

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022

Finding a Friend in

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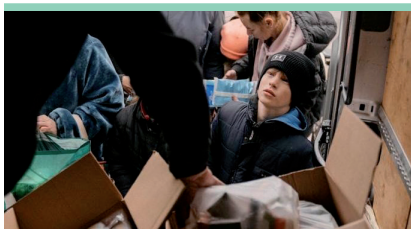
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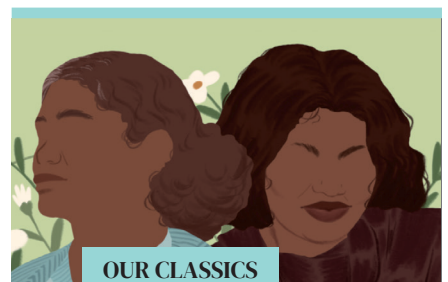
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VIEWPOINT



By Darrel Lee, SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL



In the Body of Christ, local work is global work.

At the recent camp meeting in Zambia, a historic moment took place when leaders from our Eastern Africa and Southern Africa Districts met to collaborate on their Gospel literature needs. They announced the “Eastern and Southern Africa Print Hub,” which you can read about on page 38. Actually, the collaboration is even bigger than these two districts, since the press and other equipment were purchased with funds that came from our United States churches.

This partnership is an example of the blessings that come from being part of the global Church. Working together with our fellow believers around the world, we can accomplish much more than we could individually. In fact, because our literature is published digitally and then printed at multiple international locations, today we are able to produce more materials than ever before.

While it is true that this was a historic collaboration in Africa, all of us have already been working together. This magazine itself demonstrates that. On page 21 you will find an article from Brother Romas Lunza, a minister of our church in Livingstone, Zambia. Workers in that country produce a quarterly newsletter for their region, and his message was one they developed for a recent edition. Their efforts are now a blessing to us all. On page 16 you can read a message by Sister Rachel Fakorede, who has served in Lagos, Nigeria, for many decades. She did not anticipate that her sermon at a February 2017 church



service would one day reach a global audience, but here it is. On page 10 is a study article that was adapted from a new unit of our *Daybreak* and *Discovery* curriculum series. The lessons were written by the editorial staff here at the world headquarters in Portland with support from ministers and workers across the United States. They often draw on testimonies from our saints around the world, to the benefit of our saints around the world.

The testimony of Brother Dial Keju, on page 24, demonstrates a larger connection as well. He notes the role of a Sunday school teacher in the Marshall Islands, a fellow university student from Micronesia, a pastor in Eureka, California, and many others who all contributed in small ways to his decision to give his life to God. Soon, their efforts will touch even more lives when Dial’s testimony is published as one of our new evangelistic tracts and printed in our production centers around the world.

We could speak of many other examples of international partnership. With God’s help, our churches with extra resources have often found ways to support other locations that operate in extreme economic distress. Perhaps most importantly, we hold each other up in prayer. The saints in Portland deeply appreciate the prayers offered on our behalf, and are praying for the needs of our worldwide churches.

It is inspiring to see the Body of Christ working together. We all benefit from members who are willing and cheerful givers of time, resources, prayers, and love for one another. As you read the testimonies and messages in this magazine, which is truly the product of a global effort, may you be encouraged to know that your faithful service is also part of God’s worldwide work.

Darrel D Lee

From **THE WORD**

There is none holy as the LORD:
for there is none beside thee: neither
is there any rock like our God.

– 1 Samuel 2:2

6 **AN OASIS AWAITS**

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AN OASIS AWAITS

The living water Jesus provides is always available.



By Darrel Lee

An oasis is defined as a fertile place where water is found in a dry or wilderness area. It is a lush location because there is an underground, unseen water source. Exodus 15:27 tells of the Children of Israel coming to such a place as they journeyed from Egypt. We read, “And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.” Elim was a place that offered the Israelites physical refreshment and respite on their journey.

In a figurative sense, an oasis is a place of relief and refuge where one can escape from the difficulties and unpleasant circumstances of life. When viewed that

way, our church sanctuary is an oasis. We step out of the world into the House of God, and we are renewed in our spirits. At home, we may have a private place of refuge and spiritual refreshment. Any time of day, we can go there to find renewal for our souls.

Wherever we find a spiritual oasis, we are refreshed by an unseen source of living water. It is that living water—the nourishment from God above to meet our spiritual needs—that sustains our souls.

THE ISRAELITES’ JOURNEY

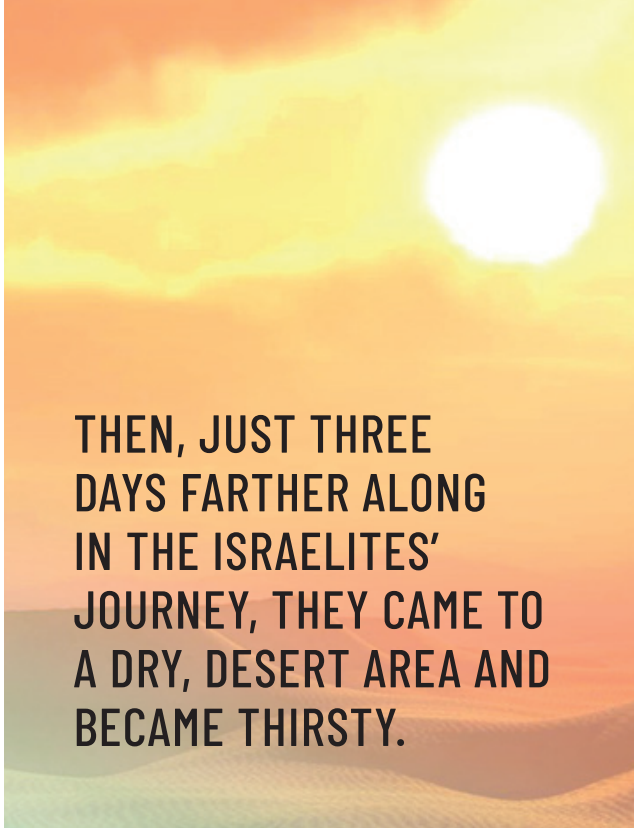
When the Israelites arrived at the oasis of Elim, they were on a journey toward the Promised Land. Moses referred to their destination in that manner because

God had promised the place they were headed would be a better land than Egypt, where the Israelites had previously lived in captivity. In Deuteronomy 11:10-11, we read, “For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: but the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of Heaven.” The Israelites were told that the Promised Land would be “a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills” (Deuteronomy 8:7). It was their hope and expectation that it would be worth the journey.

Their journey began with a mighty deliverance. After death occurred throughout Egypt in the final plague God sent upon the land, the Children of Israel had been led by God into the wilderness. As they neared the Red Sea and were threatened by the Egyptian army that pursued them, God told Moses to stretch forth his rod, and when he obeyed, the Red Sea divided. The Israelites went across on dry ground, but when the Egyptian army tried to do the same, the waters came together, engulfed them, and they drowned.

The people were grateful and rejoiced at the deliverance God had given them. In Exodus 15, we find the closing portion of what is called the Song of Moses, or the Song of Deliverance. Moses sang, “The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation” (Exodus 15:2). Moses’ sister, Miriam, also sang with gratitude. Her words included, “Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea” (Exodus 15:21). Moses and Miriam taught the Jewish people, perhaps three million strong, to sing songs of jubilation in response to the great work God had done.

Then, just three days farther along in the Israelites’ journey, they came to a dry, desert area and became thirsty. Their songs of glorious jubilation changed to bitter murmuring when they found the waters of Marah were unfit to drink. They accused Moses, declaring that he was the problem and complaining that they should have stayed in Egypt and died there rather than enduring the rigors of the wilderness and dying



THEN, JUST THREE DAYS FARTHER ALONG IN THE ISRAELITES’ JOURNEY, THEY CAME TO A DRY, DESERT AREA AND BECAME THIRSTY.

from thirst. However, their problem was not Moses nor was it the wilderness. Their problem was with God, and their words reveal that.

Dry places—times of adversity, hardship, and trials—have a way of revealing our true character. Many years after the Israelites’ sojourn in the wilderness, the Apostle Paul pointed out that truth to the church at Corinth. He stated, “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is” (1 Corinthians 3:13). God is faithful to reveal the quality of our character to us so that we can take any needed action.

Moses did what the Israelites should have done in that dry place: instead of complaining, he prayed! In response to his prayers, God showed him a tree to cast into the bitter waters, and when he obeyed, the waters were made sweet so the people could safely drink. God also gave the people a promise—a conditional promise—that if they would hear and do what He commanded, He would spare them from all the diseases of Egypt. From there, God led them to the oasis of Elim.

OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

We are on a journey of a different sort than that of the Israelites. Our journey began with what transpired on Calvary. There on the Cross, Jesus paid the price for

WE ARE PILGRIMS AND STRANGERS IN A FOREIGN LAND.

our redemption. When we understood this, and in faith availed ourselves of the salvation Christ offers, God's mercy was extended to us. At that point, we embarked upon a spiritual journey.

Like the Children of Israel, we do not know what we will encounter along the way, but we do know that our journey will lead to Heaven. We recognize that we are pilgrims and strangers in a foreign land, but as we travel, our eyes are fixed on our eternal goal.

As we progress in our spiritual journey, at times we may feel we are living in a wilderness—perhaps not a geographical wilderness like the one the Israelites encountered, but a wilderness just the same. Some would call the city of Portland where we live a wilderness. Viewed from a spiritual perspective, I would not argue with that assessment. However, no matter where we currently live on this earth, we are looking for a better country. There is not a place on this planet that can compare to what we see ahead! Our destination is beyond compare.

Like the Israelites, our journey includes both bitter and sweet experiences. We will have times of jubilation and refreshing, and we will go through dry places and times of trial. In

OUR EYES ARE FIXED ON OUR ETERNAL GOAL.

those times of trial, if we will look to God and continue to trust in Him, He will sustain us with an unseen source of living water.

An oasis stands in contrast to a mirage. A mirage is just an illusion; it promises what does not actually exist. Mirages often appear in dry and hot areas. Those traveling through such a place look ahead and observe what appears to be water. They expend all their energy to get to that source of refreshment, but they never arrive because it is only a mirage.

That is a picture of what the enemy of our soul attempts to do to us. He promises what does not exist and what he cannot deliver. However, a spiritual oasis is no mirage. It is a reality, and the living water we find there will support us through life.

LIVING WATER

The woman at the well in Samaria received of that living water. We read in John 4:10-14 that Jesus was sitting at the well when she approached to draw water, and He asked her for a drink. She expressed amazement at His request because the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus told her, "If thou knewest

the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." The woman responded that He had nothing to draw with and the well was deep. She asked, "From whence then hast thou that living water?" Jesus replied, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Jesus' words help us understand some facts about living water. First, we notice that Jesus told the woman, "If thou knewest the gift of God, . . ." so living water is a gift; it is freely offered. We see that it is living; it is not lifeless or stagnant. The Samaritan woman wanted something that would quench her thirst temporarily, but Jesus had in mind something that would satisfy her soul eternally!

The water that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman is available for us as well, and hopefully, our response is the same as hers. She said, "Sir, give me this water." We do not need a bucket to obtain what Jesus offers because it is spiritual water. Since it springs up within us, it is invisible to others and even to ourselves, but we can see its effects.

AN OPPORTUNITY TODAY

While we may view our church sanctuary or the places at home where we drop to our knees and meet with the Lord as a spiritual oasis where we can be refreshed, we are not always in church or at home. However, the living water that Jesus provides can always be present.

In the Gospel of John, we read where Jesus stood in the Temple in Jerusalem on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, and cried, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38). The rivers of living water will flow from *within* us! This is another reference to that unseen source. The Scripture goes on to say, "This spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive." The Holy Ghost had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet ascended into Heaven, but He promised His followers that after His ascension, He would send the Comforter.

Years ago, when I was attending university in Corvallis, Oregon, I experienced the infilling of those "rivers of living water." I recently had been saved and then went to the Portland camp meeting where I was sanctified. I understood the necessity of being baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire, and was seeking for that experience. In that "wilderness" environment of academia, I found a place of refuge in the one-room apartment where I lived during that term. There I sought the Lord, relentlessly and earnestly, and God heard my prayer.

