lord. We want to be on a solid foundation when a storm hits. In Matthew 7:24-27 we read, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his

house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” In this parable, the two builders had several things in common: they both heard the instructions for building wisely, they each built a house, and they faced the same set of circumstances. Yet, one man’s house stood and the other fell. The difference was that one heard the instructions and followed them, building on the solid foundation of the Word of God, while the other built according to his own code. If we are following God’s will, hearing and doing what His Word says, He will direct us, helping us to endure. On the other hand, if we build according to our own code, taking shortcuts and setting our own standards, our house will fall.

In the early 1990s, a Category 5 storm named Hurricane Andrew swept through Florida and destroyed most of the homes in its path. However, a section of lower-income housing, which had been built by Habitat for Humanity with volunteer labor, withstood the hurricane. This is because the volunteers had used higher quality materials, meeting a higher standard than most other houses in the area.² Their diligence saved people’s homes.

If we want to withstand the storms of life, we need to build our lives by obedience to the highest standards, which are the principles found in God’s Word.



True peace is not an absence of trials. It is calmness in your soul that remains even in the midst of trials.



KEEPING OUR EYES ON THE LORD

Another tool for coming through victorious is to keep our eyes on the Lord. Considering again the account of Peter walking on the water, he was doing fine as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. In Matthew 14:30 we read, “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.” We might feel critical of Peter for not having more faith, but he was the only one to get out of the boat. And when he began to sink, he did the right thing and called out to Jesus.

If you are going in the right direction and are suddenly overtaken by the storms of life, do what Peter did and call out, “Lord, save me.” Peter sent up a desperate cry from the heart and the Lord responded immediately by reaching out His hand and pulling him to safety. He will do the same for you.

True peace is not an absence of trials. It is calmness in your soul that remains even in the midst of trials.

That is the kind of peace that Jesus gives.

In John 14:27 we read, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” You will encounter storms in life, but if you look to the Master of the storm, He will speak peace to your heart. ■

Reverend David Lambert is the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.

¹ Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Loyal: Following the King of Kings*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: David C. Cook, 1980.

² Donnelly, Melinda. “Volunteer Builder Weathers Storm Andrew Blows Support to Habitat for Humanity.” *Sun Sentinel*, November 30, 1992. Accessed April 2020. www.Sun-Sentinel.com.

SERMON EXCERPTS

SHORT MESSAGES THAT HAVE A LONG-LASTING IMPACT.

Compiled by the Apostolic Faith Editorial Team

CHRIST IN THE QUARANTINE



When the world went into quarantine because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no doubt the devil was happy to see all our churches closed. He may have thought

Christians would become discouraged if they were kept away from services. However, God can change the devil's harmful tactics into something good for us. Let us consider a few "quarantines" from Scripture and how God worked in those situations.

Moses was "quarantined" with God on Mount Sinai for forty days (Exodus 24:18). This was valuable time spent with God—he returned with the Ten Commandments, the design plans for the Temple, and the Law. He may have received even more. Moses was the author of the first five books of the Bible, so perhaps at that time God also revealed how He had formed the earth, the heavens, and the rest of Creation. We read in Exodus 34:29, "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him." Moses' face literally shone! What mighty results from his quarantine with God.

Noah's family spent a year in a "lockdown" in the ark. They could not leave to retrieve anything from outside, yet they were kept safe and never lacked necessities because God had planned for their provision.

The Apostle Paul was imprisoned for two years in Rome (see Acts 28:30). Under house arrest, he could not leave his home, but God was there with him. During that time, he penned four letters that were later included in the New Testament. The Books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon contain exhortations and instructions that have guided believers for centuries. His time spent quarantined with God was invaluable.

John the Revelator was exiled to the Island of Patmos during the later years of his life. Almost entirely alone except for other prisoners on that island, he spent time with God. It was then that he had a great vision of the end times, which we now have recorded in the Book of Revelation. Christians around the world today are filled with hope as we continue to await the fulfillment of the prophecy he received.

We could speak of Jonah in the belly of the fish, Daniel in the den of lions, the three Hebrews in the furnace, and many more. Our God is a God of quarantines! From these examples, we can see that when God allows a period of isolation, He has a good

purpose for it. Though sometimes isolated from other people, we are never isolated from Jesus because He is Emmanuel, "God with us." He will never leave us, and He will supply our every need.

How have your times of quarantine with God been? These can be periods when we draw nearer to Jesus as we spend more time studying His Word and praying earnestly for His will to be done. Whatever we may lack from interacting with others, God will more than compensate by sending greater spiritual blessings. These are some of the best opportunities to exercise faith and see how God will meet our needs. □

DON'T JUST RENT, OWN!

A while back, I stopped by my home church in Van Buren, Arkansas. As I was there, I washed my hands in the restroom, and there were no paper towels in the dispenser. I was a little frustrated and wondered who had cleaned the church last and why the paper towels had not been replenished. The Spirit of God spoke to my heart and said, "Do you own or do you rent?"

Replenishing paper towels is a small thing, but it is part of the Gospel work. The point was, I know where the supply of paper towels is kept, I know where the key to the dispenser is kept, and I know how to resupply it. Yet I was feeling frustrated because someone else hadn't done what I was completely capable of doing. The Lord was helping me see the importance of "owning" the Gospel.

Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field" (Matthew 13:44). This man realized right away the value of what



DONALD FITTIN

Van Buren, Arkansas
United States

10 Even there Your hand will ^alead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of
me.
11 If I say, "Surely the ^adarkness will
overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
12 Even the ^adarkness is not dark ¹to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
^bDarkness and light are alike to You.
13 For You ^aformed my ¹inward parts;
You ^bwove me in my mother's womb.
14 I will give thanks to You, for ¹I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
^aWonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
15 My ¹frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the ^bdepths
of the earth;
16 Your ^beyes have seen my unformed
substance;
And in ^aYour book were all written
The ^adays that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of
them.
17 How precious also are Your ^athoughts
to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 If I should count them, they would
^aoutnumber the sand.
When ^aI awake, I am still with You.

10 ^aPs 23:2, 3
11 ¹Lit: bruise;
some
commentators
read cover ^aJob
22:13
12 ¹Lit: from
^aJob 34:22; Dan
2:22 ¹John 1:5
13 ¹Lit: kidneys
^aPs 119:73; Is
44:24 ^aJob 10:11
14 ¹Some
ancient versions
read You are
fearfully
wonderful ^aPs
40:5
15 ¹Lit: bones
were ^aJob 10:8-
10; Eccl 11:5 ^aPs
63:9
16 ^aJob 10:8-10;
Eccl 11:5 ^aPs
56:8 ^aJob 14:5
17 ¹Ps 40:5;
92:5
18 ^aPs 40:5 ^aPs
3:5
19 ¹Is 11:4 ^aPs
6:8; 119:115 ^aPs
56:26-9
20 ¹Or: of ^aSome
mss read lift
themselves up
against You
^aJude 15 ^aEx
20:7; Deut 5:11
21 ¹2 Chr 19:2;
^aPs 26:5; 31:6 ^aPs
119:158
22 ^aJob 31:6; Ps
26:2 ^aPs 7:9;
Prov 17:3; Jer
11:20; 1 Thess
2:4
23 ¹Lit: way of
pain ^aPs 146:9

19 O that You would ^aslay the wicked,
O God;
^bDepart from me, therefore, ^amen of
bloodshed.
20 For they ^aspeak ¹against You wickedly,
And Your enemies ^btake Your name
in vain.
21 Do I not ^ahate those who hate You,
O LORD?
And do I not ^bloathe those who rise
up against You?
22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.
23 ^aSearch me, O God, and know my
heart;
^bTry me and know my anxious
thoughts;
24 And see if there be any ¹hurtful way
in me,
And ^alead me in the ^beverlasting way.
Psalm 140
For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
1 ^aRescue me, O LORD, from evil men;
Preserve me from ^bviolent men
2 Who ^adevise evil things in their
hearts;
They ^bcontinually stir up wars.
Prov 15:9; 28:10; Jer 25:5; 36:3 ^aPs 5:8; 143:10 ^aPs 16:11
140:1 ^aPs 17:13; 59:2; 71:4 ^aPs 18:48; 86:14; 140:11 2 ^aPs
7:14; 36:4; 52:2; Prov 6:14; Is 59:4; Hos 7:15 ^aPs 58:6

3 They ^asharpen their tongues as a
serpent;
^bPoison of a viper is under their lips.
4 ^aKeep me, O LORD, from the hands of
the wicked;
^bPreserve me from violent men
Who have ¹purposed to ²trip up my
feet.
5 The proud have ^ahidden a trap for me,
and cords;
They have spread a ^bnet by the
¹wayside;
They have set ^asnares for me. Selah.
6 I ^asaid to the LORD, "You are my God;
^bGive ear, O LORD, to the ^avoice of my
supplications.
7 ^aO LORD, the strength of my
salvation,
You have ^bcovered my head in the day
of battle.
8 ^aDo not grant, O LORD, the ^adesires of
the wicked;
Do not promote ^bhis evil device, that
they not be exalted. Selah.
9 ^aAs for the head of those who surround
me,
May the ^bmischievous of their lips cover
them.
10 ^aMay ^bburning coals fall upon them;
May they be ^acast into the fire,
Into ^bdeep pits from which they
cannot rise.
11 ^aMay a ^bslanderer not be established in

