

A watercolor illustration of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, rendered in shades of blue and green. The tower is the central focus, with its intricate lattice structure visible. In the foreground, a person is sitting on a bench, also rendered in soft watercolor washes. The background is a light, textured wash of colors, suggesting a bright, open sky.

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH—JUDE 3

JULY — SEPTEMBER 2026

RAISED UP BY HIS POWER!

A retired pastor in Paris, France, recalls God's goodness throughout his life.

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THE
ApostolicFaith

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026

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VIEWPOINT

BY SOLA ADESOPE
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

120



120 Years of God's Faithfulness

This year marks a milestone in the history of the Apostolic Faith Church—120 years of God's unfailing faithfulness. It was in April of 1906 that a small group of believers gathered inside a home on Bonnie Brae Street in Los Angeles, California, seeking God through prayer and fasting. Their earnest desire was not for recognition or worldly achievements, but for a deeper experience with God. The Lord answered their prayers, pouring out His Spirit in a way that ignited a revival that would reach around the world.

Among those impacted by that revival was our founder, Sister Florence Crawford. Later that same year, she brought the message of Pentecost to Portland, Oregon, where God continued to move in hearts and lives. Souls were saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit. From those early days until now, the mission of the Apostolic Faith Church has remained unchanged: proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping people experience the transforming power of God.

As we reflect on our 120-year journey, we are reminded that our history revolves around a faithful God who continues to answer prayer and transform lives. One of the greatest evidences of God's faithfulness has been the preservation of sound Biblical truth in the Apostolic Faith. Since its inception, faithful leaders and workers have emphasized that genuine Christianity is effected by an inward transformation that produces Christlike character. A 1957 sermon by Brother Ray Crawford (see page 32) reminds us that charity—the pure love of God—is the hallmark of a Christian life. True Christianity is not measured by eloquence, knowledge, spiritual gifts, or outward achievements, but by the love of God dwelling in the heart and expressed through humility, patience, forgiveness, and holy conduct. This emphasis on spiritual transformation rather than mere religious profession helped preserve our commitment to the faith once delivered to the saints.

God's faithfulness is also seen in the countless testimonies of ordinary people whose lives have been changed by His grace. During the difficult years of the Great Depression, the Snyder family came to Portland burdened by hardship and uncertainty. Through the ministry of the Apostolic Faith Church, they were saved and their hope was renewed. As the years passed, they experienced God's provision, healing, guidance, and care. Looking back over a lifetime of serving God, Sister Alice Snyder could simply testify, "He has never failed us" (see page 36).

Brother Shabeeb Nadeem of Pakistan is another beautiful example of God's faithfulness (see page 18). With almost no Gospel light shining in his country, God orchestrated a remarkable connection between him and one of our churches in Canada. Brother Shabeeb experienced the same Holy Ghost power that fell at Bonnie Brae Street in 1906, proving that God has not changed and He is still moving today!

For 120 years, God has guided the Apostolic Faith Church through seasons of economic challenges, wars, cultural shifts, and more. He has raised up faithful ministers and workers who preserved the message of the Gospel. Most importantly, He has remained the same faithful God. As we mark this anniversary, we do so with gratitude for the pioneers who faithfully followed God's leading, and with renewed determination to preserve the Biblical truths that have been passed down to us. We stand in expectation of a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, confident that the God who has been faithful for 120 years will continue to guide, bless, and empower His people until the return of Jesus Christ.

BY SOLA ADESOPE

BUILD SPIRITUAL MEMORIALS

What memorials are we building for those who come after us?

At the end of the month of May, we have a national holiday here in the United States to honor the military personnel who gave their lives in the service of our great country. Memorial Day is a time of solemn reflection when we remember and are thankful for the soldiers who sacrificed to preserve our freedom.

There are many ways that nations, states, communities, churches, families, and individuals commemorate people or events that have significantly impacted them, and history has proven that there is great value in doing so. Let's consider four aspects of memorials: examples of physical memorials, spiritual memorials, why we need such memorials, and how we can set them in place in our own lives.

Physical memorials

Many monuments in this nation's capital, Washington DC, memorialize events or people who made a mark on this country. For example, at a ceremony on February 21, 1885, President Chester A. Arthur dedicated the newly completed Washington Monument to the memory of George Washington, the

first president of the United States. The Washington Monument remains one of the most distinctive features of the city's skyline to this day.

Some memorials in this country are reminders of significant events, such as the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, which commemorates the attack that brought the United States into World War II. Other memorials symbolize foundational ideals, such as the Statue of Liberty. Still others commemorate achievements; for example, the Wright Brothers National Memorial celebrates man's first powered flight. Such memorials help preserve historical narratives and ensure that lessons from the past are learned and remembered from one generation to the next.

In many locations, there are street names, airports, libraries, and parks that are named in honor of historic figures. Religious institutions around the world are also named for individuals. One in Ogun State, Nigeria, called Crawford University, was named after Florence Crawford, the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church. Some parents have named their children Florence, Raymond, Loyce, or Josiah, memorializing church leaders who were shining examples of stability, holiness, purity,

MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day is observed in the United States on the last Monday of May.



It honors military personnel who died in service to their country.



The holiday originated after the American Civil War and was initially called Decoration Day, the day when graves of fallen soldiers were decorated with flowers.



In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday.



Some Americans observe a National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 p.m. local time.

REMEMBER HIS BENEFITS

**“Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.”**

—Psalm 103:2

and godliness. In giving children these names, the parents are indicating a hope that their children will grow up in the same manner and with the same passion that those people had for the Gospel. So, memorials, whether national, church, or personal, are all around us.

A memorial for Israel

In Joshua chapter 4, we read of a time when God instituted a spiritual memorial for the Children of Israel. He told their leader, Joshua, to have twelve men—one from each tribe—take a stone from the Jordan River. The stones were to be carried to the other side of the river and set up as a memorial (verse 8). At God’s direction, the stones that were taken from the Jordan became memorial stones. They marked the miraculous event that had just occurred: the Children of Israel had crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land on dry ground. Their forty-year journey had come to an end.

Since the day many years earlier when God had delivered them from Egypt, He had done

many miracles for them. We remember how He gave them a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide them. When they came to the Red Sea, He parted the waters and they passed over on dry ground. God gave them victory over the Amalekites. He provided them with manna and quail, and water from a rock. He gave them military victories over nations that opposed them along the way.

When they finally arrived at the border of the Promised Land, the Jordan River stood between them and their destination. God told Joshua, “And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap” (Joshua 3:13). Just as God said, when the priests’ feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing. All the Children of Israel—and they numbered close to two million people—walked across on dry ground by the mighty power of God.



MEMORIALS IN THE BIBLE

Some Biblical memorials marked moments when individuals encountered God. For example:

- **Altar at Shechem (Genesis 12:6-7)**
— Abraham built an altar in the land God promised to his descendants.
- **Altar at Beersheba (Genesis 26:24-25)** — Isaac marked the location where God confirmed the covenant He had made with Abraham.
- **Stone at Bethel (Genesis 28:18-19)**
— Jacob marked the location where God confirmed the covenant He had made with Abraham and Isaac.

Follow the crossing, God commanded Joshua to take the memorial stones from the spot where the priests’ feet had stood firm when the waters were cut off. And He gave the reason: He did not want the Israelites to forget what had happened. In days to come, when children would ask their parents what the stones meant, they could explain what God had done for them at that place. Those stones were meant to preserve the memory of that great event.

Other spiritual memorials

We find examples of other spiritual memorials in the Bible. Genesis 28:18 tells of a memorial Jacob built where God met him in a mighty way after he left his home and started for Haran. In a dream, Jacob saw the angels of God ascending and descending a ladder that reached unto Heaven. This was not an ordinary dream: God showed Himself to Jacob! When Jacob awoke, he said, “Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not” (Genesis 28:16). How did he respond to that amazing event? We read, “And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it” (Genesis 28:18). He made a memorial! He called the name of that place Bethel, which means “House of God”—a place where God dwells.

The prophet Samuel also set up a memorial to God. In 1 Samuel 7:12 we read, “Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.” That memorial was to help the Israelites remember a great deliverance



from the Philistines. Haven't we had "Ebenezers" along the way—times when the Lord helped us as a church, as families, or as individuals? Those are our memorials, and we do not want to forget any of them.

In Exodus 12:24-27, we read of the Passover—a feast that God instituted to remind the Israelites of their miraculous deliverance from Egypt. That was an amazing event, and they were not to forget it. In fact, to this day, many Jews still observe the Passover, recalling what God did and rehearsing the memory that God said they should keep.

The Lord's Supper is another memorial in the Bible, and that one was established by Jesus himself. In Luke 22:19, we are told that Jesus gathered with His disciples and "took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." If you have been saved from sin, you need to look back and remember the great sacrifice that the Lord made for you. Observing the Lord's Supper is one way we do so.

Why do we need spiritual memorials?

Spiritual memorials are necessary because we are prone to forget. Ten

years ago I used to remember things, but now I have to make a concerted effort to do so. With the passing of time, memories dim. Our working memory is short and getting shorter as the years go by.

A man named George Miller, a pioneering cognitive scientist, is famous for his 1956 publication titled, "The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two." In it, he stated that the average person can only hold about seven (plus or minus two) items in his or her working memory at any given time. He introduced the concept of grouping bits of information in order to retain them. That is why phone numbers with seven characters are divided into two groups that are separated by a dash.

Because of our tendency to forget, many of us have techniques to help us remember. If I don't put appointments on my Outlook calendar, don't expect me! That is why we use sticky notes or put reminders on our refrigerators—humans forget. But if we forget everything else, may we never forget the goodness of God. It will take concerted effort to remember all the times and ways the goodness of God has been manifested to us.

Another reason that we need spiritual memorials is to teach future generations. God told Joshua that the

stones taken from the Jordan would be a conversation starter when the children asked their meaning. Their parents could then say, "Oh, you want to hear the story? Let me tell you what happened there." God did not want the Children of Israel to forget His goodness to them, and those memorial stones were meant to help preserve the memory.

Establishing spiritual memorials

About thirty-five years ago, I heard of a man who said he was a Christian and kept a diary containing a list of people who had offended him. When he passed away, his children were at the cusp of coming to Christ. However, after their dad was buried, they went through his belongings and found the diary. When they read what he had written, they decided that if that was what Christianity was all about, they wanted nothing to do with it.

When I read that story, I decided to do something different. Like that man, I started a diary, but mine contains scores and scores of victories that have occurred in our church. Back then, if I heard of a brother or sister who was going through a difficult time, I would write it down. Then I would take those names before God,



The Bible tells about several memorials that marked notable events for the nation of Israel. For example:

- ▶ **Passover Feast (Exodus 12:24–27)** — commemorating Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt.
- ▶ **Jordan River Stones (Joshua 4:1–9)** — remembering Israel’s crossing of the Jordan River.
- ▶ **Ebenezer Stone between Mizpeh and Shen (1 Samuel 7:12)** — memorializing the place where God gave the Israelites a great victory from the Philistines.

praying, “God, help this one. Meet this brother’s needs. Resolve that situation for this family.” Later on, when I would hear testimonies of how God resolved the problem, I would go home and write in my diary, “Prayer answered on this date.”

I have that notebook here with me today. Recently, my son saw it and asked what it was. I said to him, “Do you want to hear about the goodness of God? Do you want to hear of how God has answered prayers? This notebook shows that we are a church where God answers prayers.” He took the notebook and flipped through its pages. And guess what? He recognized names of people who are still in the church today—individuals who came through very difficult times with victory. Many people have carried me to God in prayer when I was going through difficult times as well. We are a family! Together as a church, and independently as believers, we need to build memorials, and one way we can do that is to keep a record of answers to prayer.

Another way to establish memorials is through our testimonies. Revelation 12:11 says, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.” We enjoy the testimonies given in our church services. Sometimes when we testify, it may seem

“We keep spiritual memories alive when we testify! Parents, grandparents, and fellow believers, we cannot overestimate the power of our testimonies.”

that our children are not listening. Be assured, they *are* listening. When we are gone from this earth, they will be able to say, “I remember how my dad would stand up and give a shout for the battle and testify to the goodness of God.” We keep spiritual memories alive when we testify! Parents, grandparents, and fellow believers, we cannot overestimate the power of our testimonies.

While we rehearse our stories verbally, we can also write out our testimonies. In Habakkuk 2:2, God instructed the prophet to “write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he that readeth may run.” We may forget details, but if it is written down, the blessings we recorded are preserved. Someday perhaps our children and our children’s children will see what we have written and be inspired and encouraged in the way of the Lord.

We must be deliberate in passing down our history and the blessings of God. In the Book of Judges we read that after the death of Joshua and the godly men around him, “there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10). That passage rips my heart open every time I read it. After Joshua’s generation passed off the scene, the next generation did not know what God had done for their forefathers! How did that happen? Perhaps the parents failed to teach them. Maybe they had done their best to educate their children in many other things, but failed to tell them about the goodness of God. What a tragedy!

Our mortal bodies will be gone from the scene someday, if the Lord does not come first. What God has done for us will be gone as well unless we have passed those memories on to our children, our grandchildren, and the next generation. If I leave this earth before the Lord comes, I want my family, the church, and all who know me to be able to say, “Brother Sola may be gone, but his testimony of

deliverance from sin is still alive.” I want them to know what God has done in my life.

A time for evaluation

Not far from New York City, there is a grave with a headstone inscribed with just one word: “Forgiven.” There is no name, no date of birth, no date of death, no epitaph, no elaborate tribute; just the word “Forgiven.” That word symbolizes the ultimate importance of being right with God.

Have you been forgiven? Have you begun stacking up stones of spiritual memorials in your life? Maybe there’s a memory of the time and place where God sanctified you or filled you with His Holy Spirit. Are you passing that on? Maybe there was a time when you were sick, the people of God prayed, and God healed you. Perhaps the doctors said they must have been mistaken in their diagnosis, but you know that the power of God intervened and changed everything. That is a memorial to you, but have you passed it on? Have you stacked up those stones?

The Psalmist said, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies” (Psalm 103:2–4). He knew the importance of remembering the benefits of God! He passed it on through this psalm, and it has blessed hearts for centuries.

Today, what memorials are we building for those who come after us? May God help us to be faithful in passing on our memorials to the next generation.



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BY OLA BALOGUN

THE CONSCIENCE

A tool the Holy Spirit uses to prompt us in the direction God wants us to go.

Throughout history, countless individuals have demonstrated the power of the human conscience. One example who comes to mind is Martin Luther, the leader of the Reformation. He had to appear twice before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Each time, he was told to recant his teachings, including justification through faith alone and the authority of Scripture over church tradition. Luther declared, “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.”¹ The consequence of making such a statement was dire—eventually, Luther

was excommunicated. However, backing down would have violated his conscience, and with God’s help he maintained his resolve.

Another example of one who kept a good conscience despite immense pressure to compromise is the Apostle Paul. In Acts 22 we read about a time when he was arrested at the Temple in Jerusalem for preaching the Gospel. When he was brought before the chief priests and their council, he told them, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day” (Acts 23:1). What a testimony! Despite great opposition and persecution, God gave Paul the strength to live by his convictions.

We all make decisions between right and wrong every day. The consequences of our choices may not affect as many people as were affected by Martin Luther or Paul, but people will be impacted—first and foremost, ourselves. The conscience is an important tool for making the right choices in difficult circumstances. Today, we will consider what the conscience is, how it can become clear, how to keep it clear, and the blessings that result from doing so.

What is the conscience?

One dictionary definition of a conscience is “a person’s moral sense of right

and wrong, acting as a guide to one’s behavior.” In essence, the conscience is like a moral compass. However, it can be flawed as it is biased by each person’s own environment and experiences. A healthy conscience is one that approves thoughts and actions that are consistent with the teachings of the Word of God.

The conscience can be either guilty or clear. When it is guilty, we feel condemned, troubled, and ashamed, and we cannot escape it. When it is clear, we experience an inner freedom from knowing that we are innocent and that no one can condemn us.

God graciously implanted the conscience in us as a powerful tool in the battle against sin. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to reveal sin to us, and He often does that through the conscience. John 16:8 says, “And when he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” He reproves or convicts of sin by troubling the conscience. He leads people to the place where they will admit, “Yes, Lord, I am guilty,” so they can take the necessary steps to have their sins

What is the conscience?

A person’s moral sense of right and wrong, acting as a guide to one’s behavior.



KEY SCRIPTURES ON THE CONSCIENCE

What does God's Word say about the conscience?

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” — 1 Timothy 4:1-2

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” — Romans 8:1

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”

— 1 Peter 3:14-16

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” — 1 John 3:21-22

“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.”

— 1 Timothy 1:5

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

— Hebrews 9:13-14

forgiven, their hearts changed, and their consciences cleared. When we use our consciences the way God intended—when we acknowledge our sins and ask God to remove them—we can experience freedom and joy.

If we do not use our consciences the way God intended, we risk losing this gift. We read in 1 Timothy 4:2, “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” Here Paul referred to people who blatantly fought against the Gospel, and the result was that their consciences were “seared.” They stopped feeling guilt for their evil actions.

We see this often today. Secular culture celebrates sin but does not tolerate the guilt that sin produces. People want to feel confident and empowered, and guilt is not conducive to high self-esteem. Many move away from God in an attempt to eliminate condemnation, and the consequence is that the conscience becomes desensitized to wrongdoing and no longer works. God help us to never be in that dangerous condition.

Obtaining a clear conscience

The foundation of a clear conscience is rooted in the sacrificial work of Christ at Calvary. If we want to be rid of our guilt, Calvary is the answer. We must come to God ready to own all the wrongs we have done and tell Him, “I am sorry. Please forgive me. I believe in the power of Jesus' Blood that was shed on Calvary. Let it be applied to me.” That Blood will work wonders—it transforms lives! We read in 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The same Blood that has power to forgive sins has power to purify the conscience. Hebrews 9:13-14 says, “For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works



The Conscience at a Glance



It is an aspect of the human mind that God designed and created.



The Holy Spirit often uses it to convict people of sins they have committed.



A guilty conscience happens when we do something we believe is wrong. A clear conscience is the result of doing what we believe is right.



If ignored, the conscience can become hardened or desensitized.



False teachings can cause the conscience to be wrong or misleading.



A healthy conscience is one that aligns with the teachings of the Word of God.



The Blood of Christ can cleanse a guilty conscience.



A good conscience must be guarded daily.

to serve the living God?” The author of Hebrews was making a comparison between the Old and New Covenants. Under the Old Covenant, there were many rituals that were required for purification. For example, if someone touched a dead body, that person was considered unclean and had to be separated from society. In order to be cleansed and rejoin society, that person had to offer an animal sacrifice and be sprinkled with its blood. The offender succeeded in becoming ceremonially cleansed, but consciousness of his sinful condition remained.

Now consider the difference between these sacrificial animals and our Savior. Jesus, who is God, humbled Himself and took on human flesh, lived as a man, remained sinless, and then offered Himself to the Father as a sacrifice. How much more His Blood is able to cleanse! If the blood of an animal can accomplish external purification, the Blood of Christ can completely purge our consciences from sins committed when we were spiritually dead.

That is what happens when a person is saved—his or her guilt is purged by the Blood of Jesus. Romans 8:1 says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” That is the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ—to have a heart that is clean, pure, and free from guilt.

In Luke 19 we read about Zacchaeus, a wonderful example of someone who obtained the freedom and joy that comes with a clear conscience. Zacchaeus saw something in Jesus that he wanted—something special and life-giving. When he met Jesus, Zacchaeus embraced His teachings and told Him, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.” Jesus said to him, “This day is salvation come to this house” (Luke 19:8-9). Zacchaeus obtained the forgiveness of sins that he needed.

It is important to note that because Zacchaeus had defrauded others in his past, in addition to repenting to God, he needed to make restitution to those he had harmed. If he had skipped that step, not only would his relationship with God have been uncertain, but his wrongdoings toward others would have weighed on his conscience. When he resolved to obey God’s Law and make restitution, his sins were forgiven, his conscience purged, and he was free from guilt and condemnation.

Shortly after I was saved, I also had to make a restitution. God reminded me about a time that I had deceived my parents at the age of ten. I was feeling guilty and He let me know, “You’ve got to go and make that right.” When I told my parents what I had done, so much joy came to my heart and my conscience was clear. That is what God can do.

Maintaining a clear conscience

Obtaining a clear conscience is one thing, but maintaining it is something that requires regular attention. That is why Paul said in Acts 24:16, “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men.” Guarding our consciences is a daily exercise. It involves praying for God to lead us, making choices that are in line with His will, and being mindful of our actions toward others.

Prayer is critical because the conscience can be mistaken, even after we are saved. The devil is called “the accuser of the brethren” (Revelation 12:10). He would like to bring confusion and false guilt. If we are ever unsure of what is right or wrong in a situation, we can take our concerns to God in prayer and He will reveal the truth to us. He will help us know if a feeling of guilt is a prompting of the Holy Spirit or an accusation of the enemy.

MARTIN LUTHER'S STAND

Standing before Emperor Charles V, Luther refused to recant his doctrinal beliefs.

"My conscience is captive to the Word of God."

- He was excommunicated from the Catholic Church.
- He led The Reformation.
- He established Protestantism.

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

"Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

– Acts 23:1

Paul remained true to his convictions despite:

- Imprisonment
- Beatings
- A death sentence

"Holding faith, and a good conscience . . ."

— 1 TIMOTHY 1:19

Jesus gave this instruction in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." When the Holy Spirit brings to our minds a problem between us and a brother or sister, we want to do our best to reconcile the matter right away. This is not only for situations where we were the offender; this also applies to situations where we have been offended. Doing this will help keep our consciences clear.

In 1 Timothy 1:19, Paul told Timothy, "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." Faith and a good conscience go together—we cannot have faith with a guilty conscience, nor a clear conscience without our faith. If we lose either one, we have nothing—we are lost. So once God has given these to us, we must hold on to them. When Paul testified to the council, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day," he was saying that he was a man of integrity, someone who was upright. That is what Christianity is about:

having an up-to-date testimony, and the Lord will help us do that.

Blessings that result

We read in 1 Timothy 1:5, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." Here Paul was summarizing what happens when people keep God's commandments. The result is charity (God's love) coming from a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith unfeigned (sincere faith). These four elements work together to make us strong Christians who bring honor to God. Charity and a pure heart go together; God's love does not come from an impure heart. And if our hearts are pure, we have nothing to feel guilty about. Our sincere faith is what directs all we do. No matter where we are, who we are around, or what we are going through, our lives are an open book for anyone to see. We can be totally transparent, having no record of offense against others.

Once, at a café near my home, an elderly man asked me, "What do you do?" I thought he was asking about my profession, so that was what I told him about. Then I said, "Well, I'm also the pastor of a church."

He replied, "Oh, yeah! I noticed something different about you." What he noticed was the Gospel—it makes a positive difference that others can see. People cannot help but notice the contrast in a life of freedom and joy, and without hidden sins.

At the same time, some may feel convicted by our lives and reject us. We read in 1 Peter 3:16, "Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ." Even if others oppose us or slander us, our testimony has reached them, and God can let them know that what we have is genuine.

A good conscience not only gives us confidence before men, but also before God. In 1 John 3:21-22 we read, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." When we have no condemnation, we can have confidence to approach God and ask what we will from Him. What a blessing!

The conscience is a valuable tool given to us by God. It is central to our relationship with Him and our witness before others. May we follow Paul's example and endeavor to always have a conscience void of offence toward God and our fellowman. When we do so, we will experience these blessings and more, and God can use our lives in truly extraordinary ways.

¹ "Luther and Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms (1521)," *German History in Documents and Images*, www.germanhistorydocs.org, accessed February 6, 2026.



Reverend Ola Balogun is pastor of the Peckham Apostolic Faith Church in London, England, United Kingdom.

BY PETER SLETMOE

HELP IS ON THE WAY

Volunteer rescue crews do their best, but no one can help like Jesus.

When I was growing up, our family lived in a rural area on Stafford Road out toward Wilsonville, Oregon. When my older brother was a teenager, he decided to volunteer with the Wilsonville Volunteer Fire Department. At the same time, he was interested in muscle cars and had one of his own. I always knew when my brother's car was running; when the engine turned on, it shook the ground, it shook the house, and it reverberated in my chest. Sometimes, I would be awakened in the night by the sound of that car roaring to life and racing down the driveway. On those occasions, there would be some assurance in my heart that my brother was going off in response to a cry for help. He was on his way to help someone in need.

Another memory from that period of my life is riding the school bus into Wilsonville. Our route took us past the Volunteer Fire Department, and once in a while we would hear the sirens as we came around the corner, and then we would see lights flashing. There was a grocery store across the street from the station, and when timed just right, we would see the butcher run out and race across the road untying his apron as he went. As a volunteer, he was in a hurry, because help was needed and help was coming.



Psalm 34:6

“This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him; and saved him out of all his troubles.”

It is one thing to be aware of someone else having a bad day. It is something entirely different to be the one in distress. When we are in that position and hear a siren off in the distance, there is a sense of reassurance in knowing it is coming for us—help is on the way.

In Psalm 34:6, we read words penned by David after he fled for his life from King Saul. He said, “This poor man cried.” This simple statement could have been used to sum up so many situations in David’s life, and if he had stopped right there, it would have been lamentable. However, he went on to write, “and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.” Today, if you are in any trouble, in any distress, or if the cares of life are weighing on you, God is listening. He hears when you

Help Is On The Way!

“Today, if you are in any trouble, in any distress, or if the cares of life are weighing on you, God is listening. He hears when you cry out to Him, and help is on the way!”



cry out to Him, and help is on the way!

When life goes wrong

In Psalm 107, many scenarios are presented in which life has gone wrong; things have not turned out the way people wanted. At the same time, the idea is introduced over and over that all one has to do in times of trouble is cry out to the Lord, and help will come.

One scenario begins in verse 11, which says, “Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High.” That is where things went wrong—they rebelled. When we know what is right to do and decide we are not going to do it, the Holy Spirit will tell us we need to live God’s way. If we say, “I’m going to live my way,” that is rebellion, and that is sin.

WHAT DOES “SUCCOUR” MEAN?

The word *succour* was originally a military term meaning “to send in reinforcements.” It comes from a Greek word that means “to run in response to a cry for help.”

Hebrews 2:18 tells us,

“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” — Hebrews 2:18

When you call out to Jesus, He doesn’t delay—He responds. *Help is already on the way.*

The next verse states, “Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.” That is exactly where sin will lead a person. This may be where you are right now, but you don’t have to stay there. Verse 13 says, “Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.” If you realize that your sinful choices have brought you to a place you would rather not be and you want deliverance, just cry out to God. You will find that help is on the way.

The greatest rescue mission

The greatest rescue mission in history took place on Calvary. Jesus gave His life so we could be forgiven and freed from sin. The Bible tells us in Hebrews chapter 2 that He “was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of



THE GREATEST RESCUE MISSION

- Took place at Calvary.
- Was accomplished through Jesus entering human flesh and offering Himself as a sacrifice for sin.
- Brings complete victory over sin and death.

Salvation does not cause a partial improvement—it is total liberation from sin.

in dying and rising again on the third day was not simply to give the devil a black eye, but “that he might destroy him.” Jesus wants to destroy the sin that is in you and transform your life. Don’t settle for signing a card, shaking someone’s hand, and going on your way unchanged, still bound by your sins. Jesus promises something better. He offers complete deliverance from sin and a whole new life. He offers victory!

Heaven’s call center

Jesus is ready and able to help you. Hebrews 2:18 states, “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” The word *succour* in English was originally a military term, meaning “to send in reinforcements.” In this verse, it is translated from the Greek word *boéthéó*, which means “to run in the direction of an urgent cry for help.” This is an illustration of what Jesus does. When we go to the altar of prayer and say, “Lord, help me,” He responds. Right then, help is on the way.

HEAVEN’S CALL CENTER

- No busy signals
- No wrong departments
- No delays
- No confusion

Every prayer goes directly to the One who can help.

WHAT TO DO IN A TIME OF CRISIS

- Cry out to God
- Trust His response
- Receive deliverance

God has promised to be with you and He will help and sustain you.

death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (verse 9). Jesus tasted death for you and me. He went to the Cross to rescue us, to deliver us from sin.

Everyone born into this world is born in sin and needs rescuing. Further on in Hebrews 2 we read, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (verses 14-15). Sin is bondage. You might think you are in control, but you are a servant to sin. You are a slave to the enemy of your soul. God wants to deliver you, but you must cry out to Him in repentance. When God delivers you, it is not just from poor decisions or habits. Jesus didn’t die on the Cross to make your sin problem a little less bad than it is now. Salvation is not a tamping down of sin. Jesus died to liberate you and give you a whole new life! His purpose

WHO JESUS IS TO US

- Merciful and Faithful High Priest
- Gentle Shepherd
- Captain of Salvation
- Victorious King

Jesus meets you with exactly the help you need

in every situation.

Over the course of my life, I've had some negative experiences with call centers. Perhaps you have too. Usually, the instructions for obtaining support include the statement that operators are standing by to take the call. Yet, when I call the number, there is no immediate response. I may get a busy signal or a recorded message, and it occurs to me that possibly the operators are "standing by" less than suggested. When I do get through, many times the person answering seems surprised by my problem. My call gets put on hold, transferred to another department, or referred to a supervisor.

You will never have an experience like that with Jesus. Your prayers will never be met with a busy signal. God will not be surprised by your problem or tell you that you've reached the wrong department. When you bring your burdens to Him, your prayer goes exactly where it is supposed to go. You won't have to ask for a supervisor, because Jesus *is* the Supervisor, and He is able to do something for you.

God is waiting to hear from you. He wants you to bring all your burdens to Him. If you are

not saved, you are facing life's trials alone and missing out on victory over sin and the hope of Heaven. It isn't that all your troubles will stop after you give your heart to the Lord. Day by day, situations will continue to arise and the cares of life will still come. However, God has promised to be with you and He will help and sustain you. Whether you are seeking salvation or are already a child of God, take your needs to Him. He will meet you at the altar of prayer and bring you through. Cry out to God today.

Jesus meets every need

When we reach out to those around us for help, we don't always get the help we really need. Fellow believers, family, and friends mean well, but as humans, we are limited in what we can do for each other. One time, I needed some work done at my house. Someone came out to do the job, but it wasn't until his seventh trip that he had the right equipment and tools to do what was needed. With Jesus, He knows exactly what type of help we need, and He is equipped to provide it.

The words "merciful" and "faithful" in Hebrews 2:17 bring to mind the gentle Shepherd that we see depicted in paintings of Jesus carrying a lamb. As our Shepherd, Jesus protects, guides, and provides for us. Sometimes, this is the help that we need.

However, there will be moments in life, as we are doing our best to serve the Lord, where we will encounter fierce trials. In those circumstances, we don't so much need the gentle Jesus as we do the Captain of Salvation who has never lost a battle (see Hebrews 2:10). We need Someone with the power to overcome any

adversity and win the victory. This Jesus is described in Revelation 1:14-16. The Apostle John said, "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength." Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we can be assured that when we cry out to Jesus, the help we need is on the way.

A match for every situation

When John saw Jesus in all His glory, he fell down at His feet as if dead. Then Jesus said, "Fear not," and that is our instruction today. We can be assured that when we take our burdens to the Lord in prayer, our call will go through. We will reach Heaven's call center and it will be the right department with the right equipment to help us. As Jesus continued His response to John, He listed His credentials saying, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:17-18). What more could we need to overcome life's trials?

Whatever problems you are facing today, bring your cares to the Lord. Cry out to Him, and you will find that help is on the way. He is a match for every situation, and He will give you victory.



Peter Sletmoe is a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church in Grants Pass, Oregon.



BY SHABEEB NADEEM

A HEAVEN-SENT CONNECTION

A small church in northern Canada pointed this young man in Pakistan to the answers he was searching for.

My family is from a small town in northeastern Pakistan. My parents and grandparents were part of the very small Christian community in our area, and we attended a Catholic church. One of my grandmothers worked as a Sunday school teacher for twenty-six years, and sometimes I would attend her classes. Though I was quite mischievous and did not always engage in the classes, they introduced

“High school was a dangerous and challenging time in my life. After making some friends who were of a different religion, I became deeply entrenched in sin.”

me to the teachings of Jesus and I learned to practice many Christian values. However, we did not learn about how to receive salvation individually. We were taught that religion is determined through family heritage, and that being born into a Christian family automatically makes a person a Christian.

High school was a dangerous and challenging time in my life. After making some friends who were of a different religion, I





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(Left to right) Shabeeb with his parents; His mother and grandmother presenting a Sunday school lesson; His grandmother teaching Sunday school.

became deeply entrenched in sin. Those friends were from families that were more affluent than mine, and envy began to grow in my heart. I longed to be part of what seemed to be a luxurious lifestyle. I thought that if I didn't act like them, they would make fun of me, so I started using bad language, smoking, and going to parties. I even joined a group that was known for getting into fights at school. Soon, I was consumed with my social life. I became rebellious against my parents, teachers, and elders. I did whatever I wanted, regardless of the consequences. I was on a path of destruction.

An encounter with God

The day before my seventeenth birthday, I was at home studying by myself when suddenly, I started trembling and shouting. My parents rushed over to calm me down, but I could not explain what had happened. Later that night, I woke up trembling again and felt an intense heat. Then the Lord showed me a vision of all the sins I had committed with my friends and others. Feeling scared, an understanding came over me that I needed to get away from those friends and their sinful lifestyle.

The next morning, I told my mother about the second episode.

She didn't say anything right then, but after school that day, she asked me to pray with her. As we prayed, I felt the Lord drawing me, but I was still holding on to sin in my heart and did not receive the answer that I needed. My heart was still troubled.

Realizing that there was a major problem in my life and that I needed something more from God, I started to study the topic of salvation. However, it was difficult to understand because there were varying teachings on the subject, and none of them seemed right to me. Some church leaders were saying that if you gave them a monthly donation, the members would pray for you to receive salvation. That did not make sense to me. At the same time, I was trying to stop sinning in my own strength, but that did not work. My old friends came around enticing me back to their way of life, sometimes even tricking me into temptations, and I was not able to withstand them.

A connection in Canada

During that time, I remember asking the Lord to help me understand His Word and to show me how to forsake sin. In the fall of 2021, God answered my prayer in a wonderful way. While searching different topics on a social media site, I came across

Pakistan at a Glance



Population

Over 240 million people—the fifth most populous country in the world



Location

South Asia, bordered by India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China, with a coastline along the Arabian Sea



Languages

Urdu (national) and English (official), along with regional languages such as Punjabi, Pashto, and Sindhi



Religion

More than 96% Muslim; Christians are a small minority (about 1–2%), often living in close-knit communities



Major Cities

Karachi (largest), Lahore (cultural center), and Islamabad (capital)

Christianity in Pakistan

- Christians make up a small percentage of Pakistan's population.
- Understanding of Bible doctrines is limited even in Christian communities.
- Many communities believe religious affiliation is inherited as a part of family identity.
- Converting others is prohibited.

a group called "Apostolic Faith Mission – Fort McMurray." It was a church in northern Canada. There was an encouraging post on that page, and something prompted me to leave a comment. My message said that I was from Pakistan and asked if their church held any Bible studies online so I could join them and learn more. Someone replied that they did have weekly gatherings online.

Because of the time difference between our locations, for me the meetings started at 4:00 in the morning! This was especially difficult considering how cold it gets during wintertime. It seemed impossible to join that group, but the idea would not leave my mind. After a few days, I prayed for God to give me strength to attend. When I did, I heard people share personal experiences of how the Lord had saved them and how He was actively working in their lives. Their testimonies convinced me that the Lord could do the same for me. I began to think, *The Lord is the same everywhere. If He can save them, if He can heal them, if He can forgive them, why couldn't He save me? Even though I am a sinner, I am His creation. If these people can receive what they needed from God, I can too.*

Finally finding answers

I reached out to the church's pastor, Sister Marjorie Reid, and asked her about salvation. She described what it is and how a person can receive it, and

"While searching different topics on a social media site, I came across a group called 'Apostolic Faith Mission – Fort McMurray.' It was a church in northern Canada. There was an encouraging post on that page, and something prompted me to leave a comment."

she also showed me the website of the world headquarters church where all the church's doctrines are explained. Much of that information was new for me and there were many misunderstandings to straighten out, but finally it seemed I had found what I was searching for.

After one of the Fort McMurray church meetings, during the altar call I decided to pray that God would do for me what He had done for others in that church. Since I already knew and freely admitted that I was a sinner, I confessed every sin to the Lord with sincere remorse, and asked Him for His mercy and grace. I believed that God is my loving Father, and that if I came to Him in repentance, He would not reject me but would be merciful and receive me. That day was incredibly joyful for me—the Lord forgave me and saved me! I felt a heavy burden of sin lift from my heart, and the stain of sin was washed away. It was as if I had been living in darkness for so long, and finally the Lord brought me into the light!

After that, the Lord gave me the strength to stay away from my old friends and sinful habits. My family was very happy about the change in my life because they had been worried about the path I was on. When I shared what I had learned about salvation with several of my relatives, the Lord demonstrated His power and many of them were also saved.

When God saved me, he also healed me. Before salvation, I was always dealing with different

health problems, including a diagnosis of tuberculosis in 2019. When Jesus came into my life, I received divine healing and my health has remained good since then.

I continued to participate in online church meetings and started asking Sister Marjorie even more questions. Soon, a group of my relatives were all hungry to know more about the teachings of the Bible and to hold prayer meetings. Sister Marjorie sent me sermons to translate into Urdu and share with them. We all rejoiced as more people received salvation, healing, and other blessings from God.

Very quickly, I came to realize that the teachings of the Apostolic Faith Church are all based on the Bible. The true teachings from the Bible are so important, yet it was something I had never heard in Pakistan. This was also my first time to hear about sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

There are many others in Pakistan who are just like my family—they have a Christian background and consider themselves to be Christians, but they have a limited understanding even of salvation. My heart was touched with a desire to let all of them know what I had found. A few of us who had received salvation started reaching out to people in different villages, cities, and regions. We shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them, and the Fort McMurray church members gave us funds to distribute



hundreds of Bibles. The Gospel message was well received. People asked us to come back again, and some told us with tears, “Today, salvation and joy came into our home.”

A beautiful experience in Zimbabwe

In 2022, Sister Marjorie put me in touch with the Apostolic Faith Superintendent General, who was Brother Darrel Lee. I was so happy to talk with him and to share about what God was doing in Pakistan. He was very encouraging and prayed for me, and also invited me to attend an Apostolic Faith camp meeting in Zimbabwe later that year.

The Lord made a way for me to go to the camp meeting, and it was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. The Lord showed me many things and answered my many questions. I also met several church leaders and heard amazing testimonies that filled me with more joy and strengthened my faith.

On one of the nights, a musical concert was held. The music was so peaceful and beautiful. The presence of God came over me in a powerful way, so I knelt to pray. A scene from the Day of Pentecost appeared before me—I saw a rushing wind and flames of fire, and people praying in different languages. I heard the words, “Walk before me and be thou perfect.” The presence of God was so strong, I lost myself in prayer.

Different brothers came and prayed with me as God sanctified me,

removing the sin nature from my heart and mind. Then God also filled me with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, giving me power to spread the Gospel in Pakistan. That night, the joy in my heart was outstanding—it was the most joyful time in my life. God cast out all fear and gave me a boldness to follow Him regardless of the consequences. He gave me new strength to do His will. I can only thank Him for His mercy and grace upon my life. Before I returned home, I was also baptized in water, which I hadn’t had an opportunity to do previously.

A complete transformation

The Lord has done amazing things for me. I was a young man who was pursuing a life of sin and had no desire for holiness or the things of the Lord. I disliked pastors and preachers and looked down on them. But God humbled me in an amazing way. He saw that I was miserable in my old life, and He sought after me and found me. He freed me from a life of sin that was filled with heartache and depression. Then, He equipped me to do His work and opened doors for me to bring the Gospel to thousands of people in Pakistan. He has also given me the blessing of sharing with others and witnessing them receive salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. God has given me more than I could have ever imagined. The transformation in my life is proof that



(Clockwise from left) Shabeeb's water baptism in Zimbabwe; A photo with Rev. Felix Panganayi (Director of Pakistan Work) and Rev. Darrel Lee (then Superintendent General); Sharing Bibles with Pakistanis; A church service in Pakistan.

God can do the impossible, and if He could do this for someone like me, He can do it for anyone.

My desire is for all of Pakistan to be saved, and I know that is also God’s desire. Wherever He sends me, I will go; I have no more fear because when God is with me, there is no need to fear. Please pray that God will continue to help us at the Pakistan headquarters church, and especially that the Gospel will reach every soul in countries like Pakistan. The rest of my life I have committed to Him.

Shabeeb Nadeem is the leader of the Apostolic Faith Work in Pakistan.

Evidence

BUTCH CAREY
Portland, Oregon

ROHAN CLOUGH
Kingston, Jamaica

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE POWER OF GOD



WHEN I FIRST STARTED GOING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SEVEN YEARS OLD, IT WAS AN ADVENTURE, AND I LIKED TO GO AND HEAR THE BIBLE STORIES. At the same time, I didn't like to go because it made me miss out on other things I wanted to do. I can remember riding home on the Sunday school bus and looking out the window when we passed a theater. I would read the marquee and get excited if the movie sounded like something I wanted to see.

The Lord spoke to me from that time forward, but I pushed the Gospel aside because I didn't understand it or want to

be a Christian. When my mom got saved, we went to church all the time. Even though I was no longer interested, I would hear the sermons and feel the Spirit of God speaking to my heart.

We lived in the projects in San Francisco, and there were garbage cans stacked in front of each unit. One day, I was sitting on one of those garbage cans thinking about Jesus. I wanted to serve Him, but I also didn't want to. I prayed, "God, would You just leave me alone and let me do what I want?" He listened to that prayer and let me go my own way. I had almost no conviction for sin after that. A short time later, my mom told me I was going to be moving to Portland to live with my sister and brother-in-law. I thought, I might as well go because I was only making trouble for myself in San Francisco.

In Portland, the Lord began talking to my heart right away. During my first service in the downtown church at Sixth and Burnside, I sat in the back behind a post, so I wouldn't be seen. I heard the sermons and testimonies and tried not to listen while thinking, *I don't want to be here*. At the close, a man walked back to where I was sitting and asked, "Would you like to go pray?" I said, "Nope." The next two nights, he asked again, and I said, "No." By that time, the conviction was so heavy, I decided that if he came back one more time, I would pray. Well not only he, but my brother-in-law came to talk to me. I went to the altar and prayed, and though I didn't get saved that night, my journey toward God had begun.

I wanted to be like the people at church

but didn't know how to surrender everything to God. Jesus was faithful though. At camp meeting that year, which was 1965, a friend who had been backslidden got saved. He came to me with a couple other friends, and without even asking if I wanted to pray, they grabbed me by the arms and steered me to the altar. I dropped to my knees and prayed, finally giving up to God, and Jesus came in and made a change in my heart. As for the sinful desires that I had been fighting against—there was no more fight! They were gone. God gave me an inner peace.

It has been a long road since then with bumps along the way, but Jesus has been with me the whole time. I am thankful for the peace He has given me.—*Butch Carey*



BLESS THE NAME OF THE LORD. I THANK GOD FOR SAVING MY SOUL, SANCTIFYING ME, AND ALLOWING ME TO BE FILLED WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT. I thank God that He has

saved my family and given us the privilege to serve Him in spirit and in truth.

Sometimes things happen to us that we can't understand, but we can trust that it is the will of God. Not long ago, I fell ill while at work and ended up in the hospital. After some tests were performed, I returned to work, but then someone from the hospital called and said I had had a heart

attack. It didn't feel like that to me, but I was asked to come back to the hospital, so I went. After some hours, I was sent to a university hospital for more tests and then referred to a cardiologist. He determined that I had not had a heart attack, but meanwhile, noticed something troubling on my test results. He referred me to another doctor who confirmed that

I had cancer. The Lord works in mysterious ways. If not for the misdiagnosis of a heart attack, I would not have known that I had cancer. The Lord worked that out. I underwent an operation and am still alive today because of God's mercy. I am not living for this earth, but for Heaven. That is what is most important. I pray God will continue to direct my steps. —*Rohan Clough*

JESSICA OILAR
Portland, Oregon

MARK WORTHINGTON
Sacramento, California

ESTHER DARAMOLA
Edmonton, Alberta



"During the meetings, I dedicated myself to the Lord, and this anchored me further in the Gospel."

ONE EVENING DURING SPECIAL MEETINGS WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD, THE LORD STARTED TALKING TO MY HEART. I had stayed home from church that night and could hardly wait for my mom to get home and pray with me. When she returned from church we knelt by my bed, and I asked the Lord to come into my heart.

Previously, I had prayed probably fifty times in children's services for God to save me, but this time was different. I knew I wanted to serve the Lord, and something just clicked, and I understood.

The Lord was so faithful to lead me at such a young age. A day or two after

being saved, I was walking down my hall at home and He showed me, "You have not told a lie." That had an impact on me—I knew that something had changed inside me.

As I got older, I understood that I needed to keep seeking the Lord. At youth camp when I was in the fifth or sixth grade, God sanctified me. Then, when I started high school, there were so many temptations all around. The things the other kids were doing looked appealing, and I began to feel constricted. Also, the devil put some doubts in my mind. When it came time for camp meeting, the Lord spoke to my heart that I needed to make a full

commitment to Him. He showed me that I needed to give Him, not just the little things, but everything. During the meetings, I dedicated myself to the Lord, and this anchored me further in the Gospel.

A few years later, I married and now my husband and I have four kids. The anchoring that I received when young is the foundation that holds me when there are challenges in life. Sometimes being a parent is difficult, and so is dealing with the things of this world. However, God has always been faithful to me. I am so thankful that I can daily take every situation to Him and lean on Him for guidance. —*Jessica Oilar*



THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE MOST STABILIZING FORCE THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, AND I PRAISE GOD FOR IT. I was in Vietnam in the late 1960s, attached to a combat engineer outfit. This was a group that moved in before the infantry and made temporary roads and bridges. We replaced one bridge eighty-one times. While in Vietnam, a group

of soldiers in my unit made a bet that within two months, I would be drinking and swearing along with them. I didn't know about their bet, but they didn't know that I was not alone. The Holy Spirit was walking with me the whole time. A few months went by, and someone told me about the bet, saying, "We all lost." I'm thankful that the Holy Spirit was with me, and He has been with me through the years. He has kept me going in the right direction. He helped me find a good wife and raise our children in the Gospel. I thank God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit; it is the greatest gift in the world. — *Mark Worthington*



I WANT TO REFLECT ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD. THE LORD SAVED AND SANCTIFIED ME, AND HE

FILLED ME WITH HIS SPIRIT. I will turn sixty in March, and over the years, God has been gracious to me. He answered my prayers for my sons to be married in the Gospel, and He has given me grandchildren. I especially thank God for my husband who was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago. While the doctors made a medical care plan, we made a prayer plan, and the Lord was merciful—He healed my husband completely! The Lord has been so good. I am in debt for His mercies, and I want to see Him in glory. — *Esther Daramola*



BY MATHIEU BOBO

RAISED UP BY HIS POWER!

A retired pastor in Paris, France, recalls God's goodness throughout his life.

My birthplace was in the Republic of Benin. When I came to the Apostolic Faith Church in September of 1967, I was ill with chronic anemia. I was fifteen years old, but could not attend school because I was too weak. My skin became very pale and everyone who saw me thought I was going to die soon. Yet, when I went to church, the people of God told me to forget about my illness and pray to Jesus for salvation. I did that, and Jesus saved



“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” — JOHN 11:25

me from my sins! Later, He also healed me. Though I cannot say exactly when the illness left, in time I saw that it was gone and I was able to start attending school. The God who raised Lazarus is still alive today!

That was only the beginning of what God has done for me. He also sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Spirit. Then, several years after I had been saved, I experienced another severe illness. This time, it was caused by influenza. I was living at the parsonage with my pastor and became so weak that I went into a comatose state, but ministers prayed for me and God woke me up.

Because of the way God had spared my life, I always knew He had a plan for my future. He started to lead and guide my path, and He never left me. After I finished school, He gave me a job through a brother at church, and from there my career slowly developed.

In 1986, God undertook for me when I was in a terrible car accident. There were three of us in the vehicle traveling from the city of Cotonou in Benin to Lome, a city in Togo. The person sitting next to me died from his injuries. I survived but was left

unconscious and had a broken femur. When I woke up, I was in a hospital and was asking, “Where am I? What happened?” Then I was taken back to Cotonou and my leg was set in a cast.

At a follow-up appointment a month later, the doctors found that my bones were not properly aligned, and because of that, I would never be able to walk again. However, God did another miracle in my life. My pastor visited me and I spoke to him about my prognosis. He asked me if I had faith in God, and I told him I did. Then, he told me to go home, and that he would send brothers from the church who minister to the sick to treat me at home. When they came, they removed my cast and reset the bone. Jesus caused it to heal perfectly, and today, I am still walking and even traveling, glory to God! His plan for me has not stopped yet.

In time I married and had children. I worked as a sales representative for an office equipment company in Cotonou and my work was going well. However, things changed and suddenly my work was not going well. That was a very difficult time for me. I felt like I had no future—it seemed there was no way for my family to survive. I later realized

A LIFE LED BY GOD

1952

Born in the Republic of Benin

1967

Saved at the Apostolic Faith Church

1986

Survived a serious car accident and was miraculously healed

2002

Family relocated to Paris, France

2014

Ordained as the first Apostolic Faith pastor in Paris

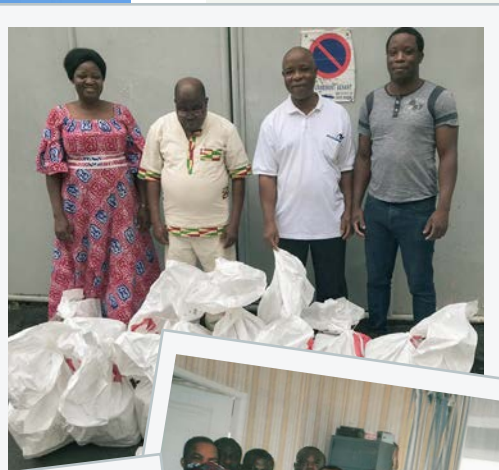
2025

Retired from pastoral ministry while continuing to serve as a board member for the Apostolic Faith work in Western Europe



« From left: Mathieu and his wife, Cecile; By the Seine River; The Bobos with Rev. Darrel and Debbie Lee.





➤ Clockwise from left: The Paris church; Gospel literature arrives; The original Paris church group in 2002; A special visit with John and Rodica Musgrave of Portland and Yves and Eva Ahomian of Benin. Below: Mathieu's daughter and granddaughter.

that was also part of God's plan. Through those circumstances, He brought our family to Paris, France, where He had work for me. There, I started a private security business, and it thrived! When God has a plan, the devil cannot stop it.

My wife and I have three sons and two daughters. One of the girls was born in 1984 and contracted polio as a baby. By 1986, she was left completely bedridden. When our family arrived in France in 2002, she took all her meals in her bed and could



not go anywhere on her own. But God helped her to the point that she has some ability to walk, and today she is a mother herself. Our God is a God of miracles!

Another answer to prayer happened after I attended the camp meeting in Norway one year. After departing Norway, I stopped over in Cotonou on my way to a wedding in Ivory Coast. I didn't know it at the time, but all the long flights had caused me to develop a blood clot in my leg. I went to a check-up at a hospital in Cotonou, and the doctor admitted me immediately. The blood clot was already traveling through my body—if it had gotten to my brain, I could have been seriously impaired or even died, but God spared me again.

The Lord not only provided for my business in France, but I found out that He also had a mission for me there. After living in Paris for a few years, we established the first Apostolic Faith group in the country. Though there were very few of us, the Lord was with us

and blessed us. In 2014, I was ordained as the first pastor in Paris, and the Lord helped me fill that role until I retired last year. Since my first visit to our headquarters church in Portland, Oregon, I have been touched to know that the labor of faithful Gospel workers from past generations reached me, all the way on the other side of the world. My hope is that as I benefited from them, future generations will also benefit from our labor in France, and will give glory to God.

God has resurrected my life in every way—my soul, my health, my finances, my emotions, and my family were all raised up through His power. God is so good! He has been with me in the valleys and on the mountaintops. I know He has a purpose for my life, and I want to be worthy of His calling and worthy to see Him in Heaven someday.

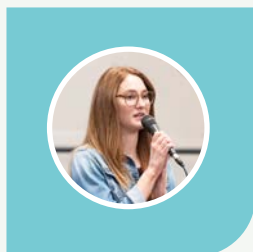
Reverend Mathieu Bobo was the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Paris, France, from 2014 until his retirement in 2025. He continues to serve as a minister in Paris and as a Board Member for our work in Western Europe.

Evidence

MAYA MOCAN

Sacramento,
California

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE POWER OF GOD



THE LORD HAS FILLED MY LIFE WITH WONDERFUL BLESSINGS. He saved me, set me apart by sanctifying me, and blessed me with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I am so thankful for the freedom we have in this country to worship together. I never want to take that for granted.

Four years ago, I dedicated my career choice to the Lord. I prayed,

“I prayed, asking the Lord to put joy in my heart for this position, and a few days ago, He touched me in a beautiful way.”

“Lord, where would you have me go?” He said into teaching, and that sounded so daunting to me. I wrestled with this decision for a while, but finally, I surrendered to God’s will. I told Him, “I will have to fully depend on You.” The Lord was faithful to lead me through four very intense years of schooling. He refined me during that time. He also blessed me with wonderful

professors, and I am grateful.

As of this month, I received my first teaching position. This was a blessing from the Lord. However, this was also a scary step for me. I prayed, asking the Lord to put joy in my heart for this position, and a few days ago, He touched me in a beautiful way.

I am so grateful that God doesn’t call the equipped, but He equips the called. I praise Him for His faithfulness and His love. I want to see Him in Heaven one day. — *Maya Mocan*

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.”



BY JODIE HINKLE



“As I sat at the table with a heavy heart, my children brought me their Sunday school lesson. When I saw their new memory verse, my worries melted away. It read, **‘But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus’** (Philippians 4:19).”

EVERY NEED PROVIDED

Jodie reflects on the many ways God has provided for her and her family over the years.

One Sunday afternoon in June of 1989, I sat at the kitchen table praying—and worrying a little. A year earlier, I had felt led by God to devote more time and attention to my family. My husband and I both worked full time, and we had two young children: a five-year-old son and a three-year old daughter. After discussing our options, I had reduced my work hours to part time for six months before quitting my job entirely.

Without the cost of childcare, and with some trimming of our budget, we thought we could make ends meet on one income supplemented by our savings. However, after some car repairs and a few other unexpected expenses, our savings account was depleted. As a result, I had recently used the money that was set

aside for the next week’s groceries to pay a household bill.

I had seen this day coming for some weeks and had been praying for guidance, asking God if I should seek another job. All along, it had seemed that He was leading me to wait, so I had done so. Now, I wondered if I had misunderstood and made a big mistake. As I sat at the table with a heavy heart, my children brought me their Sunday school lesson. When I saw their new memory verse, my worries melted away. It read, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

I was a relatively new Christian, having surrendered my life to God less than two years earlier, so it was news to me that we could look to God for *every* need. I told



« Jodie's children, ready for Sunday school in the early 1990s.



me for Jesus' sake. Instantly, my heart was transformed as described in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Spiritual strength. Upon receiving salvation, we need help to resist temptation, and God provides the spiritual strength to do so. Fifteen years after I became a Christian, my husband came home from work in the middle of his shift, saying that guilt had taken over his thoughts. We prayed that evening, and God saved him. Then my husband confided that he wasn't sure he could maintain victory over sin. He was anxious about returning to work the next day where he might be tempted to smoke or swear. I said we would both pray throughout the day and then assured him that the Gospel is real and there is power in it. I told him that if I had found this to be an empty religion, I would not have continued in it. The following day, he came home and exclaimed, "Why didn't you tell me? God gives supernatural strength to resist temptation; we don't have to do it on our own."

Sanctification. Another help against temptation is to receive sanctification, a second application of the Blood of Jesus whereby our inherited sinful nature is eradicated. When I learned of this second work of grace, I wondered if it was real, because I had never heard of it. However, the next time I was in church, the preacher paused in his sermon, looked my way, and said, "Just because you've never heard of something doesn't mean it can't be true." I decided to research the matter in Scripture, and in John 17, read that Jesus prayed for His disciples to be sanctified. Then He prayed "for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (verse 20). I also read in Hebrews 13:12 that "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate,"

God doesn't just meet immediate needs—He often provides in ways that address both present and future.

the children, "We have a need, and this verse says that God will fill it! Isn't that wonderful?"

All week, we prayed and checked the mailbox, expecting God to send grocery money. However, while I was focusing only on our immediate need, God was prepared to provide for our long-term needs as well. On Friday, as we were praying, there was a knock on our front door. When I answered, a friend of a friend offered me a job working from home. That was the perfect solution to spending time with my children while generating an income. I accepted the offer and returned to praying, thanking God for the job. We still needed grocery money to carry us over to my first paycheck, so we put this before the Lord again, and two days later, someone handed me \$62.00. She said her husband had borrowed it from my husband the year before and had forgotten about it until now.

Since that time, my family has had ample opportunity to prove this verse. Over the years, as we have looked to God for spiritual, physical, or emotional help, we have found that He does, indeed, provide for every need.

Spiritual Needs

The greatest need any of us has is to be delivered from our sins and be reconciled to our Heavenly Father. Before we were even born, God saw us and made provision for this. He knew we would be born in sin, eternally separated from Him, and unable to make atonement for ourselves. Reconciliation would require the shed blood of a sinless sacrifice, which only His guiltless Son could provide. Yet, "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). Jesus became our sacrifice for sin, providing not only for salvation, but for all our spiritual needs. As my family has sought God for these things, we have found that when we come according to His Word, with humble and sincere hearts, we can expect Him to answer.

Salvation. In my own life, when I realized that the hate in my heart was at the root of all my troubles, I repented of my sins, telling God that I no longer wanted to be that person or do those things. I committed my life to serving Him, and He forgave

✦ Jodie's children and grandchildren, in the home God provided thirty-five years ago.



referring to where He was crucified. Not only had Jesus seen my need for sanctification, but He had paid for it with His own Blood and even prayed that I would receive it.

That summer, I attended my first Portland camp meeting and heard a teaching on the subject. As I prayed at the close of the service, I looked up to God and said, "Lord, if this is something I need, I know You will provide it." Instantly, my soul was sanctified; every desire to return to my old sins was gone, and from that moment, I only wanted the things of God.

Physical Needs

God provides for our physical needs in many ways, including various forms of protection. When my children started elementary school, we began a habit of praying for God's protection, which I continue to this day. In the mornings, we asked Him to shield us from sinful influences. In the afternoons, we looked for safety on the road while carpooling, and in the evenings, we prayed for a hedge around the house against intruders. Though we didn't always see God's hand at work, we knew He was there.

One time while we were on the road, I felt prompted to change lanes and sensed this was from the Lord. I looked to my left and saw

that there was very little room to merge. However, I signaled and began to inch my way over. As I did, the tire blew out on the car that had been in front of us and that vehicle slowed abruptly, almost coming to a stop. If not for God's protecting hand, we likely would have crashed.

Basic needs. Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount, "Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matthew 6:31-32). As my family has taken these types of concerns to God, we have found Him to be generous in providing not only groceries and employment, but also transportation, housing, and more.

Oftentimes when we turn to God for a need, He supplies our wants as well. When my husband and I accepted an offer on our first home, we had thirty days to move, and though we had been looking at houses for weeks, we hadn't found anything to our liking. Our realtor said he could be more helpful if he had a list of what we wanted. However, when I gave him our list, he laughed and handed it back, saying, "You might try being more realistic for your budget." I took the paper home and laid it before the Lord. He had been speaking to my heart about placing less value on the things of this world

and now I was ready to consecrate my desire to have the "perfect" home. I prayed, "Lord, I will not look at another house. You see what we want, and I'm sure You will find something nice for us."

The very next day, as I drove past a yard with a "For Sale" sign in it, I felt a sudden urgency to "buy that house." However, it didn't appeal to me, so I kept driving. When the same urgent thought came a second and third time, I remembered my consecration to let go of perfection and let the Lord choose our house, so I circled back.

At the front door, a realtor answered, and I told him, "I would like to buy this house." He asked if I wanted to see it first. However, already within my view was a fireplace framed by built-in bookcases, and in the opposite room, a floor-to-ceiling built-in hutch—two items from my wish list. I was touched by God's generosity. He had heard my prayer for a need, and with this house, had provided for some of our wants as well. I declined to look further until my husband, parents, and realtor could be present. When we returned later, we found that the house, though it didn't have everything on our list, was perfect for us, with a good foundation and within our budget. In addition, the sale went through on the same day that we had to vacate our previous home!

Healing. When I came into the Gospel, I had a work-related back injury that two doctors had diagnosed as beyond help. From month to month, my symptoms varied from muscle spasms, to being unable to lean forward or lift over ten pounds, to being bedridden. However, one constant was pain.

In March of 1989, my back locked up, and I arrived at church for the Good Friday service unable to fully sit or stand. I listened to the sermon while leaning against the back pew and heard the preacher quote from Isaiah 53:5, “With his stripes we are healed.” Afterward, my mother-in-law asked if I knew what that Scripture meant. Then, she explained that when Jesus was beaten before He went to the Cross, the stripes on His back paid for our healing. She assured me that just as we can look to the Cross in faith and receive salvation, we can believe and be healed. She also encouraged me to get prayed for according to the instructions in James 5:14-15: “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.” That evening, the ministers prayed for me, and while I didn’t feel

instant relief, my mother-in-law said to hold on in faith. Two days later, while driving home on the evening of Easter Sunday, I had to pull the car over and pray because the pain was unbearable. The Lord helped me get home, and the next day, I realized that I hadn’t been in pain since. To test this, I stood up and raised my hands over my head and then lowered them to the floor and up again. My back held, and I knew God had healed me.

Recently, I experienced a different type of back problem. The ministers came and prayed, but this time the Lord chose not to heal me instantly. Instead, He led me to a good doctor who diagnosed a herniated disc and was able to help me over time. It is not always God’s will to heal us instantaneously—sometimes He has a better purpose. The Apostle Paul was once denied healing for a visible ailment so that pride would not be his downfall. He responded with gratitude for God’s grace, saying, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Perhaps God is helping me adjust my priorities or is using me to encourage someone at the doctor’s office. Whatever His purpose, I know His way is best.

Emotional Needs

At different times in my Christian walk, I have needed emotional support and have taken comfort in Isaiah 9:6. In foretelling the birth of our Savior, the prophet said, “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Over the years, in situations bringing emotional stress, Jesus has been all of these to me. In marriage, He has been my Counselor; in trials, He has proven Himself mighty to deliver; and in grief, He has been my Source of peace.

Peace. When my mother-in-law died, I was devastated. She had been in my life since I was sixteen and was like a second mother to me. On several occasions after her death, I thought to call and ask her about something before remembering that she was gone. In those moments, grief would overtake me. Five months later, when that year’s Portland camp meeting began, I was in need of relief for my grieving heart; I was in need of the Prince of Peace. At the altar, I wondered if the Lord offered more than comfort and would remove my grief completely. Then I prayed, “If You could, I pray You would do it for me.” In that moment, I felt a touch on my heart, and the pain of loss was gone—all that remained were my good memories.

God will supply

What is your need today? If you are having trouble making ends meet, if a loved one is suffering from illness, or grief has overwhelmed you, I know God can help. The One who filled all these needs for me and my family is waiting to do the same for you.

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

✧ *Jodie’s mother-in-law, Audrey, was like a second mother to her. In 1993, they attended Midwest Camp Meeting together, along with a few other family members.*



BY RAY CRAWFORD

CHARITY: THE HALLMARK OF A CHRISTIAN LIFE

Like light shining through a prism, 1 Corinthians 13 describes the characteristics of godly love.

This message is from a sermon preached at the Portland Camp Meeting in 1957.

The hallmark of Christian victory is charity; and the Bible gives us the definition and nature of charity in the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians—that beautiful chapter about love which is as a ray of light shining through a prism that separates the different characteristics, which together form Christian love. It breaks forth with beauties and magnificence; and as the Spirit of God illuminates this portion of Scripture, we see more clearly what God has for us.

The first verse says, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.” We can see that charity is not merely talk. It is not

eloquence or the gift of speech. It is not how we present the truths of God, but it is that which is within the heart. One may speak with great eloquence, but if he is devoid of the love of the Spirit of God, his words are as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

The one who has the Spirit of God in his life and who studies the Word (not merely to establish a point of doctrine, but to satisfy his soul that he is walking in all the light of God’s eternal truth), will do so much more for the Lord than one who is merely speaking fluently.

Spectacular words

Verse 2 continues, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” That is a tremendous statement. Many today are sweeping people away into false teachings by

the thousands. It is a pity that some people who know the truth of the Gospel and who have the light of sound doctrine, let themselves be carried away because of great demonstrations and mass movements.

Some might say that if one has the gift of prophecy, he must be in perfect favor with God. However, one might appear to have the gift of prophecy, but if he does not have charity, the Bible says he still is nothing in the sight of God.

What is charity? Is it “understanding all mysteries”? No. Many who go to the pulpit today and preach on prophecy are mixed up. Some, during the past World War, said certain individuals were going to be the Antichrist. The men who they said would be the Antichrist are dead and gone, and the so-called prophets have had to eat their words because they were wrong in their prophecy. Many people seem to want to know the mysteries of the

What is charity?

- The love of God
- The foundation of Christian conduct
- The fulfillment of God’s law
- The evidence of Christian character

Charity is God’s love in our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit.

ATTRIBUTES OF CHARITY

Taken from 1 Corinthians 13

- Suffers long
- Is kind
- Does not envy
- Does not boast
- Is not proud
- Does not behave unseemly
- Is not selfish
- Is not easily provoked
- Thinks no evil
- Rejoices in truth
- Bears all things
- Believes all things
- Hopes all things
- Endures all things
- Never fails

“Many people seem to want to know the mysteries of the Kingdom, but it is far better to know the sound way of the Gospel and be sure of our standing before God.”

Kingdom, but it is far better to know the sound way of the Gospel and be sure of our standing before God. Salvation in itself is a mystery. We cannot explain how a sinner is transformed into a child of God in an instant of time.

Charity is not knowledge, for the Apostle said, “Though I have . . . all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” People have been astounded by what things they have read concerning modern religionists who claim to have accomplished wonderful

miracles, but a person may have many abilities and not have that which is all-essential—charity.

Charity is not just almsgiving. One definition of *charity* is “benevolence” or “giving to the poor,” but that is not the charity spoken of in this chapter. Verse 3 clears up that point: “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor... and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

Charity defined

If all these things are *not* charity, what is? Charity is the very essence of Christian living and conduct. The love of God in the heart is the source and wellspring of all true godly love. The one who has God’s love implanted in his soul is going to be able, by the grace of God, to extend charity and thus be pleasing in God’s sight.

The Bible says that love is the fulfilling of the Law and if we have the love of God implanted in our very nature, we will spontaneously keep the Law of God. The Jewish men wore on their heads and arms phylacteries, on which passages of Scripture were written. However, the New

in a sanctified life. Verse 4 says, “Charity suffereth long.” No matter what comes across our pathway, how many indignities are heaped upon us, how many take action against us, oppose us, slander us, or gossip about us, if we have charity—God’s love in our hearts—we will find that “charity suffereth long.” A good way to find out how much of that quality we have is to note how we respond to the hard things that come our way.

Every Christian is going to be tested and tried. All these trials and conflicts can come to the one who has charity, but he has no reaction of anger, wrath, malice, hatred, retaliation, or anything of the kind. It is a high standard! Nothing less than a sanctified experience!

Let us take the Word into our own hearts, individually, and not say that it is good for someone else. It is good for every soul. The Word of God is a two-edged sword. It cuts both ways. It goes down into the very secret recesses of the heart and shows us exactly where we stand spiritually before God. It is important how we stand before our fellow men, but it is more important how we stand before God.

Enduring grace

Verse 4 continues: “Charity suffereth long, and is kind.” This seems hard for some to put into practice. It is easy for them to say an unkind remark when something has not pleased them; but that spirit of retaliation is an indication of something within that should not be there. Remember, “Charity suffereth long, and is kind.” We endure things and are kind, if we have charity. We take things that are hard on us and we react with prayer and kindness.

It is not always easy to be kind under stress and provocation. It is not easy to show patience

Testament standard is the Law written and engraved upon the fleshy tables of the heart by the Holy Ghost, which prompts us to do the things God commands and not do the things God forbids in His Law.

When one reads and understands what charity is, and the nature of it, he will no doubt say, “Lord, give me more of it; give me a baptism of love that will just fill my life with charity to the extent that it will motivate every thought, word, and deed.” That is what will make one worthy of a crown of life.

A high standard

As we continue to analyze this chapter, we recognize its standard of love as that found

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” – *Romans 13:10*

and to attribute right motives to people who seem to be otherwise motivated. But God’s Word demands it of His people and He will help us.

As we read more of this definition of charity, we find that it strikes at the very heart of human nature: “Charity envieth not.” Envy and jealousy are so closely related that it is hard to distinguish between the two. They walk hand in hand. A person who is jealous or envious simply cannot stand to see anybody else do something he would like to do, or be assigned to or promoted to the place where he thinks he himself should be. He may not be qualified for that position or be worthy of it. He may not have the gifts and abilities to do it, but that does not make any difference to the one who is jealous or envious. May we let the spiritual virtues penetrate to the very depths of our souls and filter right down into our spiritual beings until we radiate the humility of Christ and are ready to be used or not to be used, ready to speak or not to speak, as God wills!

Verse 4 also says, “Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.” Sometimes people are proud of what they have done, or what they are going to do. They are vaunting their own ability. Some people try to make themselves the main theme of everything that is said, of every conversation. One should be careful not to exalt himself—not to be puffed up.

Pride, it is said, is a disease that makes everybody sick but the one who has it. Lucifer, the son of the morning, vaunted himself (see Isaiah 14:11-12). That is why he was cast out of Heaven. God hates

CHRISTIAN LOVE IS DEMONSTRATED BY:

- Humility before God
- Preferring others before oneself
- Victory over pride and jealousy
- A forgiving spirit

This way of living is the example Christ set for us.

THE TEST OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

The love in our hearts is revealed by the way we respond

- When criticized
- When misunderstood
- When treated unfairly
- When provoked

Charity causes responses of patience, humility, and kindness.

self-exaltation, self-praise. The sooner one realizes that, the safer he will be from the subtle temptations of the enemy. Satan tempted even Jesus. He showed Him the nations of the world and said, “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me” (Matthew 4:9). Jesus overcame every temptation. He never vaunted Himself. He was humble in heart. His mind was set to do the will of the Father, regardless of what humiliation came His way. The cup of His suffering was more bitter than that which anyone else ever drank.

The Christian does not behave himself “unseemly” (verse 5). Paul tells us that a Christian has good manners. A man or woman who is really filled with the love of God does not act like the world. He is not forward, rude, or impolite. He does not act in a disorderly manner.

The marked man

A Christian is a marked man or a marked woman. The Psalmist said, “Mark the perfect man, and

behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace” (Psalm 37:37). He is the one to observe. Mark that person! That is why the Word of God makes it clear that we are to be as a light on a hill that cannot be hidden; or a candle on a candlestick that lights the whole house. It does not matter how small our lights are, there is not enough darkness in the whole world to put them out. The light that burns in the heart of a true Christian—a heart filled with charity—cannot be extinguished by its surroundings.

Charity “seeketh not her own” (verse 5). That is the acid test. Are we selfish, seeking things for our own benefit? How do we walk before our fellow men and before the world? They will measure us by our walk, judge us by our conduct, our conversation, our actions. They measure our motives by what we say and do. Our motives are what count.

The one who has charity is “not easily provoked” (verse 5). How do you react when things come against your soul? You may be actually injured, talked

“When the Word says, **‘Charity never faileth,’** neither will we fail if we have in our hearts the charity spoken of in this chapter. If we reach the mark that God has set forth for us in His holy Word, we will have triumphant victory.”



about, scorned, ridiculed, framed. What is the reaction of one who has charity? He is “not easily provoked.”

Forgiving heart

One who possesses charity does not have evil thoughts. He “thinketh no evil” (verse 5). He holds no grudge. It may be that he has been misunderstood. Someone may have misrepresented what he said. What is his reaction? He “thinketh no evil.” He readily forgives. Who had more to forgive than Jesus on the Cross when He lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”?

Should we think evil of our bitterest enemy—one who has injured us most, one who has said things about us that should not have been said? No! We, as possessors of charity, are not going to let feelings arise within us and injure our spiritual standing in the sight of God. We quickly forgive a wrong done against us. We want people to know that we bear no ill will toward anyone, by the grace of God.

Never-failing love

Charity “rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things” (verses 6-7). If one has the real love of God in his heart, he can put up with a great

many things. He can endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Someone may say, “I can’t bear this or that.” But you can if you have the love of God in your heart.

Verse 7 says that charity not only “beareth all things,” it “believeth all things.” It does not question God’s truths. It “hopeth all things.” It “endureth all things.” And when the Word says, “Charity never faileth” (verse 8), neither will we fail if we have in our hearts the charity spoken of in this chapter. If we reach the mark that God has set forth for us in His holy Word, we will have triumphant victory—for “charity never faileth.” Set your sights on the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Ask God to put this charity down deep in your soul.



Reverend Raymond R. Crawford was the son of the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church and succeeded his mother in the position of General

Overseer on June 20, 1936. He led the work until his death on June 3, 1965. He was a fearless defender of the Gospel truths, and during his fifty-five years of ministry, faithfully admonished Christians around the world to fight the good fight of faith.

BY ALICE SNYDER

GOD HAS NEVER FAILED US

In the midst of the Great Depression, the Lord saved a young couple and taught them to trust Him.

Back in 1935, the Great Depression was felt throughout the United States. My husband and I were the parents of two little girls, who at that time were six and eight years old. For the previous five years, we had operated a concession stand in a golf course clubhouse. Conditions were not as good as they should have been, in either our business or our once happy home. My husband had dedicated his life to Christ as a young man and for a time had sincerely tried to serve God. I had believed in God ever since I was a little girl. However, I did not understand real salvation. I thought if I went to church, did my best to be a good

wife and mother, and treated my neighbors right, I would go to Heaven someday. I did help anyone who came to me hungry or in need. When I was a small child, I had known real hunger, because my father was an alcoholic and my mother had to work at anything she could find to try to feed her four children.

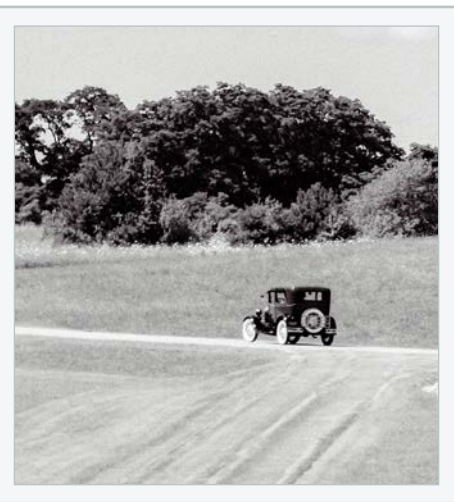
In the Depression years there were many men walking the highways in search of work. They came to our clubhouse offering to work for a little food. We could not turn them away, but our profits dwindled. Also, to my great disappointment, my husband started to drink and to smoke the big cigars we had for sale. Our profits dwindled even more.

Then, my husband narrowly escaped a speeding train that almost struck his car as he was crossing the railroad tracks. The Lord, in His mercy, began talking to both of us. We knew that we should leave that place and try to get back to where God wanted us to be. But we didn't have the money to move, and we wondered if anyone in those days had enough money to purchase our concession stand. We put an advertisement in the paper and had an answer soon from a couple who had to come to our climate for their health. They had little money, but we didn't care. We only wanted enough to move away from that place.

We left in an old Model T Ford, partly held together with hay wire. Our two little girls were in the back seat with our dog, as well as several cats in a cardboard box. We also pulled a trailer with a few boxes of clothes and a crate of chickens. As we left, I looked back and said, "Thank you, Lord," for I felt that we were like the Children of Israel leaving Egypt, trouble, and sin.

The only place we could stay temporarily was in my mother-in-law's home in Portland, Oregon. It was not far from the Apostolic Faith tabernacle, and a camp meeting was in progress. The building was open on all sides in those days, and we could hear the music—the songs of many happy Christians singing the praises of God.

One evening we went to hear the music, or I should say, the Lord led us there. As soon as I stepped onto those holy grounds, I knew that God was there, and somehow a hope sprang up in my soul. What an inspiring evening that was! I marveled at the testimonies, the sermon,





“One evening we went to hear the music, or I should say, the Lord led us there. As soon as I stepped onto those holy grounds, I knew that God was there, and somehow a hope sprang up in my soul.”

and the praying of many voices in unison that sounded like the surging rush of a mighty waterfall.

I was given a church paper to take home. I took it out of courtesy, not really intending to read it. I had read so many religious papers over the years, and I was still all wrapped up in my own miserable thoughts about our unhappy home and the fact that I was fast becoming crippled with arthritis. But the Lord was leading us to paths of glory. One day as I was ironing, so ill I could hardly work, the Lord spoke to my heart. The words were so real. He said to me, “Read that Apostolic Faith paper.” I began to weep, and with trembling hands I picked up the paper from where it was rolled up on the table. The tears blinded my eyes, and I could not see to read. But suddenly, as if they were written in letters of fire, I could plainly see these words, “Earnestly

contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

At once my spiritually blinded eyes were opened and I knew that I was a sinner—a self-righteous one trusting in my own goodness and good works to get me into Heaven. I remember holding that paper over my heart and earnestly praying, “Oh, Lord, forgive me and I will serve you the rest of my life.” Such a simple prayer—but what marvelous results! Instantly all my burdens left me, and such wonderful peace flooded my soul as I felt the cleansing power of the Blood of Jesus wash away all the sin, doubt, and unhappiness from my life.

My husband was late coming home that evening, and I thought he was out looking for work. As he came in the back door, I looked at him with wonder for he looked young again—just as he had looked when he first started to serve Jesus, before

all the sin and trouble had overtaken him. I said, “What has happened to you?” He replied, “Jesus saved me, and today as I was praying at the Apostolic Faith camp meeting, Jesus sanctified me. I am not going to drink any more or cause you any more trouble.” With joy I answered, “I didn’t know what to call it, but something happened to me, too! As I was reading the church paper, I prayed, and Jesus completely changed my life. I forgot to finish my ironing! Instead, I have been reading the Bible. I never knew it was such a wonderful Book with so many wonderful promises.”

In the days ahead, the Lord carefully took us through many hard trials to prove us and to



“I LOOKED AT MY HUSBAND and wondered, ‘What will we do for lunch?’ He looked thoughtful but said, ‘We will trust the Lord.’

At that moment there was a knock at the front door. We all hurried to answer it, and there was a young woman from the Apostolic Faith Church holding a box of groceries.”

help increase our faith in Him. One day He showed me that I needed to forgive someone for a great wrong. I knew I could say that I forgave, but could I really mean it in my heart? I prayed much about it and finally I was able to tell the Lord, “Yes, I can really forgive.” At that moment I was instantly healed of the arthritis.

Our youngest daughter had been ill from the time she was an infant. Physicians had not been able to help her. After we were saved, we decided to trust the Lord for her healing. For a long time she grew worse. One night as I prayed beside her bed, I looked out of the window at the stars and said, “O Lord, what have I done that You do not hear my prayer and heal our child?” A Scripture came to my mind, “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward” (Hebrew 10:35). My husband and I prayed all night by her bed. Then, on another night, she went to sleep ill, as usual, but in the morning, she was entirely healed. Jesus had touched her during the night and the illness never returned.

The time had come for our second camp meeting, and we wanted to stay on the campground. We were told that we could use a tent, and we did have some furnishings, but we needed a stove and money was scarce. Our family prayed together in our kitchen that God would help us be there for the camp meeting. Kneeling in a corner of the room, the daughter who had been healed was praying very earnestly, “Lord, give us a stove so we can go to camp meeting.” After we finished praying, my husband went for a walk and passed an old house that workmen were taking apart. In one of the rooms was a small cast iron wood stove. My husband asked the foreman if he wanted to sell it. He replied, “If you can take it away, you may have it.” That stove served us very well for several camp meetings. I could even bake biscuits on it!

One Saturday night, I looked through the cupboard trying to find something to feed our family. Finally, we sat down and thanked the Lord for a very thin soup. The next day was Sunday, and we always packed

a lunch and stayed all day at church. I looked at my husband and wondered, “What will we do for lunch?” He looked thoughtful but said, “We will trust the Lord.”

At that moment there was a knock at the front door. We all hurried to answer it, and there was a young woman from the Apostolic Faith Church holding a box of groceries. As she brought them in, she said, “Mother was doing dishes when the Lord laid it on her heart to send you this food.” There was stuffed breast of veal, bread and butter, milk, fruit, and vegetables. We dropped to our knees in a great prayer of thanksgiving, not only for the food but for people who were close enough to the Lord to know when some of His children were in need. We thanked God also that He had revealed to us that we could trust Him in hard places.

In our first year as new Christians, we found that we should trust, believe, and do God’s will. Through many years since then, He has never failed us.

Alice Snyder and her husband, Lawrence, were water baptized at the Portland camp meeting in 1935. They were the leaders of the Sunday School Junior



Department at the Portland headquarters church for many years and produced many outstanding Christmas pageants in the tabernacle. She went to her Heavenly reward on September 2, 1991.

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
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