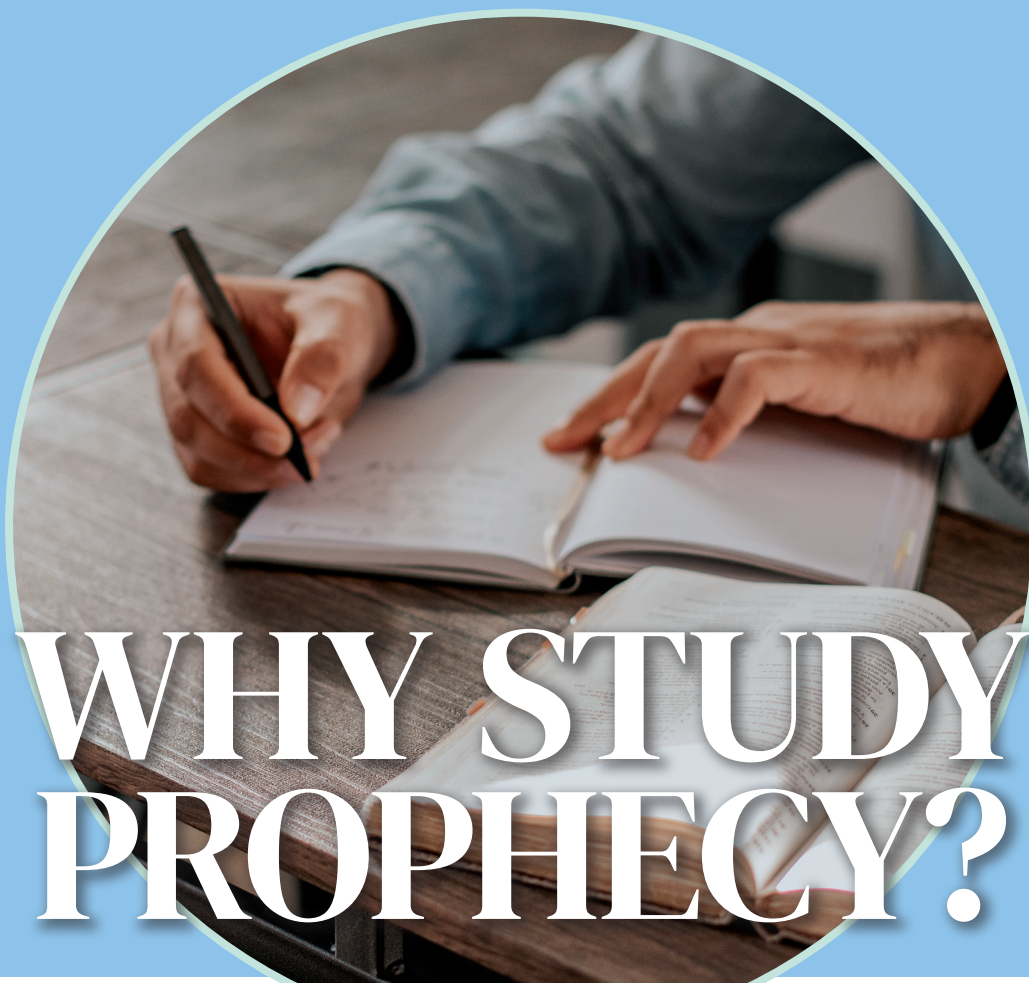
Later, I looked back and realized I could count five different times when the power of God had come down and He had filled me with His Spirit, if I had only believed and accepted the gift. That January night, when I finally did receive the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I asked the Lord to send that current of living water just one more time, and He did! It was a peaceful current. I thought I was in the basement of our Roseburg church praying by myself with just one other person present. However, when I stood up from that prayer meeting and looked around, there must have been thirty people in that basement. We were all enjoying the outpouring of living water.

AN OPPORTUNITY TODAY

In Psalm 63, David must have been wishing for an Elim-like experience when, in the wilderness of Judah, he cried out, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is" (Psalm 63:1). Dry and thirsty lands are a prime place to connect with God. When you are going through a dry place, lift up your eyes and realize that an oasis is before you. You only need to draw from that unseen source.

When was the last time you tapped into that source? When was the last time you had an experience with God where your soul was refreshed? While I do not know the answer to those questions, I know when the next time can be—today! At this very moment, you can look to the One who cannot be seen, and ask Him to send that graceful, smooth, and powerful current of living water through your soul. God will honor His Word and you will come away from your spiritual oasis spiritually renewed and refreshed. ■

Darrel Lee is Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith Church.



WHY STUDY PROPHECY?

Prophecy teaches us about God's nature, His plan for mankind, and His desire for a relationship with us.

This article was adapted from a Discovery lesson that will be published in the fall of 2022.

The Bible was written over a period of fifteen centuries and is the work of more than forty human authors. Its sixty-six books deal with a wide range of topics and have differing literary styles, but they all provide insight and instruction that God wanted humanity to have. Prophetic declarations were one way God imparted His messages, so prophecies appear in various places throughout Scripture.

Much of Biblical prophecy is contained in the Old Testament books called the Major and Minor Prophets—a reference to the length of the books rather than the relative importance of their contents. These books were recorded during the decline, exile, and return of the

Children of Israel to their native land, a period of 350-400 years. Most of the messages were directed to Judah and Jerusalem: the prophets Isaiah, Joel, and Micah ministering before the fall of Jerusalem; Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah at the time of the fall and during the exile of the Jewish people to Babylon; and Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi at the time of the exiles' return and later.

The prophetic messages recorded in the Word of God are both intriguing and mysterious, because many of them concern ancient kingdoms that no longer exist. However, God included them in His Word for a reason. Prophecy can teach us many lessons about God's nature, His plan for mankind, and His desire for a relationship with the

PROPHECIES RELATED TO JESUS CHRIST, THE MESSIAH

THE OLD TESTAMENT, WRITTEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE

Jesus' birth, contains over three hundred prophecies that Jesus fulfilled through His life, death, and resurrection. Prophecies regarding the Messiah are found in Scripture from Genesis to Malachi. Mathematicians have figured that the odds of any one person fulfilling this number of prophecies are staggering. From a mathematical perspective alone, the conclusion is obvious—Jesus Christ of Nazareth truly was the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to this earth in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

A study of what Old Testament prophets foretold about the Messiah can be beneficial for today's Christians for many reasons, including these three.

God can use Old Testament prophecy to strengthen our faith. In Matthew 11, John the Baptist began to struggle with his faith after being imprisoned by Herod. John sent a message to Jesus, asking, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Jesus responded by directing those who delivered the message to tell John, "The blind

receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:5). Jesus was using two separate Messianic prophecies, from Isaiah 35 and Isaiah 61, to affirm that He was indeed the Messiah.

Christ's fulfillment of those prophecies is central to the New Testament Gospel. It is clear from the Book of Acts that the Apostles relied on two key points in their preaching: that Jesus Christ had been raised from the dead, and that He had fulfilled the predictions of the Old Testament. These two points were central to their message, and it was upon these truths that the New Testament church was established.

Prophecies about the Messiah are key tools in evangelism. Most secular people do not believe the Bible is a divine revelation. Yet it is impossible to explain how all the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament could be fulfilled in Jesus Christ if they were not divinely inspired. Thus, understanding these prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ is a great way to encourage faith in the supernatural nature of the Bible. ■



people He created. When we understand the prophets' motivations and methods, we are better equipped to grasp how their words have significance for our day.

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

The dictionary defines *prophecy* as "an inspired utterance of a prophet; the inspired declaration of divine will and purpose; a prediction of something to come." While "a prediction of something to come" is probably the most common usage in contemporary

society, in the Old Testament era, prophecy not only was a foretelling of future events but also a way God communicated His will to His people. In addition, prophecies also were given at times to admonish and instruct (2 Kings 17:13), to comfort (Isaiah 40:1-2), and to warn (Ezekiel 33:7-8). All of these purposes for prophecy reflect God's love for the people He created, and His great desire for all men everywhere to prosper spiritually through steadfast commitment and obedience to Him.

END TIMES PROPHECIES



PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE DISCUSS AND DEBATE WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, BUT many ignore the prophetic signs playing out around them. There has never been a period in history when end time prophecies aligned more closely with the conditions of the world than they do today. For believers, that is an exciting thought! Clearly, the culmination of God's dealing with the people of this earth will soon occur.

Fully understanding prophecies concerning the last days can be challenging, so we should approach such passages with humility rather than dogmatic absoluteness. God has given man only limited glimpses of many aspects of the future. On the other hand, Scripture is very explicit about some coming events.

One future event spelled out clearly in Scripture is the Second Coming of Christ to this earth—an event so important that it is mentioned in almost every New Testament book. The Second Coming encompasses two separate events: the Rapture of the Church, when Christ comes to claim His waiting Bride; and the Revelation of Christ, when Jesus comes with His saints from Heaven to execute judgment upon the ungodly and to set up His Kingdom and reign on this earth for a thousand years. According to the prophetic statements Paul made to the saints in Thessalonica and Corinth, at the time of the Rapture, believers who have died will arise from their graves to meet Christ in the clouds. Then those who are alive and who have prepared themselves

for His coming will be changed in a moment and will be caught up to join Him in the air.

Prophets in the Old Testament and Christ's disciples in the New Testament spoke of signs that would indicate Christ's return to this earth was imminent. For example, in the Old Testament, Daniel predicted that in the last days, multitudes would travel to and fro, and knowledge would increase (Daniel 12:4). Zechariah described what seems to be the use of nuclear weapons (see Zechariah 14:12). In the New Testament, Peter predicted that many false prophets would emerge, bringing in heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2). John the Revelator indicated that the Gospel would be preached as a witness to all nations (Revelation 14:6).

The multiplicity of signs forewarning the end times are indicative of how important it is to believe that Christ's return will occur soon and to make the proper spiritual preparation. Because God has provided so many indicators of the end of time, there will be no excuse for those who fail to prepare. Some say they believe that the end is near, but speculate that perhaps the Lord will delay His coming a few years longer. We have no guarantee of that.

As followers of Christ, we should seek to understand Biblical prophecies as clearly as possible, looking to the Holy Spirit for guidance. As we explore indicators of what the future holds, we see God's hand in the chaos around us, and that gives us hope. ■

WHO WERE THE PROPHETS?

Biblical prophets were intermediaries between God and man. As emissaries commissioned to challenge His people to remembrance, repentance, and obedience, they functioned in Israel alongside other spiritual

leaders such as priests and elders. Scripture also identifies the prophets as “messengers” of the Lord (Isaiah 44:26), “seers” (2 Samuel 24:11), “servants” of God (Amos 3:7), and “watchmen” (Isaiah 62:6). Each of these titles provides insight regarding the role these individuals filled.

God chose His prophets from many lifestyles. They included princes and priests like Abraham and Ezekiel, but also sheepherders and farmers like Amos and Elisha. Women and even children were among the prophets. Some ministered for decades, while others delivered just a single message.

Some of the prophets had names that were symbolic. Hosea means “salvation”; Nahum means “comforter”; Zephaniah means “the Lord hides”; and Zechariah means “the Lord remembers.” Whether or not the prophets’ names reflected their calling, all true prophets spoke with the authority of the Holy Spirit. We read in 2 Peter 1:21 that “the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Whatever the details of their backgrounds and messages, God’s prophets were called to be a positive spiritual influence, and this frequently brought opposition by national leaders. When rulers turned away from worship of the true God, the prophets were commanded to correct them and, at times, to pronounce judgment. Since this often placed the prophets in life-threatening situations, it was imperative for them to be fully committed to God. They needed to maintain a close relationship with Him, be fully obedient, courageous, and able to withstand hostility. In addition, they needed to be deeply concerned about the spiritual welfare of God’s people.

The qualities necessary in the lives of God’s prophets are important in every field of service for the Lord. While the personalities and natural abilities of these individuals were likely as varied as their backgrounds, God was able to use them because of their spiritual qualifications. In our day as well, while God will use our natural abilities and personalities in His service, our relationship with and commitment to Him are of the greatest importance.

GOD’S CALL OF THE PROPHETS

The manner in which the prophets received God’s call varied. Moses heard from God through a burning bush. God spoke to Daniel through a dream, and to Ezekiel in a vision. God chose some of the prophets, like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, before they were born.

Perhaps one of the most well-known and detailed calls in the Bible is found in 1 Samuel 3. In that chapter, we read how God directed the young boy,

Samuel, to tell Eli the priest that his descendants would be judged forever because he knew of his sons’ wickedness but failed to restrain them. Though Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said, he obeyed and hid nothing of God’s message from the priest. This is just one of many Biblical examples of times when God’s messengers chose to follow divine instructions in spite of their natural apprehension or the potential of a negative response to their words. Samuel’s obedience in performing a difficult task for God was a first step in his decades-long service to God as a prophet of Israel.