3 ^aSelah may
mean: Pause,
Crescendo or
Musical
Interlude ^aPs
57:4; 64:3 ^aPs
58:4; Rom 3:13;
James 3:8
4 ¹Or: deceived
²Lit: push
violently ^aPs
71:4 ^aPs 140:1
5 ¹Lit: track ^aJob
18:9; Ps 35:7;
141:9; 142:3 ^aPs
31:4; 57:6; Lam
1:13 ^aPs 141:9;
Is 8:14; Amos
3:5
6 ^aPs 16:2;
31:14; Ps 143:1;
^aPs 116:1; 130:2
7 ¹Heb: YHWH,
usually rendered
LORD ^aLit:
responses ^aPs
28:8; 118:14 ^aPs
144:10
8 ^aPs 112:10
9 ^aPs 112:10;
102:3
10 ¹Lit: victory
^aPs 11:6 ^aPs
21:9; Matt 3:10
^aPs 36:12
11 ¹Lit: man of
tongue ^aLit:
thrust upon
thrust ^aPs 34:21
12 ¹1 Kin 8:45;
29: ^aPs 8:4;
13 ^aPs 97:12
^aPs 117:16; 117:
17:15
14 ^aPs 22:19;
38:22; 70:5 ^aPs
51:143:1
2 ¹Lit: stand ^aEx
30:5; Luke 1:10;

12 I know that the LORD will ^amaintain
the cause of the afflicted
And ^bjustice for the poor.
13 Surely the ^arighteous will give thanks
to Your name;
The ^bupright will dwell in Your
presence.
Psalm 141
A Psalm of David.
1 O LORD, I call upon You; ^ahasten to me
^bGive ear to my voice when I call to
You!
2 May my prayer be ^acounted as
^bincense before You;
The ^blifting up of my hands as the
^aevening offering.
3 Set a ^aguard, O LORD, ¹over my
mouth;
Keep watch over the ^bdoor of my lips
4 ^aDo not incline my heart to any evil
thing,
To practice deeds ¹of wickedness
With men who ^bdo iniquity;
And ^ado not let me eat of their
delicacies.
5 Let the ^arighteous smite me ¹in
kindness and reprove me;
Do not let my head refuse it,
For still my prayer ^ais ^bagainst their
wicked deeds.
6 Their judges are ^athrown down by the
sides of the rock,

he had found. How do we know? He hid it so he would not risk losing it. And with joy, he sold everything so he could buy the field and own that priceless treasure. Nothing was held back.

When we are seeking God, we need to empty ourselves before Him and hold nothing back. We can pray, "What do You want from me? I will do anything. Here is my all—it's all Yours." That type of consecrating is what brings ownership of the Gospel.

Today we are reaping the benefits of the saints who went before us. Those people took ownership of the Gospel and spread it. They paid the price to hand us an understanding of what it means to serve God. And because of their dedication and faithfulness, other people heard that Jesus can save souls and change lives. We want to carry on the Gospel that we have been given and cherish the treasure of God's salvation.

When I was saved in 1987, there was an elderly man in our congregation named Red Arnold. He had been an alcoholic before he was born again, and God had delivered him from much sin. After he had been saved for a while, the church leaders asked him to go with them to hold church services in the jail. Brother Arnold said, "I'm not going down there. I have never volunteered to go there. Every time I have gone in, I was in handcuffs." However, God began to work on Brother Arnold's heart, and he consecrated his reluctance to God. By the time I was saved, Brother Arnold

went to the jail services every week. He told the men there, "If God would save someone like me, He will save you." Brother Arnold sold out to have the Gospel and he had the treasure in his heart. He was in his place and doing what God had called him to do with everything he had.

When Brother Arnold was getting close to the end of his life, he said to me, "Don, don't you let that jail work go." He took the mantle of the jail work and laid it on my shoulders. I've thought of his words hundreds of times. We want to own the Gospel.

This is the time to give our all to God. There will be occasions when we are tired, and doing what God wants will not always be convenient. It will cost us. But we have been bought with a price—the precious Blood of Jesus. And God will give us the strength and power to serve Him if we will do our part to own the Gospel. □



WEAPONS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

MICHAEL
IVANY

*Englee, Newfoundland
Canada*

At times, it is important to have a weapon. During the spring in the little town in Newfoundland

where I presently live, sometimes the ice floes come down from the Arctic, and with that ice may come some polar bears. The only place I feel comfortable looking at a live polar bear is on a screen! Other than that, I like them to keep their distance. Normally during the winter, I enjoy going on a snowmobile into the wilderness behind our town. Back there, with no one else around, I can get alone with God. However, for a while we had two polar bears wandering around behind our town, and I did not feel safe going out there. If I did go, I made sure my rifle was close by.

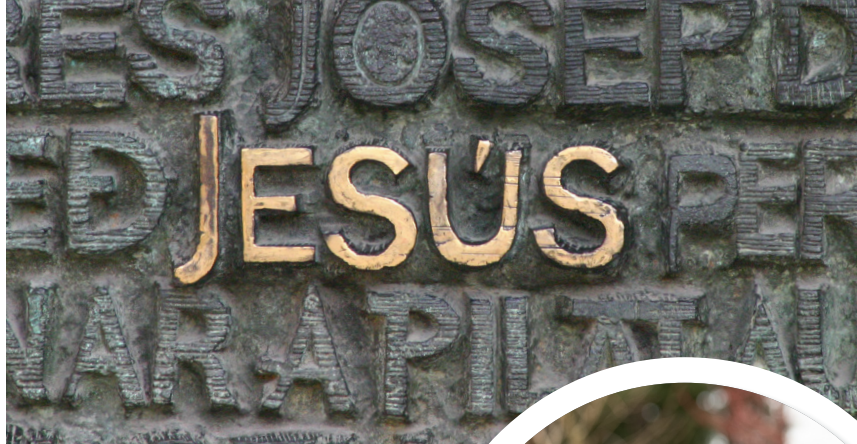
In the spiritual world, we need weapons as well. When we

asked God to make a change in our lives, He came in and saved our souls from sin. From that moment on, we have faced a spiritual enemy every day, and sometimes situations will come that we did not expect. It is then that we have to rely on those spiritual weapons that God put at our disposal when we began to serve Him. The Bible says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Sanctification can be one weapon in our arsenal. Receiving that experience gives us a greater ability to resist Satan. When we seek for and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, we are stronger still. Yet the enemy is persistent, and he will come at us from all angles. He lurks about, seeking to place a doubt in our minds seemingly out of nowhere, or to attack us in some other way.

One of the best weapons we have to combat his tactics is the Word of God. When the enemy comes, we pick up that Word and hold on to a Scripture. If our minds seem to be blank, we can just quote the first five words of Psalm 23, "The LORD is my shepherd." Once we have been saved, we have a relationship with the Lord, and it is good to remind ourselves of that. With that relationship comes protection from Satan. Then we can quote another Scripture or just say, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!" We can cry out to our heavenly Father, "Oh God, help me through this!"

Remember that the battle is not ours; it is God's, and we are on His side. We want to keep a tight hold on what God has given us, leaning on Him and His Word. He will be with us through the spiritual battles we face until He takes us to be with Him. □



THE POWER IN HIS NAME

David said in Psalm 29:2, "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

Throughout this psalm, David described how powerful God is. The Name of the Lord is synonymous with power. Let us consider how much glory is due His Name.

Emmanuel means "God with us." Here in the United States, we can say, "God is with us." However, when I am at home in the Philippines, I can also say, "God is with us." My friends from Korea would say, "God is with us too." Think of being in many different places at a single moment of time. Isn't that power? It must be God.

Jehovahjireh, which means "God the Provider," was the name Abraham gave to the place where God told him to sacrifice Isaac. This is because when he was about to fulfill God's command, the Lord stopped him. Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a thicket. God had provided, and He will provide for us as well.

God is the Prince of Peace, Shalom. He gives us inner peace and completeness.

Some call Him Jehovah-Rapha. The word *rapha* means "to heal" and God is our Healer. Jesus made the lame man to walk; He made the dead to rise. He is so powerful. Nothing is too difficult or impossible for Him.

Yet nothing God has done compares with Him sending His Son, Jesus, to "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). He died on the Cross and after three days He rose again. That is power! And the salvation of a soul is accomplished through His power. When I testified to my old friends after I been saved, they started laughing. They said, "You must be



FROM THE WORD

joking. How can you be a Christian?" Some years later, my wife told her old friends that I had become a preacher. They said, "We don't believe you!" As I ponder these reactions, I understand how sinful I was, even though I did not realize it at the time. I thank God He called me to Himself, and forgave and saved me when I repented. Maybe you need to be saved. It would bring glory to God's name if you yielded your heart to Him and received His salvation.

God wants each one of us to be holy. The powerful, instantaneous work when He removes the Adamic nature and the inclination to sin is called sanctification. To many people that seems difficult, but with God's power it is possible. He wants to sanctify all believers so that He can present to Himself a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle, holy, and without blemish.

The experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is powerful. While you are consecrating and praying and praising Him, He can fill you with the Holy Spirit, and you will speak in a language that you have not learned. He will empower you to be more effective in your service for Him.

As we wait for the Lord's return, the enemy of our souls would like us to fall, but the power of God will help us not to stumble. David said we need to worship God in the beauty of holiness. If we do that, God will give us the power to serve Him and His name will be glorified. □

TIM
MIXER

*Chehelis, Washington
United States*



ANTICIPATING THE NEW JERUSALEM

In Revelation 21:1, John wrote, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth

were passed away." John described that new Heaven and new earth as the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. He also described it as coming down, or descending, and we believe that literally. Some day the New Jerusalem, which is Heaven, will come down and unite with the new earth.

The Bible gives the dimensions of this New Jerusalem. It is measured in furlongs, and it is a massive city. I have run the numbers and came up with a size of approximately two million square miles! To put that in perspective, it is approximately half the size of the United States, and the length is the same as the breadth and the height. I have always wondered how to measure the "height" of a city. Some Bible scholars believe that the height refers to the tallest buildings within it. We don't know, but we will know when we get there.

There will be many beautiful things in the New Jerusalem, but let's consider first what is going to be absent from that city. Revelation 21:23 tells us, "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." No more night! It also says, "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." The Temple was once God's home on earth; a place where His presence resided continually. However, in that heavenly city there will be no temple because God Almighty and the Lamb will be there. We will have direct access to God—the privilege of going to Him and giving Him praise and thanks for the plan of redemption and that He included us. It is going to be wonderful!

John went on to write that there will be no more sorrow;

no more crying; no more pain; no more death; no more diseases; no more heartaches; no more disappointments. Those things will be gone. We read, “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:27).

Let’s consider what *is* going to be in the New Jerusalem. In Revelation 22:1 John wrote, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” He described the streets of the city as “pure gold, as it were transparent glass” (Revelation 21:21). The river is pure and the streets are pure. God Himself is pure and holy, and He puts a premium on purity and holiness. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8), and we also know that without holiness no man shall see the Lord (see Hebrews 12:14). God is preparing a pure and holy place for a pure and holy people.

Are you ready for Heaven? If not, come to Jesus with an open heart and pray an honest prayer. Repent and confess your sins and you will find that Jesus is faithful and just and willing to forgive you. Whatever we do, we don’t want to miss Heaven for anything. □



SIMPLE OBEDIENCE

God intends for the Gospel to be simple enough that even a child can understand it. However, it may be easy for us to complicate it.

The first truck I owned was a 1968 Ford pickup. My dad handed it down to me, and it was old when I got it. One time I needed to change a light bulb in it. In those days, that process was quite simple. I took out a couple of screws and detached some wires. Then I put in the new bulb, attached the wires, put the screws back in, and the light bulb was replaced.

Recently I needed to replace a light bulb in my Honda, so I took it to the dealership where one of the staff offered to help me. As we went out toward my car, he said, “Ooh, it’s going to be kind of challenging.” He explained that on this model, there wasn’t room to put your hand in to reach and replace the bulb. He said, “Let me go talk to the service technician.” The technician came to look and said, “Yes, the only way we can do this is to go up through the wheel well. That means I will have to get a tool to remove some plastic pieces.” These men were very nice and they did replace the light bulb, but I thought to myself, How we’ve complicated things! Back in 1968, they knew that light bulbs go out and they made it simple to replace them.

We don’t want to complicate the Gospel. Paul the Apostle was concerned about that when he wrote to the Corinthians. “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3). When God told Adam and Eve not to eat of that one tree in the Garden, it was a commandment. It was not complicated, but they disobeyed.

God will keep the Gospel simple enough for us to make it to Heaven, but we must obey Him and keep His commandments. It is our choice whether or not to obey. Luke 11:28 says, “Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.” That’s what we want to do, without making it complicated! □

WITNESS

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.— Ephesians 4:29

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KEEPING OUR SPIRITUAL VISION CLEAR

WHILE GOOD PHYSICAL EYESIGHT IS A BLESSING, GOOD SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT IS OF INCOMPARABLE VALUE!



By Karen Barrett

When I was in second grade, my teacher suggested that my parents have my vision checked because I was having difficulty reading what she wrote on the board. A visit to the optometrist and a “Read the smallest letters on the chart that you can” test proved she was right: I had severe progressive myopia. However, there was a remedy. Within a couple of weeks, I was fitted with brown, acetate-framed lenses, and what a difference that made! As we drove away from the optical shop with my new glasses, I remember my mom tearing up as I told her of my amazing discovery: I could see *leaves* on the trees! I was so accustomed to blurry vision that I was unaware other people had been able to see leaves all along.

Good physical eyesight is a blessing. However, as amazing and beneficial as our eyes are, they have a significant limitation: they can only see *physical* realities, like

chalkboards, leaves on trees, and a mother's face. Spiritual vision is far more valuable because it enables us to see *eternal* realities—things that are not visible to our physical eyes.

THE VALUE OF SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT

The Psalmist was aware of the incomparable value of spiritual eyesight. In Psalm 119:18 he prayed, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Contemporary songwriter Paul Baloche captured the same thought in his song, "Open the Eyes of My Heart." Its words say,



*"Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You
To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory . . ."*¹

Why is spiritual eyesight so valuable? While many reasons may come to mind, here are three that stand out to me.

✦ **Spiritual eyesight denotes a death-to-life change.** Until a person has repented of sin and become a Christian, he or she is spiritually dead and cannot discern the things of God. In 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Paul asserted, "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not. . ." When God redeems us, He opens our spiritual eyes to the "light of the glorious gospel of Christ." The Apostle knew what he was talking about when he wrote these words. He had been completely blind to the truth until God broke through the darkness. After Paul encountered Jesus on the Road to Damascus, his eyes—both physically and spiritually—were opened to see Jesus Christ (see Acts 9:1-19).

✦ **Spiritual eyesight gives a new perspective of present circumstances.** In 2 Kings 6, we read that Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw a great army surrounding their city. Elisha had a different view. "And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold,

the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (2 Kings 6:17). Elisha did not pray that God would change the situation itself, but that his servant could see the spiritual aspect of it. When the servant's spiritual eyes were opened, he saw that there really were more with him and Elisha than the vast company assembled against them. In the same way, spiritual eyesight will enable us to see our challenges from a completely different point of view, because we will grasp that God is always with us as a "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

✦ **Spiritual eyesight offers hope for the future.** Paul prayed for the saints in Ephesus, requesting that the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened, that they might know "what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18). It is with our spiritual eyes that we discern the glorious future ahead of us: the Rapture of the Church, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the privilege of living with Christ for all of eternity.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS CAN HINDER VISION

In the physical realm, external conditions can limit our ability to see. For example, darkness can obscure visibility. When I was growing up, camping in outdoor recreational areas was an economical way for a family of five to vacation. I enjoyed the outdoor experience. Sleeping in a tent was fun, the paths around our campsite were waiting to be explored, and there was potential for adventure all around . . . in the daytime. It was an entirely different story at night! One of my vivid memories of those camping trips is making my way at night to the park restroom facilities. I was scared that I would stumble over a root or branch in the dark. I might get turned around and lose my way back to our campsite. Worst of all, what if there were a snake or a skunk or a bear on the path? Since I couldn't see clearly, I might bump right into it!

In the spiritual realm as well, external conditions can hinder our ability to see. We live in a spiritually dark world, and the darkness around us seems to be getting more and more pervasive.

Thankfully, we are assured that “thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). How necessary the Word of God is if we want to avoid stumbling, losing our way, or confronting obstacles on our pathway through life!

Darkness is not the only external condition that might hamper our ability to see. A number of years ago, my husband and I were visiting at a friend’s house one winter evening when an ice storm hit. Only semi-aware of the ping, ping, ping of freezing rain hitting the window, we lingered in the warmth of their living room for several hours. When we finally said our goodbyes and went out to our car, we found that a thick film of ice covered our windshield. Not wanting to disturb our hosts by going back inside, and having no ice-scraper with us, we decided to cautiously drive the few blocks to our house. That drive was memorable! Peering through a silvery crust, the streetlights were just dim orbs of light and the headlights of approaching vehicles a milky blur. Driving with such limited visibility was a stressful experience for both driver and passenger!

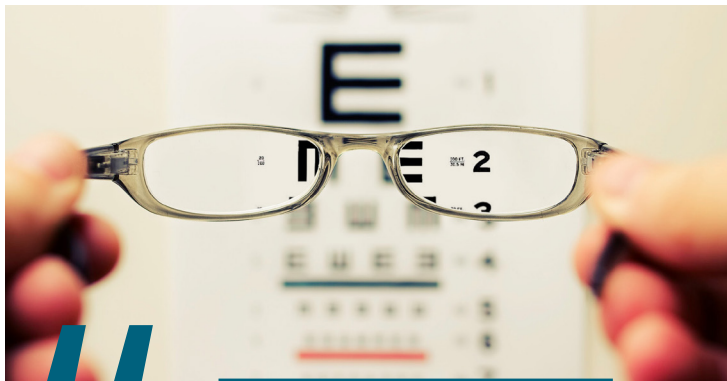
My husband and I took a chance that night by driving with limited ability to see where we were going. I wonder: Do we ever take chances spiritually because our spiritual vision is obscured? Do we move ahead with our lives, pushing aside an uncomfortable feeling that something is not quite right, but hoping we will somehow make it through safely? Or, even worse, are we unaware of how obscured our vision has become and go blithely on, oblivious to the spiritual danger? It’s possible!

What are some external situations that might obscure our spiritual vision? In the parable of the Sower and the Seed, Jesus warned His hearers not to become entangled in the cares of life. Calendars, clocks, and to-do lists shape our days, but the temporal things that are part of daily life will pass away. If we want to keep our spiritual vision clear, we must guard against letting these things absorb us.

Challenges and adversity can also obscure our spiritual focus. All of us will face circumstances in life that cause pain. However, Paul told the believers at Corinth that “. . . our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” He warned, “Look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which

are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). Are we focused on the “weight of glory?” It is an eternal reality! Often, the problem isn’t so much our affliction, but the fact that we have allowed something to distract our focus from the eternal outcome.

INTERNAL ISSUES CAN IMPAIR VISION



We should daily ask God to guard our spiritual eyesight.

While external conditions can hamper our vision, internal issues can actually impair or even destroy our ability to see. Here are some examples.

- ✦ **Doubt.** This spiritual malady strikes at the very core of our Christian experience, because it is by faith that we come to God and maintain our walk with Him. The Word of God teaches us that without faith it is impossible to please God, so of course this is a point where Satan will try to attack.
- ✦ **Discouragement.** Satan does all in his power to rob the child of God of his rest and peace in Christ. There is natural ebb and flow in the emotional aspect of our Christian walk. Some days we feel like we are on the mountaintop, while on other days, God seems distant and the clouds roll in to obscure Him from view. Satan may tell us in those times that we have somehow displeased God, that we must have done something wrong, or maybe even that we are not saved anymore. We must not listen to him! Feelings come and go, but if our heart’s

desire and purpose is to serve God, we can be assured that He will keep us no matter what our emotions may tell us at the moment.

- ✦ **Self.** The many aspects of “self” can damage our focus on things eternal: self-pity, self-centeredness, self-righteousness, and other manifestations of the same root. The enemy of our souls wants us to focus on our personal desires and preferences, but Christ admonishes, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). Are we really interested in having a clear vision of Jesus? If so, we need to guard against self issues in our lives.
- ✦ **Other potential impairments.** Fear, unwillingness to forgive, unbelief, bitterness, or unresolved conflict with a brother or sister in the Lord could impair our spiritual vision. The enemy of our souls will do his best to put things before us that will blur our vision and distort our focus. God’s Word warns that clinging to such feelings will cause damage or even potentially destroy our relationship with Christ. Can we afford to let them remain in our lives under those circumstances? Clearly, the answer is no.

PROTECTING OUR SPIRITUAL VISION

Likely, most of us are resigned to the fact that as we age, our physical eyesight will deteriorate. Even so, eye specialists say there is much we can do to keep our eyes healthy. Simple preventive measures can help protect our eyes from damage and stave off vision problems later in life—actions such as having regular eye exams, watching for warning signs of changes in vision, protecting our eyes from injury, and eating a nutritionally balanced diet.

While physical eyesight may decline over time, we do not need to assume that spiritual eyesight will diminish as we age. In fact, the reverse can be true! As we mature spiritually and continue to draw close to God, we will find ourselves more and more able to perceive eternal realities.

When we understand the value of our spiritual vision, we will want to do all we can to protect it. Here are some steps we can take.

- ✦ **Avoid things that could cloud our spiritual eyesight.** Generally this happens little by little.

Social media, what we view online, worldly music, or secular news sources, magazines, and books can desensitize us. If we are not on guard, we can end up absorbing some of the world’s perspectives without even realizing it. We want to cultivate an awareness of how culture can influence us, and guard against oblivious absorption.

- ✦ **Ask God to search our hearts.** David prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts” (Psalm 139:23). That is a good prayer to pray when we are intent upon preserving our spiritual vision. When God brings a problem to our attention, we should acknowledge it and ask for His help. He will be there to instruct, encourage, and offer strength when we come to Him.
- ✦ **Spend time reading God’s Word.** Once our spiritual eyes have been opened through salvation, we can strengthen our “spiritual vision” through a deeper understanding of, trust in, and obedience to core truths in the Bible. This is a lifelong process! We never get to the point where we no longer need regular nourishment from God’s Word, any more than we ever outgrow our need for physical sustenance.
- ✦ **Keep prayed up.** We should daily ask God to guard our spiritual eyesight, to help us learn from correction, to endure hardness, to resist the devil, and to keep our focus on things that are honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report (see Philippians 4:8).

The positive results of taking care of spiritual eyesight are beyond imagination. Think of what it will mean to step into eternity one day! Think of what it will mean to see our Savior and hear Him say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy Lord.” That will make every sacrifice, every consecration, every determination to maintain our focus on Christ supremely and forever worthwhile! ■

Karen Barrett is Senior Editor at the Apostolic Faith Church World Headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

¹ Paul Baloche, “Open the Eyes of My heart,” © 1997, Integrity’s Hosanna! Music (Admin. Hal Leonard Publishing Corp.).

I SERVE A MIRACLE WORKING GOD

REMARKABLE ANSWERS TO PRAYER HAVE OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THIS JAMAICAN WOMAN'S LIFE

By Shelia Ricketts



Shelia at age twenty-five.

I was born in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, the youngest of eight children. My early years were uneventful and I did well in school. Then when I was about ten, my mother died, and everything changed. One of my sisters took me to live with her in Kingston, Jamaica, because she needed a babysitter. She beat me and was abusive, so I ran away many times. Finally, I told her I would kill myself if I had to stay, and she sent me back to my father. There, another sister took me to babysit for her, and life did not get any better; though she did not beat me, I was treated very badly.

In 1964, when I was nearing my fifteenth birthday, a girl invited me to a young people's meeting at her church. Not knowing what to expect, I was hesitant about going, but went anyway and sat in the back. At the end of the meeting, the pastor started singing, "Too Late, Mercy Gone." I had not intended to pray, but the song reached my heart and tears ran down my face. I went to the altar and cried out to God. When I got up, I felt different; a burden had been lifted from me, and there was peace in my heart. As I walked outside, I felt as if I were

walking on air. The next morning, when I woke and looked out the window, the trees seemed greener and the sun brighter, and there was a definite change in my heart.

I began attending that church, which taught all of the Bible doctrines, and about two years later God sanctified me. It was a definite experience; I felt clean, as if I had just been born and had never sinned. Before long, God also filled me with the Holy Ghost and fire. I got involved at church and helped where I could. When my Sunday school teacher was absent, I would teach the class, and eventually I became a teacher too, and then the Sunday school superintendent.

At home, life grew more difficult. When I attended evening church services, my family locked me out of the house. Sometimes people from the church saw this and took me in, but other times, I slept on the veranda. I held onto the Lord during this time, and the Bible became my friend. I would often sit down and just get lost in God's Word—people would be

around me talking, but I would not hear them.

As my life at home grew worse, I prayed and wrote letters to God, asking Him to take me out of the situation or help me bear it. The Lord answered those prayers and sent a Christian man named Alan Ricketts who asked me to marry him. Though my family was very much against it, we married in January of 1968 when I was eighteen. Since then, my husband has been a tower of strength for me.

We raised six children, and there were some difficult times, but the Lord always saw us through. On one occasion, we were living in a rental house and having trouble paying the rent. One morning, I just lifted my hand to God in prayer and said, "Please take us out of renting a house." At the time, the government was giving away houses, and someone called and said, "I have a house for you." There was a small cost, which we also could not afford, but an aunt agreed to pay it for us.

Another answer to prayer came when our third child was ready to enter high school. It was not free as Primary school had been, and as each child advanced, the financial burden grew. My son and I took the bus to register him for classes, and on the way, I heard a Voice say, "I am going to bless you. Receive the blessing humbly." I looked around to see who spoke, but the bus was very crowded and noisy. I realized it could only have been the "still small voice" of the Lord (1 Kings 19:12).

From that point forward, the children did not want for anything—not clothes or lunches or tuition; the Lord provided all. For example, the next week one of my sisters came from the United States with a huge duffle bag filled with clothes, shoes, and money. After my children took what they needed, there was enough left over to share with the neighbors.

In 1981, something happened at our church that my husband and I did not agree with, and we decided not to return. Instead, on Sundays, we held Sunday school with our children and then worshiped and prayed as a family. During this time, I told the Lord we would not be part of another church, because of what had taken place. However, He had other plans.

My husband's aunt had a shop, which was where I worked. One day, an Apostolic Faith paper came there. It was titled *The Light of Hope*, and this drew my attention, because we were in need of hope. I read the testimonies and enjoyed them. Then I read the doctrines and was surprised to find they were the same as those of the church where we had been attending. After showing the paper to my husband, I wrote to the headquarters in Portland, Oregon, telling them we would love to have an Apostolic Faith Church in Albert Town.

The headquarters put us in contact with the island overseer of the Jamaica work, and on January 17, 1982, he and several representatives came and met with us. They told us there was a branch church in Troy, and we planned to commute

there for worship, but the overseer encouraged us to start a church in Albert Town. It was agreed that the Troy pastor would oversee the work, visiting regularly to preach, and I would

assist him. Before leaving, the men held a church service in our shop, and one person prayed and was saved. Not long after that, we moved our shop to a little rented space and began holding services there with twelve people in attendance.

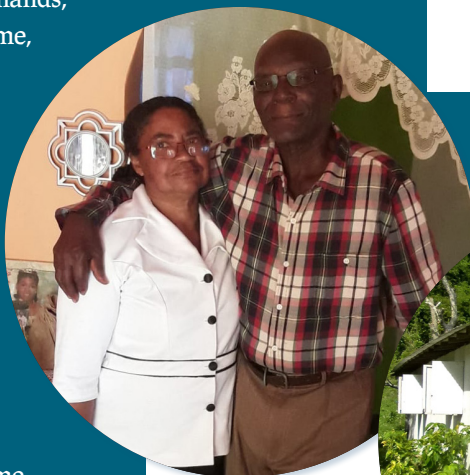
The Lord blessed our little group, which was built on prayer and witnessing. We went person to person with magazines and tracts from the Portland headquarters, and these were a tremendous help. The congregation grew quickly and soon we needed a permanent place to worship. There was an empty lot nearby, but when we asked about it, everyone said the owner had been approached many times and would not sell. I believe the Lord had placed a "fence" around that property for us, because when we talked to the owner, he sold us the property. Right away, we built a church on the land, and still worship there today.

I became the pastor at Albert Town in the early 1990s. There have been many challenges since then in maintaining a church and home, but the Lord has always been our Provider. One time my husband and I could not pay the electric bill in our home, so we paid just enough to keep the lights from being shut



The Lord blessed our little group, which was built on prayer and witnessing.

off. The next month, we were in the same situation, and the next, and the next, so the remaining balance grew. Finally, I went to the Lord and said, "Here is the bill. I can't pay it, and I need You to help me." I left it in the Lord's hands, and after a short time, a letter came from the Portland headquarters. There was money in the envelope, and the letter said the Lord had laid it on someone's heart to send me \$100.00. Another letter just like it came the next month, and each month after that until the electric bill was paid in full. Then, when we had no more need for it, the money just stopped coming!



Caption

The Lord has also been my Healer. When I was about forty, He healed me of an old injury I had received while living with my sister at the age of fourteen. One day she hit me over the head with a tin, and it caused a gash. The wound never healed properly, and over the years it reopened often. I saw many doctors, but it did not get better. Then a doctor said he was going to send me to the hospital to have the wound cauterized. I went home and prayed, "God, You are the greatest Surgeon, and I am your daughter." From that time on, the wound did not reopen. God had healed it.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit Jamaica and took the entire roof off of our house, and the furniture went with it. We put on a temporary roof, but each time the rain fell, it leaked. For a year and four months we lived under that water. I kept setting aside money for a new roof, but it was never enough. One day, I put some money in an envelope and took it to the church and prayed, "Lord, this is for my roof." It was in faith that He would supply the rest. Then someone called and said they had all the lumber and zinc needed for our roof at a small price if we could transport it. We did, and some brothers came from

the church and said they would not stop working until they had put the roof on our house. They worked for one full week, and in the end, the roof was replaced for only one-tenth of what the price should have been. The Lord has been so good! He has always been there, and He works miracles.

The Lord continues to bless the Albert Town congregation. In 2000, the Lord laid it on our hearts to go to Sawyers, twelve miles away, and witness there.

Sawyers is a rough place to live, and there is a prominent sorcerer based in the town.

People go to him and pay money to get answers or good fortune. We did not

know anyone there, so we started by holding meetings in the town square. At the beginning of each service, there was a feeling of spiritual darkness in the air, but the Holy Spirit always came through. Eventually, there were nine people coming to the meetings, and we moved into a small rented space. Later, we were able to lease a nice plot of land, and services were held under tarps until a church building was constructed. Now we are praying the owner will allow us to hold camp meetings there. The workers from Albert Town continue to assist at Sawyers, and the congregation is growing.

It has been a long road with many challenges, but the Lord has been so good. I give Him thanks and praise for the many blessings in my life. My husband has been a support to me in the Gospel, and all of our six children are saved and have helped to build the Albert Town work. I love the Lord, and am happy serving Him. ■

Reverend Shelia Ricketts is the pastor of the Albert Town and Sawyers Apostolic Faith Churches in Trelawny, Jamaica.



Caption

NIGERIAN ROYALTY MEETS THE PRINCE OF PEACE



RAISED IN A PLACE WITH EVERYTHING
PROVIDED, I COULD NOT SEE MY SPIRITUAL NEED

By Tony Ademuyiwa

My father was a king in Nigeria, so I was born and raised in a royal household. That left me with the feeling that I had everything I could need. My father, a disciplinarian, was a nominal Christian and made us attend church on Sundays, but that did not make me a good boy. In fact, I was notorious for trying dangerous activities. I tried cigarettes for the first time at the age of ten, and in high school I experimented with drugs. Looking back at the path I was heading down, I sometimes wonder: If not for the salvation of God, would I have become a drug addict, or would I even still be alive today?

In August of 1982, I graduated from high school at the age of seventeen and went to live with two of my older brothers in Lagos, Nigeria. They attended the Apostolic Faith Church and required me to go with them. I arrived during the camp meeting in Lagos, and that led to a turnaround in my life.

My heart was full of pride, but God had mercy on me and humbled me. At the camp meeting, I heard someone testify that from the day he was saved, God had supplied all his needs. I felt I did not need salvation because I was raised in a palace and had everything provided already. Someone else testified of healing, and I said to myself, Since I am never sick, why would I need God for healing? Another gave a testimony that he had been a dullard in school until he was saved and God opened his intelligence. This also did not appeal to me because I was always one of the best students in any class I had attended.

Finally, I heard a testimony of one delivered from the fear of Hell fire, and how God had given him peace. The Spirit of God spoke to my heart, "Do you have that too?" I was speechless because I had no peace within. At that moment, it was as if I was given a telescope to view into the future,

and I saw that the end of the road was Hell fire. That made me afraid, so I went to the altar to pray. There, God brought to my remembrance all the wrongful deeds of my past. I confessed my sins and promised not to go back into them, and the Lord saved me! The joy of God filled my soul. In that moment, all my sinful habits disappeared. I never smoked a cigarette again, and what my disciplinarian father could not achieve in the previous seventeen years, the Blood of Jesus accomplished in an instant!

There were many restitutions that I needed to make, in particular to my father, and also to my former school where I had stolen books from

the library and the store. The Lord helped me with each one. When I went to the school principal and confessed what I had done, he said, "If the Lord has forgiven you, why would I not forgive you?" My father also forgave me, and I became a free man.

A couple months after I was saved, the Lord sanctified me. I did not seek for the baptism of Holy

Ghost right away because I had the impression that it was an experience only for older people. However, at a service for children and teens, a young girl testified how she had been baptized. That stunned me because I was about six years older than her. I began to seek for that experience too, and in April of 1983, the Lord baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

Concerning my education, I went on to earn a degree in Mathematics and later returned to study music. Through both a Postgraduate course and a Master's program, God gave me the best scores in my classes and I left as a Christian.

God also led me to my wife. At a time when I was not even praying about a spouse, God brought us together and made it clear that it was His will for us to be married. After more than twenty-five years of marriage, we know we made the right choice.

“

When I went to the school principal and confessed what I had done, he said, “If the Lord has forgiven you, why would I not forgive you?”

“God is still working on me to make me what I ought to be, and I know He will perfect His work in me. My prayer is that I will continue to live faithful to God.”

There have been challenges along the way, but God has kept us. We lost two babies in the early years of our marriage, and for the next eighteen years we had no children. We believed that God could give us a child, but we also resolved, like the three Hebrew children, that even if God chose not to grant our desire, we would still serve Him. I thank God that He kept us in His service for all those years, and at His own time and in His own supreme way, He gave us a baby girl in 2014.

God has also kept me during my frequent travels. On one occasion, I was driving to camp meeting in Faith City, Nigeria, and unbeknownst to me, one of my tires was not securely mounted. I was driving at a high speed when suddenly I heard a noise from under the car. I stopped and checked the car over, but saw nothing wrong, so I resumed driving. Only after I got off the highway and had slowed down did I see another driver waving me over. He had noticed the problem—three lug nuts

from one of the front tires had fallen off, just one to hold the tire to the car, and that one was about to fall off too! God spared me from a terrible accident that day. The most amazing part was that as I stood by my car pondering what to do, a man came over and gave me the three lug nuts that had been lost. It did not occur to me to ask how he got them until I arrived at camp meeting and the thought came to me, “Who was the man that gave you the lug nuts and where did he get them?” It was then that I realized an angel had ministered to me.

God has done so much for me that I cannot tell it all. He has been my Healer and Provider, and helped with my academics many times over. It has been exciting to go through this life with Him. He has given me the privilege to sing in His service around the world, and the words of the songs I sing have ministered to me in times of trouble. Some of them have preached the best sermons to me when I was down. I thank God for a beautiful wife who loves and supports me as I serve God, and for Christian friends who also love me, and encourage me to move forward in the Gospel. God has surrounded me with favors everywhere I go. I love to be in the midst of His people and to be serving Him.

God is still working on me to make me what I ought to be, and I know He will perfect His work in me. My prayer is that I will continue to live faithful to God so that one day when I leave this terrestrial plain, I will see Him face to face. ■

Tony Ademuyiwa is a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church at the West and Central Africa headquarters in Anthony Village, Lagos, Nigeria, and also serves as Assistant Music Director and head of the Music Capacity Building Unit.

EVIDENCE

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF VICTORY!



CALEB
COPKO

The Lord knows how to talk to our hearts, and I am thankful for that.

Shortly before my eighteenth birthday, while I was in a backslidden condition, the Lord cornered me up. I was raised in this church and knew the right way, but in my teenage years was trying to play both sides and it didn't work. I tried to convince myself that things were okay, but fear would just grip me. Finally, on

a Wednesday morning, all it took was just going to my parents and saying, "I need you to pray with me. I'm not right." After a few moments in prayer by my parents' bedside, the Lord came down and saved me.

About four years later, the Lord was convicting me because I didn't have my sanctification. Camp meeting rolled around, and finally I just had to put in the work on my knees. On the last Friday night of camp meeting, the Lord came down and sanctified me.

The Lord has given me a wonderful Christian wife, and we are able to serve Him together. I've told Heidi that we are some of the most blessed people in the entire world. I am thankful for this Gospel and don't ever want to be ashamed of it. I am thankful for all God has done. ■

I am so thankful for that night when Heaven came down and glory filled my soul. I was just fifteen years old, but

Jesus made a real change in my life, and it has lasted all these years.

I have had pain in my shoulder and arm for over a year and a half. I have asked Jesus if He would heal it, I have been anointed and prayed for many times, and the ladies' Sunday school class has been praying for me. However, the problem got worse a week ago last Friday when Earl and I were getting ready to go on vacation. I was hurrying around and lost my balance. I knocked into that arm, and it felt like it came right out of my shoulder—it was terrific pain.

We tried calling the doctor's office to see if I could get a cortisone shot, but it was Labor Day weekend, so the office was closed. I did get ahold of the doctor by text, and he said to go to the orthopedic clinic.

However, I called there and nobody answered, and when we went, the door was locked.

I told Earl it would be okay. We didn't want to spoil our vacation and not go. The pain did lessen during the day, but that night I went to bed in pain. Then, when I woke up in the morning the pain was gone. My arm was healed! It is amazing how the Lord works! I give Him praise and glory for it. Really, I would like to shout it from the house tops.

I did tell Him though, "Lord, I don't want to be selfish, but remember my back." I know He can heal that too, but I don't want to be ungrateful. I thank the Lord for His goodness. ■



SYLVIA
PHILLIPS

I certainly am thankful to be here. At age four, I was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The doctor looked at me and said

I was a lost cause. The people of this church were immediately called, and I was prayed for. Now, I am going to turn thirty-four. The Lord looked out for me. I am thankful for this church, for all of you, and that the Lord has been with me. ■



BRENNEN
BARRETT



**JULIE
LUCESCU**

Looking back to when I was a child, I see

God's hand in my life along the way, even though I was not raised in the Gospel. My family went to a church when I was

little—I remember sitting in the pew for

services. However, when I

was about fourteen, my parents divorced and we stopped going to church. My mom and I moved about three hours north and started our life there, and she seemed to lose her faith. If someone would have asked me at that time, "Are you a Christian?" I would have said yes, but I knew very little about the Gospel.

Fast forward to the summer before my senior

year of high school, and a girl from school invited me to a youth event at her church. I went with her and afterwards, during the ride home, I vividly remember thinking, I'm a hypocrite; I say that I'm a Christian, but I don't even know the Bible. That was God leading me and drawing me to Him. After that, I had such a hunger to read the Bible that I did so in every moment of my free time, and God spoke to me though it. I started going to church, and I prayed honestly with my whole heart and gave my life to God. I just wanted to serve Him.

God led me to move from Colorado to Oregon to study Nursing at the University of Portland. After I moved to Portland, I looked for a church to attend, but didn't know anybody here. I began asking God to lead me to another Christian who I could read the Bible and pray with. Not many people at my school were interested, but I prayed, "God, You know the person for me. I can see the outside, but You see the heart, and You know which one is for me." Two days later, I met the



**CLIFF
PAULSEN**

This Gospel found my grandparents

over one hundred years ago through literature published by the Apostolic Faith people. I am so

thankful they chose to take this way and

followed the Lord all

their lives. My parents were

raised in Christian homes, and I am glad they chose to follow the Lord as well. I was raised in this Gospel and heard the testimonies of the old-time saints who had been saved forty or fifty years. As a kid, I wondered how that could be, but now looking back, I see that it's been fifty-nine years since the Lord got hold of my heart.

I was fourteen years old and preparing to start at Benson high school in a few months. The Lord was dealing with my heart that summer, and He

just reasoned with me saying, "Cliff, if you will take Me to high school with you, the rest of your life will be a whole lot easier." It just made sense. That night I prayed and asked God to give me what I had heard about all my life in testimonies, and what I had seen my parents and grandparents live. That was the best thing I ever did. The Lord came in and forgave my sins, saved me, and has given me a good life.

Later, God sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Ghost. When I was praying for my baptism, I wasn't very demonstrative at all. One time the enemy said to me, "You won't receive it, because you won't be able to pray out loud." I didn't know anyone who had received the baptism without praying out loud, so I just asked God for a hunger. As the hunger grew, I couldn't hold in my joy, and pretty soon, I was shouting praises. Then that same old enemy came along and said, "Now look what you have done. Everyone is watching you." I realized right then that he was going to oppose me no matter what I did. From then on, I had his number and quit listening. Then God came down and filled me with the Holy Ghost, and it

man who would become my husband.

We went to a Romanian church together, because He is Romanian, and he translated the services for me. This was exhausting for him, so when someone told us there was a church just like ours, but in English, we started attending. It was the Apostolic Faith Church, and that is where I learned about things like the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I really had to search out and study the Scriptures, because I did not understand that doctrine at first. When I sought God, He helped me to understand and receive the baptism, and it has been so wonderful.

My husband and I have been married thirty years now, and a lot has happened in that time. We have raised eight children, and I literally saw God all along the way. Through good times and bad, up on the mountains and down in the valleys, God never ever leaves us or forsakes us. All along the way, He is always with us. ■

was so precious to me; I never wanted to lose it.

God blessed me with a Christian wife and children who are married now, and we are all saved and serving the Lord together. Recently, we had the privilege as a family to go to Israel for a couple of weeks. As we visited the Temple Mount, our Israeli guide told us that the Dome of the Rock sits right over the Holy of Holies, which was part of the Temple. Then we walked to a certain area and were told, "This is the closest one can get to the Holy of Holies." I couldn't help but think, You have missed the whole point. When Christ died, the veil in the Temple was rent from the top to the bottom. This opened the way into the Holy of Holies, and I have been there! God filled me with His Holy Spirit, and that experience is still real today.

The peace, joy, and happiness that comes from serving the Lord is also real, and I wouldn't exchange it for anything. I am so thankful the Lord has kept me. ■

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

ACKNOWLEDGE "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

"God be merciful to me a sinner." *Luke 18:13*

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

REPENT "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13:3

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." *Acts 3:19*

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

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

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

WORLD REPORT

*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the
ends of the earth: for I am God, and
there is none else.. – Isaiah 45:22*

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY IN CALGARY

The tenth anniversary celebration for the Apostolic Faith Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, was held September

4-6, 2020, at a local rented facility. Attendees came from the cities of Calgary, Lethbridge, and Edmonton in Alberta, as well as Winnipeg, Manitoba. There were also online attendees from various time zones around the world, and all the services were streamed via Zoom and YouTube. The theme of the celebration was taken from Psalm 118:23, "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

The special weekend included a Friday evening service with a prerecorded greeting and sermon from Reverend Chris Hewlett, District Superintendent of Canada. He first sent greetings on behalf of all the Canadian branch churches and then thanked Mary Fasola, the Calgary group leader, and all the workers for their efforts in spreading the Gospel over the past ten years. His sermon brought out that Christians can be confident that God will give them victory in their spiritual battles when they put their trust in Him.

On Saturday afternoon, a youth meeting was held on the topic of "Relationships," with several panelists answering questions from those watching in person and online. In the evening, through a prerecorded video, Superintendent General Darrel Lee thanked the congregation for working together to establish the work in Calgary. In another recorded message, Reverend Bob Downey, Director of North America Work, reminded the congregation that the main desire is to see souls saved.

On Sunday, Reverend Marjorie Reid, the pastor in Fort McMurray, Alberta, gave the morning message from 1 Samuel 7:11-14. She brought out that anniversaries are memorials to commemorate the victories that God has given, and she stressed the need for all to build altars in their hearts, just as Samuel built an altar to the Lord.

Sunday evening featured a historical recap of the work in Calgary and an evening of music. The children of the congregation presented Bible recitations on thankfulness and gave reasons why they were thankful. Also, more recorded messages from around the world were played, including from Adebayo Adeniran, District Superintendent of West and Central Africa, and Isaac Adigun, District Superintendent of United Kingdom. In addition, recorded testimonies were played from those who had been a part of Calgary's success over the past ten years.

The anniversary celebration was a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness, and an encouragement to all who attended. The congregation in Calgary is grateful for how God has brought them from a small beginning to where they are today! ■

UNITED STATES

INAUGURAL SERVICE HELD IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, USA

On November 15, about a dozen gathered in person and another dozen joined online for the inaugural service held at a new Apostolic Faith location in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The group leader, Boniface Osunkwo, said the event was a remarkable answer to prayer considering that so many churches have recently had to close due to health restrictions and financial distress.

For many years, the group in Milwaukee had been commuting over an hour each way to attend

Sunday services in Worth, Illinois. Recent State COVID-19 restrictions prohibited interstate travel for activities such as attending church, so being able to hold services locally is even more appreciated. The group leader said this development brought healing and hope to the saints in Milwaukee, stating, "We are indeed very joyful, and our mouths are filled with laughter like those in Psalm 126." He added that the group is both excited and humbled to have the privilege of sharing the Gospel message with the people of their city.

This first Sunday morning service brought greetings from around the world, including from Reverend Karen Storey (the recently retired pastor of our church in Worth), Reverend Robert Downey (Director of North America Work), Reverend Darrel Lee (Superintendent General), and many others who are praying for the success of this new group. During the sermon, the congregation was reminded of the Israelites' entry into Canaan, and they were encouraged to believe God's Word and to possess what He has promised. A powerful prayer meeting closed the service, and the saints went home rejoicing. ■

are being held there regularly. In other locations, a new pastor has been ordained and two new assisting ministers have been appointed as well.

Most of our churches in the Philippines were able to return to meeting in person several months ago with new health precautions in place. When the Bagong Sikat headquarters church started meeting in person again, they were happy to be able to do so with new donated cameras that improved their online streaming services.

Some special events across the country could not be held in person, but the Filipino leaders found a way to hold them online instead. On October 14, the Binalonan congregation held online meetings to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of their church and thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the work in their area. More recently, an online youth camp was held November 4-7. This was the second online youth camp of the year, with the first taking place in early June. The theme of the fall camp was "The Fruit Bearing Christian," and the event included two evangelistic services, four Bible Studies, a concert, and a Bible quiz with participants representing all of our Filipino churches as well as some expatriates living abroad.

The saints in the Philippines thank God that the Gospel and its reach has been enhanced even during these difficult times. ■



CHURCH GROWTH DURING THE PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL SHUT DOWN

Despite limitations presented by the coronavirus outbreak, Gospel workers in the Philippines rejoiced for the progress of the Gospel in the city of Bulac, Talevera. That location had been an area of outreach for some time, and now Sunday services



PROVISION IN NIGERIA

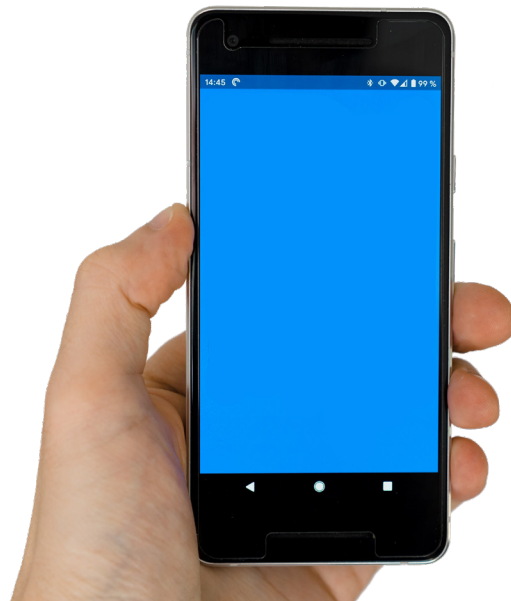
Reverend Adebayo Adeniran, the District Superintendent of West and Central Africa, reports that God has been a very present help in times of trouble

this year. The saints have not only survived the challenges of 2020 but have great confidence in their future because of Almighty God.

One example of God's favor was in March, when a Nigerian team visiting the work in Rwanda was barely able to return home by securing the last two seats on the last flight out of Rwanda before that country went into lockdown. Then in April, food that had been intended for an Easter celebration became survival provisions during Nigeria's national lockdown, and God made a way for police escorts to allow food deliveries to church members' houses. During the mandated closures, many drew closer to God by participating in all-day prayer chains from home. In time, empty schools were able to be used as places of prayer and people began retracing their steps back to God. The Gospel radio channel has also been a blessing to many; in a time when people could not meet to worship in person, the twenty-four-hour broadcast fed, encouraged, inspired, and trained listeners spiritually. Workers were especially thrilled to be able to reach many children with live broadcasts of Sunday school classes.

Though it was not possible to hold a traditional camp meeting this year, special camp meeting services were held online in August, with thousands reporting that they received salvation, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and other blessings at home. Youth choir and orchestra members from congregations in Nigeria, Benin, and Ghana collaborated to present a concert, and the ministers and workers were also able to hold meetings online with individuals participating from many countries.

In early October, workers from Lagos, Nigeria, traveled to visit saints in the Ado-Ekiti region and their return trip turned into a dangerous situation caused by rioting and road blockages. Truly their very lives were in jeopardy, but the team hid in a hotel and held an emergency prayer session. God guided their safe return home before dawn the next day, just before the unrest in the streets became deadly. On October 20, Nigeria's Independence Day, a twenty-four-hour prayer chain was set up with regions participating in two-hour shifts. The saints in Nigeria continue looking to God as their source of confidence and survival in every trial. ■



SOUTH KOREA

NEW APP FOR SOUTH KOREAN CHURCHES

In part motivated by the COVID-19 closures, our churches in South Korea created a church app for mobile devices which gives convenient access to broadcasts of their services and other spiritual resources. The app complements what is already available through the website of our Korean churches.


All of our South Korea churches were closed last March and could only meet online, but health restrictions have eased considerably and the churches have all partially reopened now, though they still hold some meetings online. South Korea District Superintendent Jeong Min Kim has been visiting the Korean branch churches every two months during the viral outbreak, and teaching on two specific topics. The first topic is "True Repentance," with the text of Psalm 51:1-4. The second is Protestant church history from The Reformation (1517) to The Azusa Revival (1906) and its significance to the Apostolic Faith Church. The saints have been very encouraged by both messages, especially in learning how our church is anchored in God's Word and how God has used it around the world over the years. ■

OUR CLASSICS

*The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want. – Psalm 23:1*

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44 ONE BREATH AWAY FROM ETERNITY



Originally published in
the May 1981 edition of
this magazine.

THE WEIGHING-IN TIME

ONE DAY, EACH OF US WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL
GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

By Ivon Wilson

God has an excellent set of balances. His weights and measures are perfect. And some day there is going to be a weighing-in time for each one of us.

There is a story in the Book of Ezra that illustrates this. In it, Ezra gives an account of the Children of Israel returning to Jerusalem from Babylon. Through the years of captivity they had longed to return to their homeland, and to see the Temple rebuilt. A cry had gone up from their hearts, and God had heard that cry. Now, they would return, and they would not go empty-handed. Freewill offerings had been given in abundance, and Ezra was told that whatever more was needed would be given out of the king's storehouse.

Before leaving for Jerusalem, Ezra distributed the offerings among the priests. He recounted, "I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them, and weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered: I even weighed unto

their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents; also twenty basons of gold, of thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold" (Ezra 8:24-27). Ezra went down the line of priests and weighed out what each one was to be responsible for on the journey. He knew the number of the vessels, the weight of the talents of gold and silver, and all that was handed over to those selected priests. It was all recorded.

Then Ezra said to the priests, "Ye are holy unto the LORD; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers" (Ezra 8:28). He was telling them that they had a responsibility! They were not only going back to Jerusalem to be there when the Temple was rebuilt, but they were going to take those holy vessels along with them.

He added the instructions, "Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD" (Ezra 8:29). There was a weighing-out time when they were given those vessels and those talents, and Ezra was letting them know, "You take good care of these because there is going to be a weighing-in time when you get to Jerusalem."

A weighing-in time is coming for each of us! We will account for those talents that have been weighed out to us in this life. There has been knowledge and light given us, opportunities for service, and talents—something has been weighed out that will one day be weighed in.

And remember, Ezra said, "The vessels are holy." The talents God has given us are holy. He has given each of us some skill, special ability, or calling. Have we treated that as a holy vessel or as something commonplace? Do we ever say, "If it is convenient I will do it," or "If it is easy I will do it," or "If I have time I will do it"?

The priests were to regard *all* that was given

unto them as holy. They were not to take lightly the responsibility of carrying safely all that had been given into their keeping. They were to remember an accounting would have to be given—those vessels would be weighed in.

If we are given a holy vessel, a talent for the service of God, it is going to be weighed in over there on the other side. We will have to answer to God for it. We cannot satisfy Him with some excuse such as, "It was too big" "It was too insignificant" or, "It was not what I liked." If God gives us a "vessel" to take care of, He will give us the grace, the power, and the ability to handle it in just the way that will honor and glorify Him.

Ezra and the priests arrived in Jerusalem, and "on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest" (Ezra 8:33). There it was—the weighing-in time! They had to present what had been given them in Babylon. It had been their responsibility to transport these things across the desert and

into Jerusalem. And there, in the house of God, those vessels were weighed in.

It was all recorded: "By number and by weight of every one: and all the weight was

written at that time" (Ezra 8:34). They kept good books. Ezra knew the exact weight of each vessel, the exact amount of gold and silver that came out of Babylon. And it was checked off again there in the house of God in Jerusalem.

God is just as careful about those talents He has given us. They are all recorded, and the weighing-in time is coming. It is right at hand! The Lord won't delay His coming much longer. The Trumpet is going to sound, and you and I will have to start weighing in. What is it going to be?

Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, faced that weighing-in time and was unprepared. He had made a great feast and had sent for the holy vessels his father had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. Then the golden vessels from the house of the Lord were used to serve wine at that party!

“God is a good recordkeeper. People can sometimes fool the government, their employers or those around them...But none of us will fool God.”

A hand holding a glass jar filled with a warm, golden light. The background is a soft sunset or sunrise sky with falling sparks or embers, creating a magical and hopeful atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

If we are
given a holy
vessel, a
talent for
the service
of God, it is
going to be
weighed in
over there
on the other
side.

God caused the fingers of a man's hand to appear and write on the wall. Part of the message written was: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (Daniel 5:27).

God knew all about that man Belshazzar. Some people think God knows only about the Christians. But God knew all about this wicked king; God had his weight, He had his number. When the handwriting appeared on the wall that night, the party came to a halt. God proclaimed the destruction of that kingdom—and the destruction came that very night!

God is a good recordkeeper. People can sometimes fool the government, their employers or those around them. They can falsify records, distort the facts, or hedge a little on the truth. And they may seem to get away with it for a while—sometimes for years. But none of us will fool God.

What we have heard and read of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and what we have felt of His convicting Spirit, is known by God. The opportunities or talents for His service that we have been given will all go on the scales. Every chance a person has had to pray and get right with God is recorded by Him.

Now is the time to make sure everything committed to us will weigh in correctly. We do not have much time left. Make sure that on your weighing-in day you don't hear as Belshazzar did, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

The conclusion of the account in Ezra was that when the weighing-in was complete and the amounts had been recorded, everything was found to be in balance; there was nothing wanting. When our weighing-in time comes, we want this to be our testimony too, and it can be.

Ivon Wilson was called to the ministry in 1952, and assumed his first pastorate in 1967 in Yakima, Washington. He also pastored in Denver, Colorado; Grants Pass, Oregon; and Port Angeles, Washington. In 1984, he began full-time work at our headquarters office ministering to the sick, grieving, and shut in. Rather than retire, he continued this work for nearly thirty years, and is remembered by many for his prayers and encouragement. He passed away in March of 2015.

Originally published in the March 1984
edition of this magazine.

**I REBELLED AT WHAT MY PARENTS
TAUGHT ME, BUT GOD KNEW HOW
TO GET MY ATTENTION.**

ONE BREATH AWAY FROM ETERNITY

By Enda Janzen

Just one breath between me and eternity! Of course, that is all any of us have at any time, but it was brought forcibly to my attention when I was fifteen years old and very ill. My throat was so badly swollen I could hardly breathe. I was painfully conscious of every breath I drew.

I had been brought up in a good home where my parents loved the Lord, each other, and their children. They did all they could for us in a physical sense, and were very much concerned about our spiritual welfare. My father had been a Christian from his teens, and his chief aim in life was to draw closer to the Lord. After he married, he and my mother moved from Kansas to Colorado. There my dad met some people preaching holiness, and embracing their teachings, he was sanctified. Then in 1909, a former employer started a flourmill in Sheridan, Oregon, and invited my dad to come and work for him, so my parents moved to Oregon.

In Oregon, God performed many miracles in our home. My mother had tuberculosis, and had lost four babies at birth. The doctors offered no hope

for her recovery. It had been a discouraging time in their lives. Then the Apostolic Faith people, who had started a church in Dallas, Oregon, held a series of meetings in a city park in Sheridan, and my father attended those meetings for three weeks. He asked the Gospel workers, "Do you think there is any hope for my wife?" They answered, "Yes. You bring her here and we will pray for her and the Lord will heal her." And that was what happened. Later, she told many times in testimony that they had prayed for her according to the fifth chapter of James, and the power of God had gone through her like an electric shock. She left that place saying, "I'm healed! I'm healed!" And she was. She was twenty-five years old at the time and lived to be eight-one, never again having any trouble with her lungs. She brought up a family of four children, of whom I was the oldest.

Another miracle took place when my father went to work in a lumber mill. One day, he was in an accident and was crushed under a load of lumber. He was taken to a hospital



Caption

in great pain with little hope of his recovery. The newspaper even reported that he had been killed in the accident. However, many people were praying for him, and in two weeks he was out of the hospital, and in six weeks, he was back on the job.

Some years later my father became disappointed with the church they were attending, and prayed for the Lord's guidance in what he should do. One day he felt the Lord speak to him to go to a camp meeting that the Apostolic Faith people were holding in Portland, Oregon. He went and thought the camp meeting was wonderful. It was just what he had been looking for, and from then on my parents worshipped with the Apostolic Faith people. They bought a 1913 Ford and began driving to Dallas to attend church. There my father received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and my mother, who was saved at home after the visit to Portland, was sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost.

We had a happy, secure family life. All our problems were taken to the Lord in prayer, and He always provided for us. I should have appreciated all that the Lord did for us and served Him, too. Instead, I rebelled against what my parents taught me. I was a good student, at the head of my class in school, and read many books. In fact, I began reading things that put doubts into my mind as to the truth of the Bible and the fundamental truths I had learned. Sadly, I got to where I refused to go to church. Then came that severe sick spell when I was fifteen years old. My mother asked the people at church to pray for me. She said, "Edna is in a dying condition and is not ready to meet the Lord." I knew if I died, I would go to Hell. I can still remember that feeling, but I presumed on the mercy of God and thought surely He would not let me die in that way. The congregation prayed, and the Lord healed me; soon I was well and back in school.

By then we were living in Dallas where a new Apostolic Faith Church was being built downtown. Since Dallas was a small town, everyone was interested. When the dedication came, some of my

high school friends and teachers were there. During the service, God convicted me, and I realized the debt I owed Him for sparing my life. It took a lot of courage to step forward to pray in front of my friends, but I knew they would not be able to help me when I stood before God in judgment. Finally, I went forward, not because I was expecting to enjoy being a Christian, but because I did not want to go to Hell. What a surprise it was when the burden of sin rolled away! A whole new life opened up for me: new desires, new friends, and a new disposition. My mother sometimes commented that she hardly recognized me as the same person. I really wasn't

the same person. How I have loved the Lord from that time on!

About a week after I was saved, the Lord sanctified me, and soon

after, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These experiences are as real to me today as they were many years ago.

After graduating from high school I worked for a time in the state government office in Salem, Oregon, and then I felt the Lord definitely call me to work in the church office in Portland. It was the church orchestra that finally drew me to Portland in the summer of 1936. I soon found my niche in the orchestra, office, choir, and any other place of service I could fill. Over fifty years later, I am still working full time. I appreciate the health and strength the Lord has given me, having had very little illness through the years.

It has been a wonderful life. Of course there have been hard times, periods of self-discipline, and of yielding to the molding of God. However, if I had it to do over, I would do it the same way. I am looking forward to seeing Jesus and want to hear Him say, "Well done."

Edna Janzen was born in 1912 to parents who were pioneers of the Apostolic Faith Church in Dallas, Oregon. She began working at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office in 1936 and became the office manager in 1959, a position she would hold for over twenty-five years. She went to her heavenly reward in 2004.

“ We had a happy, secure family life. All our problems were taken to the Lord in prayer, and He always provided for us. ”

ANNUAL USPS STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title The Apostolic Faith	2. Publication Number 1 3 - 3 8 2	3. Filing Date 09/22/2020
4. Issue Frequency QUARTELY	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4	6. Annual Subscription Price 0
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) Apostolic Faith Church, 5414 SE Duke St, Multnomah Co., OR 97206-6842		Contact Person ZELMA PIERCE Telephone (include area code) 503-777-1741 EXT.314
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) AS ABOVE		

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
AS ABOVE
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
DARREL D. LEE, ADDRESS AS ABOVE

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
CATEY HINKLE, ADDRESS AS ABOVE

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH	AS ABOVE
(A CHURCH CORP. WITH NO SHAREHOLDERS)	

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgagees, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title The Apostolic Faith	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below July 24, 2020	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2752	2750
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1256	1262
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(5) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	97	95
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		
	2748	2683
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(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		
	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		
	2748	2683
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		
	4	67
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		
	2752	2750
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		
	100	100

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	3889	3880
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	6637	6563
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	6637	6563
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	100	100

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☐ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 01/01/2021 issue of this publication.
☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
KAREN L. BARRETT, Senior Editor
Date
09/22/2020

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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.

The Apostolic Faith (ISSN #2475-9988-print; ISSN #2572-4401-online) is published quarterly by the Apostolic Faith Church, 5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206, U.S.A. and is available free of charge. Periodicals postage is paid at Portland, Oregon. Postmaster: please send address changes to The Apostolic Faith Church, 5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206, U.S.A.

Jesus
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD