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THE SIN OF UNBELIEF
By O. C. Thrall

Crawford County, Pennsylvania

Transylvania Bible School
Fountain Press Freeport, Pa.

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Printed Book: No Date -- No Copyright

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Digital Edition 01/13/98
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DEDICATORY

As pastor and evangelist for more than thirty-five years, we have had occasion to meet many sincere souls who have earnestly sought God at times, and have received definite help and blessing; but unaware of the subtle working of the spirit of unbelief in the soul, have either never received or else have lost the blessed, abiding "witness of the Spirit" in regard to being saved, sanctified and "kept by the power of God through faith."

To such the message of this little booklet is affectionately dedicated in the name of Jesus, and cast forth upon the stream of God's divine providence, with the confidence that it will be guided into the hand and heart of some precious storm-tossed souls, who through the Word of God and leadership of the Holy Spirit, shall find their way into Canaan's fruitbearing land of perfect love.

O. C. Thrall

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FIFTH EDITION

[For whatever reason, the author had two sections entitled "Fifth Edition, the first preceding the "Unsolicited Testimonials," and the second following the testimonials. I have joined them below under the subheadings of "First Part" and "Second Part". -- DVM]

* * *

First Part

This fifth edition we dedicate to my beloved wife, Martha Jane, an ordained minister, and an inspiration, both in pastoral and evangelistic work; also in the revising of this book.

The first issue of this little booklet was reviewed and recommended by the late Rev. H. L. Crockett, a former missionary, a man of uncompromising Christian character; Rev. A. C. Archer; for many years a district superintendent and evangelist of the old type, and author of "The Man With a Thorn in His Flesh," and other ministers in whom we have confidence.

Having received a goodly number of unsolicited testimonials from some who have received definite help and others who expressed the opinion that it should have a wider circulation, we have concluded that it would be for the glory of God, and perchance a blessing to others as well, if the former issue were revised and supplemented.

We make no claim to literary style but pray that in our weakness the Lord may be pleased to impart some degree of wisdom and blessing, as we endeavor to bring before the reader these vital truths which have been left on record by godly men and women.

* * *

Second Part

In reviewing this little book for the third edition, we had little thought of enlarging the same. However, in a very few days, our mail box seemed so flooded with objectionable literature, that after praying we felt it our providential duty to add our little bit, in exposing the insidious encroachment of the enemy against our Christian people, and even in the ranks of holiness churches. We may be called radical but that is not such a bad word, if you look it up in the dictionary. In fact we like it better than the word pussy-footer, but God save us from being rabid. We desire above all to have "the love of God shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost." Amen!

Was not John the Baptist radical when he said, "Ye generation of vipers"? Was not Jesus radical when He drove the money-changers from the temple? Was not Stephen, the first martyr, radical, who, filled with the Holy Ghost, declared: "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye"? Was not Peter, Paul and all the disciples and martyrs of old more or less radical? Was not early Methodism radical? Webster defines "radical" as: "original. fundamental, thorough-going." He also adds "extreme," but shall we call any of these "holy men of old" extremists or fanatical? Unworthy as we are, we desire to be lined up, by the grace of God, with a class of people who have and still hold to the old line of "true holiness."

Some will say, "But you will lose friends!" No doubt. Others, "You are on the losing side." We, we are happy in believing "we're on the winning side." Praise the Lord!

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

* * *

Dear Bro. Thrall:

I have read your book "The Sin of Unbelief" etc. and agree with you on the questions of worldliness, dress, television, etc.. I make it clear in my preaching the sinfulness of these things. I have stood up and been counted and intend to stand firm for the standards of God's Word on these and all other questions, the Lord being my helper. -- Rev. W. C. M., Ky.

* * *

My heart was overjoyed at the receipt of the books you sent, because they were the answer to my heart's desire... Please let me know what they sell for. We could use more... The woman

with whom I live has been reading one and said, "Well, praise the Lord, this is just what I need." I consider her one of the most spiritual members of the church. -- E. H., N. C.

* * *

Dear Brother Thrall:

Thanks so much for the little book. I read every word of it and thank the Lord for His wonderful truth... Yes, the sin of unbelief seems to be the greatest sin leading to damnation. -- Rev. W. A., N.Y.

* * *

Dear Brother Thrall:

May I say that I consider your book among the top books on the subject of unbelief. You have covered the field in a wonderful way, and put in print facts that our people ought to know. -- Evangelist D. R. M., Ohio

* * *

(From a preacher's wife)

Dear Sir: A little booklet entitled "The Sin of Unbelief" came into my possession. I can't tell you how thankful I was after reading it and understanding that here was the cause of my failure. Now that it has been such a help to me I would like to help others who are thus hindered by placing a copy in their hands. Am writing to find out where I can get a dozen, and how. -- Respectfully, Mrs. M. L., Ohio

* * *

Dear Bro. Thrall:

I wish to thank you for the little book "The Sin of Unbelief," which I believe the Lord inspired you to write. It proved a great blessing to me. For though I had been honest in professing holiness, this book discovered to me the fact that I not only had unbelief in my heart, but other carnal elements as well. I can now thank God for sanctifying grace and for delivering me from the greatest barrier in my soul which was unbelief, but I had to leave a formal church and am out and out for old-fashioned "John Wesley Methodism." -- Rev. J. H., Pa.

* * *

Dear Brother Thrall:

I have just finished reading again your book "The Sin of Unbelief and the Remedy." I have found it a source of help on many occasions for myself and others... I am glad you had a vision of

the great need of today. I would like a number of copies to give away. Right now we are sending our copy to a brother and sister, who have written us of their need of real prayer. I will send your book with much prayer. -- Mrs. M. E., Alaska

* * *

Dear Brother Thrall:

Greeting in Jesus' name. I have read your booklet, the "Sin of Unbelief and Fearful Results."

I believe it to be one of the most timely, scriptural and sound books I have found for some time. I believe in these last days, we need to "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3.) Yours for the old paths. -- A. B., Ohio

* * *

I read with much pleasure and blessing, the book "The Sin of Unbelief." I can surely recommend it as a plain treatise on sanctification, and holiness of heart and life. I feel that God has blest you and your precious wife in writing this little book, which I pray may be blessed of God to thousands of precious souls. -- Rev. G. G., Wis.

* * *

Dear Brother and Sister Thrall:

I am writing to tell you how much we appreciate the little book "The Sin of Unbelief." I was praying when the mail-man brought it. I just had to take time to read part of it. I must say it truly stirred my heart.

I then went to prayer again and the Lord surely helped me. My husband has been out of work on account of a strike, and I was feeling rather blue.

I forgot all about the strike and my mind was on that little book the rest of the day. I am still feasting on it and read it through the second time. Now I am studying it and getting a lot more out of it. How I wish we might have such preaching in our pulpits today. Our churches have certainly drifted and I lay it partly to our pastors. "True Christians" should love the truth, even though it may hurt. It takes much prayer to keep crucified to the self-life in these days. How we need to humble ourselves continually before God. May He continue to greatly bless you both in your good work is my prayer. -- Mrs. C. L., N.Y.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are greatly indebted to Dr. R. R. Blews, District Superintendent in the Oil City conference for many years, who kindly offered to review this little book and write the clear, scriptural introduction, which should grip the heart of every true believer.

* * * * *

INTRODUCTION

By Richard R. Blews,
Cornell University,
Educator, Author, Preacher

Faith is the foundation of our approach to God and the basis of all Christian living. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Without faith it is impossible to please Him. Without faith it is impossible to have communion with God. Without faith God can do nothing with man and man can do nothing with God.

Faith is more than mere intellectual assent. It is a spiritual attitude that commits the whole man to acceptance of divine truth. Faith is not an opinion or a supposition. Faith is trust. Faith gives vision. It reaches beyond the seen and lays hold of the unseen. It is a process of verification. It is a logic of life. It requires a pure motive, an honest mind, and a steadfast obedience. This is the faith that brings justification to the sinner, sanctification to the believer, and divine guidance through all the winding ways of life.

The most inspiring chapter on faith is the eleventh of Hebrews. It begins with the classic definition of faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Or it may be translated -- "Now faith is the realization of things hoped for, the providing of things not seen." Then follow the names and exploits of the heroes of faith -- Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc. These are the royal line "who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." These all died in the faith, or literally according to the faith -- the faith they had demonstrated in their lives. We suggest that the reader carefully study this chapter, the honor roll of faith, as you read this book.

This book by Rev. Thrall, a pastor and evangelist of wide experience, will richly reward a careful reading and will give guidance to many seeking souls. All the working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of men is in accordance with the laws of faith. The rebirth of the Church in the mighty upheaval of the Reformation, which restored evangelistic apostolic power to the people, was the rebirth of faith. Its watchword was the Scripture that liberated Luther's captive soul, "The just shall live by faith."

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01 -- THE SOURCE AND DANGER OF UNBELIEF

Someone has defined unbelief, as -- "A faculty we possess to disbelieve the Word of God." This was the first sin of the human race. Eve, then Adam, believed Satan's subtle lie rather than God's eternal truth, thus forfeiting Eden and bringing upon the world a fearful penalty of sorrow, sin and death. This serpentine trail, from the Garden of Eden, has left its slimy mark of shame and woe upon all succeeding generations. Not a single soul of the fallen race has escaped this inherent poison of unbelief, injected into the heart and mind of our first parents by that "Old serpent, which is the Devil." It is the source of all transgressions of God's will and law.

Hear the words of Jesus as He faithfully warns the Scribes and Pharisees: "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." Again when He gave His disciples the divine commission to preach the Gospel to every creature: "He that believeth not shall be damned." Here we see the dire result of this grievous sin.

Unbelief in the sinner, if persisted in, will sink his soul at last into the dark regions of eternal night. He is like the traveler on thin ice, unaware of his danger, until with horror he finds himself plunged into the deep, dark waters. We may look upon this sin as a small matter, but it is as far reaching as eternity. It is worse than war, pestilence, or famine. These are physical and temporal, while unbelief will "destroy both soul and body in hell." The sooner we discover the deceitful nature of this evil and get rid of it, the better it will be for us.

Unbelief in the Christian will hinder his prayer life, paralyze the spiritual energies of the soul, and tend toward lukewarmness, spiritual blindness and backsliding. It leaves the soul a more easy prey to "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." This is doubtless one reason why so many Christians become entangled in false doctrines, and why many Professors of holiness follow the fads, fashions and spirit of the world, when they are openly violating the Word of God.

Unbelief hinders the work of God, and too often leaves our altars barren of the results we so earnestly desire. It is recorded of Jesus that in His own country, "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." The people at one time came to Jesus inquiring, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" Jesus answered, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." This is the greatest work ever committed to mankind. Rev. H. L. Crockett adds: "It is greatest because it enables the great God to do great things in us, and for us, and through us." Jesus wept with the beloved mourners at the tomb of Lazarus, and said to Martha: "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God." Naturally we desire to see the glory first, then we will believe. Jesus said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

The crossing of the Jordan and entering into Canaan is used by the apostle as an object lesson in depicting the experience of holiness, sanctification, perfect love, the rest of faith or Christian perfection. These are synonymous terms as used by the most able exponents of Bible holiness. This Canaan experience could not have been used as a type of entering heaven, as some have taught; for here some of their greatest battles were fought, and defeats were experienced. We are quite confident that battles and defeats will be forever past when we reach heaven, where no warring giants stalk through the land, where jasper walls will never crumble and where gates of pearl and streets of gold will never tarnish nor decay.

You will recall an earlier experience of these wilderness wanderers at Kadesh-Barnea, where they should have crossed over into Canaan. However, they sent over twelve men to spy out the land. These all brought back the same report of the wonderful fruitage of a country "flowing with milk and honey" but reported also giants, walled cities, and numerous enemies in the land. To ten of the spies, the giants, walled cities, and numerous enemies loomed bigger than the promises of God. To Caleb and Joshua the promises of Jehovah looked greater than giants, walled cities, and numerous enemies. The names of these two have been preserved in unfading history. Joshua finally led a great company into the promised land and Caleb received his inheritance, while the ten perished with other unbelievers on the desert sands.

Hear the voice of Jude: "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." Paul, in recording the tragedy of those, "whose carcasses fell in the wilderness," states: "They could not enter in because of unbelief." In the same chapter he sounds the warning, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God," and he further exhorts, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it ... for we which have believed do enter into rest ... let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

Adam Clarke makes the following statement: "Every believer in Christ is in danger of apostasy while any remains of the 'Evil heart of unbelief' are found in him."

Dr. J. W. Redfield, in his desperate and oftentimes discouraging experience in seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost, writes thus: "In this light, I saw the sin of unbelief to be the soul destroying sin of the world, and in comparison with it murder, robbery and other sins were of small account." (Life of Redfield, p. 101.)

Dr. L. M. Lowell, former president of Spring Arbor Seminary, author of "Building the House Beautiful," makes this pertinent statement: "Unbelief is negative and paralyzing. It robs the soul of hope, of help, of heaven. Faith is positive and dynamic."

Far out along the North Atlantic coast there is a place called, "The graveyard of the Atlantic." This gruesome place gets its name because of the many wrecks and loss of life during terrific storms. Unbelief has been the spiritual grave of too many discouraged souls who might have been saved, had their faith been anchored in the life-saving Word of God.

"Unbelief in God's ability and promise to guide us will leave us like a ship at sea with no helm, and at the mercy of the wind and waves." (M. W. Knapp).

"To break the law of God, is a fact foul enough, but to question the sufficiency of the grace of God to save therefrom is a worse sin." (Bunyan's Holy War).

We heard the late Bishop Sellew say, "There are four steps that lead to spiritual death. And all begin with the letter D. The first step is doubt; the second step is discouragement; the third despair; the fourth death," and then added in his brusque manner, "Keep off the ladder."

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02 -- UNBELIEF MUST BE CAST OUT

Years ago we heard that veteran of the cross, Rev. S. K. Wheatlake, say that the teaching, "Consecrate all and it will just believe itself," is a snare of Satan to sidetrack souls. Unbelief will never believe, but must be cast out by the help of the Holy Ghost, and a definite act of the will, on the part of a fully surrendered soul.

Another strong advocate of Scriptural holiness, gives the following simple, but effective directions for the heart-hungry seeker; "First comes the battle of consecration; second the battle of faith. These two precede the perfect victory."

Samuel Brengle, that prince of holiness teachers, writes: "The last thing a seeker has to do is to give up an evil heart of unbelief." Here many honest souls have missed the way of "true holiness," have become discouraged, and have taken up with a superficial social religion or an insipid so-called holiness, showing little evidence that they have been "endued with power from on high."

Rev. S. A. Keen, D. D., author of "Faith Papers"; a well known expositor of Bible holiness, has left with us this great truth: "Faith being the exercise of the power we possess to believe God's Word, is a voluntary act, and at every stage in seeking the Lord there is either defeat in believing Satan or victory by believing Jesus."

Webster defines saving or practical faith as: "The acceptance by the intellect, affections and will of God's favor extended to man, through Jesus Christ." Thus we see that not only the intellect and affections, but also the will must be Christ-centered. Someone has said, "Faith is the will in action." When we set our will to say one eternal "Yes," to all the will of God, that is faith in action, and God will bless it in due time. The subtle tendency of unbelief is to seek some feeling or demonstration before we really get rid of our unbelief and trust God with all the heart.

George B. Cheever, D. D., author of "The Windings of the River of the Waters of Life," makes these pertinent remarks regarding the blessings. "Blessings will teach us gratitude, but not real faith. Indeed, blessings are so apt to accustom the soul to sight, or feeling, that except by a very peculiar care and discipline of God's grace, a long uninterrupted continuance of them unfits the soul for faith; so that when the accustomed blessing begins to fail and a discipline of want or darkness intervenes, the soul begins to imagine itself deserted of God ... as if God's comforts, and not God were its guide, its support, its index and impulse ... That is faith in sight, not faith in God ... God's love in this world is discipline: and the Mount of Transfiguration, if we are admitted to it, is not a place to stay, but to be refreshed for trials and duties of our earthly pilgrimage."

Perhaps nine out of ten seekers for holiness, unless they receive the experience shortly after they are converted, discover they must repent of broken vows, neglect of duty, evil speaking, unkind words or kindred evils.

John Wesley thus exhorts his preachers: "As soon as ever persons are justified, remind them of going on to perfection. This is the very time, preferable to all others. But if we once suffer this fervor to subside, we shall find it hard enough to bring them again, even to this point."

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03 -- DANGER OF DECEPTION

The church at Ephesus was a wonderful church, highly commended by the Lord for her faithfulness, patience and labors yet He warns these same people: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works."

Bishop B. T. Roberts, in a sermon preached at the St. Charles, Illinois camp ground on "Loss of First Love," commented on the subject thus: "How hard it is for poor human nature to follow these simple and necessary directions of Christ Men will do almost anything else first. They will hustle about, increase their zeal, their prayers, their liberality; but how unwilling to humble themselves for a loss of their first love, and repent. From these ranks come the army of persecutors of Holy Ghost religion. Sincere, but deluded man, if you settle down in your present state, your damnation is certain. Your strict observance of the rules of morality, and form of religion, only serves as an opiate to your conscience, and God can scarcely awaken you." What fearful words to those who are slumbering in self deception.

Jesus is the gift of God to a lost and sinning world. "Christ died for the ungodly," Romans 5:6, is the life line of hope flung out to despairing sinners, and thank God, every reborn sinner has the Holy Ghost in a measure, but not the fullness of the Spirit; and this he will discover soon, if he walks with God. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is for those only who have been born of the Spirit, who have a clear experience in justifying grace, and are walking in past and present light: otherwise we are simply seeking in the dark. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence (faith) 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."

There is a vast difference between a mental belief, and Scriptural faith which will bring satisfactory results. The late Rev. H. L. Crockett, a very able exponent of the doctrine and experience of sanctification, says: "Belief is a matter of the intellect. Faith is an act of the will; but trust is an attitude of the heart." Blessed is the individual who has this latter experience.

Mr. Wesley states: "Unbelief has two meanings, little faith or no faith." This is true. There may be a mingling of faith and unbelief, just as the dawning light precedes the perfect day, but they cannot long exist in perfect harmony. Just as darkness is the opposite of light, so unbelief is the very opposite of faith, and sooner or later one must necessarily give way to the other.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that ye have eternal life." This is always God's order: First faith, then knowledge. "He that believeth ... hath the witness in himself." (I John 5:10-13).

It is true, some seekers have less trouble with unbelief than others who are naturally incredulous. Nevertheless, unbelief is so subtle and blinding that many earnest, sincere souls are stranded right here. It is the submerged rock upon which countless numbers have made "shipwreck of faith," or have launched out upon a mere profession, where the dark-wing vultures of doubt and fear keep unwelcomed vigil with the result that the individual has too little "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

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04 -- PRIDE

"Pride must die in you, or heaven cannot live in you, all this is to make it known through the region of eternity, that pride can degrade the highest angels into devils, and humility raise fallen flesh and blood to the throne of angels." (William Law).

Pride, with a worldly trend in spiritual life and deportment, proves conclusively that we do not have real deliverance from the "carnal mind," with its offspring of unholy temper, jealousy, envy, inordinate affection, unrestrained appetites, and passions; with a compromising, man-fearing spirit, and worst of all with that carnal pride that will not confess out this "plague of the heart."

Pride ranks among the greatest evils of the ages, yet it is scarcely opposed. It is nursed by the world and fed, caressed, defended by the professed church of Jesus Christ. It is a more dangerous foe than liquor ever was. This is true because of its nature. Liquor is a foul demon, somber and loathsome; but pride is a demon transformed into an angel of light. Liquor appeals to the low nature while pride appeals to the higher. But pride is as surely to be reckoned with as liquor. Pride is as frequently, as definitely, and as strongly denounced in God's book as any other evil which it points out. Drunkenness never made individuals more disgusting than pride has made them. Drunkenness never squandered more money than pride has squandered. It never made anyone more disgraceful than pride has made them. It never kept more men down on the grindstone of sacrifice and hard work than pride has. It never mortgaged more homes than pride has. It has destroyed the humility and spirituality of almost every spiritual movement ever launched, and the exceeding few not affected to this degree, are rapidly being sapped by it. It has kept more people out of heaven than drunkenness; far more people are proud than drunk, and the Bible says, "God knows the proud afar off, and hates a proud look." (W. S. Stevens), Christian Triumph Co.

A sweet little girl with a new dress or a bright ribbon, will often strut around like a peacock, while a doting mother will encourage this hell-born pride. No wonder so many young girls go astray as they get older, when mothers let them run around half naked.

Does not the Bible plainly say not to be conformed to the world? And where can people more clearly show their conformity to the world than by following the styles of the world? But the deplorable thing, and to us hard to explain, is why these same women will wear their skirts so short and have such light-colored hose that make their legs the most conspicuous part of their body. To our mind this is the most deplorable feature of the whole undress parade.

We give this illustration: A woman who was caring for girls in a rescue home one time asked the girls what they considered their chief capital in catching men. The reply was that they considered the display of their legs their chief attraction. That was in the days when Christian women concealed their legs. But now the church women, even some professed Holiness women, have been led by the cunning sleight of old dame fashion to adopt this immodest feature of clothing. Why are they so foolish? Why will they thus conform to the world?

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05 -- WHAT IS MODESTY?

When we refer people to their manual or discipline and to the Scripture demanding that women adorn themselves in modest apparel we are met by the question, "What is modesty? What you think is modesty another person does not think is modest, etc., etc." But we are sure it is possible for a woman to so dress, and dress becomingly too, in such a way that everyone who looks at her will be obliged to say in truth that she is dressed modestly. They may not admire her way of dressing; but they cannot say it is not modest. So modesty is not so great a problem as some would make it. It is only the woman who wants to conform more or less to the prevailing style that has this difficulty on deciding what is modest. -- Union Bible Seminary, Westfield, Ind.

Sin blinds the eyes, darkens the understanding, enslaves the will, alienates the affections, deceives the heart, perverts judgment and produces spiritual death. There is no way to be saved from it except by the way of old fashioned repentance.

The devil is the author of many fashions today and they are inspired by him to destroy the souls of men and women.

Why is it that otherwise sensible women will dress in such a manner today, as to actually invite God's wrath, by wearing men's apparel? God says that they are an abomination in His sight. See Deut. 22:5.

Mothers, you go out in public half naked and stir up the lust of men, then send your innocent little girl out half naked, and at the mercy of the beast in man. Whose fault is it if she is kidnapped, brutally treated and murdered? Not the child's fault, for she knows no better because she has not been taught.

God will hold the parents of this generation accountable for not training their children in the Word of God.

Mothers, if you love and regard the lives of your girls, you will dress decently and respectably and see that your girls are dressed modestly and do all you can to eliminate the cause of all this crime.

In the old days little girls were taught modesty from infancy, that it was a disgrace to expose the body. The mothers dressed them accordingly, with long sleeves, high necks, sensible length skirts, and full length stockings, "Old fashioned," you say? That is the kind of people who

are going to populate Heaven, people who live according to the Word of God: and the Bible says that women should dress in modest apparel. (I Tim. 2:9). -- Pilgrim Tract Society, Randleman, N. C.

Modesty is the gift of God, in order to save boys and girls from the evils of the world. Destroy it and you may send your darling child to ruin, and leave you a despairing broken-hearted mother.

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06 -- COVETOUSNESS

Covetousness is mentioned in the Bible about fifty times. We are all familiar with the one mentioned in the ten commandments, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, nor his wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his beast nor anything that is thy neighbor's".

Webster defines covetousness as an "inordinate desire, or lust for any unlawful thing." It is so deeply seated in the human soul, that like pride and unbelief it is rarely discovered, except by divine revelation. It is a sly, deceitful, treacherous thing which has crept even into the holiness churches. It is very, very seldom preached upon, exposed, and reproved. It travels in bad company. Note Mark 7:21. "For from within, out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness." ... "It is the root of all evil, (money), which while some have coveted after have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." I Tim. 6:10.

These with many other Scriptures prove definitely that covetousness is one of the most subtle snares of Satan, leading its victims to "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of His power." II Thess. 1:9.

The reader will note that the above statements refer entirely to "inordinate desire" or lust for any unlawful thing.

There is a covetousness which we are exhorted to desire or seek after, which carries right into the love chapter. "Covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet show I unto you a more excellent way." I Cor 12:31. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, (divine love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." I Cor. 13:1.

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07 -- WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH

We read in a clean-cut holiness paper that there is one of three reasons why many holiness pastors and evangelists do not preach on dress, rings, jewelry, etc. First, ignorance; second, cowardice; third, spiritual blindness. We trust the reader will meditate upon these three words. This class of preachers declare that if a person gets well saved, these things will just naturally drop off. We are sorry to note that most of them just naturally put on more of these things. We

admit they will drop off more clothing. The fact is many of our fine young people do not seem to know what worldliness means. We wonder who is to blame when the Bible so strongly condemns it. We believe that many of them are honest and sincere. They are certainly asking questions concerning these things, and we propose to give such the truth from the Word, and many years of experience.

We have mentioned some of these "non-essentials," that many preachers can so glibly by-pass and even denounce preachers who have courage enough to preach against "these little foxes that spoil the vine," and are eating out the heart of true piety in holiness churches. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (I John 2:15).

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4).

Some eminent psychologists and M. D.'s agree that girls wear men's clothes because of a subtle sex appeal. No wonder God called it an "abomination in His sight."

Fifty years ago, in a city as wicked as Chicago. if women and girls appeared on the street as naked and voluptuous as some do today, they would immediately be arrested. They are an insult to society and the judgments of God await them, unless they repent and forsake their evil ways.

Where are we as holiness churches when feasting and fun is largely substituted for fasting and prayer: where some bobbed-haired maidens, and older ones as well, can stalk boldly through some of our schools and campmeetings in slacks. which the Word of God calls "abominable," with short skirts, when they are in style, and short sleeves, flesh colored stockings, wearing rings, toeless shoes, high heels, and even take part in our services. A medical book gives an X-ray picture of a dislocated ankle, caused by wearing high heels, and states that such a person after a time could no longer wear common-sense shoes. Well, these dear old Chinese girls were once in style with bound feet, but some of them are now becoming Americanized and joining the high-heeleders. We were in a revival meeting when one of this sort was sanctified and danced around kicking off both high heels, and exclaimed, "The Lord didn't want me to wear them anyhow." No doubt seeking "true holiness" would shed light on many things that are grieving the Holy Spirit and robbing our holiness churches of power, victory and souls. In today's paper we notice a new fad. The young ladies are braiding boy's flashy ties into their hair. Well, some of the boys are trading their ties for the girl's print blouses. As Bishop Pearce used to quote, "What fools we mortals be."

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08 -- SPURIOUS RELIGION

Another question we often meet is, "Why are certain people apparently blessed, shed tears and profess sanctification, while openly violating the Word of God?"

This is very confusing, especially to young converts, and we answer: There may be one or more of several reasons. First, we must remember that there are both human and divine emotions and inspiration. The human is seen at basketball, and football games, prize fights, horse races, jazz music, etc.

Some who have lost the Holy Spirit out of their lives, have a superficial surface emotion, which will lead to a false profession of religion if they are too proud to confess and repent of the same.

Divine inspiration, which brings the genuine blessing of God, is a supernatural influence produced by the Holy Spirit upon individuals who preach, pray or sing with the Spirit upon them. Dead preaching, praying and singing is killing, however oratorical, and produces dead churches. The fact is, that a person who has never died out to the flesh life and the spirit of the world, is often a victim of wrong impressions and demonstrations. The Devil can counterfeit every good thing that God has ordained for our good.

The imagination is a tricky thing. We have all heard of doctors and nurses gradually reducing the amount of morphine and adding some harmless ingredient in order to cure the patient. How well it works we know not. However, we do know that nurses are instructed to give a shot of water instead of an opiate at times, and the patient often finds great relief.

The imagination is also capable of great evil. It brought the flood upon the earth in Noah's time, and he and family alone escaped the terrifying destruction. (Gen. 6:5).

The imagination is also fertile ground for spurious religion. Satan is very religious and cunning. If he cannot scare us out as "a roaring lion," he will come as "an angel of light" with subtle impressions upon the mind suggesting we do some strange or ridiculous thing that is satisfying to the flesh life, but out of divine order, and brings either a thrill of human emotion, or a feeling of darkness and defeat. Often it is undiscovered pride in the heart, which desires to show off to advantage before others.

The man of God, Rev. M. W. Knapp, founder of God's Bible School, Cincinnati, Ohio, has written: "The devil can make people tremendously happy. He can produce fictitious happiness." Human enthusiasm, unless understood and controlled, may lead to mild or wild fanaticism. The Scripture speaks of casting down imagination. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Cor. 10:5).

We have had some experience with several very religious people who were sure that they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit, when it was demon power that had to be cast out. One was a "tongues" woman, and doubtless there are more people obsessed or possessed with demon power than we realize. Let none imagine we do not approve of real Holy Ghost demonstrations. There is far too little of such.

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09 -- IMPORTANT FACTS

The Bible has not left us in ignorance regarding these important facts. The Holy Ghost inspired apostle, John, has in a few words given unto us the very source from which all sin springs, i.e. "The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." (I John 2:16).

Paul also has left on record the fearful results of these "fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (Rom. L :21-32), "for which cause God gave them up." First: to uncleanness, second to vile affections, and lastly to a reprobate mind. No wonder James exhorts, "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners: and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." (Mk. 7:21-23).

From portions of a tract, entitled "Purity" by Supt. G. S. Otis, of the Christian Workers Union, we submit the following: "The passion demon power will ruin the soul and body unless he is overcome ... Who will instruct the child at an early age, performing their duty on this line before it is too late?" Some parents have a great aversion in regard to this matter through false modesty (or perhaps a personal feeling of guilt). Why leave it to some vile creature who may lead them astray? There is not one child in all this world that does not need to be warned. Those who are responsible for withholding this knowledge from the youth will have to meet God with their guilt in the judgment. When despotic passion gets control, an unclean spirit has entered, subdued the will, weakened the moral and mental forces. Abortion is criminal: life begins with conception, whoever disobeys the divine injunction, "Thou shalt not kill," cannot escape the consciousness of the deed, and the anguish and bitter remorse which ever after disturb the soul. (Unless confessed to God and forgiven).

We can take you to the grave of a well known woman, guilty of this sin (and doubtless there are thousands of others), who while dying in great distress, cried out again and again, "I am a murderer."

While engaged in mission work in our earlier ministry, we met many young people, especially broken hearted girls, who fairly hated their parents for leaving them in the dark, concerning the subtle snares of Satan.

We read of communistic, lust-ridden Hollywood which is said to be a clearing house for the white slave traffic. From here many of the 35,000 missing girls are sold annually into a life of shame, equal to if not worse than the slave labor camps of Russia. Many of these unfortunate victims are shipped into foreign countries, where escape is almost impossible. God pity them. If our own country did not have so many drinking, immoral men stalking through the "halls of fame" something might be done to blast this hideous monster from our midst.

Many years ago we belonged to a praying band in Chicago, where we held street meetings in the segregated "red light" district. However, owing to procurers, (and even women stoop to this degrading practice) together with trickery, bribery and coercion among police and city officials,

things became so corrupt that the plan of segregation was abandoned. Then of course these workers of iniquity were scattered throughout the whole city, where many fine looking places were occupied.

It is reported by our Federal Bureau of Investigation that each day the American people have suffered 159 robberies, 1,023 burglaries, 506 automobile thefts, and 2,585 larcenies. The crime problem is constantly on the increase. Lawlessness is abounding today before our very eyes, and yet very few are alarmed over it or see its scriptural significance.

These are some of the very things our Lord warned would be "landmarks," indications, and sure evidences of the end-time. My friend, the signs of the end-time are upon us. Crime, wickedness, and wholesale lawlessness as we have today are not only the means of the foundations of our nation being seriously challenged, and shaken by crime, but the putrefaction and total moral corruption is so great today that the well-being of the world is tottering.

Leaders in the crime army are not all old hardened criminals. Youngsters committed approximately one-third of the major crimes in this country last year. More than 117,000 young people under twenty-one years of age were arrested for crime in our country last year. Mr. Hoover of the F. B. I. declares that there are 700,000 boys and girls in the United States in what he calls the "crime army." Mr. Hoover further warns us that there are 800,000 known prostitutes in this country-plus possibly hundreds of thousands more living in immorality, but not known as prostitutes.

During the last war we were shocked by the reports of various writers that 100, 000 illegitimate children were born annually in Germany. But the same immoral specter roosts today on our doorsteps, with the added wickedness that, on the average, 40,000 of the illegitimate children are born of girls under fourteen years of age. One out of every seven people in our fair land is socially unfit to mingle with the rest of our society. (Union Bible Seminary, Westfield, Indiana.)

Furthermore; this triple-headed monster, pride, lust, and liquor, is forcing its way into the homes of some very good people, through the licentious, soul destroying agency of television. It contributes in a great measure to the terrible crimes of drunkenness, robbery, rape, and murder. You might rather have a snake in the home, especially where there are children, as most of them are afraid of snakes, but they are charmed by television. You should also kill the snake, but God only can kill the evil influence engrafted into their plastic minds. Thank God for a goodly number of fearless old-fashioned preachers like H. Robb French, Arthur L. Vess, H. C. Van Wormer, G. I. Norman, D. R. Matherlee, S. D. Herron, and many others who publicly denounce this insidious evil. The well known Rev. W. M. Tidwell declares: "We have come to the firm conviction that it is the climax of devil miracles. There has never been anything like it and never will be until they shall make the image of the Beast and give life to the Beast and it shall speak." (Rev. 13:15). We recently received by mail a leaflet by Dr. Talmey, advertising a book entitled; "Love, the Science of Sex Attraction." Like the movies and television, it strongly suggests that love and sex relation are one and the same thing. The fact is that pure love and a lust ridden mind are as far apart as heaven and hell, the latter acquired usually in petting parties, dance halls and roller rinks, too often beginning in the school dances. It would be well to read, "hell in our high schools," by Bob Ross,

Jackson, Tenn. Thousands of virgins have been deceived and ruined, or married to a beastly man. When lust comes in, the home the dove of peace flies out the window, leaving bitterness and strife where God intends love and harmony.

Again by mail today, comes a blast of old-time, hell-born infidelity, advertising a book: "The Bible Unmasked," by Joseph Lewis, from the Free-thought Press (infidel) Association. The following is a partial list of the contents, i, e., How Abram sold his wife Sarah to Pharoah; King Solomon and his erotic love songs; The Virgin Birth, or how Mary deceived Joseph; Jesus and the sinner, and what she did to him. We are not sending for these books, as we judge by their contents, we would need a Holy Ghost "brain washing" after reading such nefarious literature. Their sordid misinterpretation of divine truth would make a decent man or woman blush. This book is banned from Canada.

Our country, which still claims to be Christian, should do the same with this book, and many others. Much of our philosophy, including psychology, seems to be a determined effort on the part of evil minded writers (perhaps communistic) in order to seduce our noble womanhood and children, through immodesty, smoking, drinking and immorality; bringing upon us the ignoble, humiliating defeat that other nations are now suffering.

God has classified these blasphemers in many places in the Scriptures. We quote one in the New Testament. "If our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world (the devil), hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Now comes a full page article from a magazine, with the headline: "The Filth Peddler," by Curtis Mitchell. The article states that from coast to coast exists a treacherous, depraved gang of "Smut Peddlers" who, through the mails and secret agents, are carrying on a degrading business among teenagers. This vile practice consists in distributing obscene literature and photos of nude women in lust appealing attitude. This vicious stuff is getting into the hands of children 10 and 12 years of age. Many parents feel that pornography is a disgusting subject and one which "nice" people don't talk about. So why not just push it back under the rug?

Here's why -- because only one thing is worse than talking about it. That is NOT talking and writing about what is being peddled to our teenagers.

Mr. Mitchell warns. and exhorts parents to diligently watch their mail boxes for seemingly innocent ads, such as movie star photos, a magic ring, "How to be popular," small booklets of comic characters, etc. Answering their ads gets and keeps your name on the "Smut Peddlers" mailing list. Inspector H. W. Case, of Detroit, declares that obscene literature has played a part in every sex murder in the history of his police department.

Mr. Mitchell closes with the fine injunction, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

It is one of the major factors leading to the baser crimes of prostitution and sodomy, which is fast engulfing our country with the dreadful snares which brought judgment fire upon the cities of

Sodom and Gomorrah, while these degenerating crimes are filling hospitals, asylums, and graves with untold thousands of its deluded victims.

An organization of women, supporting the legal alcoholic industry, has been established by the liquor interests to counteract the work of the W. C. T. U.

How women can so far debase themselves, in lining up with the nefarious liquor business, which is largely responsible for 90 per cent of these fearful crimes, and a curse to humanity is more than we can understand. This information comes from "The Pennsylvania Challenge" a hard hitting, truth dispensing little paper, which should be in every loyal American home. Edited by Dr. R. R. Blews, 220 Spruce Street, Titusville, Pennsylvania.

All these tragic, devastating sins, in home, country, and nation, are the result of disbelieving the eternal word of God.

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10 -- WAY TO GOD AND HEAVEN

Oh, that men would cry out with the Psalmist: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Ps. 139:23,24). "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me ... then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." (Psalm 51).

Dear earnest seeker, if such you are, can you say with Paul, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world," "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed"?

We recall an incident that occurred while driving over a beautiful mountain highway with wife and a couple of Christian friends. We had taken our lunch with us, and an empty thermos jug, as I had informed the party that I knew of a wonderful spring of clear, cold water, at which place we would arrive about noon. When we reached the spring much to our disappointment 'there was a large sign reading, "DANGER! Do not drink this water." Imagine my chagrin, after recommending it so highly to our friends.

Tragic indeed is the fact that many souls, thirsting for the "Water of Life," are led by modernistic preachers and false prophets, to the poison springs of unbelief rather than to Jesus. "whose blood can make the vilest sinner clean." Hear His ringing, world-wide invitation, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly (soul and heart, Clarke), shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive.)"

Again, to the woman of Samaria: "The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John. 4:14).

"By Samaria's wayside well,
Once a blessed message fell
On a woman's thirsty soul, long ago;
And to eyes that long were sealed
Was the glorious light revealed,
Through a fountain that was opened long ago.

Chorus:

"There's a fountain that was opened long ago
For the healing of the nations is its flow;
Along the line of ages, the prophets and the sages,
Caught the singing of its waters long ago.

"And a little captive maid,
By a leper undismayed,
Told to him a simple story long ago;
That the stream where he might lave
Had alone the power to save;
Through his trust in that old fountain, long ago.

"As the eunuch tried to read,
Philip taught him of his need;
And baptized him in that stream long ago.
As an outward seal and sign
Of an inward work divine;
That was wrought through that old fountain long ago.

"O thou fountain deep and wide,
Flowing from the wounded side,
That was pierced for our redemption long ago;
In thy ever cleansing wave,
There is found all power to save,
'Tis the power that saved the nations long ago."

-- Emma F. Johnson

Praise the Lord! In this glorious Fountain, we find the "PERFECT CURE" for the sin of
"Unbelief" with all its attendant evils. Thus sang the sainted William Cowper:

"There is a Fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood;
Lose all their guilty stains."

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11 -- KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN -- Matthew 16:19

While it is true that "Christ died for the ungodly," (Rom. 5:6) and to "cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John. 1:9), it is equally true that there are conditions to be met. The keen-eyed prophet of old, with lips touched with fire from off the altar of God, cried, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts (evil): and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:7). This is the first step toward heaven. The second is repentance. "God ... commandeth all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30). "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19). "Except ye repent, ye ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5).

"Neither do ye repent, unless ye confess with broken hearts, the most damnable of all your sins, your unbelief; till ye repent of your unbelief, all your good desires and promises are vain, and will pass away as a morning cloud. The vows which ye make in a time of trouble, ye will forget and break, as soon as the trouble is over." -- Wesley

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

You may confess them to a priest, or to Mary, and find yourself forever void of the power to overcome them. Under Old Testament law there were many priests, "Because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man (Christ), because he continueth ever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself." (Heb. 7:23-27).

There must also be absolute obedience. Peter declared, when brought before the authorities for his faithful preaching, "We are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." (Acts 5:32).

Disobedience separated man from God, and nothing but absolute obedience can bring about a reconciliation. "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Firstly and lastly, there must be faith, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This is enough faith to start with and we will get more as we read, believe, and obey the Word of God.

These are the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" which alone can unlock the storehouse of blessing and power. Perhaps you say, "I cannot really believe with my whole heart." God says you must believe. The remedy is simple. You must pray until you do believe. "For with the heart man

believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10).

Here is an excellent excerpt from the writings of the late Rev. C. W. Ruth, a well known holiness evangelist. "The question naturally arises, Is faith inherent or is it the gift of God? I answer, it is both. Faith is the gift of God just as your breath is the gift of God. God has given you the power to breathe, and He has given you something to breathe, but He will not breathe for you. So God has given us power to believe-the faith faculty-and has given us something to believe, but He will not believe for us. You must do your own believing."

The following is an excellent article from "The Other Side of Belief," by Catherine Booth.

"Every reader of the New Testament must have noticed two classes of passages bearing on the question of the conditions of our salvation: the one class representing it as an exceedingly EASY thing to be saved -- as for instance, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"; "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"; "Look unto me and be ye saved"; and so on -- all of which texts represent one side of God's truth, but not the ONLY ONE.

"You will find in your New Testament quite as many texts, quite as relevant, quite as important, and just as much inspired as the former class, which represent it as an exceedingly DIFFICULT thing to be saved, requiring as much human effort and sacrifice as though salvation all depended on ourselves.

"It is because deceived guides have taught that Salvation is not by works, it is by faith, without adding the qualifying passages and the explanations of correlative texts, which the inspired writers never lost sight of for a moment, that it has come to pass that we have lying believers, cheating believers, deceiving believers, unclean believers, and all manner of sinful believers."

In "The Message of Victory" Glasgow, Scotland.

Whether seeking to be saved, sanctified, or healed, we often give up too easily. We quit seeking just before victory comes, and accept a little or greater blessing, instead of pressing on for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, which God has promised. Do not get discouraged, this is one of Satan's; favorite weapons. Frequently, at altar services, when hard to pray, and the workers one by one leave the altar and sit back, perhaps just looking on, we have heard the pastor or evangelist say, "The Spirit seems to have lifted, we may as well close." This may be a serious mistake. While the spiritual battle is raging, satanic power and unbelief in seekers or workers may hinder, yet this is no sure evidence that the Holy Spirit has withdrawn. Occasionally, under such conditions, we have called faithful workers back to pray, and the Lord has given remarkable victory. Lack of burden on the part of workers calls for mighty prevailing prayer, otherwise seekers may leave the altar discouraged and be finally defeated.

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Seekers for holiness are often instructed to consecrate all, and believe the work is done. They are instructed to "Only believe," or "It is obtained by faith." This is merely Greek to many seekers. How can a person believe he has a thing knowing that he does not possess it. He might believe a lie or some false doctrine, but it is next to impossible to believe the truth, unless he knows what, how, and when to believe.

Oswald Chambers has given to the sincere seeker a great truth. "The working of self-will is back of all lack of consecration. Back of the visible thing we have to give up is the invisible self-will."

In a recently published and widely advertised New Testament, the word consecration has been substituted for the word sanctification. From the same source now comes the "Revised Standard Version," with its subtle tendency to destroy faith in the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, the merits of the atoning blood and the necessity of repentance and confession of sins. Note David's prayer in the King James Version, Ps. 51:3. "For I acknowledge (confess) my transgressions." The new version reads, "I know my transgressions." No confessing here. King James, same chapter verse 13, reads, "Sinners shall be converted unto thee." New version, "Sinners shall return unto thee." No conversion here. Turn with us to Jesus' prayer for His disciples and all true believers, John 17:19, "For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." New version, "I consecrate myself, that they also might be consecrated in truth." A prominent holiness writer states, "Vain is consecration without faith to secure the blessing, hence men may be consecrated all their lives, and never know the blessing of sanctification."

With its many good interpretations, this new Revised Standard Version, so-called, is shot through with a poisonous, deceptive theology, advocated by such men as Harry Emerson Fosdick, who publicly states that he does not believe in the virgin birth, or the substitutionary atonement through the blood of Jesus Christ. He agrees with Jewish rabbis and modernistic college professors, some of whom are strongly communistic. Thus have they thrown to the cyclone winds of unbelief, many Bible truths absolutely vital to Christian godliness.

More recently appears another master stroke of Satan, "The Interpreter's Bible." A blasphemous commentary by infidel scholars, published by the Methodist Publishing House, using the R. S. V. translation, representing National Council of Churches, denying the Bible's accuracy, its authority, its stated Authorship, its supernatural nature and its miracles. -- Evangelist R. L. Summer

The great danger lies in the fact that these books have a tendency, if not a deliberate attempt, to destroy the faith of many fine young Christians through this false philosophy. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the rudiments of this world, and not after Christ." Col. 2:8. The safest plan for the spiritual, moral and social welfare of our young people, is to attend the best holiness schools available.

We know of none more spiritual than Transylvania Bible School. A strictly holiness school, for young men and women who are God-called and eager to study, work and sacrifice in

order to prepare themselves for Christian service, as teachers, pastors, evangelists or missionaries at home or on foreign fields. If really interested and willing to obey all the rules of the school, write Rev. Henry Shilling, Freeport, Pa.

The above recommendation was not even hinted to us, either by the President or anyone else.

Fletcher gives the following advice: "Whatever your blessing, if it has not freed you from all sin, in temper, desire and passion, do not stop until you have had, if need be, some half dozen blessings; until all sin is gone. Neither the depth of our peace. nor the height of our joy, not the greatness of gifts or power, but freedom from the Law of sin and death, is the vital matter in entire sanctification."

Dr. Daniel Steele, one time professor of theology in Boston University, author of "Love Enthroned," "Defense of Christian Perfection," and other excellent books and commentaries, makes the following statement in his book, "The Gospel of the Comforter." "Faith is man's only capacity to receive God. He cannot enter us through the senses, as they report only material things, nor can he enter the soul through the reason. The reason apprehends only relations, and not realities."

Someone has said, "Saving faith is a sixth sense. which remains dormant, but is brought to life through repentance."

Wesley maintains that "repentance and faith are fully as necessary, in order to continuance and growth in grace, as the former faith and repentance were, in order to enter into the Kingdom of God." Vol. I, page 116.

The venerable Bishop Hogue, of precious memory, in his book, "The Holy Spirit, a Study," quotes from Wesley the following clear and specific directions in regard to securing this "Pearl of great price"; "This faith is a divine evidence or conviction. First: that God hath promised this sanctification in the Holy Scriptures. Second: It is a divine evidence or conviction, that what God hath promised, He is able to perform. Third: It is a divine conviction, or evidence that He is able and willing to do it now. To this. confidence that He is able and willing to do it now, there needs to be added one thing more. A divine evidence that He doeth it."

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13 -- BATTLE OF FAITH

This fourth and last step is the seeming dark abyss where too many fail. It is Satan's last stronghold and he holds it with tenacious vengeance. Here he often marshals the power of darkness and satanic suggestions in order to defeat the seeker. Listen not. You are near the coveted goal; although it seems dark as night, trust in God. He is near at hand. When Abram placed his sacrifice upon the altar according to divine directions, "Lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him." If you ever get into such darkness do not despair for, praise God, we know there is a way out. God gave Abram in that dark hour, a vision of future events, and made with him an everlasting covenant. (Gen. 15:12).

God spoke to Moses out of the "fire and cloud and thick darkness," and gave to him the eternal law of the "Ten Commandments." Remember the "darkness and the light are both alike to God." David cried "The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness." Charles Wesley, John Bunyan, Madame Guyon, and a host of others have wrestled in prayer amidst a "horror of great darkness," and mightily prevailed with God. The writer is personally acquainted with a number of individuals, who have had a like experience. Take the "Shield of Faith," and the "Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God," and battle for your crown of Life. Satan cannot long withstand the conflict, for God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost is with thee. Now is the time to "only believe." Trust Him now, grasp hold of a good promise. Peter declares, "Herein are exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature." Jesus in that transcendent prayer for His disciples, before His mock trial and crucifixion, prayed to God the Father, "Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy Word is truth ... neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." (John 17:17-20). "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." (Heb. 13:12). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Cor. 7:1).

These and many other precious promises, are like the steel cables which carry that little car across the fearful whirlpool of the Niagara. Those cables are anchored in the solid rock, and government inspected every year. Praise God His promises are anchored in the "Rock of Ages," and will never, never fail. Do not fear to step out upon them, they may seem to sway and tremble, but:

"Keep on believing, there's nothing to fear,
Keep on believing. Jesus is near;
Keep on believing, this is the way,
Faith in the night as well as the day."

Soon you will be able to grasp by faith, the Word of God, and cross the dark waters of unbelief into "Canaan's Fair land," where you can sing,

"I am dwelling on the mountain,
Where the golden sunlight gleams;
O'er a land whose wondrous beauty,
Far exceeds my fondest dreams."

While crossing over Jordan, never look at your fears. Do not seek for feeling, blessing, emotion, or the witness. These manifestations will follow in their due time. Remember that ultimately we are saved by faith, we are sanctified and kept by faith. Our feelings will rise and fall like the thermometer, and this will always be so. Our emotions and blessings, will ebb and flow like the tides of the sea, and this will ever be so in this world of shadows. Hence an all wise Heavenly Father has ordained that we shall be saved and sanctified through a heaven born faith. To Him be all the glory. Amen! Thus we see that trusting the eternal Word of God must be the pole star of every true child of God, on the ever-changing sea of life, where in a war-torn world,

nations and individuals are paying a fearful penalty, because of disbelieving and disobeying the unchangeable Word of God.

"I have never dared to admit the first doubt. At such times I have been compelled to lift up the 'Shield of faith' the moment I have become conscious of these suggestions of doubt and hand the whole army over to the Lord to conquer. I begin to assert, over and over, my faith in Him, in the simple words, 'God is my Father; I am His forgiven child; He does love me Jesus saves me now.' The victory has always been complete victory. The enemy has come in like a flood but the 'Spirit of the Lord' has lifted up a standard against him, and my doubts have been put to flight. (Christian's Secret of a Happy Life.)

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14 -- TESTIMONIES

We are inserting the testimonies of a few persons which we trust may encourage some hungry, consecrated soul, into the light of full salvation. However do not ever make the mistake of trying to get an experience like someone else. God has one that will just fit your case to perfect satisfaction, but you will need to continually use the means of grace, especially secret prayer, humble obedience and unwavering faith in God's immutable Word, remembering that "we are kept by the power of God through faith." (I Pet. 1:5).

Rev. G. D. Watson, author of "Love Abounding," relates the following experience in seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost: "When the family had all retired I remained awake until midnight. When I retired it seemed to me my whole being broke down, and I cried like a child. The Holy Spirit would suggest certain things to me -- 'Will you resign your wife and children into my hands, and let me have them and their life just as I see fit?' -- 'Yes, Lord.' -- 'Will you resign your health and natural life to me, as to how long you will live?' -- 'Yes, Lord.' 'Will you be willing to die when and where I want you to die?' -- 'Yes, Lord.' -- 'At home or abroad, on a train or boat?' -- 'Yes, Lord.' (God had been three months getting me to this place.) 'Will you preach this in your pulpit?' -- 'Yes, Lord.' (I had the finest church in Indiana, a Methodist Church.) 'Will you consent to give up these fine appointments, if need be ... and go down South to work among the colored people?' (Prejudice) 'Yes, Lord.' -- 'Will you go down to the preacher's meeting and confess this to the preachers there?' -- 'Yes, Lord.'" ... Later he went to the meeting, arose and said; "Brethren, I am going to say something you have never heard me say in this church. (I then went on and told them about my consecration.) 'I am going to believe that the blood of Christ cleanses me from all sin. I am going to believe it, and I do believe it, and now I confess it' ... I felt perfectly carefree, calm and serene and quiet, and that was all I expected; but on Monday morning, while reading my Bible, the Lord gave me the baptism of the Holy Spirit." It seems at least in some cases, "Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." (Heb. 10:36).

Untold numbers are never saved because they will not confess their sins, and make wrongs right, and many are not sanctified because they will not confess unholy traits of carnality in the heart.

Rev. J. O. Peck, one of the early writers and ardent supporters of the doctrine of Bible Holiness, in relating his experience states that at first he was greatly prejudiced against such teaching, but later confessed his heart hunger, went to the altar, and there by a definite act of faith, received Christ as his sanctifier. He further testifies that he had no special feeling or emotion, but absolute quiet. The tempter whispered, "Now the Spirit is withdrawn." How often individuals and frequently altar services, have been defeated by similar satanic suggestions. However, Mr. Peck, realizing this was of the enemy, immediately declared: "With or without feeling; I here and now take Christ as my all in all," and adds: "The peace of God that passeth understanding, deeper, sweeter, as with the fullness of God, filled my soul."

The following excerpt from the "American Holiness Journal," portrays the experience of the saintly Phoebe Palmer, who was greatly used of God ... "Sarah Worrell, a sister of Phoebe Worrell Palmer, sought holiness every night, in a ten day camp meeting at Sing Sing, N. Y. She was sanctified the last night, after the close of the meeting. Later on, as Mrs. Sarah Langford, she started Tuesday meetings in the home of her brother-in-law, Dr. W. Palmer, in 1835, in New York City. Phoebe Palmer was sanctified under the ministry of her sister Sarah in 1837, and the two aided Dr. Palmer to seek and find."

In 1839 the Palmers published the first definite holiness magazine, "Guide to Holiness." These meetings ran for more than 50 years. In the early years there was found in attendance such men as Hamline, Peck, Upham, Watson, Keen, Reddy, Cook and scores of others.

"Bishop B. T. Roberts experienced the blessing of holiness in 1849, in the second year of his ministry, at a camp meeting held at Collins, N. Y. through the labors of Mrs. Palmer. Mrs. Roberts, before her marriage was a member of Dr. Palmer's class, and he was instrumental in leading her into full salvation."

Phoebe Palmer thus recounts her battle with unbelief, while seeking the experience of holiness. Satan whispered, "Suppose after you have believed, you don't feel anything what will you do?" She replied, "If I never feel anything, I will come up before my Judge, and in the face of an assembled universe declare my faith was in the immutable Word." She testifies, "Oh, into what a region of light, glory, and purity my soul was ushered."

Little did that young sister, Sarah Worrell, realize the tremendous and glorious results that would ensue, from the experience of that never-to-be-forgotten night. No wonder Satan withstood her heart cry for ten days. Eternity alone will reveal the harvest of precious souls. How important to make all our decisions in the light of eternity.

Frances Willard, seeking holiness under the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Palmer, gives her testimony as follows: "Kneeling in utter self-abandonment, I consecrated myself anew to God. My chief besetments were, as I thought, a speculative mind, a hasty temper, a too-ready tongue, and the purpose to be a celebrated person. However, in the hour of sincere self-examination, I felt humiliated to find the simple bits of jewelry I wore; gold buttons, rings and pins, all of them plain and "quiet" in their style, came up to me as the separating cause between my spirit and my Savior. All this seemed so unworthy of that sacred hour, that I thought at first it was a mere temptation. But the sense of it remained so strong, that I unconditionally yielded up my pretty little jewels, and a

great peace came into my heart. I cannot describe the deep welling up of joy which gradually possessed me. I was utterly free from care, I was blithe as a bird ... I did not ask myself 'Is this my duty?' but just intuitively knew what I was called upon to do. The conscious emotional presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit held me, and I ran upon His errands just for love."

Here we desire to go on record, that we believe Divine healing is also attained, on practically the same terms of obedience, and faith in the Word of God. "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." (Ps. 103:3). Why believe part of this verse and reject the rest?

It seems the old prophet Isaiah believed it. "Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53 :4-5). The New Testament confirms this in Matt. 8:16-17, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils, and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias (Isaiah) the prophet saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

My dear mother, daughter of an old-fashioned Methodist preacher, dedicated me at birth for a preacher. She died, as did also my only brother many years ago of that dread disease tuberculosis. I was stricken with the same, and finally consulted an eminent physician, asking him to be very frank with me. He replied, "I will, you cannot live a year, and not that long unless you get out of the printing office." That was more than sixty years ago, and I have not had a doctor since, except for a check-up a few times. I was wonderfully saved and healed, before I ever heard a sermon or testimony on divine healing. I found it in the Word of God, but being ignorant of the doctrine of healing, demon power and unbelief, I had to learn many things. The first was, that we can be afflicted after being once healed. What do you do, send for a physician? We do the same, and He is always near, at midnight or in the raging storm. We have applied some simple remedies at times, for colds, etc., but it seems, with little effect. Prayer and faith are the best medicines we know of.

We have been seriously afflicted a number of times. Sometimes the healing has been sudden, at other times gradual. Never have any two of these healings been exactly alike, and I confess I feel too often it has been the chastening of the Lord. Nevertheless, such occasions have been the most profitable hours and days of my life, with "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord," when, after a heart searching time, waves of glory, sanctifying healing power swept over soul and body. Praise the Lord!

Some are heard to say, "If God always heals we would never die." We have never heard a divinely healed person make such a statement. Death is one of God's appointments, and none shall escape, except those who are alive at His glorious coming, when the bloodwashed saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

Others, when they hear of a person dying remark, "Well, it must have been his time to die." This may be absolutely false. No doubt thousands, yea millions have died before God intended it, because of unrestrained appetites, passions, disbelieving the promises, carelessness, etc. Many afflictions are demon power, and can only be cast out "by prayer and fasting." (Mark 17:21).

For the glory of God, and perhaps the encouragement of some, we will relate a couple of experiences we have had. When very ill, with the addition of a high fever and added severe headache, we received a call to officiate at a funeral to be held at 2:30. It was now 12 o'clock, and I could not get hold of the Lord for healing. In fact I was too sick to pray much, and was about to call wife and have her phone that I was unable to come. Then I thought of Elias "who prayed again, and the heaven gave rain." As I started to pray, the Lord flashed this Scripture into my mind. "What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24).

You see the Lord had me in a trap. I had to believe or not believe, and with no feeling or emotion, except a desperate determination to trust God. I cried aloud, "Lord God, I am going to believe you NOW." I staggered to my feet and started to dress. Did not even call wife, who was downstairs, to help me. Before I finished dressing, all weakness and sickness was entirely gone. I ate a good meal and was at the funeral home exactly on time. My voice was calm and strong, and the Lord in His great mercy, helped me to bring a message which was a blessing to my own soul, and to others, so they said. None of the sickness returned. In fact I felt better than for a long time past. Surely He sent His Word and healed me.

A few years later I was smitten with blood poisoning in the face. The infection rapidly spread, and when I realized the danger, fear swept over me for a moment; perhaps for the reason that shortly before, we had the funeral of a man who died a horrible death from the same cause. His head was terribly swollen and turned black. No opiates would avail and you could hear his screams a half mile. When this momentary fear struck me I thought of the Scripture, "Perfect love casteth out fear." I exclaimed, "Lord, I have perfect love." Immediately all fear left me and I had perfect assurance that I would not die. A trained Christian nurse who was visiting us advised wife to get a doctor, but we both decided to trust the Lord. At night I was much worse, it seemed the monster Death came up to my bedside, pointed his bony finger at me and said, "Your time has come; you are coming with me." I may have been half asleep or slightly delirious, I do not know, but I laughed in his face, and began praising God. This healing was gradual, but I was having such a blessed time all through that I never regretted it.

What need we fear?
There's naught can harm;
Perchance we need
The chastening rod;
And even death,
May have its charm;
If we but put
Our trust in God.

* * * * *

It is plainly commanded in the Scriptures. "And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sickness, and cast out devils." (Mk. 3:14, 15).

That command has never been repealed. It proves that sin has produced an enormous calamity on the human reason when thousands of good men, and even many holiness preachers and evangelists, will accept one third of that command, namely, to preach, and utterly ignore two-thirds of the command, to have power to heal sickness, and to cast out devils.

"Though eighteen hundred years are past,
Since Christ did in the flesh appear,
His tender mercies ever last,
And still His healing power is here.

"Would He the body's health restore.
And not regard the sin-sick soul?
The sin-sick soul He loves much more,
And surely He will make it whole.

"All my disease, my every sin,
To Thee, O Jesus, I confess;
In pardon, Lord, my cure begin,
And perfect it in holiness."

-- Charles Wesley

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16 -- RETAINING THE VICTORY

We can only retain a clear "witness of the Spirit" by confessing to others, on proper occasions, what the Lord has done for us.

Watson writes: "The only Christians who have peace and joy, the only Christians who march on to victory, are the testifying Christians. You go without testifying and your faith withers and dies."

The saintly Fletcher lost the experience several times, for the reason he failed to testify to the same. He did not refrain because of a man-fearing spirit, or evading the cross, but as there were many opposed to the doctrine of holiness, he thought it might divide the Church. He later saw his mistake and became a mighty power for God.

Neither is holiness the climax of Christian experience, but it is the normal experience of a true child of God, with "much land ahead to be possessed." It is necessary also that we have a "renewal of the Holy Ghost," and that often, or we wither like the corn in summer drought. "Even true faith will soon die, if its possessor does not live in the spirit of obedience." -- Clarke.

Many honest souls have been confused and discouraged, because of failing to discern the great difference between purity and maturity. A babe may be physically perfect, but it would be tragic indeed if the child did not continue to mature. Thus with the sanctified, there must be a continual growth in grace, love and faith. (II Pet. 1:5).

Wheatlake, in "The Touch of Fire," declares, "It is a mistake to suppose that when we are cleansed from sin, there is very little yet to be attained. The facts in the case are, we have just dipped our feet in the shore waters of a fathomless and untraversed ocean of divine love."

Ellen Lois Roberts, wife of Bishop Roberts, has written, "After the work of cleansing, He leads us on to a more complete death to self, and a life 'hid with Christ in God.'"

Dr. Morrison, veteran of old time Methodism, and editor of the "Pentecostal Herald" for many years before his death, makes the following remarks in "The Pearl of Great Price." "The nature of the cross is a deeper crucifixion, after we are cleansed from all sin." The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Church of Ephesus, prays that they might be "filled with all the fulness of God," and adds in benediction, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

"Some sit down on the banks of the river where they crossed over, dangle their feet in the water's edge and sing, 'I'm living in Canaan now,' and leave the vast expanse of land unexplored. It is important to inspire the newly sanctified soul with the thought that this epoch is but ... the opening up of hitherto unknown regions, the door of untapped resources, new romances, which will unfold new charms, new climaxes of fellowship and love, as they press on in pursuit of God's will and work." (R. L. Hollenback)

This experience, however, does not exempt from severe trials and temptations. Jesus Himself was 'tempted "in all points like as we are, yet without sin." He returned from the wilderness temptation, in "the power of the Spirit," and "behold, the angels came and ministered unto him." Doubtless we, too, would enjoy more of the power of the Spirit, and perchance the ministry of angels as well, if we were always true to our divine convictions in the hour of fierce conflicts and temptations.

Peter reveals to us why God permits these fiery trials. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." (I Pet. 1:7-8).

We must also remember that the experience of holiness is not absolute in this life. God alone is holy in all His attributes. There is much of the human element that clings to us even after we are sanctified. Therefore we must in humble obedience, "watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." Neither is holiness angelic nor Adamic perfection; but it is a freedom from all the evil

propensity of the "carnal mind," where we enjoy "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." It is that Christian perfection received on the day of Pentecost, and which Jesus prayed that every true believer might receive. (John 17:15-23). Truly this is a wonderful and glorious salvation. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

While we can never be entirely faultless in this life, we can by the grace of God, confess our faults to God and to others, and thus retain the favor and blessing of full salvation, living in this present life "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." (Phil. 2:15).

We sing --

"As by the light of opening day,
The stars are all concealed;
So earthly pleasures fade away,
When Jesus is revealed."

May we add --

When by the light of faith Divine,
Dark Unbelief gives way;
The glorious "Sun of Righteousness,"
Will turn our night to day.

In closing this little book we would give the reader a last kindly warning. Beware of evil thinking. "Keep thyself pure," for thy thoughts are now forming a character destined for Heaven or Hell.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." (I Pet. 5:10).

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20 :32).

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THE END