At times, God may ask us to do things for Him that are difficult, could subject us to unpleasant responses, or seem beyond our ability to perform. However, we will benefit spiritually if we will obey in spite of any natural inclinations to avoid such challenges.

MESSAGES COMMUNICATED THROUGH ACTIONS

While Biblical prophets generally delivered their messages orally, at times prophets were instructed to communicate through actions—and sometimes those actions were highly unusual. For example, Isaiah was told to give his two sons names that symbolized prophetic truths, so they would be ongoing reminders of the coming invasion of Jerusalem by enemy forces and of the Jews’ eventual return to their land. Hosea was commanded to marry a woman who would be unfaithful to her marriage vows, as a picture of God’s commitment to Israel in spite of that nation’s spiritual adultery. God told Jeremiah to bury his unwashed belt near the Euphrates River, and later to recover it after it had deteriorated beyond use as a parable that pointed to the spoiling of Judah. Ezekiel built a model representing the coming siege of Jerusalem and then dramatized the attempted escape of King Zedekiah through a hole in the city wall. The unusual nature of these portrayals would have made them memorable, and thus more likely to be passed on by those who witnessed them. In God’s great love and mercy, He used every means possible to make His message clear and unforgettable. Today as well, He goes to great lengths to draw sinners to Himself.

PROPHETIC THEMES IN SCRIPTURE

Two key prophetic themes woven throughout Scripture are the coming of the Messiah and the events that will transpire on this earth at the end of time (see

accompanying sidebars). However, there are a number of other prophetic themes in the Word of God, including the following.

- + **GOD IS SOVEREIGN.** The prophets understood that as Creator, God had the right to control all nations and people.
- + **GOD IS HOLY.** Knowing that holiness is part of God's nature, the prophets taught that He required absolute differentiation between the holy and the unholy.
- + **GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE SIN.** The prophets could not compromise their stern exposure of sin because the only hope for the people was a humble turning to the Lord and genuine repentance.
- + **GOD REQUIRES OBEDIENCE.** The prophets reminded the people that God had a rich purpose for them, but they must believe and follow His commandments.
- + **GOD WILL JUDGE SIN.** The prophets warned that if the princes, priests, and people arrogantly rejected God's moral and spiritual principles, they would face the consequences.

All of these prophetic themes are still true and applicable in our day. God is unchanging, and so are the principles of His Word. This is one reason why a study of prophecy can be so beneficial for us. While sin, unbelief, and opposition to the truth of God are prevalent in our world today, they were also widespread in the era of the prophets. Just as the prophetic predictions of judgment were fulfilled centuries ago, one day judgment will fall upon those of our day who reject God.

PROPHECIES OF JUDGMENT

All the prophetic books of the Old Testament, with the exception of Hosea, contain messages of judgment against the nations around Israel and Judah. At times in history, nations responded positively to prophecies of judgment, while at other times, the message was completely rejected. In Isaiah 30:1-2, the prophet Isaiah pronounced woe upon the people of Israel for rebelling against God and forming an alliance with Egypt. Verses 8-11 of that chapter record that the people of Israel rejected the truth delivered by Isaiah, demanding that he preach only "smooth" things and telling him to "cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." In contrast, when the prophet

Jonah gave a message of coming doom to Nineveh, the powerful and wicked capital city of Assyria, the people of Nineveh believed his message and repented, "from the greatest of them even to the least of them" (Jonah 3:5).

Responses to the Gospel message today mirror the contrasting responses to the ancient prophetic messages of Isaiah and Jonah. Some people reject the truth, preferring lies and delusions to the necessity of humbling themselves and admitting their wrongdoing. Others believe and respond by repenting and turning to God.

The acceptance or rejection of a message from God is not the responsibility of the one delivering it. The prophet's duty, and our duty today as men and women of God, is to be faithful in communicating the truth as God instructs us or gives us opportunities. While we pray for a positive response, we must continue to be faithful and obedient whether or not that is the case.


DUAL AND MULTIPLE FULFILLMENTS

Old Testament prophecies sometimes had a dual or multiple fulfillment, even though the prophet spoke the prophecy as a single event. While the prophet's audience would have viewed the message in the historical context of their own day, a more complete fulfillment would come later. In a sense, the prophets saw the "mountain peaks" of prophetic events, but not necessarily the "valleys" of time between the peaks.

We find one example of this in God's promise of a "son" and a "house" to David in 2 Samuel 7, which was only partially fulfilled in David's son, Solomon. The second and complete fulfillment of that promise will be realized when the "Son of Man," from the earthly lineage of David, establishes His kingdom on this earth.

Another example of dual fulfillment is the "day of the Lord" referred to in Joel 2:28-32 and Amos 5:18-19. The prophets Joel and Amos viewed this as a one time event when invading armies would bring judgment and destruction upon Israel. However, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:2 and 2 Peter 3:10-13, we understand that the secondary and future fulfillment of these verses will occur at the Second Coming of Christ.

It is important to remember that Biblical prophecy is not intended to provide a complete, sequential, unfolding of the future. Allusions to coming events may only be fully understood when they come to



pass. Nonetheless, scriptural prophecies—especially those concerning end time events—provide hope and encouragement for those whose trust is in God.

IDENTIFYING FALSE PROPHETS

In the Old Testament, false prophets at times claimed to deliver messages from God, while in actuality, they were speaking deceitfully. Some spoke on behalf of false gods, prophesied for monetary gain, or had a purpose to deceive the people. However, the Bible gives characteristics of both true and false prophets, and these offer guidance in discerning if a prophet is speaking truth.

DEUTERONOMY 18:22 — The predictions of false prophets will not come to pass.

JEREMIAH 14:14 — False prophets speak lies.

JEREMIAH 23:32 — False prophets do not encourage righteous behavior or teach things with any spiritual benefit.

LAMENTATIONS 2:14 — False prophets do not condemn sin.

MATTHEW 7:15 — False prophets disguise their true nature.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:32-33 — The messages of true prophets are in harmony with each other and the Word of God.

1 JOHN 4:1-3 — True prophets acknowledge that Jesus Christ is divine.

WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD STUDY PROPHECY

The prophetic books of the Bible record the ministry of individuals whom God chose and commissioned to encourage, warn, exhort, and guide His people. The world in which Biblical prophets delivered God's messages was much like our own—it was filled with individuals who wanted their own way, and rebelled against the instructions of the God who created them. It took courage for the prophets to proclaim what the people needed to hear rather than succumbing to the temptation of telling them what they wanted to hear. Nonetheless, these men and women of God ministered in obedience to Him, and their words have been preserved in the Scriptures for our benefit and instruction. Those who invest time in studying Biblical prophecy will develop their knowledge of God's holiness, righteousness, justice, and mercy, and their appreciation of the Bible as God's revealed will to mankind. ■

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

The question God asked Elijah can help us evaluate our own lives.



By Rachel Fakorede

In 1 Kings 19:9 we find a question posed by God to the prophet Elijah: “What doest thou here, Elijah?” At the time, the prophet was in a state of deep discouragement. In fact, verse 4 says that he asked God to end his life. However, death was not God’s will for Elijah. God still had a mission for him to fulfill, but Elijah had lost sight of his purpose. God asked him this question to bring his attention back to where it should have been.

This question is a good one for us to consider as well. We can put our names in that verse and ask, “What doest thou here, _____?” The point is not to identify our current physical activity, but the purpose behind our actions. We could rephrase the question to be more specific: Why are you

reading this article today? Why do you go to church? What is the end goal for what you are doing in life?

To succeed at anything, we must first have a clear objective, and then work toward it. Without that definite goal, our efforts can become misdirected and ineffective, and we may also lack the determination that is necessary to persevere through challenges. That results in frustration and discouragement, as Elijah experienced.

While God does not reveal to us all the details of how our lives will unfold, He has revealed through Scripture the wonderful purpose that He has for all of mankind. Once we understand His purpose for us, we can determine to pursue it wholeheartedly, and fulfill it.

DO YOU KNOW GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU?

Academic institutions have programs, or sets of requirements, for each of their majors. In order to qualify to receive a degree, students must complete the program. They cannot make up their own requirements and expect to receive a degree. They must follow the program established by the institution.

In a similar way, God has a program for mankind. It is revealed throughout His Word. His program is one of love (John 3:16), and His core objective is for us is to have a relationship with Him (2 Corinthians 6:17-18), to honor Him with our lives (see Matthew 5:16), and be qualified to live with Him eternally in Heaven (John 14:2). The details of each of our lives are unique, yet the fundamentals of God's program are the same for us all. These are the first steps:

STEP 1: SALVATION. If we want to enjoy what God has planned for us in Heaven, we must be partakers of the power in Jesus' Blood to forgive sins. The Bible says that to all who received Jesus, He gave power to become the sons of God (John 1:12). It also tells us that those who commit sin are of the devil, and it takes divine power to turn a child of the devil into a child of God. It is a miracle and a transformation! God gives power to live without committing sin—no lying, no stealing, no defrauding. There are no more evil acts, because God's Spirit is working in us. This is the first step in God's program.

If we have not had our sins forgiven, God is gracious and His arms are still open to those who will repent of their sins and choose to obey Him. It only takes a moment to receive the salvation God has made available to us through Christ. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive (1 John 1:9). There is no degree of sin that cannot be forgiven; Jesus died that He may save us from *all* iniquity.

STEP 2: SANCTIFICATION. God wants us all to be holy. Psalm 24:3-4 says that those who come near to God must have "clean hands, and a pure heart." The "clean hands" alludes to what happens at salvation—sins are washed clean in the Blood of Jesus. The second step in God's program is to have our hearts *purified*, which is the work of sanctification where our very nature is cleansed. Ephesians 5:25-27 says that Jesus gave Himself to sanctify the Church. The Blood of Jesus is able to make us pure on the inside.

STEP 3: BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST.

God promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide us in this world, to teach us, and to comfort us (John 14:26). Jesus told the disciples they needed the power for service that comes from the Holy Spirit, and we do too. If we have been saved from the old life of sin and our hearts have been cleansed and made holy, God's Spirit will abide within us. It is a gift of God. Receiving the Holy Ghost is the third step in God's spiritual program.

These three experiences are foundational to serving God. If it is our goal to succeed in God's program but we are not seeking these things, we must consider the question: "What are you doing here?" May we never lose sight of God's plan. We want to seek Him until we have received the provisions that He says are needful.

At university, there are always some students who are not serious about their academic career. They roam about with little passion and do not achieve anything meaningful. They do not seem to value their opportunity for education. In a spiritual sense, we want to be counted among those who are serious. If we have not been serious in the past about our service to God, may we change that today. We can evaluate what our life goals should be, and then choose to pursue them in earnest.

Beyond these three initial steps, God's Word has much more to say about His plan for our lives. We must continue consecrating our lives (Romans 12:1-2), studying the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15), and sharing the Gospel with others (Mark 16:15). If we are ever unsure regarding where God wants us to be, the Scriptures will faithfully guide us through God's program until we reach the final goal of Heaven.

In Heaven, our faithful obedience to God's Word will be rewarded. Jesus advised us not to spend our lives chasing the temporary treasures of earth at the expense of eternal ones (Matthew 6:19-20). Our Heavenly "bank account" opens when we receive salvation, and after that, everything we do for God is recorded. He is storing our rewards for us in Heaven. Keeping that in mind will help us not to be distracted in our service to the Lord.

ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE?

Succeeding in God's program will cost us something. The prophet Elijah knew that very well—his service to

God put his life at risk on multiple occasions. Like him, if we understand how marvelous God's plan for us is, we will be willing to pay the price. What we gain is worth much more than anything we may give up.

In John 16:33, Jesus told His disciples they would face tribulation in this world, but not to be afraid because He overcame the world. We can expect to go through trials and even tragedy in this life. Yet, when the world around us is hostile, Jesus said that in Him we will have peace. If we draw close to Him, He will always draw close to us. If we abide in Him, He will abide in us. The love of God will keep us. This is something we cannot find anywhere else in this world.

SUCCEEDING IN GOD'S PROGRAM WILL COST US SOMETHING. THE PROPHET ELIJAH KNEW THAT VERY WELL—HIS SERVICE TO GOD PUT HIS LIFE AT RISK ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS.

focus is on Heaven, we find the needed resolve to pay the cost of serving Him. The devil himself will not be able to deter us.



ZACCHAEUS CLIMBED A TREE IN HIS RESOLVE TO SEE JESUS.



RUTH CLUNG TO HER MOTHER-IN-LAW AND SERVED THE ONE TRUE GOD.

We read in 2 Timothy 3:12 that all who will live godly will suffer persecution. We can expect that unbelievers will not love us because we stand in opposition to their master, the devil. We will not compromise with sin and those who serve Satan will be angry with us at times. When persecution comes, we must be prepared to respond like the three Hebrew children, who told King Nebuchadnezzar that they would rather die than disobey God (Daniel 13:16-18). If we have a clear goal and are determined to obtain it, no one can intimidate us. By God's grace, we will hold our ground.

Whatever we go through in life, God wants us to keep our focus on Heaven. Though we will suffer, our suffering is not in vain. A glorious day is coming! In John 17:24, Jesus prayed that we would be with Him and behold His glory. Revelation 3:21 says they that overcome will sit with Jesus in His throne. When our

ARE YOU DETERMINED?

God's purpose for our lives will not be accomplished accidentally. It will take determination to achieve. The Bible notes many individuals who were determined and who obtained their spiritual goals, including the prophet Elijah. Despite his setback recorded in 1 Kings 19, he did not give up. He continued his ministry as a faithful prophet to the Israelites, and then was escorted to Heaven in a chariot of fire! Here are a few more inspiring accounts of determination.

> **ZACCHAEUS.** When Zacchaeus found out that Jesus was coming to his town, his goal was to see Jesus. He must have heard about the good works Jesus was doing and had hope that something good would happen to him too. Since he was short, it was not easy for him to see Jesus in the crowds around Him. However, he

was resolved in his pursuit so he found a solution—he climbed a tree! Jesus knew the desire of Zacchaeus’ heart and also saw his faith, and He provided Zacchaeus’ needs that day.

> **RUTH.** Naomi told her widowed daughters-in-law that she could not offer them a house, food, or husbands—nothing. One daughter-in-law heard that and kissed her mother-in-law goodbye. Evidently, she wanted those temporal things more than she wanted God. However, Ruth chose to cling to her mother-in-law and to serve the one true God, even if doing so would not bring material blessings. Ruth was committed to the truth and God rewarded her faith—not only did she marry again and have children, but Christ was counted among her descendants.

> **THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD.** When Jesus was on the earth, crowds followed Him out of curiosity, but some in the multitudes had a purpose to receive something from Him. The woman with the issue of blood from Matthew 9 was one such person. She believed Jesus would heal her, and she determined to touch the hem of His garment. That goal drove her to push through physical pain and obstacles in her way. Though it was not easy, she left rejoicing in her healing.

> **PAUL.** As soon as Jesus transformed Paul’s life, he was committed to following Christ all the way. He left behind everything for Jesus. Paul saw visions of Heaven, and His goal was to be there for eternity. At one point, he was warned that he might be killed for his testimony and he answered, “I am ready not to be



ELISHA WAS SINGLE-MINDED IN HIS COMMITMENT TO RECEIVE A DOUBLE PORTION OF GOD'S SPIRIT.



THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD DETERMINED TO TOUCH THE HEM OF JESUS' GARMENT.

> **ELISHA.** Elisha was a faithful servant to Elijah. When it was time for Elijah to depart this world, he made an offer to Elisha: “Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee” (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha was ready with an answer—he asked for a double portion of the Spirit of God that rested on Elijah. He had a clear goal! Then, when the condition was given that he must see Elijah depart in order to receive the double portion, he was single-minded in his commitment to fulfill that requirement. In some ways, this task may have seemed trivial; with simpler tasks, it can be especially challenging to not lose focus. It is notable that there were fifty “sons of the prophets” who also knew that Elijah would be leaving soon, but we do not read that any of them received a double portion. On the other hand, Elisha was diligent in pursuing a blessing from God, and he received what he desired.

bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13). A person who is set on going to Heaven cannot feel threatened with death.

THE KEY QUESTION

When the prophet Elijah lost focus in his service to the Lord, God got his attention and directed him back to what he should have been doing. God will do that for us too. If we are not achieving our spiritual goals, rather than becoming discouraged about it, let us ask ourselves the question: “What doest thou here?” May God show us His purpose for our lives and help us to be fully dedicated to it, that we may be counted among those who obtain and receive. ■

Rachel Fakorede is an Apostolic Faith minister in Anthony Village, Nigeria, and oversees the French language resources at the West and Central Africa headquarters office.

SERMON EXCERPTS

ENTER YOUR PRAYER CLOSET BY NICK SEGRES JR.



Nick Segres Jr. is pastor of our church in Atlanta, Georgia.

In life, we go to a lot of places, but one place we cannot forget to go is into the presence of God. Jesus gave some instruction about this in Matthew 6:6 where we read, “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret

shall reward thee openly.” The first instruction here is: “Enter into thy closet.” To “enter” implies moving from one location to another. A “closet” refers to a secluded place that is usually hidden away. Though we may not always pray in a literal closet, we understand it as a place where we can get away from the hustle and bustle

of life so God can speak to us.

The second instruction says: “Shut thy door.” When we go into our prayer closet, we want to block out everything so that God is our focal point. We are not there to get away from the kids or to take a nap. This is an extraordinary place where God can speak to us individually! We leave everything outside—no phone, no tablet, no television or radio programs playing in the background. It’s alright to be away from our phones for a while; if someone needs us, they will send a message and we can read it after our prayer. What is needful is to get to a private place where we can enter God’s presence.

The third instruction is this: “Pray to thy Father.” Once we are in our prayer closet with the door shut, we can talk with God. Often our tendency is to tell God everything we need, because we have many needs. Anything we may require, God has it! Reading further in Matthew 6, Jesus said in verse 8 that our Father already knows what we need. So in addition to making requests, prayer is a time to listen. Sometimes the best thing to do

is to meditate on the Word of God and let Him talk to us. Psalm 1 says that blessed is the man who meditates on God's Word day and night. While we do that, God might reveal that we need to make a restitution or that we should read His Word more, or stay in the prayer closet just a little bit longer. Our prayer is a time to talk to God and to hear from Him, and it is the most essential part of our walk with God.

I like how Jesus ended this admonition: "Thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." The

closet is a place where God will bless us, not only in the closet but also openly, or publically. When we pray in the closet, our lives will turn into something we never imagined, and others will see it. We will shine brightly in this world, and brighter as the day goes by!

Do you have a prayer closet? If not, you can make one! It could be your garage, bedroom, a place in your backyard—anywhere you designate to meet with God. When you get to that place, God will be waiting for you there, and He will bless you. ■

WHAT MAKES A HERO? BY ROMAS LUNZA



Romas Lunza is a minister of our church in Livingstone, Zambia.

In the Book of Hebrews, we read of individuals who are recorded in Scripture for their great acts of faith and mighty works. These include people like Noah, Abraham, Moses, and many more, and we call them heroes of faith. Abraham, for instance, heard God's call and was moved by faith to go to a country he did not know.

He believed God, and risked all he had to obey. That was a great act of faith, and it is no wonder that it was counted unto him for righteousness.

However, not all the heroes of faith did impressive feats. For example, we also read of Abel. What did he do? Hebrews 11:4 says, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." All that Abel did was obey the truth that he had been taught by offering an excellent sacrifice. For that, he was listed among the heroes of faith. Though Abel died for his faith, his murder is not mentioned in this chapter of Hebrews. That was not what made him a hero. Rather, it was that he believed God and obeyed.

Being a hero of faith does not require achieving something great. God does call some to great works so

that the whole world can see, know, and acknowledge that there is a God. However, for many, God is only looking for us to believe and obey in simple tasks. The moment we take our stand of faith, it qualifies us to be a hero in God's eyes.

Consider Isaac as well. We do not read much about him in this chapter, though we know from Genesis that he had a wonderfully arranged marriage, he loved his wife and children, and he never engaged in war. This sounds like a quiet life, yet he is listed in the heroes' hall of fame. Verse 20 says, "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come." All he did to be recorded as a hero was bless his children concerning things to come. This suggests that if you are a parent, you too can be a hero when you faithfully and prayerfully teach your children the Gospel in your home.

This is how the Christian realm works: we simply believe and obey God, and we become heroes—just like that! We may never be called upon to die for our faith. Our call may not be to stand before a great crowd to preach. Maybe we are called to simply take God at His Word and make a silent prayer in our hearts. If that is what God has asked, just be faithful at that! Small sacrifices are acknowledged by God and will be remembered.

In verse 13 we read, "These all died in faith . . ." They did their part diligently and followed after God until death, and we want to do the same. God has made provision for us to end our race as a hero! If you have not yet decided to start living by faith, there's no better time than now. If you have already started, may you follow God all the way. ■

THANKS-LIVING

BY MARK WORTHINGTON



Mark Worthington is a retired pastor, currently serving as a minister of our church in Sacramento, California.

The benefits God gives are so great that sometimes the more we count our blessings, the more inadequate we feel to give thanks. I can't thank God enough for my loved ones and all the beauties of nature, let alone for the gift of salvation and what He is preparing for us in Heaven.

Compared with the magnitude of God, we might think our thanksgiving is

insignificant. However, God wants to hear from each of us.

Sir Michael Costa was a prominent nineteenth century Italian composer and conductor. During one rehearsal with a large choir and orchestra, the strings began to play, the horns sounded, cymbals clashed, and the mighty chorus sang out. In all of this, the piccolo player said to himself, *It doesn't matter what I do. Nobody can hear me anyway*, and he ceased to play. Sir Costa immediately stopped the rehearsal and demanded, "Where is the piccolo?"¹ He was sensitive to the sound he expected to hear, and he noticed when even the smallest instrument was missing.

God has a sensitive ear also, and He misses every voice not lifted to Him in praise and thanksgiving. His Word instructs us, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). The key to rejoicing always is to live with an attitude of thankfulness reflected by our actions—something that could be referred to as "thanks-living."

In Colossians 3:15-17, we find three practical ways in which we can express our gratitude to God through thanks-living. First, in verse 15, the Apostle Paul admonished believers to pursue peace when conflicts arise within the body of Christ. He said, "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." He made a direct connection between peace and thankfulness.

The two go together because peace cannot rule in an ungrateful heart. And the person who has a deep appreciation for the Gospel will prevent any potential hindrance to the Gospel by seeking a peaceful resolution, even at his or her own expense.

In the next verse Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and

**"Where
is the
piccolo?"**



admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." It is not enough that the Word of God dwells in our homes and on our bookshelves. It must dwell in our hearts and minds. Paul said to let it dwell *richly*, and this requires more than just reading our Bibles now and then. Moderation is no virtue when it comes to gaining knowledge of the things of God through His Word. When we let the richness of God's truth dwell in our hearts, it spills over into our worship. Then we have something to praise and sing about, and we can't keep quiet!

Lastly, Paul said, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (verse 17). The Name of Christ represents His character, authority, and glory. To do all in His Name means to do everything by His approval with the conviction there is nothing in our actions out of harmony with His will. When we apply this principle to every aspect of our lives, God is glorified, and that is thanks-living. ■

¹ Richard DeHaan, "Where's the Piccolo?" *Our Daily Bread*, November 17, 2002, <https://odb.org>.

WITNESS

*Ye are my witnesses,
saith the LORD.*

– Isaiah 43:10

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FINDING A FRIEND IN JESUS

Lost in sin, Dial's mind went back to his childhood on a small island in the Pacific, and a simple prayer he had prayed as a boy.



By Dial Keju

My family is from the Marshall Islands, which are located about halfway between the Hawaiian Islands and Australia. There were eleven children in our home, and I was the second to the youngest. My dad drank a lot, and because of that there were some scary

moments when he was causing havoc. Yet, my mom became a Christian, and though she did not know much about the Gospel, she did her best to teach us to obey the Bible. Every morning, she would gather us around the table and open a hymnal for us to sing

together. I remember how she would sing with a broken voice, and as a child I would think, *Even I can sing better than that!* Sometimes it sounded like she was sad, which made me feel sad, but later in life I realized that she was going through a hard time and was depending on God.

When I was in grade school, I started going to Sunday school. During my fifth grade year, one day the song leader told our group something that really stood out to me. He said, "You can pray and ask Jesus to come into your life, and He will be like a friend to you." I took that message literally, and it was a surprise for me to hear that Jesus, who is God, could be my friend.

When I got home, I went to the boys' bedroom in the house, and even though I had never been taught to kneel for prayer, I knelt and said a simple prayer: "Jesus, would You be my friend?" No one else was around, but

something happened in my heart that day. Looking back now, I can see that God saved me, and He made a difference in my life. After that, I was obedient to my parents and always wanted to please them. At school, I loved my teachers and did my homework. During my seventh grade year, some bigger kids bullied me, but as mean as they were, I would still love them and want to play with them. Only the love of God could have made me feel that way.

In Sunday school, we did not learn how to keep a relationship with Jesus strong through reading the Bible and praying every day, so I never developed those habits. Yet, God was faithful to keep working in my life.

MOVING TO A BIG ISLAND

At age thirteen, I had the opportunity to move to Hawaii for high school. I moved in with my sister's in-laws, who were Americans. They loved my sister, and they took me in as their own and became like a second family to me.

When I left for Hawaii, I spoke no English and was in total culture shock. I was from a small island where life was traditional and simple. Landing in Honolulu, I saw the big airport, freeways, city lights—everything was new and my eyes were wide open.

I had a hard time adjusting to my new school. The kids made fun of me because I dressed and acted differently than they did. I did not fit in with their modern city life. Every day, I would eat lunch alone in my classroom, scared to go outside with the others. But I remembered something my mom had told me just before I left home: "If anything comes your way that is too difficult, pray to Jesus." I did pray, and eventually I made friends with some of the other kids. In fact, I ended up making a lot of friends.

Another prayer God answered that year was in our Physical Education class. Our teacher was a huge, rough-looking Hawaiian, and one particular day we were supposed to do exercises on a giant trampoline. The teacher would point at someone and shout, "Your turn! Get in there!" and, one after another, kids would go in and jump. I had never even seen a trampoline like that before, and they were all doing a routine where they would jump and land on their knees, then go up into the air and land on their backs, and then up



When the teacher said, "Okay Keju, it's your turn. Get up there!" I was so afraid. After slowly climbing up, I froze. Then looking down, I prayed just three words: "Jesus, help me." It took a while, but I did the whole routine.

and land on their stomachs, and on and on in a sequence. When the teacher said, "Okay Keju, it's your turn. Get up there!" I was so afraid. After slowly climbing up, I froze. Then looking down, I prayed just three words: "Jesus, help me." It took a while, but I did the whole routine. Even as I was doing it, I didn't know how my brain was synchronizing with my body to do all those moves—it was a miracle. I came out amazed, and I knew that Jesus was with me.

Before I started eleventh grade, the family I was living with moved to Michigan, and I went with them. As I became a young adult, I was introduced to new freedoms, and at first I was just having fun, but soon

I began to leave God out of my life and slid into a lifestyle of partying and sin. It seemed I had forgotten about my experiences with God in the islands. The Lord was faithful to continue talking to me, but I did not fully grasp the consequences of what I was doing, and chose to ignore Him.

MY LIFE BECAME OUT OF CONTROL

After high school, I moved in with my brother in Southern California, and there I found a much bigger party scene. There was a small Marshallese community in that area, and I became immersed in that culture first, and then into the broader California beach culture. I was partying all the time, until my life was out of control. I wanted to slow down but couldn't, and eventually I realized that I needed to separate myself from the Marshallese community. So I decided to move away. I applied and was accepted to a college in Eureka, a coastal town in Northern California. I thought that would be a place where I could still have fun, but maintain enough self-control to at least pass my classes.

In Eureka, I learned that another islander was coming to the school—a student named Seis Arechy from Micronesia, which is relatively close to the Marshall Islands. He had never lived in the States before, and since he was new, I wanted to befriend him. I looked him up right away, and we quickly became good friends.

From the very beginning, Seis let me know that he was a Christian. In one of our first conversations he told me that God loved me, but my response was to redirect those efforts to another friend by saying, "Why don't you tell that to Scott? I grew up as a Sunday school boy, so you don't need to preach to me, but Scott could really use that."

Seis was looking for a church to attend, and on Sunday mornings he would come over and say, "Dial, get up! Let's go to church!" I was usually in bad shape on Sunday mornings because I had been out partying the night before, but I would go with him. We attended several different places, but did not find one that preached the true Gospel. Eventually, I became disheartened and did not want to continue searching.

AN EVENT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Everything changed when another friend from school was saved. This friend was outgoing and boisterous on campus so a lot of people knew him, and they knew

he liked to party. After he was saved, all his enthusiasm turned to serving Jesus—it was a dramatic transformation that we could all see. I remember hearing him singing in the dorm on Sunday mornings. He couldn't sing very well but he didn't care, he would just sing out! The turnaround in his life made an impression on many of us.

Even though I was tired of visiting churches, my friend's transformation and Seis's encouragement eventually convinced me to visit the place where our friend had been saved—the Apostolic Faith Church. The week I visited, it felt like the pastor's sermon was specifically about my life. In fact, I became upset because I was sure someone had told him about me. I was so mad that I initially refused to go back, yet somehow they persuaded me to return a couple weeks later.

After the sermon at my second visit, I started to walk away when the pastor came and tapped me on the shoulder asking, "Young man, would you like to pray?" Though I hadn't been planning to pray, I agreed and went to the altar. People were praying all around me. Right then, my mind went back to the experience I'd had with God as a child when I had prayed,

"Jesus, would You be my friend?" My earnest desire was to have that same relationship with Him again. I prayed, "Jesus, I want to be Your friend." I asked God to forgive anything wrong I had done and told Him I would do whatever was needed to get back what I'd had as a child. That morning, Jesus did that for me. He saved me!

God made a real change in my life that day. Instead of partying on weekends, I began attending church regularly. God also immediately started dealing with me about things in my life that were not pleasing to Him, like the people I hung out with, the music I listened to, and the way I dressed. I had been saturated in a lifestyle that was very ungodly, and the Lord helped me to stop doing anything that I knew was sinful. However, there were some grey areas in my life that I was unsure about. For example, I kept some music that wasn't Christian, but I thought it might be okay because





I understood that when God sanctified me, He made me one with other believers, and His people were now my brethren—my family.

(Left) Dial with one of his brothers.

(Below) Dial shoveling snow in Michigan.



the artists attended church sometimes. Now I can see that I was looking for ways to justify my choices rather than seeking God's will. The problem was that there was still a struggle in my heart to let go of

worldly things, but God's Spirit was faithful to check my heart and let me know that worldly things were not good for me. My dorm room became a place where I could pray and the Holy Spirit would talk to me and teach me.

LONGING FOR MORE

One day, I told my pastor, "I feel like I need something more." He took me to the tract rack and handed me

one titled "Sanctification." He told me to read it, study the Scriptures it referenced, and then ask God to help me. I followed his simple instructions, and soon after, attended special meetings at our church in San Francisco, California. I prayed for a long time, giving to God all the things that seemed to have power over me. I prayed, "Lord, here are my tight jeans; here are my music albums; here are my friends . . ." I hadn't been taught about making consecrations, but that is exactly what I was doing. I gave all those things to God, and He sanctified me. When I left the altar, I felt so new! The room felt wonderful and I had a new love for every person there. When I returned to Eureka, I got rid of all the worldly stuff that had been troubling me, and that felt so good.

Shortly after that experience, I came across Hebrews 2:11, "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." I understood that when God sanctified me, He made me one with other believers, and His people were now my brethren—my family.

From that time on, I really began to immerse myself in the faith. I still knew very little about the Bible and its teachings, but I loved being in church and God continued to shape me. Seis and I started going to Bible study, and I made a point of attending all the special events at the branch churches. Eventually I was asked to help with children's Sunday school. That was intimidating, but the Lord helped me. I actually learned a lot as I prayed and prepared the lessons.

While attending the church in Eureka, I became good friends with Carrie, the girl who had invited all of us students to the Apostolic Faith. She had been a great Christian example on campus and was faithful to share the Gospel and encourage others in the faith. I had been planning to move back to the Marshall Islands after graduation and settle down there, so I was not expecting to start a relationship with a girl in the United States. However, the Lord helped me to see that Carrie's personality, her Christian family, and her firm stand for God were all the things that I desired in a wife. After we had been dating for about two years, I proposed to her during a weekend of special meetings at our church in Grants Pass, Oregon, and we were married in June of 1989.

Carrie graduated from college in 1990 and I graduated the following year. My tuition had been paid for by a scholarship from the Marshall Islands on the condition that I would return there to work for two years. So after my graduation, we went to camp meeting in Portland, Oregon,

and were praying about when we should move to the islands. Some of the ministers found out, and they were concerned about how young we were, and that we would be moving to a place with no church. I was advised that I *must* receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit before moving.

That camp meeting, I spent a lot of time seeking the Lord and became desperate to receive my baptism. One evening, I prayed late into the night until I was the only one at the altars. Exhausted, with my head hung down, I was just whispering my prayers. Suddenly, the Spirit came down powerfully, and when I raised my head and



Dial and Carrie during their engagement (above) and at Portland Camp Meeting in 2019 (below).

my hands in praise, I began thanking God in a language I did not know. Such joy filled my soul—overflowing joy! That was in 1991, and the power and joy of the Holy Spirit is still fresh in my soul.

A FRIEND WITH ME WHEREVER I GO

With God's help, we moved to the Marshall Islands that same year. I worked at the college as an academic counselor, which was an opportunity to meet many young people. On Wednesday evenings, we opened our home for Bible study, and God blessed the meetings. One young lady who came was actually serving as a missionary, but through some conversations with Carrie, she came to truly understand salvation, as well as sanctification. We also had a neighbor who was an atheist, and he came over often. One day he asked me, "How do you know that what you teach is true?" I shared my testimony with him and told him the evidence of what God had done in my life, but eventually realized I could not convince him. Finally I said, "Why don't you ask God if He is real?" He left and came back a while later with an amazing testimony. He had gone down

to the beach and was gazing up at the starry night sky. Then he asked God, "If You are real, why don't You make Yourself real to me?" Nothing seemed to happen, but when he started to return home, he suddenly felt God's presence in an undeniable way. God began to talk to him, and changed his heart right there!

These were only two of the many instances when we saw God working in the Marshall Islands. Most of the people whose paths we crossed are individuals who I don't expect to meet again in this lifetime, but some were very close to me. At that time, my father was dying of cancer, and Carrie and I were able to visit him in the hospital on several occasions. Carrie often had good conversations with him about the Lord, and on one particular occasion she talked to him about "surrendering." In his early twenties, he had been involved in the Pacific Front of World War II and had seen the Japanese surrender to the Americans, so he asked Carrie about the spiritual meaning of that word. A while later, we heard a group of Christians singing hymns in the hallway. They were visiting the hospital and my dad asked for them to come to his room. Though he had become very weak, as they sang and prayed he raised his hands as if in surrender. I asked him, "Dad, were you surrendering?" and he affirmed that was the case. I was so glad to be there in his last days and to know that he gave his heart to God before he passed.

We stayed in the Marshall Islands for four years and then lived for a time in Honolulu and Portland before moving to Washington, D.C., where we have been since 2003. Through all these years, God has continued to be my Friend. I know there is no limit to what He can do when we put our faith and trust in Him, and it is my desire to serve Him with my whole heart and point others to Him. ■

Dial Keju and his wife, Carrie, attend the Apostolic Faith Church in Washington, D.C.





A TINY SEED OF TRUTH

*In spite of Melissa's dysfunctional environment,
God planted a seed in her young heart.*



By Melissa Voreis

The family I was born into was very dysfunctional—they had a multi-generational problem with drugs and alcohol. My grandma, who had nine children, married six times, and every time, she married an alcoholic. That was my history.

Thankfully, the Lord has a better way of life available for all of us. In my early years,

while staying in Christian shelters that kept mothers with young children, I heard about God, and a seed was planted in my heart. It happened at such an early age that I don't remember ever not knowing about Him.

When I was five years old, my baby sister and I were taken from my biological mother and placed in a foster care home in Florida. Though this was not a Christian home, my foster mom took me to church regularly during the three years that we lived with them. On Sunday mornings, she and I would walk up the street to the Baptist church near their home and attend the service together. She also took me to Vacation Bible School and other church activities. Since then, she has explained that this began because I asked to go to church when I first came into their home. Clearly, God already had a hold on my heart, and I am thankful for that.

By the time I was eight, I had two sisters, and we were sent to live with our grandma in the same house as our uncles who were alcoholics and drug users. That house was a dark place, but soon a little light shown in. My aunt by marriage had become a Christian nearly two years



earlier and was attending the church where she had been raised. She asked my grandma if my sisters and I could be picked

up by the Sunday school bus and taken to church on Sunday mornings. Thankfully, the answer was yes, and I began attending Sunday school at the Apostolic Faith Church.

Being able to attend Sunday school and church meant everything to me. For many children, schools are their safe place, but for me it was church. In the summers, going to youth camp was the highlight of my year. It felt like Heaven there, and just being away from my family for a week was a big deal.

I started spending time with my aunt's side of the family and saw the difference between a Christian home and my grandma's household. Very quickly I knew that the Gospel way of life was what I wanted, and even though I was not a Christian, the Lord solidified that determination in me. I was never tempted by alcohol, drugs, or other aspects of the lifestyle surrounding me. There were times when I was sent to the store to buy cigarettes and would think, *These are disgusting*. I did not want to have anything to do with them.

When I was twelve, my sisters and I went back to live with my biological mother. For a while we lived in a car and then in a broken-down trailer. Finally, she realized that three children were too much responsibility for her and gave up her parental rights, putting us up for adoption. Three families in the church took us in, and my adoption was finalized four years later. At last, the Lord had satisfied the longings of my heart, and I was surrounded by a loving Christian family.

In the years since, the Lord has been good to me and answered many prayers. He saved me on January 20, 1998, when I was twenty-three years old. Then in February of the same year, He sanctified me. Two days after that, I

was praying for unsaved family members and the Lord came down and baptized me with the Holy Spirit. Those experiences grounded me in the Gospel.

The Lord also answered prayer concerning my grandma. Over the years, she came to church whenever I was in a concert or a Sunday school program, and I always hoped she would pray and get saved. However, she wanted nothing to do with the Gospel. She said it was not for her.

The year our church began holding Christmas on the Campground, I invited her to come for the first night, and she did. Later, someone told me she came on the second night as well. Then another person said she was there the night after that. It turned out that she had attended all three nights, and in every year that followed, she did the same.

One year, I called to remind her about the upcoming Christmas event and was not able to reach her. I discovered that she was in the hospital with cancer that had gone into her bones. When I went to see her, she was in a lot of pain and every other word out of her mouth was a swear word—it was non-stop. In addition, she kept lamenting, "I just thought I had more time. I thought I had more time." Surprisingly, she let a minister from our church come and pray with her. Even more surprising was that after he left, her swearing was gone. We talked until eventually she went to sleep. She only opened her

eyes once more when my aunt came and prayed for her. After the prayer, she closed her eyes again, and later that day passed away. I know the Lord was merciful and touched her heart and saved her. This has been such a faith builder for me in praying for others.

I am so thankful for the Lord and all of His blessings. Though I was not born

into a Christian family, He has provided one for me in abundance. First, He placed me in a loving adoptive home in this church among the family of God. Then He helped me

find a Christian husband with wonderful parents, and He blessed our marriage with a son. Today, because of God's goodness, the multi-generational cycle of substance abuse in my family has been broken. My husband and I are able to raise our son in a Christian home. ■

Melissa Voreis attends the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.



Melissa in grade school (top), with her grandmother (above), and with her husband and son (right).





CONTENTMENT: A LEARNED SKILL

A closer look at this Biblical topic reveals it is a learned skill that can be acquired through effort.



By Karen Barrett

Every weekday morning, two of our little granddaughters show up at our front door, ready for some grandma/granddaughter homeschooling time. As we work together on reading fluency, “learn” has become far more than a sight word to be mastered. It is the main purpose of our time together.

Perhaps that daily focus on learning is why Paul’s assertion in Philippians 4 caught my attention recently.

The Apostle stated in verse 11, “*I have learned*, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” Since the older granddaughter and I have been working on verb tenses, the thought came to me that Paul’s past tense usage here indicated a completed act. The conclusion was obvious: contentment does not come automatically nor is it a divine bestowment. Rather, it is a learned skill and a state to acquire through effort.

That first insight hooked me. I wanted to delve deeper into the topic of contentment. What is *contentment* as used in Scripture? Could it really be learned? If so, how? I knew Paul had learned contentment through long, hard experience, but is that the only way to achieve it? And what are the results of a contented existence?



THE MEANING OF CONTENTMENT

I began my research by attempting to answer this question: What exactly does it mean to be content? An online dictionary defined *contentment* as “a state of satisfaction with one’s possessions, status, or situation.” Our English word is derived from the Latin word *contentus*, which means “satisfied.”

Looking up the Biblical usage, I discovered that the original Greek word is *autarkes*. Its literal meaning is “self-complacent” or “self-sufficient”;

we might use the word “independent.” Ancient Greek philosophers, particularly the Stoics, commonly used this term. To them, contentment meant self-sufficiency through indifference to pleasure, pain, and all external good or evil. However, self-sufficiency was not the basis for Paul’s contentment. A cross reference brought me to 2 Corinthians 9:8, in which the Apostle told believers at Corinth that “God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” He clearly viewed “sufficiency”—another word for contentment—as a product of God’s grace. In contrast to the Greek Stoics, though, Paul’s contentment was not based on self-reliance or outward circumstances but on the indwelling Christ. He had learned that Christ’s power and provision were sufficient for every circumstance.

As I dug deeper, I found that the Bible says a great deal about being content. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:6,

Contentment does not come automatically nor is it a divine bestowment. Rather, it is a learned skill and a state to acquire through effort.

“Godliness with contentment is great gain,” and then added in verse 8, “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” The writer of Hebrews exhorted, “Let your conversation [manner of living] be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). Through these verses and others, I noted that the Bible not only identifies contentment as a virtue, but also presents it as a command. We are to be content with whatever we have. We are to be content with food and clothing. We are to be content with our wages. We are to be content because we believe that our omnipotent God will never leave us or forsake us.

Synonyms for the word *content* include *gratified*, *satisfied*, *happy*, *pleased*, *comfortable*, and *at ease*. Those words could also describe the characteristics of a contented person. And what a contrast a contented individual is to so many in our society today! Contentment, by the world’s standards, seems forever

out of reach. People are not happy with their leaders, their spouses, or their jobs. Their house is too small, their car is too old, and the battery on their smartphone runs down too quickly. Their predominant focus seems to be getting *more*—more accomplishments, more stuff, more value in the eyes

of others. “Enough” is out there, somewhere, but not achieved yet—an accurate definition of what it means to be *discontent*!

A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF LEARNING

Contentment doesn’t come naturally—at least, it didn’t for me! According to my parents, I was a somewhat demanding toddler. Even before I could talk, I would indicate by pointing and fussing that I wanted something, and my mom and dad would offer one object after another in an attempt to make me content. When they finally figured out what I wanted and placed it in front of me, they would say, “There!” So it was no surprise to them when “there” was one of my first understandable words!

Many decades later, pondering Paul’s confident assertion, “I have learned, . . .” led me to contemplate some skills I have learned over the years since toddlerhood. A humorous example came to mind:

my Aunt Ester teaching me to knit. When I was still a preteen, she patiently taught me how to hold the needles, cast on stitches, and then make the basic stitches of knit and purl. She taught me not just once or twice, but probably at least three or four times! I would conquer the technique, ambitiously knit a few dozen rows, and then lay aside my project and completely forget the “how to.” After a few months passed, I would get inspired to knit again and would find I needed to go back to Aunt Ester for another teaching session.

Several decades later, knitters in our church began a “Caps for India” project, making caps for children in the Himalayas who needed warm headgear. I was a mom myself by then, but I wanted to participate, so that meant getting serious about conquering the skill of knitting. It took some time and practice, but I finally was able to produce a decent-looking knitted cap and had the fun of completing quite a number of them before the project concluded. By that time, I felt I could truly say, “I have learned”!

As I pondered the steps I took to master the art of knitting, I realized that two factors were the keys to my eventual success: *observation* and *practice*. I *observed* my aunt’s technique, and I *practiced* the steps she modeled until each movement became automatic and I no longer had to think about every move. I wondered: Could those same two steps apply to learning contentment?

As I pondered the steps I took to master the art of knitting, I realized that **two factors were the keys** to my eventual success: ***observation* and *practice***.

LEARNING BY OBSERVATION

Observing contented individuals seemed like a good place to start. As I considered people in my acquaintance who clearly have learned how to be content in every circumstance of life, multiple examples immediately came to mind.

I thought of an older lady in our church congregation who, like many others, was very isolated during early months of the COVID pandemic. Since she lives in a senior facility, she was not allowed to go out, visit her family, or attend church. For some period of time, her meals were brought to the door of her room and left there; the staff delivery person

would ring her bell and leave, so she ate alone. Yet whenever I called her, she had only blessings to report. She appreciated the care given her, the calls and cards from friends and family, and most especially, the church services that she was able to watch online. She never had a “poor me” attitude and she never voiced a single complaint. What a beautiful example of contentment!

One of my friends whose husband recently passed away is another example of contentment in spite of challenging circumstances. Her children are grown, so now she lives alone for the first time since she married nearly fifty years ago. She explained that while she loves the “mountain top” experiences with the Lord where it is easy to praise Him, she is also grateful for the valleys because that is where she finds He is the closest. My sister, who recently lost her spouse very suddenly, reports a similar experience. God helped her understand that He was opening a new door for her, and she has accepted that assurance with peace and gratitude to Him. Though these two women are going through a transition in life when grief and loneliness could overwhelm them, they thank God for His day-by-day presence and His faithfulness in their lives. They too are examples of contentment.

I could cite many more. Clearly, the Psalmist’s advice is valid: “Mark [or observe] the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace” (Psalm 37:37). There is much to be learned by studying the lives of people who are truly content.

LEARNING BY REPETITION

Just as I learned knitting by repeating the steps time after time, I found the Bible gives steps we can take that will help us achieve the goal of being content in every circumstance. These include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following six actions we can all take.

✦ **Spend time in prayer.** Paul advised the Philippian brethren, “Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known

unto God” (Philippians 4:6). How can contentment and worry co-exist? When we make a conscious decision to bring our concerns and needs to God, we are promised that “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Prayer encourages us to rest on God’s promises despite what may be going on in our lives.

✦ **Think about the good.** Paul went on to explain another spiritual practice: “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). When we fill our minds with positive thoughts, there will be no room for ones that distress, destabilize, or create discontent.

✦ **Practice gratitude.** Contentment and gratitude are inseparable! Grateful people focus on the blessings in their lives, not on what they lack. Recently I read about a woman who faced multiple challenges and, as a result,

“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” ~ Philippians 4:9

felt dissatisfaction creeping into her thoughts. To counteract that, she determined to write down one reason for gratitude each day. At the outset of her experiment, she wondered if she would run out of things to write, but in just a few weeks she made a wonderful discovery. By consciously identifying reasons for gratitude, she became more and more grateful! The fact is, it is all too easy to overlook small moments of joy in our days. Things like a sunny morning, the chance to cuddle a new baby, or the fact that someone else cleaned the stove, are worthy of thanks! While writing down reasons for gratitude may not be our personal method for remembering, contentment will grow as we practice strategies to help us take notice of the little blessings in life.

✦ **Reject a fearful spirit.** One of the tools Satan uses against many of us is the question, “What if?” Believers do face real-life concerns such as the possibility of illness, disability, unemployment, economic challenges, and so

on. However, when worry and fear are allowed free reign, contentment is impossible. It is a good plan to banish the words “what if” from our minds. If those words try to inject themselves into our thoughts, we can substitute a reminder that God is in control of every aspect of our lives. He will never fail us!

- + **Focus on others.** In Philippians 2:4, Paul counseled, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” We live in a society where a “victim mentality” is prevalent, and many people demand special tolerance, favor, acceptance, or recompense. However, a self-centered focus is sure to result in dissatisfaction and a lack of contentment. Conversely, an unselfish attitude of heart and a concern for others is key to maintaining our joy in the Lord.
- + **Ponder eternity.** In 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 we read, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we 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.” The more that eternal realities grip our hearts and occupy our thoughts, the less the visible, temporal things of this world will have any power to cause discontent.

THE RESULTS OF CONTENTMENT

Perhaps the results of taking these steps on a regular basis can be summed up in Paul’s words found in Philippians 4:9. “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” I cannot think of any greater blessing than having the God of peace with us. How can discontentment survive when we have the assurance of His presence today and the promise of eternity with Him in the days to come?

As we observe others who are living contented lives and put into practice the steps that will help us learn contentment, each of us can arrive at a place where we will be able to say with Paul of old, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” Let’s make that our goal. ■

Karen Barrett is the Senior Editor at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office in Portland, Oregon.

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.”

EVIDENCE

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF VICTORY



LUCILA

My parents did not go to church when I was a child, yet I always loved God from the time I was little. When Christians would go through

our village preaching in the streets, I would follow in the midst of them. My desire was to serve God, but I thought it would never be possible because my father didn't go to church. Thank God, my father's friend, who was a pastor, invited him to church one day. I was fifteen then, and that was when I prayed and invited the Lord into my heart. God put His love in my soul, and from that time on I have been happy walking in the ways of the Lord.

In time God gave me a very good husband and three children. He also healed me of many illnesses. One time, when I was pregnant with one of my sons, I had ulcers that were so bad I could hardly eat. I worried my son would be born malnourished. At church one day, I prayed and went forward to be anointed and prayed for by the ministers, and the Lord healed me. I felt it when the pain left, and I've never again had pain from ulcers.

God has always guided my life and been with me in the good times and hard times. When I have felt defeated, He has lifted me up. My parents and one sister have already gone on to Heaven, and I thank God that I know we will be reunited in eternal life. To me, God is love, He is powerful, and He is the most beautiful One who could ever exist.—*Lucila Conches Martinez (Limavida, Chile)*



RON

In May of 2020, I found out that I had a cancerous tumor. Yet as I heard that news, even in the middle of a pandemic, my spirit was uplifted. I knew that whatever might happen, God would be in charge.

My cancer treatment included a surgery in 2020. The journey has been long, and it was not easy, but I'm so thankful that God has been with me. My strength comes from the Lord. At times I was so weak that I didn't know if I could even stand up. As I look back now, I can see how far God has brought me and know that the way He is helping me recuperate is a miracle.

At a check-up appointment last August, my nurse seemed a little frantic. She asked me to have my wife come in, so I did. The nurse told us there was a serious concern, and I needed to get an MRI. Despite her distress, God let me know that He had already healed me. I didn't have any fear because God casts out all fear, and I am always blessed to know that whatever happens, I am in His hands.

After a couple of procedures, the doctor said, "There's absolutely nothing there! I'll see you in three years." My nurse felt relieved but I did not, because I already had the good news from God. The test results just confirmed what He was already doing.

There is not enough time to tell all the great things God has done for me. It's been a good two years. God has been teaching and comforting me, and He has been my peace. I thank Him for my wife who has been by my side, and for all the saints who have prayed for me and lifted me up. I'm so grateful to know that there's a family of believers that trusts God on my behalf.

We never know what we're going to face in life, but if we're facing it with God, we cannot lose. The God I serve is real, and I'm so thankful He is faithful.—*Ron Gaddis (Richmond, Virginia)*

WORLD REPORT

*Whatsoever things are of good report,
... think on these things. – Philippians 4:8*

SHORT TAKES BRIEF REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCHES WORLDWIDE.

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SHORT TAKES

BRIEF REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCHES WORLDWIDE.

UKRAINIAN RELIEF EFFORTS

Through our contacts in Romania, funds have been used to help with the relief effort for the Ukrainian people. The aid has gone toward housing some of the refugees pouring into Romania and providing essentials to those who are still struggling to survive in war-ravaged areas of the Ukraine.

The process of getting aid to the Ukrainians has been to receive groups of people at a church site in Romania. The women, children, and elderly are given shelter while the men return to help with the defense of their cities and country. Supplies are sent back with the returning vehicles to help the people in the Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kyiv, and Odessa regions.

One of the pastors we are working with sent a letter telling of one relief effort that took place at his church. Two vans arrived with refugees who gave heartrending accounts of the conditions in their hometowns. Three of the women were taken in by the church while shedding tears for loved ones left behind. The vans were then loaded with food, clothing, and supplies for distribution in the Odessa area.

Among the donated items were 2800 cans of food, and hundreds of new jackets, shoes, socks, thermal wear, and sleeping bags. In addition, the congregation donated medicine, flashlights and batteries, and more clothing. After the vans were loaded, the Romanian group prayed over the drivers, entrusting them and their cargo into God's hands for the return trip to Ukraine.

The pastor closed his letter with a plea: "Let us believe God together for a change of this whole situation. Meanwhile, let us do all we can to support those who are suffering an immense hardship."

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DISTRICTS COLLABORATE

Earlier this year, a report from our East Africa headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, showed that the printing press acquired in October 2020 with help from world headquarters was already yielding results. A total of 52,000 tracts had been printed and distributed in door-to-door and street campaigns resulting in many visitors attending services. Also, tracts had been placed

in publication racks at the University Teaching Hospital in Zambia, and 2,500 were taken in a two-week period.

East Africa District Superintendent Boniface Banda set a goal of printing 100,000 pages of Gospel literature monthly to supply the region's churches. However, a number of challenges stood in the way. Among them, the tracts had to be folded by hand and there were limited funds for materials and translation services.

The printing staff looked to God for help, and in recent months several obstacles have been overcome. For example, means have been provided for purchasing a folding machine and hydraulic cutter. Also, a meeting took place on April 6 between leaders of our Eastern and Southern Africa districts, including the District Superintendents, Reverend Banda and Reverend Oniyas Gumbo. Together, they formed the "Eastern and Southern Africa Print Hub." This alliance will allow for literature to be printed in Zambia and distributed across both districts. Already, a plan has been outlined to begin printing 120,000 tracts per month by July 1.

This collaboration between the two Africa districts is a historic moment with great potential moving forward.



The Zambia printing staff give a tour of the printing plant.

CHILE'S FIRST REMOTE COMBINED MEETING

On April 10, our congregations in Chile began holding bi-monthly combined meetings that are conducted from multiple locations through an online platform. The

main participants were the Chimbarongo and Limavida congregations, who gathered in their churches, and several individuals who joined from Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; and London, England.

Reverend Sam Ajayi, Director of South America Work, opened the service by welcoming everyone. Then the Chimbarongo church provided a prelude with guitars and mandolins. Later, Rachel Friesen of Seattle shared her testimony. She said a childhood fear of the dark caused her to pray one night, and Jesus both took away her fear and also saved her.

Reverend Israel Gajardo Monardes, the leader of our work in Chile, gave the Scripture reading from Matthew 28:1-10, and then a group from Limavida sang. The sermon was from Luke 22:54-60, Peter's denial of Christ. It stressed that the Resurrection was a time of spiritual renewal for Peter, and it can be for us as well; anyone who has been walking afar off can make Easter a time of rededication. The meeting closed with prayer.

A similar remote meeting arrangement is anticipated for our saints in Peru and Brazil.

MALAWI CHURCH AND OFFICE DEDICATION

A dedication service for our new Malawi headquarters church and office building was held on March 27 in the town of Lunzu. The church property is in a rural part of southern Malawi about nine miles from Blantyre, the nation's second largest city. The Malawi District Superintendent and Lunzu pastor is Chris Nkhata, a native of Zimbabwe who lived in South Africa for about twenty years before relocating to help with the Malawi work.

The dedication service began with ribbon cutting ceremonies at the office and the church. Once everyone entered the sanctuary, it was full with over 120 present. Reverend Nkhata welcomed everyone and acknowledged several dignitaries in attendance, including local kings, one queen (who helped acquire the property), a town official, and neighbors who helped during the recent passing of Reverend Nkhata's wife. The choir sang two songs and South Africa District

Superintendent Confidence Nemahungani read the Scripture reading from 2 Chronicles 6. The message was from Reverend John Musgrave, representing the Portland world headquarters, and the dedication prayer was given by Southern Africa District Superintendent Oniyas Gumbo. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit came down in a special way and one received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The service ended with a wonderful prayer meeting, and at a later evening service, two were saved.

The special weekend was a blessing to all, and the Malawi saints now hope to acquire an adjacent property as a campground for a Malawi camp meeting.

MUSIC OUTREACH IN IRELAND

At the end of April, the annual "Victory Conference," an evangelistic outreach through music, took place again in Ireland after a two-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions. It was conducted by our churches in England in support of our group in Dublin.

The weekend of services began with an evening of music presented by musicians from our churches



in England. The program included a sermonette that highlighted the conference theme of "Divine Visitation," and closed with prayer and then a time of food and fellowship.

The Sunday morning service was attended by sixty. The sermon was taken from the theme Scripture of Luke 1:79, "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Reverend Mark Mfandarahwa, the United Kingdom and Western Europe District Superintendent, spoke of how Jesus brought light to this dark world and wants to personally be the light for individuals today.

In the evening, a prayer session was held for the work in Ireland. It was noted that the seed of the Gospel is being planted and watered there, and they prayed God would bless the evangelistic efforts and raise up more laborers. ■



OUR CLASSICS

*With the ancient is wisdom;
and in length of days understanding.*

– Job 12:12

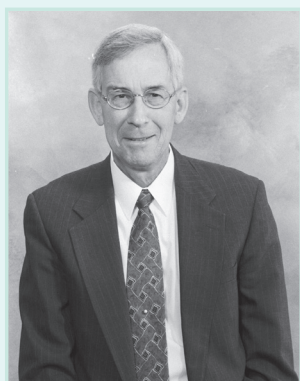
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44 DIFFERENT ERAS, BUT THE SAME FAITH



TASTE AND SEE

The flavor of corn cannot be obtained by only looking at it, nor can the Gospel be enjoyed by merely observing it.



By Nolan Roby

A few years ago, a friend of mine told me about a little farm near where I live in Southern Oregon that has nice sweet corn. So I went down to Seven Oaks Farm and bought some—and I have been buying corn there ever since. It is good corn!

It is so delicious, in fact, that sometimes when my wife and I are eating at the house, I feel as though I am forgetting my social graces. I get so involved in eating that corn on the cob with salt, pepper, and butter that I just assume no one would pay any attention to me while I am enjoying it!

However, I have noticed something. Seven Oaks Farm has a great big bin of this corn with a sign on it that says, “Please do not peel back the husks.” The other day when I was out there, I saw some people quite close to that sign, and what were they doing? Peeling back the husks! Well, I do not go through life passing up opportunities to find out why people do things, so I inquired about this. I found out that the people who were doing so had never tasted the Seven Oaks corn. The other shoppers—those who did *not* peel back the husks—are people who have eaten of the corn. Those of us who have eaten that corn just go put it in our sacks, because we have tasted it before and know that every ear is good.

That is the way the Gospel is. You have to experience it for yourself to know how good it is!

Philip knew this. After Jesus had called him to be a disciple, Philip found his friend, Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and



the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." When Nathanael responded, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip did not try to convince him, but simply invited him to, "Come and see" (John 1:45-46).

The Psalmist had the same idea when he wrote, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8). Taste is a wonderful thing. Hunger is good; it causes us to eat. However, the ability to taste is what draws us back to particular foods.

A person does not have to read the Bible very extensively to find out that man's greatest need is not physical. Man's greatest need is spiritual. There are three things that man really hungers for: to have eternal life, to have God in his life, and to have the truth. He may not always recognize that need. He may wonder why he is not satisfied. Yet, once he has tasted of the goodness of God, he realizes it is what he has always craved.

Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life and the Living Bread (see John 6:32-35, 51). *He* is the satisfying

spiritual food. When you have found the Lord, you have found everything! But you have to experience Him for yourself. "Peeling back the husk" and just looking is not enough. You have to taste. How do you do that? You make a full surrender of your life to God and tell Him you will do what He wants. You give Him a chance in your life. You have to step out and say, "Lord, I want to experience this." Once you have tasted of Him, His power is difficult to deny.

A college professor once spoke to a group of students for two and a half hours attempting to prove that Jesus' Resurrection was a myth. At the end of the lecture, a student stood up and began to eat an apple. He said, "I don't know anything about Greek, and I don't know anything about Hebrew, but I'd like to ask you a question. Is this apple that I'm eating bitter or sweet?" The professor said, "I don't know; I would have to taste it." The student responded, "Exactly. You have never

tasted of the Lord Jesus Christ, or you would never be able to say that there was no Resurrection."

Nathanael "tasted" of the Lord. When he went with Philip to see Jesus, Jesus saw him coming and said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael asked, "Whence knowest thou me?"

Jesus responded, "When thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." That is all it took for Nathanael to taste of the Gospel and know it was what he wanted. He proclaimed, "Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel" (John 1:47-49). God has a marvelous way of revealing Himself to a person who is willing to "come and see."

Before you taste of this spiritual food, there is not a spark of divine life in you. The Gospel is not a resuscitation but a resurrection. When you are saved, God puts into you that spark of divine life, and you know that you are born again because God's Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God (Romans 8:16).

Tasting of His goodness also creates a craving for more of Him. The child of God has a yearning to know more about God through His Word. Peter admonished



**O TASTE AND SEE THAT
THE LORD IS GOOD:
BLESSED IS THE MAN
THAT TRUSTETH
IN HIM. – PSALM 34:8**



MAN'S GREATEST NEED IS SPIRITUAL. THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT MAN REALLY HUNGERS FOR: TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, TO HAVE GOD IN HIS LIFE, AND TO HAVE THE TRUTH.

the early Christians—those who had “tasted that the Lord is gracious”—to desire the Word of God as a newborn baby would his mother’s milk (1 Peter 2:2-3). Peter believed that someone who had really tasted of God—the grace of our Lord Jesus—would have an insatiable desire for God’s Word. If someone who professes Christianity only picks up the Bible casually, you might have reason to wonder about the depth of his experience with the Lord! The Psalmist wrote that the Word was his delight and that he meditated on it day and night (Psalm 1:2). Job said, “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12).

Acquiring this new taste for the things of God will prompt you to seek more of Him in your life. My parents are an example of that. Before they ever attended the Apostolic Faith Church, they sought the Lord. My father told how in Iowa, in the 1930s, he was hungry for the experience of sanctification. He heard there was a little group of people in St. Louis, Missouri, who believed in this experience, and he hitchhiked there one day. It was winter at the time, and the old trench coat he was wearing was stiff and cold from the freezing weather, but he was determined. When he arrived in St. Louis, he could not find the people he wanted to see, so he started back home. Once there, he sat in the living room with his feet in a pan of warm water, and opened his young heart to God, saying, “Lord, I’ve tried.” God came down and sanctified him! My mother and dad both prayed through to the baptism of the Holy Spirit there in Iowa as well, all because they had a hunger for God down in their hearts.

In the physical, there are things that will suppress your appetite. Occasionally my wife asks me at dinnertime, “Did you eat anything this afternoon?” She can tell if snacking during the afternoon has caused me to not be hungry.

Similarly, there are things that can ruin your spiritual appetite. Listening to or spreading gossip, filling your minds with music or audiovisual media that is not edifying, and neglecting to maintain a healthy spiritual diet through personal devotions and church attendance are some examples. Even going into a church service distracted by the cares of life rather than being focused on the Lord can take the “edge” off your craving for the things God has prepared for you. Remember that the things of this world will never satisfy and will hinder you if you let them. However, the Lord said that He can satisfy! In the Bible we read about hungering and thirsting after righteousness, but that hunger is not just a need that can be satisfied with a mid-afternoon snack.

When the Prodigal Son was so hungry that he desired to eat the husks the swine ate, his heart and mind went back to his father’s house where there was bread enough and to spare (Luke 15:11-32). I fear that many people think of the Gospel like those husks—as a repast to help them get by for a little while. The Gospel is not just a “get by”; it is the very essence of man’s existence. Without the Gospel, one will perish. It is necessary to eat of the Bread of Life *continually*. You need to be in the place where you have an appetite for more of God.

The Word of God tells us that the Lord sent manna to feed the Israelites so that they would understand that “man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD” (Deuteronomy 8:3). It means something to have an intense hunger that gives one a desire to taste and see that the Lord is good. He offers so much for us to enjoy: a veritable feast! There is salvation from sin (deliverance and victory), entire sanctification (elimination of the sinful nature each person is born with), the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the Third Person of the Trinity abiding in and empowering the clean and holy heart), divine healing, guidance, comfort, help in the time of need, and so much more.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! He will not disappoint you but will feed you with the finest of the wheat (Psalm 147:14). If tasting those white and yellow kernels of sweet corn at the Seven Oaks Farm causes people to drive out there every week of the season, how much more should tasting of the grace of God cause us to want to go back for more.

Nolan Roby is a retired pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church. He and his wife currently attend the church in Portland, Oregon.



DIFFERENT ERAS, BUT THE SAME FAITH

A mother and daughter share their very different experiences of life, loss, and the Lord's mercy.



By Addie Mae Hayes

The daughter of former slaves, I was born in Oakland, Mississippi, on October 17, 1896. My father always talked to us about the Lord, and he would take me to Sunday school every Sunday. My heart hungered for Jesus, and as a young girl, I would often leave my playmates

and go into the woods to be alone with God. I would walk through the meadows or sit on a log by the lake and listen to the birds sing. In hearing them and the humming of the bees and other insects, I would think about the God who had made it all and pray.

We attended a little Baptist church while I was growing up, and sometimes revival meetings were held there for several weeks at a time. The year I was sixteen, I was under heavy conviction. At church, I went to the mourners' bench again and again, but never felt that my prayers were answered. I had done all I knew to do. One day in a cotton field, I knelt once more and prayed, "Lord, have mercy! Have mercy!" All at once it was as though the Lord spoke to me, "You are saved." I jumped up shouting, "I've got it! I've got it!" I ran home, and the first person I met was my father. How glad I was to tell him I was now a child of God.

After I married, my husband and I, along with several other families, moved to Arkansas. A year or two later, some people came to our community and put up a big tent and held church services. They preached the three experiences of justification,

sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. What a revival there was!

We met a woman in the meetings who had been receiving Apostolic Faith papers from Portland, Oregon, and she shared them with my mother. Soon, my husband and I were on the mailing list too, and no matter where we moved, we always kept our names on that list. How I longed to go to Portland to be among the people who upheld the standard of the Bible! But we were very poor, and with several young children by this time, it seemed impossible.

After World War I, work became scarce in the South and people began moving north. We sold all of our possessions and moved also. The money only took us as far as Poplar Bluff, Missouri, where we had relatives. No work was available there, so we followed my brothers and sisters to Chicago, Illinois, where they had found factory work. However, by the time we arrived, the quotas for factory workers had been filled. An opening became available in an automobile factory in Pontiac, Michigan, so my husband went and later sent for me and our five children. We did not know anyone there, so I prayed the Lord would lead me in finding a church that preached what I believed. I was still receiving Apostolic Faith papers and drew strength from them during these difficult times, but I longed to go to Portland.

My husband had steady work and our life together improved for a time. We had three more children, and then while I was carrying twins, tragedy struck. The children contracted a communicable disease and went into the hospital. One by one, the five older children died, and then I lost one twin at birth and the other soon after. With only three children remaining, I reached my lowest ebb and clung to the church papers.

We had three more children, and then my greatest shock came in March of 1933 when my husband died suddenly of pneumonia. My heart was broken. There I was at age thirty-six, with six little children and no way of making a living. I had been suffering with asthma for about a year. What was I to do now?

There was a little insurance money, so I bought clothes for the children and some groceries. I decided to use the rest of the money on a trip to Portland to attend the camp meeting that was in session. I had never traveled alone, but my hunger for the Lord was so great, it gave me courage. I told no one of my plans to go any farther than Chicago, where I expected to visit relatives on my return. My children stayed with my parents.

What a trip it was! It took from Monday afternoon until midnight the following Sunday to reach Portland by bus. Coming into the depot so late, I thought I would just sit there until morning and then take a streetcar to the camp meeting. However, about one in the morning, the station agent said the last bus was in and he was closing up. I took a taxi to the campground and found everything locked up for the night. The taxi driver kept calling over the fence until finally someone heard him. They let me in, and I was given a place to sleep.

My dream had been realized! I was at the camp meeting in Portland! There were no services on Monday, but I met many friendly people who showed me around. On Tuesday, I just watched. Was this really what I had expected? It was! I felt I was home at last. I sent postcards to tell my family where I was.

Wednesday morning at the prayer meeting, I went right to the altar and renewed my covenant with God. At the afternoon Bible teaching, I heard Sister Crawford give the Word, and at the close of the service, I prayed and was sanctified. After the evangelistic service that night, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and my hunger was satisfied. On Thursday, I was baptized in water with many others. My preparation had been made, and I could just enjoy Friday and Sunday, the last days of the camp meeting.

I returned to Michigan with peace and joy in my heart, but life continued to be difficult. I was in poor health and doing domestic work when tragedy struck again. My nine-year-old son contracted an infection that went to his heart, and he died. I had such heartache. My whole thought from that point forward was to get back to Portland to live there. We were still very poor, but I began setting aside earnings, and after eight years, we had enough for the move. We moved in 1941, and it was difficult to find a place to live because many people had come to Portland to work in the shipyards during World War II. I looked for a house to buy, but there seemed to be nothing available. I prayed, "Lord, You have houses. You have everything. You can find something for me." As I was leaving church that night, a friend stopped me and asked, "Have you talked with Sister Jones? Her mother isn't well and has gone back to Texas. She wants you to have her house." The Lord had answered my prayer! I never suffered spiritually or financially again.

God continued to take care of me through the years. At times when my asthma was very bad, my daughter Lillian would sit up with me to help me. She prayed that

if the Lord would heal me, she would serve Him. The Lord has healed me completely, and my daughter is serving the Lord with me.

It has been wonderful to serve the Lord, in good times and bad.



By Norma Jean Hayes

God has been good to me all of my life. I had a wonderful praying mother who was always there. She raised me in the Apostolic Faith Church, and her prayers kept me from going deep into the world.

Though I left the church when I was in

my mid-teens and was gone for many years, I did not stray very far from the things my mother taught me. I was not a Christian but always wanted to do the right thing and tried to live a pretty good life. I married and had two children who grew up and did quite well. My life was not full of gloom and doom, and I did not pick up a lot of emotional baggage.

God was always there for me, and sometimes I wondered why. He even helped me enter the profession that I had so wanted and prayed for. I was the twelfth of my mother's thirteen children, and the only one born in a hospital. She named me after the nurse, and from the time I was young, I wanted to be a nurse also. It was against all odds that I was able to go back to school and earn my degree. I went to Emanuel Hospital's School of Nursing and was among the first African Americans to graduate from that program. I was able to do that work for fifty years and really enjoyed it.

When I was in my sixties, I came back to the Apostolic Faith and began attending church regularly again. I also joined a Bible study group and went every Wednesday without fail. I did this for ten years and was content. My life was going well, and I thought there was no need for anything more. Then in June of 2004, when I was seventy-three, I became dreadfully ill. I had a deflated lung, was anemic, and had no appetite. Also, I was losing weight and

becoming weak, but did not care because I had lost my will to live. In that state, I was lying flat on my back in bed one day when a Voice spoke to me and said, "If you should die, where will you spend eternity?" I had been resisting God's call, but by that time I was ready to submit. I prayed, "I am ready. I want to be a Christian. I want to be saved." God saved me right there, and I was so happy!

A few weeks later, the annual camp meeting began. I did not know much about sanctification, but on the very first Sunday, I got on my knees and asked God for it. He sanctified me, and it was the most beautiful experience. It brought peace to my heart that is still present today. Later, God also baptized me with His Holy Spirit.

Not only did God save, sanctify, and baptize me, but He restored my health, and He has touched me several more times since then. In March of 2008, I was in Sunday school class when I bent down to get something. As I came back up, there was a terrible pain in my neck. A sister helped me to the lobby, and by the time we got there, my right side was completely paralyzed. I thought, *Oh Lord, is this how it is going to be? Then have Your will. You have been so good to me that I can't complain if it is Your will for me to live paralyzed.* The ministers came and prayed for me, and many others prayed too. After three days, sensation began to come back in one finger on my right hand, and I knew God had answered prayer. Within a short time, He had healed me completely, and I was so thankful. That incident taught me a lesson. We don't know what is going to happen from one moment to the next, so our lives need to be surrendered to God.

I am glad I finally yielded to God's will and gave my life to Him. After I received salvation and told my friends what God had done for me, many of them said, "I thought you were already a Christian because you never did anything wrong." They may not have seen the difference, but God had made a change in my heart. He gave me joy and peace that I would not trade for anything in this world. Before I was a Christian, I had a wonderful life, but it has been so much better since the day God saved me.

Addie Hayes was a faithful worker in the Apostolic Faith headquarters office mailing room and on the cleaning crew for many years, and helped to care for many of the sick and elderly of our church in the early days. In November of 1991, at the age of ninety-five, she went Home to meet her Savior. Her daughter Norma was born in 1931 and began attending the Portland Apostolic Faith Church after her mother's passing. Mother and daughter had a heavenly reunion at Norma's passing in 2019.

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

DIVINE HEALING of sickness is provided through the atonement. *James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24.*

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

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

CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL REIGN is the 1000 years of peaceful reign by Jesus on earth. *Isaiah 11 and 35; Revelation 20:1-6.*

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT is the final judgment when all the wicked dead will stand before God. *Revelation 20:11-15.*

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH will replace the present heaven and earth, which will be destroyed after the Great White Throne Judgment. *2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 21:1-3.*

ETERNAL HEAVEN AND ETERNAL HELL are literal places of final and eternal destiny. *Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:22-28.*

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

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

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

THE LORD'S SUPPER is an institution ordained by Jesus so that we might remember His death until He returns. *Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23, 26.*

FOOT WASHING is practiced according to the example and commandment Jesus gave. *John 13:14-15.*

You may obtain additional information about these doctrines and learn about our other publications in both English and foreign languages by writing to the Apostolic Faith Church at 5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206, U.S.A. or visiting our website at www.apostolicfaith.org. Before these magazines are sent out, they are always prayed over for the healing of the sick and the salvation of souls.

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Jesus
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD