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TRUTH AFLAME

By Celia Bradshaw Winkle
St. Petersburg, Florida

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DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this book to Helena Saneholtz, Martha Wilder, Marie Waters, and my husband, Harold Denver Winkle.

These four persons have been some of the grandest people in the world to work with in the vineyard of the Lord. Each have made great contributions to my life and ministry.

The Author

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CONTENTS

01 -- Foreword
02 -- Great Salvation
03 -- Birth Marks -- Marks Of Sonship
04 -- Evidences Of The Sanctified Life
05 -- The Devil's Fire Extinguisher
06 -- How To Get Better Acquainted With God
07 -- Dead Corpses
08 -- Pure Religion

- 09 -- Radio Programs
- 10 -- That Your Prayer Be Not Hindered
- 11 -- Humility
- 12 -- Fear
- 13 -- A Hole In The Wall
- 14 -- Devil Possession
- 15 -- The Cry Of The Lost Soul
- 16 -- Crossing The Deadline -- Without Remedy
- 17 -- Remarks About "The Preacher Girl" Book

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01 -- FOREWORD

In this day of wealth, personal luxuries, education without God, the flood of obscene literature and pornography it is no time to let up on sending forth the Word of Life and Truth in printed form by those who still stand for a clean life and a knowledge of God. In this book, Rev. (Mrs.) Celia Bradshaw Winkle, has given in sermon and short writings material that is conducive in combating some of these wicked trends. These sermons and short articles, I am sure, will be a blessing to all who peruse them and especially should they be a blessing to those who are seeking to find God as their Saviour or their Sanctifier. These writings depict man's sinful state and point him clearly to the state of peace and happiness. The messages are Scriptural and clear and can be understood by any one seeking for truth and the way to a better life here and to heaven hereafter.

R. G. Flexon

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02 -- GREAT SALVATION

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great Salvation?" -- Hebrews 2:3

Introduction

We use the word great to describe many people, places, and things: a great day, a great man, a great occasion, a great experience, and here we speak of a great salvation.

Now the word salvation means deliverance; thus a great deliverance, a great salvation; deliverance from sin by a great Savior.

First. Salvation is great because of its Author.

"And being made perfect, He (Jesus Christ), became the author of Eternal Salvation unto all them that obey him." -- Hebrews 5:9.

Jane, who was a bookworm, had quite a library. She reveled in books day and night. One book she was reading seemed so dull. Perhaps it will get better she thought. It became boring. Well, maybe it will have a surprise ending. When finished, she flung it in the case in disgust, and forgot it.

Jane was keeping company with a very fine young man. They became really fond of each other. One night Jane said, "You know it is the strangest thing: I have a book in my library; the Author's name, even the initials, are the same as yours. Isn't that strange?" "No, I don't think it is," replied the young man. "Why don't you think it is strange? I do." "I do not because I am the Author of that book." "Really are you?"

Jane could hardly wait until he was gone to dig out that dry old book. To think he was the author of it. How could it be?

She took it out and began reading it over. It seemed different somehow. It grew interesting, and more interesting until she could not stop until she had fairly devoured every word of it. Exultantly, She exclaimed, "What was ever the matter with me? That is the best book I ever read."

What made the difference? She was now in love with the author.

The worldling and the ungodly think the Bible and Salvation the driest, most boring thing ever. But one who is born of God, filled with his Holy Spirit, and in love with Jesus; is all in love with His book, the Bible, and his salvation -- deliverance from sin. Amen. A great God, a great Book -- with a great author and a great salvation.

"Looking unto Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." -- Hebrews 12:2.

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." -- Hebrews 5:9.

Second. Salvation is great because of the love that provided it.

God made man upright, said "He is good." But man listened to Satan, fell from God and from grace, and was cast out of the Garden of Eden from the presence of the Lord.

But, "God so loved the world that he gave his own Son to die on Calvary to save us." -- John 3:16.

A great and beautiful Queen of the East had three noble sons who loved and adored their wonderful Queen mother. She took suddenly very ill and died. These sons were desperate in grief. They felt they could not live without her.

On the day of burial when the great crowd stood at the grave site, there was a death silence. The ceremonies were finished. Then the oldest son ordered the servants to unveil the

grandest, most exquisite marble and granite memorial, as a token of his love for his mother. The crowd moaned and sighed with deep emotions as they said one to another "How he loved his mother."

The second son stepped out and presented the most gorgeous, most beautiful flower arrangement they had ever seen. He had ransacked the country over to find the richest and rarest flowers that bloom. He tried to "say it with flowers," "Mother I love you." The people said, "Oh! This love is greater than the first," because of the love that provided it.

Last was the youngest son who stepped forward with tears streaming down his cheeks. He took one last look -- as only a noble Prince could look at his beloved Queen Mother. Then he pulled back his coat and shirt. He bared his breast and from his pocket he pulled out a small lance with which he cut into the vain nearest his heart. He allowed a few drops of his blood to run into a tiny glass vial and solemnly placed it on her monument. The multitude of people stood frozen in their tracks, weeping and speechless; but feeling deeply, "His love is the greatest of all."

Not a few drops, but all of the life blood of God's son, Jesus Christ, was poured out in the agonies of Calvary, later taken to heaven and sprinkled on the mercy seat in heaven to atone for our sin. -- Hebrews 2:9, 10 and Hebrews 9:26.

"By his own blood he entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption, (salvation), for us. -- Hebrews 9:12.

Third. Salvation is great because of the price paid for it.

We value cars, houses, farms, furniture, clothes, most everything by the price paid for it. A friend paid around six-thousand dollars for a car. He worshipped it. It cost him his soul.

Heaven gave the most highly prized one from the throne, God gave his best, Jesus gave his all, his life for you and for me. I Peter 1:18, 19 -- "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold. But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot."

The noted Lady Irskine, dressed in her costly garments and jewels, sat in her carriage, traveling slowly down the roadway. When she heard the words of the great preacher, Roland Hill, preaching in a great Camp Meeting. He saw Lady Irskine coming and to pass by. He, led by the Spirit of God, stopped in the middle of his sermon, posed as an auctioneer, and cried out loudly:

"Lady Irskine's soul is for sale! Lady Irskine's soul is for sale! Who will buy her soul?"
"Satan is my first bidder. He offers her more wealth, jewels, popularity, fame, more fashionable garments and a gay time. But at the end he must have her soul to lock it up in hell forever.

"But wait a minute! Jesus Christ is my second bidder. Jesus Christ does not offer her more fashionable clothes, jewels, more popularity or fame; He does not offer her more wealth and fun.

"Jesus Christ said, 'I died for Lady Irskine's soul. I paid the price with my own blood. I offer her salvation from all sin, a clear conscience, a pure heart. I offer her a life of humble service to God and her fellowmen. I offer her a glorious life of freedom from all sin, with joy unspeakable and full of glory; and at the end an abundant entrance through the pearly gates of heaven and eternal life with me forever.'

"Lady Irskine! Lady Irskine! Who shall have your soul! Lady Irskine! Who shall have your soul!"

She had stopped to listen and heard it all. She stood to her feet in the open carriage, arms extended heavenward, she cried "Jesus Christ shall have my soul! Jesus Christ shall have my soul! He has paid the greatest price and shall have my soul!"

Friend, who shall have your soul?

Fourth. Salvation is great because it is the only way to Heaven.

Man has made many great things and great inventions. Electricity to light the cities and the countries, with all the numerous appliances, gadgets, and conveniences, the modern jet planes for transportation, the I.B.M. machines with its almost un-thought-of possibilities. With the great satellites and missiles man has flung himself around the world with unbelievable speed, and accuracy, searching out the mysteries of space and other planets.

Man has almost outdone himself in every walk of life: in medicine, surgery, art, engineering, and science, and in every avenue of human interest.

But man has never been able to change his sinful heart and life. Jesus Christ is the only one who can do that. Matthew 1:21 -- "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." Acts 4:12 -- "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." John 14:6 -- "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

The apostle Paul was chief of sinners, hating and persecuting the Christians unto prison and unto death. No one could stop him or change him. But Jesus Christ met him on the road to Damascus and he was prostrate in the dust, -- blind, and helpless. His encounter with Jesus made a new man out of him. Salvation was so great it completely transformed his heart and entire being. He became so possessed with Christ and his salvation; instead of being chief of sinners, he became the greatest apostle of Jesus Christ -- of all time.

Haters, persecutors nor prisons could stop him from proclaiming the message of Christ and salvation. Romans 1:16 -- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Hear him boldly witness, II Corinthians -- 11:23-28 -- "In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. I received forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day in the

deep: In journeyings often, in perils of waters, of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, and by the heathen, in the city, and in the wilderness." Acts 20:23, 24 -- "Bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me. Neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

Toward the close of his great ministry, in spite of all persecution and suffering he bravely declared, "For I am now ready to be offered, the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me and not to me only but unto all them also that love his appearing." -- II Timothy 4:5-8. With this kind of salvation, and this powerful and victorious witness he faced his murderers, and gave up his head at the chopping block in Rome. Then he went to be crowned in glory. Praise God forever for a salvation that can save a man from the deepest sin and lift him to the greatest glory of heaven. It is for all who will pay the price, surrender, and take God's way.

Fifth. Salvation is great because it took a miracle to bring it to pass.

Philippians 2:8-11 -- "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Matthew 1:22, 23 -- "All this done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the Prophet saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which is interpreted, God with us."

Matthew 1:20, 21 -- "The angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph saying, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins."

I know of no better way to illustrate the incarnation, (God becoming man) than to give an incident related by Paul Harvey. "A business man, successful, moral, highly regarded by his friends, a good man, a faithful church attender and supporter, most would say 'a good Christian.'

"One Sunday evening he told his wife and family, 'there is something I have to tell you. I know it will hurt you all. But I have to do it to be an honest man, not a hypocrite. I have been going to church all these years. I have tried hard, but I find it impossible for me to believe in all that Jesus stuff: Jesus born of a Virgin, and all that salvation-saving story. I just don't believe it. And I'm tired of being a hypocrite. So I'm not going to church anymore. You all continue to go as you have but leave me out of it. I'm sorry to hurt you, but I must.'

"That night, with heavy hearts, the family went to church. He pulled his easy chair close by the open fire, put his feet up and relaxed, reading the Sunday newspaper.

"Outside it was very cold, snowing, and soon a fierce blizzard was on. The fast falling snow piled up and the harsh wind blew furiously. At times he was forced to watch it, then again relax and read.

"All at once he heard a struggling, thumping, outside. He thought someone was coming, so he went to the door. There, just outside of his big picture window, in the deep snow, was a whole flock of birds flopping their wings and struggling to get in the bright warm house out of the storm. He loved birds and was moved with compassion. 'What can I do to get these poor little birds out of this terrible storm? I'll get them into my big warm barn.' He trudged through the snow and wind, turned on the big flood light at the barn and opened the big door wide. 'Now they will see the light and will go toward it and shelter.' They seemed blinded and kept on flopping their wings and going deeper in the snow. He tried to shoo them, cried to them, threw his long arms to get their attention, but all his efforts only frightened them more. The harder he tried to save them from the angry storm the more frightened they became. They were little birds, he was such a big monster after them, even in this storm.

"Finally when he had done all he could possibly do, he stood there thinking, 'If only I knew a way to save these poor little birds.' In his frustration he said 'I guess the only way would be for me to become as a little bird. I could lead the way and they would understand and follow me to the warm shelter.'

"As he stood there fairly paralyzed with pity and frustration: God spoke to him. 'Like these little birds, the people of the world, and you, are out in the furious storm of life, bound for hell and eternal death and damnation.'

God saw, and "So loved." He said "Ye will not come unto me that ye may have life." God loved and tried every way to get man in out of the storm. They paid no heed. God said, "I will become a man, one of them. I will then give them the light of the world, and throw the door of my kingdom wide open; they will surely come in."

God came from heaven, wrapped himself in human flesh, conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, lived among men, that he might lead them into the kingdom of God. Instead they mocked Him, rejected him, and will not be saved, though he died to save them.

"The unbeliever's eyes were opened, his heart too was now open. He fell to his knees right there in the snow, in repentance. He believed now, not only with his head, but with his heart. By faith in Jesus Christ he walked in the light from God and entered the haven of rest, the city of refuge for his soul. He found the Savior and salvation. He found the light and warmth of being a Christian."

Sixth. Salvation is great because it is the way of the cross.

A house was wrapped in flames, fast falling apart, all the family was out but one lad asleep upstairs in the bedroom. The father dashed in through the inferno to his boy. By now every exit was blocked. They were trapped, no way out. In desperation the father said, "Son I will fling my body out the window, my feet holding to our window sill; my hands holding to the window of the

neighbor's house near by. That way I'll make a bridge with my body. You crawl across my body to the other house." The lad was afraid, but no time to tarry. Death was ready to swallow them up. The father hastily threw himself -- sure enough he was clinging with feet to one window of the burning house and hands clinging to another window the neighbors. "Come son!" "I'm afraid I can't daddy!" "Hurry son! I can't hold much longer! Hurry!" The lad crying and trembling from head to feet crawled out over his father's body and into the neighbor's window and landed safely on the floor. His father's grip could hold no longer. He fell in a heap below and died in the fire. He lost his life, but saved his son.

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

All, you and I included, are under the sentence of death, judgment and hell. There is a great gulf fixed. God bridged that gulf with his son on the old rugged cross of Calvary. Thanks be to God forever. The way of the cross is the way back to God and to heaven. Yes, thank God while the ages roll on for Christ and the cross, the bridge whereby we can have this great salvation.

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" -- Hebrews 2:3. We cannot escape. It is by way of the cross to salvation and eternal life; or the way of sin and procrastination to death and eternal punishment.

Why will men die in sin when salvation, yes, a great salvation is free for all, for Jesus paid for it with his own blood.

Hebrews 9:24 -- "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

If you have not done so; will you accept this great salvation and live forever?"

Crowned At Last
By Celia Bradshaw Winkle

I have fought a good fight,
Cried the soul on its flight;
As it soared to the land of the blest.
My course I have finished,
Now earth has diminished,
And I am forever at rest.
The faith I have kept;
Though in battles I've wept;
But the Victory I'm shouting at last.
Today I am crowned,
Just because I've been found --
True 'midst the enemy's blast.

Now dear ones, I'll say,

As in triumph today;
This crown I've received from my Lord.
'Tis not only for me.
There are crowns here for thee;
If you will keep faith in his word.
If your battles you'll fight,
And your course you'll keep right,
The faith you will keep to the end:
The master will come,
With a crown for each one,
When the angel for you He doth send.

This poem was dedicated to Mary Lehman, a sainted member, (an invalid,) of my church at Defiance, Ohio, when I preached her funeral from I Timothy 4:7, 8 -- also, to L. W. Franks, another member, who was an outstanding Godly businessman.

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03 -- BIRTH MARKS, OR MARKS OF SONSHIP

St. John 3:1-10 -- "Ye must be born again, etc. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

I John 3 -- "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

St. John 1:12 -- "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

First. We are not sons of God naturally, -by nature.

Ephesians 2:2, 3 -- "In times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind: And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

St. John 8:44 -- "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him."

St. John 8:47 -- "He that is of God heareth God's words, ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

I John 3:10 -- "In this the children of God are manifest, and the Children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

I John 3:8 -- "He that committeth sin is of the devil, for the devil sinneth from the beginning."

Ezekiel 18:4 -- "The soul that sinneth it shall die."

Romans 3:23 -- "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Second. Since God's Word and experience have proved that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God: It has also proved that in order to be sons of God; we must be born again, born from above; born of the Spirit of God.

Children are like parents, in looks and in characteristics.

My sister Bertha had no children. They wanted a baby very much, both she and her husband. They were living in Ohio, across the river from Wheeling, West Virginia. All of her family lived many miles away. One day Bertha wrote mother and said, "Mom, I have a surprise for you. I, at last, have a baby. I am coming home. I want you to see her."

Bertha arrived with little Evangeline, a little doll. Mother was so pleased she had to give it its bath every morning while they were there. After they had been there about ten days, mother went up to Bertha, looked her right in the eyes, and said, "Now Bertha, I have looked this baby over from head to toe everyday. There is not one single mark, likeness, or characteristic like anyone of our family. Where did you get this baby?" Bertha said, "Mom you are a plum sight. I'll tell you the truth, the baby was born in my house; the papers were made out to me, I adopted it. But I thought no one would ever know but what it really was my baby."

Like begets like. It is natural for children to be like their parents. This is true when born in the flesh. And it is very true when born in the Spirit of God. We will have the marks of sonship.

I John 1:1, 2 -- "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." "Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Third. Let us consider some of the marks of Spiritual Sonship.

II Corinthians 5:17 -- "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new."

When a baby is born in the flesh, we naturally expect to see a new creature, one we never saw before. Mrs. Smith announces she has a new baby. (Everybody likes to see a new baby.) I go to Smiths, I ask to see the new baby. I get no response, I wait and finally ask again, they stall and mumble and act perplexed. But I must see that new baby. Finally they say "all right we will show

you." They go into another room and come out with old Grandpa Smith, hobbling on a cane, all stooped over and trembling with age. They say "Here is the new baby." No! This is not a new creature. This is an old man. We have seen him around for 80 years. We want to see the new baby. Well, here is what we have. You might say, "ridiculous," and I say so too. But this is just what is being done in many of the churches, in the religious world.

They report a new convert, one who has been born again, we expect to see a new person, where old habits and sins have passed away and all things have become new. Too often the same old sinner comes out. There has been no new creation, no transformation, no change. The same old sinner lives the same sinful life-only now he has added the sin of hypocrisy by claiming to be a Christian when he has never been born of God.

So often when people come to see a new baby, they will pull back the cover and say "My! He looks just like his father." One old lady was noted for going to see new babies-throwing back the cover and before she ever saw the baby she would turn and look at the family and repeat the old cliché, "My! He looks just like his father."

One family decided to have some fun. They saw Mrs. Jones coming and played a trick on her. Sure enough she came in. "I came to see the new baby" -- walked over and pulled the cover back, without looking at the crib, she looked at the family and said, "It's the splittin' image of his father." All just roared with laughter. For they had taken the baby out and put a kitten in the crib.

In many churches the cribs are all full of cats instead of new babies in Christ. This is a great reproach to the cause and such hypocrisy keeps many a soul out of the kingdom. Some times the cat turns out to be a skunk leaving a very bad influence in the community and the church.

I John 3:2 teaches us that when we are sons of God, we shall be like Him (our Heavenly Father). We will look like Him. Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world," St. John 17:16. Again "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," I John 2:15. "If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him."

The devil is the prince of this world. John 12:31, and the God of this world. II Corinthians 4:4. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. I John 2:16. If we are truly born of God, He is our Father: We look like him, we speak and converse like him, we act like him.

Rev. E. E. Shelhamer, a very godly man, was traveling by train. A small lad went through the train trying to sell some fruit. No one bought. When the train stopped the boy stepped out by the train, eagerly calling "Fresh fruit, apples, oranges, bananas, etc." The people ignored the lad and pushed and rammed through the crowd, bumped into the boy knocked him down and his fruit went every way. He struggled through the crowd and finally got his fruit back in the little basket. Rev. Shelhamer took it all in. He went over to the lad and said "How much is your fruit? I mean how much do you want for all of it?" "One dollar." "I want to buy all of it." The lad looked relieved. Then Rev. Shelhamer said, "Here is your dollar, and here is your fruit back to sell to someone else." The boy was taken back with amazement, the difference in this man and all the others. The lad looked up into his face and said, "Be you Jesus?"

If God is our Father and Jesus is our Savior and our elder Brother, it will show in our actions, our attitudes, yes, even in our appearance. We will go where He goes, do what He does, live like He lives, love like He loves, and suffer like He suffered for righteousness sake. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. John 15:18 and 19 -- "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own. But ye are not of the world; I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

Again if we are born of God we are one with Him, St. John 17: "All thine are mine, (Jesus praying to the Father), and mine are thine, and I am glorified in them."

Many say "all you have to do to be born again is to accept Christ. Let us think about that. If an old maid decides she is in love with Mr. White, she says, "I here and now decide to accept Mr. White as my husband." Does that mean they are married? In order for Miss Black to receive Mr. White as her husband, Mr. White has something to say about it. Mr. White meets Miss Black and says on certain conditions we will marry. Miss Black must meet those conditions before the marriage takes place.

God has very definitely laid down certain conditions that any and all must comply with before they can accept Christ.

We must confess our sins to God, and to those whom we have wronged, if possible, make our wrongs right as best we can. We must sincerely repent and be done with sin, come out from among those who indulge in sin, and be separate, then earnestly pray to God for forgiveness, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and we will be saved, born again. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. -- Romans 8:16.

When we have met the conditions and God's Holy Spirit bears witness to ours that our sins are forgiven, blotted out forever, we are born again, a new creature in Christ. All old things pass away and all things become new. The joy of salvation overflows in our hearts and at once we want to tell others.

A son is happy in his fathers care and keeping, a born again man or woman is marked with happiness, the joy of the Lord is our strength.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." -- I John 5:12. A born again child of God has life. He is alive, he is not dead. He manifests the life of God in all his ways.

God said to the church at Sardis, "Thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead." Revelation 3:1. If I were to go out, dig up a corpse bring it into the church, stand it up on the platform, or choir loft, and have it some way connected with electricity so that it would move first its hands; then roll its eyes, or blink them, move its body a little, and nod. The congregation would make themselves absent at once. It would be a sickening sight. That is just what people are doing in many churches. They profess to be alive in Christ. They are dead corpses -- only moving with

the machinery of the church. The false and awkward motions of a dead man professing life. God called these dead church members to repent. He that hath ears to hear let him hear.

The fruit of the Spirit in the born sons of God are found in Galatians 5:22-26. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

When I was doing missionary work in Paramaribo, Surinami, South America, I was working with the District man, Rev. Leo Van der Huyp. He told me something that fits in here very much to the point. A large church changed preachers. When the new preacher began his ministry, he preached just as he had other places, with no response. He was much troubled about this, he studied and prayed the more; but the church seemed so dead and lifeless. "O God how we need a revival here." He preached and plead each Sunday for quite sometime.

One Sunday he announced that next Sunday morning at the regular church service time there will be a funeral here in the Sanctuary. The following Sunday morning the crowd was gathered, the casket was moved down the aisle, the flowers were arranged. The singers sang, the pastor preached the funeral message. The undertaker opened the casket and started the people marching around. As they came slowly, each stopping to look down into the casket; to their surprise, there was a big mirror in the casket. The whole church saw themselves as the dead corpse. A dead church. It really shook them, they saw they were spiritually dead. They got down to business, really repented and got back into favor with God, was made alive in Christ. Then the church began to function as a live church should and souls were born into the kingdom through their efforts. God was glorified.

If the devil can not get us to go all out for him, and make a demon of us, he will try to get us to profess religion and make a hypocrite of ourselves.

The greatest hindrance to an all out Holy Ghost revival of salvation of souls being born into the kingdom of God, are those who profess but do not possess the Savior and his saving grace. If he can't get us either way he then will try to get us to perch on the fence and get nowhere. But except ye repent ye shall likewise perish.

I John 3:7-9 -- "Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

He that committeth sin is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin: for his seed remaineth in him: and he can not sin because he is born of God. (That is he can not sin and continue to be born of God). Verse 10 -- "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil," or by these truths we can measure our lives to see if we are children of God, sons of God, or children of the devil.

If we are not God's son we can be. Praise God. Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while he is near. -- Isaiah 55:6.

* * * * *

04 -- EVIDENCES OF THE SANCTIFIED LIFE

Acts 1:8 and 2:1-4.

Traveling up and down, and across these United States, I have had quite a few people come to me, tell me quite little about themselves and ask, "Sister, do you think I am sanctified?" Let me say right here, I am inclined to doubt anyone's experience, who has to go around asking someone else if he, or she, has it.

We will now consider some of the evidences of the sanctified life.

First. You will know a definite time and place where you received it.

Acts 2:24 -- "And when the day of Pentecost was come ... suddenly there came a sound from heaven ... as wind . . . and there appeared tongues like as of fire... And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. One hundred and twenty of Jesus' disciples were there, seeking -- waiting for this sanctifying experience. And suddenly, instantaneously, it came. They knew it and everybody around knew it.

In a revival in Columbus, Ohio, a Mrs. B., a special friend of mine, came to me after a service and told me she had asked many preachers if she were sanctified. After they talked a little they told her they thought she was. But she never could feel clear that she had it.

No one is eligible to get sanctified until they know they have a definite, up to date, experience of Regeneration, or conversion, justification, or that they are saved.

Mrs. B. said, "Sister, I know I am saved; and years ago I know I got sanctified, but for several years now I have been in question about my sanctification. I said "Let me ask you one question. Since you were sanctified have you ever sinned or broken with God?"

"Well we had a bad neighbor, I kept being so tried with her until finally one day I went over and really told her off a plenty. After that I felt so terrible I cried and prayed and prayed for God to forgive me. I believed Him to do it. He did. I went over and ask the neighbor to forgive me. But I have never been the same since that." Now listen carefully, right here is where a lot of people have trouble.

I said, "Sister, you are one of my best friends and I hate to hurt you or make it hard on you. But I am going to deal with you as honestly as I would my own mother." She said, "That is what I want."

"You fought the enemy for awhile and kept the victory over the tempting neighbor: But you neglected to read your Bible and pray enough to keep you on top. One day, because of a lack of spiritual strength, you yielded to the enemy, got mad and let her go, retaliated. When God showed

you that you had sinned, you repented and God forgave you. You say from that day you never had the same power with God. You backslid. When you repented God forgave you. You were reclaimed.

Now what about your sanctification? When we sin and backslide: we lose both our justification and sanctification at once. God will not leave any soul unless that person sins. Sin is the only thing that separates us from God.

"After you prayed through to a clear conscience, and believed God pardoned you -- you were saved. Did you anytime since that pray through and get sanctified? We go down with one fall and lose all. But no one gets saved and sanctified all at once whether he be a raw sinner, or a backslider. She said, "Sister I see my trouble, I have never gotten back into Holiness since I lost it, and I have had a hard life trying to live for God." She broke down and cried and said, "I'm going to have it." She went to the altar the next night, wept and prayed -- confessed to God, met the conditions and God sanctified her soul. The question mark was all gone. She had the witness in herself. That woman loved me so. She would come and throw her arms around me and say, "O, Sister! how I love you for not trying to smooth me over, for telling me the truth. Praise God I now know I am sanctified." Every year when I would see her at State Camp and Conference, she would come almost in a run and embrace me, and say, "O! my dear sister, I'll thank God forever for you, for telling me the truth. Praise God I have the blessing."

Second. The sanctified life is, for all, for us today.

Acts 2:38, 39 -- "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, (plural-transgressions); and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost."

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

While pastoring a church in a mining village in Ohio, I had a member, a wonderful sanctified man, our Sunday School Superintendent. He was always so blessed, he blessed everyone else.

He got saved from all his outward sins in a church where they had never heard Holiness preached. Soon after being saved, he was so happy to feel his sins were all blotted out; but he felt an inward foe, a something contrary to God's will, a carnal something. Everyday he would go out to the garage and pray and pray for God to take that out from inside him and fill him with nothing but God. One day while praying, the heavens opened, God came down and witnessed to his heart his prayer was answered. He was so happy he felt as though he could fly. He took out of the garage, clapping his hands, swinging his arms, and praising the Lord. He did not know what to call it. But he had it. Not long after that he was in a service where they preached on Sanctification: A second work of grace. He said "That's it! That's what I got. But I didn't know what to call it.

Third. The evidence is the absence of carnality.

Romans 6:6 -- "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Romans 6:12, 13 -- "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: But yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Verse 16. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?"

In the seventh chapter of Romans the Apostle Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, pictures the born again, but carnal, unsanctified man. The man who gets saved knows all his past sins are blotted out, but he struggles continually with that old Adamic, carnal nature he was born with. Carnality causes a Christian to be an up and down Christian. Not many can stay in a good Christian state long without some of the carnal nature popping up somewhere, then he has to repent for it.

Bud Robinson, the famous mountain preacher, tells how he got saved; he was so happy the tears rolled down his cheeks with joy.

God called him to preach when he was a stuttering, stammering boy; but God used him mightily. One Sunday morning he was riding a mule to a church to preach. The mule got tired and stopped. He coaxed and pleaded with the mule, and did everything he could think of to get that mule to go, but it would not. Finally his patience, and his grace wore out, he got so mad at that mule he bit its ear. He stood there so mad he felt like killing it, all the while, pulling mules hair out of his teeth. God then spoke to him, "Now you are some preacher, what are you going to preach about after all this?"

He saw himself, "Carnal, sold under sin." He had to get right down in the road by that mule and repent and get God's favor again before he could go on and preach.

Fourth. The greatest evidence of all is "His Presence." St. John 14:16. And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.

John 14:26, 27 -- "But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."

"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

G. C. Bevington came to our house at times, selling Bibles, and doing personal work. It was through his personal ministry that my mother and grandmother got to know of the experience of Holiness. In a revival, at a Methodist Church, my mother was gloriously converted at sixteen. She started to the altar, but God saved her on the way, before she reached the altar. Grandma had been saved for some time. They walked in the light they had and were good candidates for

sanctification, the second blessing. They knew of no Holiness Church, not even one Holiness person, except Brother Bevington.

Anyone who knew G. C. Bevington knew he was a mighty man of prayer -- later known from coast to coast for his intercessory prayers and answers. He would come and instruct mother and grandma in the Scriptures, all the time proving that to have sins forgiven is wonderful; but it is not enough. God commands "Be ye holy; for I am Holy." I Peter 1:16 and Hebrews 12:14 "Holiness without which, none shall see the Lord."

With much Scripture and sincere prayer they were both thoroughly convinced they must be sanctified to get to heaven.

They determined they would have second blessing Holiness. Each would get their housework done in the forenoon, get lunch over and dishes done; then they would get together, read the Bible, then get on their knees and pray, pray, pray. They kept this up for some time. I can remember as a small child I knelt with them for prayer. I fell asleep and slept awhile, woke up and they were both still pleading with God.

One day mother's prayers reached God. The Holy Spirit came in cleansing, burning, flaming glory. God's spirit bore witness to mother's spirit she was sanctified. My! She was so full of God and his glory all the time. I've seen her with terrible burdens, with unsaved husband, and unsaved children; she would kneel to pray, the big tears falling fast; but she could always pray the burdens off. As a child I liked to watch her while she prayed, and see the wonderful change. It made me want the kind of religion my mother had. She was so victorious and happy. It made grandma want it all the more. One early morning grandma got desperate for a holy heart, for the blessed Holy Spirit to burn out all self and sin. She told her husband and grown sons, "I am going into the clothes closet to pray, and I'm not coming out until I get sanctified. If any of you come home for dinner, there will be food on the table, but don't call me. I will never come out of there until I get the blessing."

In she went. She wept, prayed, consecrated, prayed and prayed some more. Sure enough noon came. Her wicked husband came. He called and called, and then went to the closet door and pounded. But she had locked the door from the inside. She paid no attention. He slammed chairs, cursed and swore at her, but she prayed on. He left and went back to work.

Along in mid afternoon the heavens bent low, the blessed Holy Spirit came with blessed assurance. She knew the work was done. He had sanctified her soul. She came out of that closet and shouted all over the house. She was alone and it was too good to keep. She just must share it. Down the highway she went for a mile, all the way shouting, clapping her hands, and praising God. She came to her daughter, Mary's house. We heard a noise, looked out, and here came grandma, her long hair down her back, and then flying in the air, every pin and comb was gone.

She came in aflame with heavenly glory. Mother began to praise the Lord and shout too. They both shouted all over our house, all over the yard, then over to our unsaved neighbors and shouted all over their house. The neighbors did not get mad but they could not understand it all. My mother and grandma's lives proved they really were sanctified.

Once grandma said God showed her something she had to change. She knew it would make her husband very mad. She really and truly expected he would kill her. (I can remember as a small child hearing grandma talk about it). She said, "I am going to obey God and lived her salvation. I stayed with grandma quite a lot. Sometimes when she would be praying, my step-grandfather would stamp the floor with his feet, shove the chairs around and curse and swear. Sometimes when grandma or I would give thanks at the table he would shove the dishes and swear.

The abiding presence of God's Holy Spirit within us is the greatest joy on earth, the greatest comfort in sorrow and disappointment, the greatest healing balm, the greatest incentive in life's duties; He is the blood stream of our spiritual life. He is our strength, our song, and our salvation. With Him we live in a different world; our citizenship is in heaven, we associate with God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The Triune God lives and reigns in our heart. Praise God for His presence. It seems that everybody would want Him at any cost. Jesus died to make it possible for everyone.

Fifth. His power is ours. Acts 1:8 -- "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." There is nothing in the world that man covets more than power.

Alexander the great, Napoleon Bonaparte, coveted and did achieve great earthly power; as did Mussolini, Hitler, and Stalin. With all their power to conquer nations not one could conquer himself. They died helplessly in shame and disgrace.

The disciples of Jesus coveted power. Two of them went and ask Jesus for the two highest offices in his kingdom. They were not qualified for it then.

It is not wrong to covet power -- if we covet the right kind of power.

"Ye shall receive power -- when the Holy Ghost is come upon you." -- Acts 1:8.

Notice it is a gift to those who, are Christ's disciples, separated completely from the world, shut in with God and God's people -- waiting -- seeking in an upper room. He who seeks the Holy Spirit filling must be living in the upper room -- above this old sinful world. It is the gift promised by the Father, and by the Son -- to his own, and not to the world of sinners. St. John 17:9-11 and 16, and 17.

Mr. Moody was preaching at Farwell Hall in Chicago. He said he had never spent as much time on his sermons as he did there. When he preached it was like beating the air. A good woman said to him, "Mr. Moody, you don't seem to have power in your preaching."

Mr. Moody says, "I requested this good woman and some others to come and pray with me every Friday at Four O'clock. O how piteously I prayed that God might fill the empty vessel. After the Chicago fire, I was in New York, going into the Bank on Wall Street. I felt a strange and mighty power coming over me. I went up to the hotel, there in my room I wept before God and cried, "Oh my God, stay thy hand.' He gave me such fullness, it seemed more than I could contain. God forgive me if I seem boastful, but I do not know that I have preached one sermon since but God

gave me some soul. I seem a wonder to you, but I am a greater wonder to myself. These are the same sermons I preached in Chicago. They are now new sermons; it is not a New Gospel; but the Old Gospel with the Holy Ghost Power. I am distinctly conscious of a power working upon me."

1. Power to live a holy life. I Thessalonians 3:13 and 4:3-7. We certainly have examples given us in the lives of Christ's disciples before Pentecost, and after Pentecost. Before Pentecost Peter was impetuous, fearful even to take his stand before a little maid; associated too closely with the enemies of Jesus. After Pentecost he was as bold as a lion, and as fearless. No one, no court, law, or prison could stop him. He was one of the Sons of thunder -- preaching the gospel and living it, until he was martyred for Christ.

2. Power over the lusts of the flesh. Romans 6:11, 12 and I Thessalonians 4-7. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto Holiness."

3. Power in prayer. Acts 12:5-12. In answer to the prayers of the sanctified Christians God performed a miracle, an angel came and got Peter out of prison.

4. Power to witness. Acts 1:8. "Ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

When I was doing missionary work in the South American Jungle; in a revival I was doing the preaching; and on Sunday morning at Paramakato, I was preaching to the Patamonia Tribe in a mud church. The chief and wife had been converted. On this Sunday morning I preached from this text: Acts 1:8 -- "Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come: and ye shall witness."

I said, "I received it and I came all the way from the United States to witness to you. When some of you Indians get this experience, you will leave your home and go through these jungles and witness to some other tribes." On Monday I missed the chief, "Where is he." "Didn't you hear?" "Yesterday you preached that if the Indians got the blessing of Holiness, they would go to some other village and tribe and witness. Chief got sanctified at your altar yesterday. Early today he packed his hammock on his back and started out. I said, "No, not while our revival is on." "Yes, he's gone." Two days later he came walking into Paramakato, to his mud house with two new converts. He said to his wife, "I told them all I know. We will all four sit down, and you must tell us all that Sister Winkle preached while I was gone." They did that very thing, and were all in the service that night. The chief had his fruit of his witnessing with him.

5. Power of freedom to mind God. Acts 7. Stephen was certainly a flaming and powerful witness for God: No one could phase him, even to persecution and death.

6. Power to love our enemies and forgive. Again Stephen forgave his murderers, while they were stoning him to death: he prayed, "Father forgive them, lay not this sin to their charge." Jesus taught us to pray "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

7. Power of patience and endurance in temptation. They that endure unto the end the same shall be saved. I Corinthians 10:13. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will,

with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Praise God that is so. He has proved it to me and other saints for years.

8. Power to suffer for Jesus' sake. I Peter 3:14, 15. If ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: 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. Hebrews 5:10. The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

9. Power to be humble. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. Humility is bitter but its fruit is sweet.

Sixth. Lack of ambition for earthly place and fame.

The carnal mind is ever planning, maneuvering, things for self. Like the mother of Zebedee's sons, who went to Jesus and ask a favor; "grant that my two sons may sit, one on Thy right hand, and one on the left in Thy kingdom." Jesus said, "Ye know not what ye ask." The sanctified soul will pray his way through, rather than maneuver his way through. M. W. Knapp said, "Humility is a beautiful flower that flourishes only in the rich soil of perfect love: where the weeds of carnality are rooted out, and the showers of blessings daily fall."

Sixth evidence of the sanctified life is a passion for lost souls.

Those who have been great soul winners were men and women; who in self forgetfulness prevailed in desperate intercession for the lost, then put feet to their prayers and went after them. Revival is not worked up; it is prayed down. When Zion travaileth, she shall bring forth. Mark 12:31.

Seventh evidence is a marked contentment and rest.

The Apostle Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. Verse 13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Hebrews 4:9 -- "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Psalms 37:7 -- "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself." Hebrews 4:3 -- "For we which have believed do enter into his rest."

The Comforter has come into the heart and life of the sanctified. He comforts, guides, soothes and gives rest. Praise God forever.

Eighth and last to be mentioned here; (for there are many more that could be mentioned), A delight in everything spiritual, with an intense abhorrence for sin..

The Bible speaking of the man that is blessed, (That has this blessing, in Psalm 1:2-3. "His delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalm 40:8 -- "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea thy law is within my heart."

Canaan is a type of Holiness; and when we have been delivered from Egypt, (type of sin), and have crossed over Jordan, (type of death to self, sin, carnality), stepped out, feet on the Canaan land; we find just what God promised: a good land, flowing with milk and honey, pomegranates, and the grapes of Eshkol. We live on the fat of the land and God leads us to conquer every foe. The Jericho Walls will crumble while we shout the praises of God. The giants will be slain right and left, and every foot of ground we put our feet upon shall be ours. When we get sanctified, we do not wander in the wilderness, we move into Canaan, with all of its mountain springs of living water, houses to live in, we never built; vines to eat from, we never planted.

A sanctified man is full of the Holy Ghost, he delights to read God's word, to spend time with God in prayer, and to walk in all the light God gives him. He is blessed and happy with a marked joy unspeakable and full of glory. His delight in the Lord raises him above the trials and troubles of this old world. Glory to God. He can rejoice ever more.

The sanctified man or woman is marked where ever they go. Their holy life, their unselfish spirit, their liberality and freedom in the Lord; their modest appearance, their chaste conversation, their abhorrence of sin, and their great delight in everything holy, makes them stand out in a sinful world, like a sore thumb to the eyes of sinners and empty church members. There is a marked dividing line, between the world and them.

They know where they came from, they know how they got the blessing, they know why they are here, and they know where they are going. They have their heads up in the air, for they are headed for the City, four square. They have their eyes on the Eastern sky knowing Jesus may come any day or hour. They have too much to gain to be bothered with the affairs of this life. Praise God: it is a great life. What great hope for Eternity. Hallelujah!

"It will be worth it all when we see Jesus."

Friend, do you have this second blessing experience of Holiness? If you have it you will know it: and other folk will know it too.

If you don't have it, you can: if you will give yourself to read the Bible, get your instructions there, pray until the fire falls from heaven into your soul.

Romans 12:1 and 2 -- "I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. . . . Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed ... That ye may prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

* * * * *

I Thessalonians 5:19 -- "Quench not the Spirit."

Let us look at this word "Quench" in Scripture. Mark 9:44, 45 -- Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. Matthew 3:11 -- He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and fire. Malachi 3:2, and 3 -- He is like a refiner's fire. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Here we see fire is a type of the Holy Spirit. We also see that the word quench means to stop, to put out, to extinguish.

1. Fire gives warmth and light, as does the Holy Spirit.

2. Fire consumes. The fire of the Holy Spirit consumes all dross and purifies the heart and soul; the result is a pure and holy life.

Joseph Smith said, "You can tell how big a fire has been by what is left." The fire of the Holy Spirit burns up all dross, sin, and carnality. Stop it not, quench it not. Too many people have had too small a fire: there is too much of sin and the world left.

"O Lord send the fire just now, And baptize every one."

3. The Holy Spirit worketh as fire.

a. Enlightening: lighting the way to the cross, to Pentecost and to Heaven. St. John 14:26 -- The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

b. Enlivening. John 14:5 -- "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

c. Purifying. Acts 15:8, 9 -- "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, (the Gentiles), giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."

It is the Holy Spirit that worketh in us, giving us conviction, repentance, faith and salvation: as well as planting a hunger for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost in our hearts; and he leads us to the upper room where he comes with, as it were, tongues of fire, and burns out all of the sin principal. Can we not see that our salvation is impossible without the working of the Spirit. No wonder God speaks in the words of the text, "Quench not the Spirit: don't put out, cast away his working and influence, or extinguish the Holy Spirit. For he warns, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." -- Genesis 6:3.

I. "Quench not the Spirit," or God's fire.

Let us note a number of ways fire is quenched, put out.

1. Severe wind. A fire is especially easily put out at first, before it gets going strong.

The devil has many strong winds of false doctrine. With these he rushes some of his servants to prey upon new converts to try to put out the fire of divine grace that has been kindled by the Holy Spirit. How many people have truly found Christ and God's love burning in their hearts; someone came along with a false doctrine and by listening to it allowed it to quench the true Spirit of God. Their fire is out.

2. Pouring on water.

If there is a fire; it is natural to think of pouring on water: call the fire department. The devil has a modern, most efficient, fire department; and he has plenty of fire fighters, to come rushing to you, when you get the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. He must put it out if it disturbs the whole neighborhood, and costs a lot of money. About the time you were feeling the fire of God's love burning strong in your heart, have you not had someone to try to throw cold water on you? To water down your love and zeal for God? Their language is "don't go crazy over religion," or, "you think you are so good now." There is nothing that will cool off ones ardor for Jesus more than the devil's wet blanket of dead formal religion.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." From such turn away, God warns. II Timothy 3:5. Trying to have a good fire in too damp a place will put the fire out. You may get into a good spiritual fiery revival or camp meeting, where the fire is falling from heaven and is all around; in that environment you pray clear through to a heaven born experience of salvation. You go back home to a house where all are sinners: they will try throwing cold water on your prayer life, your Bible reading, and your testimony. Maybe you go back to a dead formal church, where there is an icicle in the pulpit and banks of snow in the pews; friend your fire will soon go out if you hang around too long. Many are cold, and a few are frozen: you will be among the frozen.

3. Putting earth on, cover with dirt.

The fire fighters are always giving out "Smoky Bears" message. "If you have a fire: be sure you have a shovel, and after pouring on water, dig and shovel dirt and cover entirely with earth, make sure it is out."

The devil is a good imitator. He takes all the old and all the new ideas, and his cubs come and pile all the earthy things on you to put out your fire.

He uses cares of life freely-too busy. If you are too busy to keep a good red hot fire burning in your soul, you are too busy! Better drop a few things and "Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord." Luke 8:14, Jesus warns against being choked with cares of riches, (or cares of earthly things, and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Moses chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. -- Hebrews 11:2.

This our age, is one of material over spiritual. Materialism is the earth, this is putting out the spiritual fire of the individual, and of the church. The wild race for more of this world's goods; to keep up with the Jones'; to keep pace with all the new gadgets of our day, to lack nothing materially; this is the mountain of earth under which is to be found the skeletons of many a former fiery Christian. If the devil can't bury us with materialism he may try plain dirt.

Too bad, but true, that some of God's pure white lilies that blessed all around them, have dropped their heads in shame, as the devil allured them into some trap, frozen, or paralyzed, by his cunning, like Eve in the Garden of Eden fell from grace into disgrace and are covered with dirt. Yes dirt, the vilest dirt the devil and all hell can dig up. Thus, he has buried some of God's choice ones, who failed to watch and pray through enough.

4. Smothering it: Lack of good air.

They told me, when a child, if you ever get on fire, grab a coat, a blanket, a rug, or anything, wrap it well around you, lie down and roll, this will smother out the fire.

I had not lived for Jesus Christ long until I discovered the devil used this tactic too to try to put out my spiritual fire

We used to bank the fire in our open fire place with slack, to hold it over night. If we didn't get enough it would all burn up and be out by morning. If we put too much on it would smother it out. There are many things in life that are good if used with temperance, but if used to excess will rob us of our spiritual fire and warmth. The Apostle Paul said, I Timothy 4:7, 8 -- "Exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things."

A furnace, or heater must be kept in good condition. One must regulate the drafts, check for smoke elimination, and must clean the ashes out, also the clinkers. How many have had a good sanctified experience, the holy fire was burning brightly, the heat and warmth of God in that life cheered many a pilgrim traveling their way, but alas, the devil piled on too much slack, (coal dirt), and smothered their fire. If the devil can't tempt us with sin, he will try to push us over board with doing things; oh of course for God and the church. God told the church at Ephesus, Revelation 2:2-5 -- "I know thy works and thy labor: Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember from whence thou hast fallen and repent, and do the first works."

All we can do even for Christ and the church, unless it is well saturated with God's word and prayer will fall as empty nut shells.

The devil has made a real demonic raid on the amens, shouts of praise, testimonies, and spiritual songs and messages today. He has smothered most of them out. We need to get a big red hot poker and poke up the fire, throw out all the clinkers and shake the ashes out good so we can

rebuild the fire, or let God rebuild it and let it burn. There is no use going around saying you have the Holy Ghost fire when everyone can see and feel frost from your breath and your life.

5. Stamping out, another way to put out fire.

When dry grass gets a fire started, if you do it soon enough you can stamp it out. When people throw down a burning cigarette, they usually stamp their foot on it to put out the fire.

The devil has sinful people that serve him to stamp on God's people: they try their patience, mock, and scorn them, oppose them and make it as hard for them as possible. It is simply the devil trying to stamp out their spiritual fire. God has told us that God's people must be a tried people. We find God's Word says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God . . . will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." God is bigger than the devil and will always take our part if we live in the center of God's will for us. Amen. Praise God I know it is so. I have proven Him over and over. No one can stamp us out, or stamp the holy fire out of us so long as we keep in touch with our heavenly Father.

6. Garbage. Yes it is possible to pile too much garbage in the stove or incinerator and put the fire out. I think the devil's garbage wagon is the tongue of the unregenerate. Cursing and blasphemy, vulgarity and evil speech and conversation are some of the devil's garbage. Not far behind on the T. V. wagon you will find tons of mud and slush, lust and nudity, filth, crime and more devilry than decent people ever could think of. He is the Prince of the Power of the air. He sees to it that plenty of garbage is dumped into your eyes, ears, and soul, if you will let him. David said, "I will set no evil thing before my eyes." And Psalm 66:18 -- "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." I refuse to be the devil's garbage man to allow him to dump it on my premises, especially on my soul. Amen.

7. The last one we will consider is failure to add fuel. You can have the best fire there ever was, but if you neglect to add fuel it will go out. I remember when I was a child at home, mother would get busy sewing; we children would all be occupied with something. All at once Mother would say, "I'm cold! What's the matter with the fire? Children look about the fire." I would go look and say, "Well, Mother, we have no fire!" Why? Well, we were all so occupied with other things that we neglected to add fuel to the fire. There are more good Christian people who lose the fire and the glory through neglect than any other way. Samson said, Judges 16:20 -- "I will go out as at other time before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord had departed from him." We can not play with the world, get so involved and engrossed in earthly things and neglect the means of grace, and expect the holy fire of God's love to continue to burn in our hearts.

If we are to keep a good fire, keep a fervent and alive experience; we must continually add fuel. "Pray without ceasing. Rejoice evermore, quench not the spirit, prove all things and hold to that which is good." -- II Thessalonians 5.

Hebrews 2:3 -- "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation. We do not expect our car to go unless we add fuel. We add food to keep our bodies good. We must take advantage of all the means of grace to keep the fire burning in our hearts.

I use to visit a widow in the northern part of Ohio. She had a hard coal burner stove for heating. I tell you when it was 140 below zero we could come into the room, that stove was like a huge lantern, with isinglass all the way around, the red coals made such a glow, it lit up the whole room. We hardly needed a lamp. O how I loved to just sit and watch it burn and glow. It made me feel so warm.

To have it perform like that she had something to do: In the first place she paid \$15.00 a ton, (back years ago), for the best nut size hard coal. Every morning she cleaned the ashes out, shook the grates well, checked the drafts, and then opened up the top and refilled the magazine sleeve with that good fuel. Last she checked the water at the back of the stove. Then she could enjoy it for another twenty-four hours, and enjoy it we did!

As a Christian I will assure you that if you get a good saved and sanctified experience it will outglow, and excel in warmth, the hard coal burner.

Again I assure you that you will have to be as punctual and meticulously faithful every morning with the fire in your soul as the widow was with her stove.

There is no time like the morning to pray and get in touch with God, and to read his Word and let Him speak to you. George B. Kulp used to say to us Bible students. "If you have half an hour for devotions: pray-talk to God, fifteen minutes, then read the Bible-let God talk to you fifteen minutes. David said, Psalms 55:17 -- "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice."

The devil will have someone to call you on the phone, or ring the door bell, or call; anything to keep you from adding heavenly fuel to your holy fire of the soul. It costs something too -- not fifteen dollars a ton, but God said in Malachi 3:10 -- "Bring ye all the tithes into the store house . . . and prove me now here with. . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Hallelujah! It is true. I've proved it again and again. It is a glorious thing to live all day and all night with Jesus in our hearts; by our side, up over us, and his arms underneath us. No wonder the poet wrote, "Jesus lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly. While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high, hide me oh my Savior hide, 'till the storms of life are past; safe into thy harbor guide, O receive my soul at last." "Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee; Leave, O leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. Thou O Christ art all I want, more than all in Thee I find: Spring thou up within my heart, rise to all Eternity." O Friend, let us pray and pray more, and worship the King, bathe our souls in His presence daily, yes hourly. He will warm our hearts -- yea, will not our hearts burn within us as did the two on the way to Emmaus as Jesus communed with them. Let us have a constant fuel supply. It is worth it at any price, or any sacrifice. Nothing can compare to it.

II. How to keep from putting out the fire in the soul.

I Thessalonians 5:11 and 14-22.

1. "Comfort yourselves together, and edify one another."

"Comfort the feeble minded; support the weak, be patient toward all men."

2. "See that none render evil for evil unto any man. Follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men."

3. "Rejoice evermore."

Psalms 32:11 -- "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

4. "Pray without ceasing." We can not stay on our knees twenty-four hours a day: but we can have a prayer in our heart ascending at all times. The incense of the Jews ascended to God constantly. It was never to cease. Prayer is an Eternal flame ascending Godward at all times. As it should be.

5. "Quench not the Spirit." Obey the leadings the promptings, and checks of the Spirit. The more we obey the more easily will we know His will. If we do not obey He will cease to prompt, and to check, or lead us. That's why so many people are in the fog, and in the dark. If God wants you to say Amen, say it. If He wants you to testify, do it, if he wants to bless you with an overflow blessing, let him have His way. If Samuel 6:14, 15 -- "David danced before the Lord with all His might. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet." David's wife tried to throw cold water on David's holy joy by mocking, and making sport of his dancing before the Lord. She found fault and criticized him for it. God sent a curse upon her for it.

6. Despise not prophesyings. Don't hate preaching and the teaching of God's Word; no matter how close it comes, or how much it hurts. Walk in the light and draw a little closer to Jesus.

7. Prove all things. Don't do things just because others do. Take God's Word, study it, and prove whether a thing is wrong or right in the light of His Word. Let the wrong alone; hold to that which is good. Have some convictions and stand for them no matter what others do.

8. Abstain from all appearance of evil. Don't hang around anybody, or anything that looks, tastes, or smells like evil. Keep thyself pure. For only the pure in heart shall see God.

9. Verse 23 -- "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Verse 24 -- "Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it."

III. Result of quenching the Spirit.

It is the Spirit that convicts for sin. If man refused to listen, to heed, to obey: God says Genesis 6:3 -- "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

King Saul was a great King. God gave him a new heart and he was filled with God's Spirit. After awhile he ran over the leadings and checks of the Spirit. He took things into his own hands, gave himself license to do as he pleased; and God left him forever. Hear him mournfully cry, "God is departed from me and will answer me no more." He went on, finally became deranged with devil possession, and died a suicide. So did Esau, who sought a place of repentance but found it not.

Judas quenched the Spirit, walking in the presence of the Son of God on earth, but for thirty pieces of silver, quenched the Spirit, cast him out of his life, sold his Lord to be crucified. The light went out in his soul. With remorse of conscience he tried to retract, but it was too late. Almost, but lost. He went out and hanged himself and plunged his soul into hell. Those who disregard the promptings and checks of the Spirit, will find they no longer have them. They have no leader or guide. They are like a ship without a compass: like a traveler without a road map, and no signs. There is no Comforter, no power in life, no Holiness and no heaven. Quench not the Spirit. Quench not the light: Quench not the fire.

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06 -- HOW TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH GOD

While evangelizing in the West Indies; the District Superintendent called all of our preachers, of Antiqua, to the Pilgrim Mission Home and headquarters, and asked me to speak to them and their wives.

I prayed much for I wanted God, through me, to give them something inspiring, helpful, and lasting. God gave me this subject: How To Get Better Acquainted With God.

Text: Job 22:21 -- "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: Thereby good shall come to thee." Philippians 3:7 -- "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." Verse 10 -- "That I may know Him."

I. How do we get better acquainted with a person?

1. We make opportunities to meet him. Jesus said ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you. -- Matthew 7:7. A young man sees a young lady he wants to know better, he makes an opportunity, he seeks, he asks for a date. We need to date God often.

2. We talk to him. Conversation is an exchange of thought and feelings. We talk things in common interest, things that please Him.

3. Listen to him. George B. Kulp said, "If you have thirty minutes worship: talk to God fifteen minutes, then listen to God talk fifteen minutes. Read His love letter -- His Word. He talks to us through His Word.

Psalms 46:10 -- "Be still, and know that I am God." In other words -- talk your heart out to God, then shut up, and let God talk to you -- for He is God. Acquaint thyself with Him as a child with a father; as a sweetheart with a lover; a wife with a husband.

4. Reverence him. Worship, adore Him, tell Him of your love, thank Him -- O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. -- Psalms 136:1. There are times when you cannot pray a burden off, but you can praise it off. The devil can't stand to hear us brag on Jesus our Savior. No matter how you feel; praise the Lord. He is worthy.

5. Spend much time together.

a. Eat together, walk together. The poet said "He walks with me, and He talks with me; And He tells me I am His own."

b. Do things together. Jesus said of His Father, "I do always those things which please Him." -- John 8:29, The Apostle Paul exhorts, I Corinthians 10:31 -- "Whether ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

c. Sacrifice to please him. II Timothy 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God." Having God's approval, God's O.K.. on you, in all that you do. Let us say as Jesus did, Luke 22:42 -- "Not my will but Thine be done."

II. The most intimate acquaintance.

1. Marital -- "They shall be one." -- Galatians 5:31. Jesus prayed, John 17, that He, the father, and his church (bride) may all be one. You have to live with a man to know him. You have to live with a man to become like him. You have to live with a man to be one with him. You have to be wed to, and live with God to really know him; be like him, be one with him; to really be acquainted with him.

Job said, "I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness." -- Psalms 17:15.

Nugget. When you feel lonely, where do you go? To some person, or to God? God lets the lonely feeling come so we will go to him for a little divine love making: when we go to any other source for it; we disappoint Him. We get our all from Him: then we have something to contribute to people when we meet them.

Moses chose God instead of the throne in all Egypt. Abraham got a close acquaintance with God at the cost of offering up his only son, Isaac. Jacob became a Prince with God by wrestling all night with Him. Enoch walked with God and God took him home with Him. Paul became the greatest Apostle of the Lord by the great transformation in his life on the road to Damascus. He ignored all his degrees, diplomas, statesmanship and clerical status and embraced Jesus and the cross for life. He separated entirely from the old crowd, from the formal religion. He lost his head, but he got so well acquainted with Christ that he was crowned as he entered heaven's gate.

If we are to have close, intimate friendship with God, it will cost us something. We can not lie and sleep in the lap of Delilah, flirt with the world, warm ourselves by the fires of the enemies of Christ, deny Christ, betray Him and his people. We will have to take time to be Holy; we will shun every evil, and cleave to all that is good. You will find us with the most spiritual people on earth, walking on the highway of Holiness, singing the songs of Zion, shouting "Hallelujah for the Blood" of God's dear Son.

The world, and the formal church crowd will not know us; but God will know us and we will know Him. And we shall be satisfied. Amen. We shall go on singing, "I walk with the King, hallelujah! I walk with the King, praise His name: No longer I roam, my soul faces home; I walk and I talk with the King."

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07 -- DEAD CORPSES

Working with Rev. Leo Van der Kuyp and wife in missionary work in Paramaribo, Capital City of Surinam, South America. I found them very sincere Bible Holiness people and easy to work with. Together we talked over and prayed over the problems and needs of the work.

He told me of a church who called a new pastor. He came and found the church very formal and dead. He prayed much, and preached his heart out to them with little results.

One Sunday he announced a funeral. It was to be during the following Sunday morning service hour. At the time announced, the funeral procession came. The casket was carried down the aisle and placed in front of the altar. They had scripture reading, appropriate hymns and the pastor delivered the funeral sermon.

The casket was opened and the people filed by to view the body.

There was a revealing surprise for everyone: for there was nothing in the casket but a large mirror. The people got the point: each dead church member saw himself in that casket; a true reflection of Revelations 3:1 -- "Thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead."

The early Methodist circuit riders, with no earthly possessions but what little could be put in a saddle bag, were so full of God and Holy Ghost fire; they thundered out the Gospel and hit every sin of their time, without fear or favor.

They read their Bibles and prayed as they rode their horses over hills and mountains, forded streams, and faced danger, perils, and opposition, as only God-called, God-anointed, God-propelled men can do.

They blazed a trail for God and Bible Holiness, preaching and exhorting men to give up all sin, or face the awful judgments of God. Hardened sinners and some religious leaders, fought and opposed, tried to break up the meetings, shot at the preacher, and the crowd, but the preacher,

(God's man), always won. For with His Gospel gun, the slain of the Lord were many. They had revivals.

An army of the Holiness churches were born, and born alive, fire brands-going every direction; testifying, praying, exhorting everyone, in every place. They scattered Holy fire like Samson's foxes.

In the last couple of decades something has happened to the Holiness movement. It has lost its movement, (life and fire). It has a name of Holiness but no power -- no life -- no revivals.

It is like a stiff corpse. If I would dig up a corpse and have it hooked up with electricity, stand it up against the front wall in the church; by electric force, stiffly move an arm, a foot, push eyes open to bat a little, turn head, etc. we would see that church emptied, and that in a hurry.

But that is what is happening all over this country. Spiritual corpses are in the pulpit and pews. in disgust, and sick, the hungry seeking souls have left the church.

You will find them in the bowling alleys, in the mixed bathing crowd, at the worldly ball games, the races, and all kinds of worldly amusements; dressed and undressed, like the world. Hobnobbing with the world seems the thing to do. "We are to be good mixers."

Let somebody persuade them to go to an old-fashioned revival or camp meeting. They feel so out of joint. They are quick to cry, "Fanatic-gone over board. That shouting is awful. All they preach about is T V. and dress."

It goes deeper than that; for they have been brainwashed with their T. V., and their "higher education?" They simply "don't see things like they use to." They seek for a spiritual cemetery where they will not be enlarged.

God says, "Repent! I know thy works, thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Repent or perish."

A dead corpse is hard to move, heavy to carry, and it takes lots of room. Everybody else has to get out of the way -- the corpse has the show. It is stiff as a board, cold as ice, and cannot see, hear or speak. Nothing is ever accomplished until the corpse is buried. It has to be disposed of before the work can go on.

Is it any wonder we are not seeing Holy Ghost revivals in our, (so called), Holiness churches? Too many dead corpses in the way. They are so dead, God nor prophet can move them. The Holy Ghost said of Ephraim, who was joined to his idols -- "Let him alone;" and of Saul" -- God is departed and answereth me no more." No more answers to prayer.

Thank God Jesus said, "Thou hast a few names, even in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments. They shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy. And I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels.

"He that hath an ear, (not a dead one), let him hear what the Spirit sayeth" before it is too late.

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08 -- PURE RELIGION

Stephen Olford was in Jamaica B. W. I. holding an evangelistic meeting on a school ground in the heart of the city. He preached on Real Religion -- went on to say -- when you have it you naturally talk religion, you do something, you become involved. A young man, university student, came to him after the sermon and said, "I want to ask a question -- "How does this religion become involved in the Ghettos -- slums of Jamaica?" Olford said, "I was somewhat puzzled just how to answer." Standing by was an old veteran minister missionary. He said, "Let me answer Rev. Olford," "yes fine."

The old preacher said, "40 years ago I came to Jamaica to become involved. Jamaica 40 years ago was not what it is now. It was so much worse. But I came here to live and preach and lift, and do. Jamaica today has churches, hospitals, better social conditions-much improvement."

The university student said, "I see it now."

Stephen Olford told of an (Episcopal) Anglican minister in London who did a lot of calling on his parishioners. He called on one home where the lady came to the door, invited him in. He talked a few minutes then felt he must get to the point of his mission. He said, "Have you got religion?" She was very hard of hearing. So she said, "What did you say?" "Have you got religion?" "What?" Again he said, "Have you got religion?" "Oh that -- have I got rheumatism? Yes, I get it now and again at times." That is the way many people get religion.

Pure Religion and undefiled -- James 1:26, 27.

1. Vain Religion
2. Pure Religion
3. Undefiled Religion
4. Unspotted Religion

A large Poster Ad along the Highway displayed these words, "Beware of substitutes." How this must be applied to religion: So many substitutes. One said, "I looked for the church: I found it in the world. I looked for the world: I found it in the church." Too true -- illustration: Samson and Delilah-Church in lap of the world Jesus at the church door knocking -- shut -- No admittance It was pure (real, vital), religion that founded the great Universities: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and many others. It was pure religion that opened up many great orphanages and hospitals.

Communist Converted In My Meeting

A week of revival was on in a large church in Georgetown, British Guyana, (now Guyana). After the strong evangelistic gospel, the altar was open for people to seek the Lord. It was lined from one side of the church to the other about every night. One young man near the end of the altar wept and struggled greatly. Special attention was given to him and much prayer. He was gloriously saved. He told he was an officer in the Communist party, but he was through with it all. He gave it all up. More than that, he went down town turned in his resignation and told them he had gotten saved, was going to serve Jesus Christ and joined the Wesleyan Church.

There was a write-up in the Georgetown Daily Paper about his conversion which also carried his picture. The Communists were so angry about it-the Christians had to take him away to other parts to save his life. He was so happy he said, "I am going to work and pay some people I owe." Praise God for a Salvation that works a miraculous transformation on all who get it, no matter what country or race.

Through A Window

Winston, thirteen, a strong husky lad, lay in his bed and listened through his window, to the Gospel preached in the church next door. He had heard before, that a lady preacher from the United States was preaching like he hadn't heard before.

Next evening Winston said, "Mom, why don't we go over to the church and hear that lady?" She said, "You can go if you like."

Winston came down the isle hall way to the front, clean and neat as could be, and seated himself at the end of the seat. He was like a hungry bird with mouth open for food. He was more like a man than a boy. When the message ended with an invitation to the altar, Winston got up and walked straight to the altar and really prayed through to God.

On Saturday, Winston's mother, as usual, gave Winston money and an order to go to market for food. He went, came back with everything, then gave his mother some money left over. He said, "Mom I have some money left over today. Other times in the past I did too -- but I lied to you, and kept back the money. On Sunday morning Winston brought his mother with him to church. She was one of the happy finders who lined the altar that Sunday morning. They belonged to a very dead, formal church. Winston said, "Mom, I didn't know Heaven and Hell and the Bible was such serious business." They never told me that all the time we went to our church. I'm going to be baptized and join this Wesleyan Church next door." His mother was ready to go along with him, though the father was a teacher in the school of the other church. The lady evangelist, the author, was invited into their home and presented with a gift. They joined the church and followed the Lord. I heard from the pastor later on that they were still going with God.

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Introduction

Mrs. Winkle had a Radio Program: "The Pilgrim Sunday School of the Air," WTRL -- Bradenton, Florida.

The following sermons are one of her broadcasts on Easter Sunday, and another broadcast on Jeroboam:

I. Sermon Subject -- "Proofs of Christ's Resurrection"

II. Sermon Subject -- "Jeroboam"

* * *

I. PROOFS OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Christ The Living Lord Or The Resurrection
Matthew 28:6-8

I want us to notice this morning something about the Resurrection, and especially we want to present to you some thoughts on the proofs of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know all the people in the world do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. I believe that most of the people do, but there are some people who try not to believe in the resurrection. We have plenty of proof that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was resurrected from the dead and has ascended to the Father. Even in the courts of our land, these evidences that we have would be considered valid and would be accepted.

In the first place we notice that we know and we have proof that Jesus Christ was born. The world must believe that because we have so much proof He was born. We also have proof that Jesus died. There are many people who saw it and many records that we have of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and all of the things that pertain to His death. In fact there are a million and a half people that witnessed the scene of the death and crucifixion and suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we have the proof that He was buried and that was recorded of Jesus Christ even though He was killed and crucified as a criminal and that the burial was not usually given to criminals but the Lord Jesus was buried. Then, thank God we have the glorious evidence of the empty tomb. We know that Jesus was put in the tomb. We know that the soldiers were put there to guard lest anybody should come and take Him away. This was all in the will of God, because they wanted to make it so sure. The fact they wanted to make sure He was kept there also makes it real, thank God, He came out and that He came out with eternal life because of all the precaution that was taken none of it was sufficient to hold Him in the tomb. Thank God.

We find too, the grave clothes were there in the tomb. After He came forth out of the tomb, we find that the grave clothes were still lying there. The very napkins that were bound about His face, the grave clothes that were bound about His body and the spices they had used to embalm Him were in the tomb and they were a testimony and a witness that death could not hold its prey.

The Lord Jesus Christ was all powerful, the world could crucify Him and they could kill him and they could put Him in the grave, but thank God, they could not hold Him there. The power of God was revealed in His resurrection, He came forth conquering death, hell, and the grave and left the grave clothes there. Thank the Lord this is an encouraging message for you and me. Perhaps we will have to go by the way of the grave, but He who lives has purchased eternal life for us and the shroud in the casket will be left behind when we arise in glory, praise the Lord.

Then, again the stone was rolled away. They had put the stone there to secure the grave, also it was a custom. The stone was rolled away because the angel of the Lord rolled it away and the angel's announcement was proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They said, "He is not here, He is risen. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." What court of the land would not accept such testimony and such proof today, praise God it is true, Jesus Christ arose from the dead.

We have the soldiers' testimony who testified and told that they were there watching the grave. While they were there, they were stricken like dead men; they fell to the ground when the angel came and rolled the stone away and the Lord Jesus came forth and these soldiers themselves told the story even though it meant death to them to lose the one they were guarding.

We see too, that Jesus appeared to Mary in the Garden and He appeared to Peter and He appeared to different ones of His disciples. We have Jesus appearing to Thomas who had said he would not believe it. When he saw the Lord Jesus, Jesus told him to put forth his hand and to put it in His wounded side, and Thomas said, "Oh my Lord and my God." He didn't have to put his hands in the nail-prints to believe, but when he saw Jesus he knew it was Jesus.

We find too, that Jesus took His disciples out to the Mount of Olives. There He ascended to heaven and as they watched Him He went up into heaven, the angel said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye here gazing into heaven? This same Jesus shall come back in the same way that He went." Praise God! This morning the resurrected Christ lives and intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father and is our Savior and our God.

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JEROBOAM

I Kings 14:1-20

Jeroboam established a government and kingdom all his own. He forgot he came into power through the Lord Jesus or through God Himself. He was lifted up in pride and became haughty, determined to have his own way and to have the people follow him. He was willing to barter their souls and their eternal Salvation for a kingdom for himself and his descendants. Oh, how wicked and how vile is the heart of man, when once he is lifted up in pride and selfishness and forgets God. This man, Jeroboam, is noted down through the centuries for the man who was so wicked. He is spoken of in Scripture and referred to time and again as the man who did evil before the Lord, greater than all those before him and sometimes mentioned greater than those who were after him. He was very wicked in his selfishness and in his desire to be lifted up and promoted to power.

Now, you know this is the sin that is terrible to have in our hearts, and yet the majority of the people it seems or a great many will have it to some extent. Some greater than others. Because of his sin, God looked down upon Jeroboam and decided he was going to bring suffering and sorrow into his life. Jeroboam could not hear from God anymore. He didn't know what to do so he sent his wife to the prophet of God, but he didn't want the people or the prophet to know who she was; he had her to disguise herself. She disguised herself and went to the Prophet of God. God spoke to the prophet and said this is Jeroboam's wife coming in disguised, I want you to tell her so and so. When the wife of Jeroboam came in, the prophet of God spoke to her and told her who she was. He said to her, "Why feignest thou thyself or why do you disguise yourself? You are the wife of Jeroboam and I have heavy tidings for you. You are coming in to ask about your son that is terribly ill, very sick. You are anxious for your son to live, that he shall get well. God told me to tell you this son is going to die. He is going to die, because you and your husband and your house have done evil and that which is wrong, and have worshipped gods of gold and of silver and you have set yourselves up against God. You have refused to obey the laws of the Lord and the Commandments of God, and you are going to be punished. Your child is going to die. Not only that, but you are going to have the kingdom taken away from you and the people of the kingdom are going to be scattered all over the world because of the sins of your kingdom. This son of yours, that is going to die, will be the only one of your family that will die a natural death and be buried in the grave. The reason is because he is a good son. He is a son that wanted to do the right thing and wanted the kingdom to go the right way, but you wouldn't let it. Because of him and because he has good found in him, he will not be killed or slain in battle, but he will be able to die a natural death and be given an honorable burial. He is the only member of your family that will be permitted to have a natural death or an honorable burial. From then on there will be sorrow and suffering, awful destruction will come into the family and into the kingdom, and they will be scattered all over the world."

The Jews, because of sin, this very thing happened to them and they have been scattered all over the world. They are yet today scattered everywhere over the world, but thank God the Bible says there was a promise, and He said that the time would come when they would learn their disobedience and God in mercy would bring them back to their own land and they would be gathered in from all the ends of the earth. They would be gathered back to Palestine and to Jerusalem and there Jesus Christ will come back from heaven and come to earth and come to Palestine. His feet will rest on Mt. Olivet and there He will meet the people; and the Jewish Nation will turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and believe on Him as the Messiah and accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Praise God forever.

While we are looking forward to that, thank the Lord, Jews or Gentiles can come individually to the Lord Jesus Christ and forsake all sin, have them washed away by the Blood of Jesus, forgiven and accepted into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the spiritual kingdom that is now already set up, and then later on we shall have a share in the literal kingdom that is to be set up here on the earth. The spiritual kingdom now is in force and we are already members of that kingdom if we are born of God. Thank the Lord, those who are children of God will also have a share in the literal kingdom of Jesus Christ that is to be set up here on this earth. We are hearing quite a bit right now from candidates, asking for our votes to help elect them to office and that is all right and it is proper that we should elect the right man to office or the right woman. Thank the Lord, we have the opportunity too, of being in a kingdom where Jesus Christ will be the reigning

King. Thank the Lord there is a day coming when He is coming back to earth and He is going to take over all the rulership of the world. All other kings, presidents and rulers will bow down to Him and He will be made "King Of All." Praise the Lord forever.

I'm glad this morning that I have that hope. I love the Lord Jesus with all my heart. He has come into my heart and life, has cleansed my heart from sin and has taken all desire for sin out of my heart and life, and I love Him supremely, and I thank Him this morning for what He has done for me and for what He has done for others. I have seen hundreds bow at the "Mercy Seat" of the Lord Jesus Christ and have a transformation take place in their lives. God can change every man and woman that will come and give Him an opportunity, and instead of doing like Jeroboam in the lesson today going on in sin until God has to strike you down and sit in judgment. Why not turn to the Lord Jesus Christ? Give Him your heart, serve Him, walk in the light. Oh it is wonderful to serve the Lord. It is blessed to be a Christian. I wouldn't want to live any other way. All the joys the earth holds are not to be compared with the joy that there is in serving the Lord. Then and only then does life really and truly begin. Life begins when we have Jesus Christ come into our hearts.

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10 -- THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED

Recently, Stephen Olford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, New York City, preached a message entitled "The Answer to Viet Nam." Naturally the conclusion to it was prayer, intercessory prayer.

He called to mind the time when God, through John Wesley rallied the people to a great revival that saved England from a bloody war.

He spoke of the recent revival in Indonesia that saved that country.

It seems to me that there is so much talk about prayer and not enough praying.

Few of God's choice saints today realize what a mighty weapon is prayer.

Abraham prayed his way into the heart and affection of God and He became "the friend of God;" and God gave him a nation and all Palestine.

Jacob prayed until God made him a prince with God and men.

Moses, the meekest man of the earth, became one of the world's renowned leaders, because in every situation he lay on his face and "cried unto the Lord."

Daniel prayed and could sleep with a pack of lions, unharmed.

God came down and walked with the 3 Hebrew boys through the fiery furnace; all came out without the smell of smoke on them, because they were humble and obedient men of prayer.

God's Word says, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." -- Luke 18:1.

The Apostle Paul exhorts, complete obedience to God's laws; "That your prayers be not hindered." -- I Peter 3:7.

He enumerated some things that hinder our prayers: I Peter 3 -- read it for yourself.

1. Lack of submission to each other in the home; and unchaste (impure) conversation.
2. Outward adorning of worldly hair dressing, wearing of jewelry and wearing of worldly apparel or dress, (also undress).
3. Lack of meek and quiet spirit; too much self, brag, and strut.
4. Friction between man and wife, with a lack of Holiness, failure to give due honor one to the other, and failure to trust in God, and be heirs together of the grace of God.
5. Lack of unity, compassion, love, pity and courtesy.
6. Railing one on another and trying to get revenge-evil for evil.
7. Evil speaking, lips that speak guile and deceit.
8. Failure to shun evil; to do good works, and seek to live in peace, to follow after peace.

Verse 12 -- "Shun the very appearance of evil. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous; and his ears are open unto their prayers,"

There are many others listed in God's Word. These are all named in this one chapter.

"But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

All we have to do, is to search this list, and see why so many prayers are not answered.

Dare any say "these things don't bother me." God says they do.

Solomon prayed and the glory filled the temple until they could not minister.

Elijah prayed and the fire came down and consumed the sacrifice.

Elijah prayed and no rain fell for 3 years and 6 months. He prayed again and it rained.

The early church prayed Peter out of jail, so quick, they themselves were surprised.

Prayer changes things: Prayer changes people.

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11 -- HUMILITY -- GEM OF VIRTUES

"Humility is the Root of all Graces" -- Micah 6:8

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Martin Wells Knapp said, "Humility is a beautiful flower that flourished only in the rich soil of perfect love, where the weeds of carnality are all routed out, and the showers of blessings daily fall."

Humility is putting God in His High and Holy place, and putting ourselves in, our place, at His feet.

Humility is ascribing all the glory to God, confessing that in and through Christ alone we live and exist.

We are only the vessel, God in Christ Jesus, through the Holy Ghost, does all that is done for heaven and eternal life. So where does our boasting come in?

The Apostle Paul said, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Andrew Murray said, "Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue.

Pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil. Christ's humility is our salvation; His salvation is our humility.

It was when the, now fallen, angels began to look upon themselves with self complacency that they were led to disobedience, and were cast down from heaven into outer darkness."

In Eden, when the serpent breathed the poison of pride, (the desire to be as God), into Adam and Eve, they fell from their Holy Godlikeness, into satanic likeness, sin, pride, and the curse of hell.

A young Quaker, just licensed to preach, was attending a revival meeting. The evangelist was called away and ask the young minister to preach in his place that night. The young preacher, full of zeal, confidence, and ego, the next day canvassed the whole community to hear him preach. That night, to his surprise, while seated on the front seat waiting for time to start, in came their old Bishop. He quickly told the Bishop, "The evangelist asked me to preach for him."

He arose, with shoulders back, head up, smiling, and so sure of himself, he arrogantly strode into the pulpit. For a few minutes he soared, all went well: all at once his mind went blank.

He stammered, stuttered and groaned in frustration. Finally he had to quit. With shoulders drooping, head hanging low, humiliated beyond words, he fairly slumped down to the front seat beside the Bishop for some comfort.

The weathered Old Bishop looked him squarely in the face and said, "If thee had gone into the pulpit like thee came out of the pulpit, thee could have come out of the pulpit like thee went into the pulpit."

II Chronicles 7:14 -- "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

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12 -- FEAR

The fearful head the list God gives of those who are going to spend eternity in hell, Rev. 20:8.

1. Fearful

Pilate was fearful of losing his popularity with the people when he released Barabbas and turned Jesus over to the blood thirsty mob to be crucified.

Peter went from grace to disgrace when he was fearful he could not stand to be called, "One of them" Jesus' disciples. Rebellion arose in him, he denied his Lord, cursed and swore.

King Saul was fearful of the people when he favored "Civil disobedience." He disobeyed God, lied to the prophet Samuel about it; God departed from him, and would hear him no more. He died a suicide and sank into hell.

Fear is the father of sinners, some church members, and hypocrites today. It is the downfall of nations, statesmen, colleges, schools, churches and people of all walks of life.

In a college speech class our Professor told us, "When you get up to speak and you feel afraid, just imagine all heads before you are cabbage heads." The ungodly trend in the universities, colleges, and most of the church world, this seems to be the truth, "all heads-cabbage heads." Where are the Daniels, the Hebrew boys that would not bow, bend or burn? Where are the Martin Luthers, the Cranmers, the John Wesleys? Where are the Joshuas? "Who is on the Lord's side."

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve," "God or Baal" -- a holy God or an unholy alliance with Delilah and the world; Jesus Christ the crucified or the Laodicean, lukewarm church? God said of them, "I will spue thee out of my mouth," -- "I would thou wert cold or hot."

Dr. Wyland, a Methodist Bishop, said, "It seems we must lack something in our churches, that our young people go after rock and roll and the like."

What has happened in the holiness churches across the land that used to be on fire? Great revivals were breaking out, many young people saved and sanctified, going off to a red hot Bible School, then take to the tents, school houses, brush arbors, etc., and like "sons of thunder" preach hell fire and the judgment until whole communities would be harvested for Christ? People would go from house to house making confessions restitutions. Some would pray all night, some would run to the altar screaming to God for mercy.

In one revival we held in Ventura, California, a wealthy business man, Mr. H., got under such conviction he was in misery. His proud wife kept him from that altar; but they drove their big Cadillac up to the services. Finally, one night after service they went home. On retiring, when he went to get into bed, he just could not. He fell on his knees beside the bed, burst out crying and praying. He kept this up and bowed lower and lower until his face was on the floor and he became desperate in seeking God. His wife lay quietly in the bed. He finally threw all fear away, got past his wife and everything, really crying and praying when the heavens opened up. He found himself clear under the bed lying on the floor when God saved his soul. The next night when he walked into the church everyone knew something had happened. It was written all over his face. All fear was gone. He was a free man and could boldly witness to a glorious deliverance from Satan and sin.

Maud Wise professed . . . followed revival after revival . . . got under conviction, kept coming to the altar so much but getting no where. She had been baptized and joined the church years before . . . professing to be a Christian ever since. The gospel truth uncovered her. Finally I said, "Mrs. Wise, I'm going to ask you to do one thing and I believe you will get through. You stop saying your prayers like you have. Don't pray one thing but 'God have mercy on me a sinner and save me.' " It was a battle to get her to promise but finally she did. The next day she felt terrible -- she must pray -- she got on her knees: she remembered her promise. She cried and prayed, "God have mercy on me a sinner." She prayed it over and over to the desperation point-when suddenly, like a flash, God saved her. She KNEW it! She laughed and praised God there in her home. That night I saw her come in the church door. I knew the work was done, her face was like a morning sun. She was aglow with the glory of God. She now had a real testimony. She had found Jesus and she knew it. She remained true.

What about the afraid people today? Afraid to go to a church that preaches the whole Bible. Afraid of the altar; afraid to take the way of holiness, afraid to dress like a Christian, afraid of the scorn of a godless world, afraid to mind God, afraid to rectify wrongs, afraid to get blessed. Afraid of people, afraid of losing a job, afraid of criticism. A good dose of old time conviction will turn the cart around until one will be afraid to meet an angry God at the judgment, and afraid of falling into hell. It will take the wrong fear out and put the right fear in, "the fear of the Lord."

Today people need to do like Naaman, the leper. First, his pride kept him a leper. When he got desperate, forgot his pride, he dipped himself, royal garments, and all, into the old muddy Jordan river, in obedience to the prophet's orders. He was made whole! He had something everybody knew about. So many are afraid they will get something everybody will know, so they get nothing. That's why they get no joy from their religion, thus they flirt with the world.

When we really have Jesus Christ, we fall so deeply in love with Him, there is no room, in our hearts and lives for the world and its traps. We will go on our way singing, "There's a song in my heart that my lips cannot sing, 'tis praise in the highest to Jesus my King," "Jesus Lover of My Soul," and "Nothing Satisfies but Jesus."

Praise His blessed, holy name! I know it is so. He whispers to us -- "Fear thou not for I am with thee, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will uphold thee." "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." -- Psalm 91:1-5. Thou shalt not be afraid.

We are told that while Germany was bombing England, fear filled the hearts of the people so that wicked men and women went to the home of the real children of God and said, "Let us come under your roof, you are a real Christian. We will be safer."

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13 -- A HOLE IN THE WALL

Text -- Ezekiel 8:7

The Spirit of God, in a vision, took Ezekiel by the hair of his head and lifted him up between heaven and earth, took him to Jerusalem, and to the temple. Then God said, "Son of man seest thou?"

Ezekiel saw a hole in the wall of the temple; something had happened. God said, "Dig in the wall." God calls his prophets to do some digging to uncover sin. He dug in, and there was a door. If God's ministers will do the digging God will open a door that will bring a lot of things to view. God said, "Go in and see the wicked abominations." The beauty and glory of God's holy temple was defiled. Behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts filling the temple. Creeping things as; lice, lizards, snapping turtles, poisonous vipers, worms, ants, termites. Abominable beasts; as roaring lions, raging tigers, ravenous wolves, wild cats, and all kinds of sly, dangerous and detestable animals in God's Temple.

The Temple of that day represents the church today. God shows his true servants, in the church, that should be filled with the glory, and the beauty of Holiness; there are people who once glorified Him. They have turned into creeping, crafty, carnal slippery and poisonous snakes, snails, insects and termites that eat away and destroy the pillars and structure of God's house.

Lions and wolves that roar, and slyly attack God's faithful ones, prey upon everything sacred and Holy, forcing out the true worshippers, they take over, like Ahab with Naboth's vineyard. Again Ezekiel saw 70 men, elders of Israel, (Matthew Henry says -- the Sanhedrin, chief rulers and teachers), all in a secluded place in the dark with censers, offering incense to Baal. They said, "the Lord does not see us."

God said, "Thou shalt see greater abominations yet. At the door of the temple gate sat women weeping, worshipping the god of Tammuz. Between the porch and the altar were 25 men,

their backs turned on God, facing the East, worshipping the sun. God told Ezekiel, "They have filled the land with violence and the land is full of blood."

This is a sorry, but true, picture of the church today; made up of all the bodies of people who profess the name of Jesus and profess to worship Him. There is a true, born again church, elect, the bride of Christ, who walks in white; the wedding garments of salvation, who does not defile herself courting this old world: but is espoused to Jesus Christ and watches always for his coming. Amen.

But the great body of the generalized church, seeking to be homogenized, has all the defilement and abominations depicted in this gruesome picture. God reveals these things to his faithful prophets, thus they cry out against them.

Who is the church? It is made up of individuals. Boiling it down to Bible facts; the Word says, "know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. If any man defile the temple, him will God destroy." In the Temple (heart), of professed church men, God and His prophets see a hole in the wall; an open door; through which is seen all of these wicked abominations of creeping jealousy, passions lusts, guile, deceit, and poison of asps. There are the roaring lions, the sly but ravenous wolves, driving out the Lamb of God and turning the heart over to every form of idolatry in the name of worship.

God demanded that an angel of mercy go through all and, from his writers ink horn, set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all these abominations.

Then six men were commanded of God to go through and smite, and utterly slay all, except those who had God's mark upon them. They should be saved. The iniquity is great, and the land is filled with blood.

This is indeed the picture of our time, from God himself. All we can do, as did Ezekiel, is to fall on our faces before God, travail for the backsliders, the worldly church members, the ruthless religious leaders; speak and do what God asks of us as individuals, pray always in the Holy Ghost, keep the white spotless wedding robe on and watch for our Bridegroom. So come Lord Jesus.

God sets a mark on those that are His today. "The Lord knoweth them that are his. My people shall be a peculiar people, a separate people." The world knows God's people too. If we are not willing to accept God's mark of separation from all sin, the world, and the devil, then we shall perish with all rejecters of Christ and Bible Holiness.

Are you marked for God and heaven; or for the world, the flesh, and the devil and damnation? It is up to you. There is no neutral zone.

One said "I looked for the church and found it in the world: I looked for the world and found it in the church."

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14 -- DEVIL POSSESSION

While conducting revival services in New Amsterdam, British Guyana, (now Guyana), I kept hearing a weird moaning and groaning at intervals over a period of a couple of nights and a day. On inquiring about it the Pastor informed me, there was a family living under the house next door to the church and parsonage. A 16 year old girl, member of the family, had been interested in the gospel preached next door. When the family learned of the coming revival, they were determined she should not get that new religion. They sent for two witch doctors to throw a spell on her to keep her away from the meetings. This they really did. After listening to the weird noises about so long, I said, "I am going over there."

I found there was one little room closed in back under the house. On the steps, leading into this room, sat an old witch doctor in a spell of Satanic power. The girl sat on a chair, face down, as in agony, almost constantly now groaning and moaning, seemingly unconscious. Standing by her was a heathen woman about half-under . . . just watching the girl. On the floor lay another witch doctor -- out.

I stood and looked on. This sight, with the awful sounds, stirred my soul desperately. Being alone, the Devil said, "You better be careful or you might really get hurt." My heart lifted toward heaven and without a sound, I said, "God you are stronger than the Devil," God said, "Rebuke him in the name of Jesus." I looked at the woman and said, "I want to pray for this girl." No resistance was shown. I looked up to heaven and asked God, "In the name of Jesus, whose name is above all names, cast the Devil out of this girl." Almost immediately she gave moans -- moved on the chair, then opened her eyes, looked at me and was conscious . . . all moans stopped she was normal. I talked with her some and invited her to the revival and left, walking out past the two witch doctors who never stirred.

The devil cannot stand the name of Jesus; for Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

Dr. W., a Catholic M.D., asked, "Do you believe any people are possessed with devils today like they were in Bible times?" "Yes I do!" He said, "I do too!" Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. He can break the power of sin and satan in any who will come to Him. Many in the United States, as well as in other countries, are possessed with evil spirits and are slaves to sinful habits they themselves cannot break. Jesus, the Great Emancipator, can break every chain, every fetter, and set the captive free. Praise be to our Jesus.

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15 -- THE CRY OF THE LOST SOUL

Introduction

Sermon preached in the College Church, Eastern Pilgrim College; Kernersville, North Carolina, by Celia Bradshaw Winkle.

Remarks by Pastor Smith of the College Church of Kernersville, North Carolina: "The lady who is to speak to us tonight has consented to come to us for a revival meeting in the fall, I believe it is. I have been very concerned that we have this lady in the community; and I was glad when I found that she would accept the call to the school and Bro. Phipps, the College President, has agreed to let her hold the evening services and the Sunday services here in the church. We certainly appreciate that very much. Now, I haven't known Mrs. Winkle too intimately. I've known of her for quite a long while, not so long, but for some few years. The first time I saw her was at a General Conference; I made the remark, "Now there is a live wire," when she got up to talk a little. I have seen her a few times since then, and I still have the same opinion. In our Sunday School Institute I was convinced that it was definitely true. We have heard many wonderful reports. She has been an Evangelist, Gospel Minister, and Home Missionary Worker, a great Church Builder. God has blessed her in a great way. I wouldn't know how to introduce her because I don't know of all her work. What I have known has been worthy of praise. She is doing fine work in Florida. She is one of these folks that is not afraid of hard work. She will get in a place where other folks are afraid of, dig out a church, move on and dig out another and then hold evangelistic services elsewhere and take a missionary trip once in awhile. I don't know where she is going to finally land, I think in Heaven, I'm pretty sure of that but I hope it will be a long time first. We are very happy to have Mrs. Winkle. She is now pastoring in Bradenton, Florida, a nice little church. We are very happy to have her here in our church tonight. I was down in that community at Christmas time, and I tried to preach just a little in service over at her church. I was sick, but they gave me such good support, they made me preach a little anyhow. If you folks don't give support tonight I'll see you later. We want you to stand right by with your prayers and lift and pray and let God have His way. We are very happy to have Mrs. Bradshaw Winkle. You were Miss Bradshaw before, isn't that right? She married some few years ago and her husband is a fine gentleman and she says he is not a preacher but I imagine he can preach. We are very happy to have her here tonight and we turn this service over to you Mrs. Winkle. May God bless you."

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The Cry of the Lost Soul

Thank you Bro. Smith, it is truly a great pleasure and enjoyment to have been here these few days. I made the remark when we came back from High Point today over at the dormitory, "well it's beginning to feel like home already." I felt like I was coming home when I came back into the dormitory this afternoon from High Point. We did have a very gracious time over at Mt. Zion with Bro. York and his people. We were only there a few minutes. I really hated to leave that good congregation with just a few words this morning. The Lord gave us a good time. We were happy to meet the people over at High Point this morning. We are glad to be here this evening. I really love Florida but I think that it is I hate to leave you good people up here in North Carolina. Maybe we could move North Carolina down to Florida, I don't know. There is one thing for sure and certain, if I had some of you boys and girls down in Florida you certainly would work. Isn't that right youngsters from Florida? We've got jobs to do. After all I have found that it is a wonderful thing to do something for the Lord. Just to do something for the Lord, whether we can do it very well or not. But, do something! You know what I tell them? I tell them that if they can do anything at all and shrink back because they couldn't do it as well as somebody else they need to pray and get rid of that, and be willing to do anything they can do, whether it is big or little. You

will be surprised at what you can do for God if you will be willing to make a failure. But do something anyway. Just do something. Don't just sit around and twiddle your thumbs but do something. Praise the Lord. Get out and do something. I have found the biggest job is trying to do the little one and you will too. If you will just do something, the Lord will give you something else to do. Praise His Name forever.

Let us bow our heads in a word of prayer. "Our precious Heavenly Father as we have been waiting before Thee these several days and nights and in the hours of the night talking to Thee about this service, and this afternoon as we have been alone with Thee, Thou knowest Lord that we feel a tremendous responsibility when we stand before people to give them the truth. It is not just another service. It is not just a coming together just because we must go to church. Oh, Lord, we have felt it keenly that we are on the very highway of life and we are headed toward eternity. And we were impressed this afternoon with the thought that David said there was but one step between me and death. Oh, Lord, we thought surely if this is true, then there is only a step between us and Heaven or between us and hell. One step and somehow we thought that as we waited before Thee this afternoon that there would be someone in this church tonight, who in the sight of Almighty God, that one step would be between them and hell. Lord, we thought we might not get back this way and if we did that one or those of whom Thou didst put on our hearts, they might not be here. If we are ready for Heaven and we have the joy-bells ringing in our hearts, then we don't need the sermon so much. Those who have sold out and those who have compromised and those who have fallen back and those that there is just one step between them and hell, this is their hour. This is their moment, this is their warning, this is their time to reach that soul. We pray in the Name of Jesus you will do it tonight while there is time and mercy. In Jesus' precious Name. Amen."

Almost ever since they have asked me to take this service, with much prayer and much meditation about it, the Lord has continued to lay upon my heart and mind these words that I should bring to you from Matthew the 27th chapter and 46th verse, the last part: "My God, my God, why has Thou forsaken me?" Of course, all of you that are Bible readers and Bible students will recognize that these are the words of Jesus Christ the Son of God which he spake while hanging on the Cross of Calvary. I have been familiar with these words from a little tot. Thank God for having the privilege of being familiar with God's Word. I heard these words read, by my own dear mother who is in Heaven tonight. I have heard the good preachers who preached the old-fashioned Gospel to me, read these words and preach on them. I do not recall any particular sermons, but I recall the words. Many, many times, they have gone through my mind and I have wondered about them. I don't know how many times I have preached on them in my life time. I remember a few years ago, not too many, when the Holy Spirit gave me a revelation regarding these words which I had never seen before, that I have never heard or read. It is just like the opening up of a flower, just like the breaking of the daylight in the early morning hours. God seemed to show me the Son of God hanging there on that middle cross and these words of agony coming from His lips and God said to me, "Do you see that? Do you hear those words?" God said, "That is not only the Son of God dying on Calvary, that is the cry of a lost soul." The cry of a lost soul. I said, "God, what do you mean?" God said, "Do you know that when my Son Jesus died on the cross that he died in your stead? That He died as a substitute for sinners? Dying as a substitute He bore the penalty for all of my sin and in bearing the penalty for the sins of the world He was drinking the bitter cup of the wrath of God for sin." In other words, when Jesus Christ hung on the cross and paid the price for my redemption and yours, He suffered physically, he suffered mentally, He suffered spiritually, He suffered in any

way that anybody could suffer. He suffered the same kind of suffering that a soul will suffer when he is lost. He felt the pangs of death and hell such as the lost soul will feel in the regions of damnation.

Jesus drank the bitter cup in Gethsemane. He endured the awful agonies on Calvary for you and me; in our stead; so that we need not suffer such. Jesus became the sin offering, taking the place of the criminal, the sinner. Thus God could not be a Holy God and look upon, sympathize, or condone, even His own Son while He had our sins upon Him. God turned His face away, turned His back on Jesus, the Son. That was the darkest, most bitter, moment of the plan of our redemption. But there was no other way. That, my friend, is a clear, but black picture of God's hatred for sin, and His certain judgment for it. If you insist on retaining that pet sin, going your own way, then the Savior suffered in vain for you. Those who turn from the old-fashioned Gospel; who turn down the offers of mercy; and, for a bubble, sell their soul-that soul is lost, and he is damned forever.

That's His cry. Jesus Christ is crying on the cross, that middle cross, "My God, why? Why? Why? have you forsaken me?" That boy and that girl knows the answer to that why. Oh, as eternity rolls on and that "why" rings out. Why? The answer is so cheap. It will haunt that soul forever and forever. Why? A little fun. Why? A girlfriend, a boyfriend. Why? A little higher grade-cheating. Why? A little more money-compromising. Why? For just a little popularity, just a little social prestige. "Why? My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

I believe, I don't know why, only through the Spirit of God, I believe that I am speaking to some young heart here tonight, that even now out of your heart there is a cry, "God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Why would God forsake King Saul? Why? Once he was blessed of God. Once he was used of God. Once he was humble and honored of God. Once God could use him. Listen to him, "God has departed from me." God, why hast thou forsaken me? Disobedience is why. Disobedience. What about Esau? Esau was born in the line of victory. Born for success, born to be a blessing, born to master the situations of life. Born to be happy in God. Born to be everything that is worthwhile and to dwell with God forever. Born rich in this world and in the world to come. Esau, oh, weeping, weeping. What is the matter with Esau? "My God, my God, where are you? Why hast Thou forsaken me? I'm looking. I'm looking for a place to pray. Where can I pray where God will hear me?" And he found it not. Why? One mess of pottage. Oh, God help us.

I ask you, my dear one tonight, do you think, that you have gotten a bigger price than Esau? You who don't shout the victory any more in your soul. You who have compromised and failed God. You who once could sing the glory down and pray the glory down, but tonight you don't have the blessing. Are you sure you have gotten the bigger price and a better price than Esau did?

"My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?" I say again that this is the cry of the lost soul and it was coming from the heart of the Son of God. He was feeling the lash. He was sitting in the prisoner's seat. He was in the death cell. What an awful feeling when you go in the penitentiary of our land. You go into the death cell and look at that chair. What an awful feeling. As I went through that institution in Columbus, Ohio, and the guide took us through; he took us in and showed us the electric chair. Such awful feelings that crept up and down my spine. The guide said to me, "Do you see that fellow standing right there?" He was as close to me as that window. I said,

"Yes." He said, "That man was sentenced to the electric chair and he was supposed to have died in this chair, but for some reason or another the sentence was changed and he was given life instead of death." I stood in the shadow of that chair and as I looked down at that man, I thought my God how must he feel to see us standing here looking at this chair in this death cell when he came within a hair's breath of going into eternity from that chair. Ah, but you say, he has to live in jail the rest of his life. Yes, but he can live. And how terrible the thought of having our life taken from us in that way.

I thought, Oh God, how ought the sinner feel the price that Jesus Christ paid to save us, not from the electric chair, but from the damnation of hell forever and ever. How we ought to feel the price that he paid for our redemption.

Yonder, there, He hangs on that middle cross, and I can hear over and over again, "My God, my God why hast Thou forsaken me?" It is the cry of one forsaken and one who is alone. It is the cry of loneliness. Many a man and many a woman, and many a boy and many a girl have sold out to the world and to sin because they were lonely. But listen! Not only have they sold out to the devil because he is lonely, or she is lonely. They don't know what they are doing, because in the regions of the damned there is no such a thing as company. There is no such a thing as love. There is no mother's love in the regions of the damned. There is no father's love, there is not a brother's nor a sister's love. There is no sweetheart, there are no little pattering children's feet in hell. If you are lonely and you sell out to the devil because you are lonely, (you ought to want to miss hell), There is nothing in hell to ever relieve your loneliness, but, oh, it is a lonely world. Don't fool yourself, and don't let the world fool you. The most blessed people, the happiest people, the people who are the least lonely people in the world are God's people. People who have the Father, Son and Holy Ghost have all the brothers and sisters in the world. Hallelujah! I can go into my library; -- bless your heart there are all kinds of and wonderful people in there. God the Father and Son and Holy Ghost, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Rebecca and all those old saints of God. John Wesley, Seth Rees and who all we couldn't stop to name. One time when I went into my library and I was studying and preparing for my Sunday Service and I had great burdens upon me at that time, pastoral burdens, and I was pressed down beyond measure and I felt it keenly. I was sitting there at my desk feeling the weight of the load, as I sat there meditating and praying and thinking of the heavy burdens and heavy responsibilities and disappointments of people and the disappointments of pastoral work and so on. I began to feel like I had almost more than I could bear and wondered how I could go any farther, how I could go on another step. Then I lifted my head up and when I lifted it up, on the wall of my study was Bro. Seth Rees' picture. I tell you that old warrior of God did me more good than any other preacher I ever heard in my life. He had already gone to heaven but there on the wall, being dead yet speaketh. I could just hear him say, "Daughter, come on, you can make it." Bless your heart that was one of the biggest sermons that I ever had. It lifted the load from my shoulders, and I felt like I had heard a great sermon, and I had. God made it a blessing to my soul. Yes, when you walk with God, when you pray, and when you mind the Lord you can find wonderful relief from your load. I can tell you this young people, I know from experience, I didn't have an easy road. I had a hard job working and trying to pay for my education, even in the grades. I had to work for people for my board in order to go to school. On up into high school and to college I had to work and scratch and everything to try to get it. I tell you whenever the enemy came along, I learned one thing, I learned that I could go away in secret and pray and stay there and pray and keep on praying

until I prayed through. I don't blame young people for having problems and having burdens and getting lonely, that is only human nature. I'll tell you one thing you don't have to be like that all the time. You can pray through it and pray over it and pray out of it. Bless God forever. I've never seen a problem yet I've never come up against anything but that the Lord could help me pray through it and get on top of it and have the victory. Praise the Lord forever. I use to have to stay on my face, I've prayed on my face and wept by the hours sometimes over my youth problems. In order to keep me in the will of God I had to do some running sometimes to get away and I had to do some running to keep away and I had to do some running to keep my heart from being run over and that is not the easiest thing to handle, but the Holy Ghost can help you to handle it, praise the Lord. If you will keep your eyes on Jesus and walk with him and take sides with Him against yourself and your feelings and your desires and everything else, He will never fail you. Glory to God forever. If you will sell out and be cheap and fail God you will live a miserable life like hundreds have done, that I could name tonight and others could, and go on and be lost in the regions of damnation forever and forever. You will be wailing out the words that Jesus wailed out on the cross, "My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" You will be mighty lonely. There are no roommates in hell. I have to say for the glory of God that there is real romance in the religion of Jesus Christ and the reason most of the young people don't find it out, they don't care to know Jesus Christ. They are too afraid of letting loose of the world. They are too afraid of being old fashioned. They are too afraid of having somebody point a finger at them and say you are a holy roller.

Bless your heart you had better be called a holy roller than to sell out to this world and have nothing worthwhile in this life or in the one to come. You never get anything unless you go into it with your whole heart. Religion isn't worth any more than what you put into it. The trouble with the most of our young people today is that they try to hang onto the world with one hand and onto the Lord Jesus Christ with the other and it doesn't work. It never did work and it never will work. You might just as well to make up your mind right now, if you are going with God you will not be popular with the world. If you are going with the world you are not going to be popular with God. You can not take a popular way in the so-called holiness way today. Brother and sister, I'll tell you it doesn't work. It is just as thin as tissue paper. When you take the old-fashioned way, bless God, it will stand the storm and an earthquake and it will work all the time. It will work when you are young, and it will work when you are old, it will work when you are good looking and it will work when you are homely, it will work when you are rich and it will work when you are poor. Praise the Lord. It will work when you are a house wife, and when you work all the time. Glory to God. When you get it down in your soul, it will work.

This cry of Jesus Christ on the middle cross was not only a cry of loneliness, but it was a cry of one forsaken. Forsaken. Nobody likes to be forsaken. There is a difference in being just lonely and being forsaken. Sometimes you may feel like you are forsaken when you are not, but there is a difference when you are. If you are forsaken by one of the members of your family, it is an awful thing. I have had my half brothers and sisters, a couple of them, one time to say to me, "Celia, you are no longer my sister and don't call me a brother" because I was taking the Holiness way. It didn't change my course at all, but I didn't feel good inside. To be forsaken even when you are on the right side doesn't feel good. It is a small thing compared to being forsaken as some others have had it, to be forsaken by society. Every once in awhile we hear of a young man who goes out and blows out his brains. Why, because he feels that society has forsaken him. He failed in everything in life. Nobody cares anything for him, no one loves him, he is forsaken. I remember

a few years ago when I was just a young girl, I was in a hospital and I was very sick but when I got better, so that I could at least get out of bed and walk around a little, there was a young lady just across the hall who was terribly sick. I heard her moan, I heard that awful pathetic weird moan so that I could hardly stand it. I said, "Nurse, can I go across the room to that girl's bed?" She said, "Yes, you can."

I slipped on my house coat and I went across the hall. I went into that room and I looked at that girl, there she was just a girl in her teens, pale as death. She was lying there vomiting blood. Pieces of flesh, half as large as my thumb, coming out with the bloody water out of her stomach. Not one speck of food. Only blood and water and pieces of flesh. I looked at that poor girl and I tried to talk to her. She rolled her head first to one side and then to the other and said, "Oh, oh, oh." The cold sweat stood out on her. Not a soul standing around her bed. She said, "Mama, Mama, please Mama won't you come? Please, Mama, won't you come?" It would break the hardest heart of any man that ever lived, it seems to me. I said, "What is the matter, what is wrong nurse? Why doesn't someone come? That girl is dying." The nurse said, "Yes, she is dying, she will soon be dead. She is begging for her mother." I said, "What is the matter, is her mother living, is her mother dead? What is wrong?" She said, "Yes her mother is living. She has a family, she has a father and a mother. She has brothers and sisters. That girl has lost her way. Sin crept in, she was deceived and ruined. The pride of her family was hurt and they said she has disgraced us and we'll have nothing to do with her. Her mother said, 'I will never go to see her.' Her father said, 'I will have nothing to do with her.' One of her sisters said, 'She is no sister of mine. We don't want to see her.' Not even her mother cared. That poor girl lay, crying and moaning, the cry of one forsaken. Dying like that, and the mother never came.

You say, as well as I do, how could a mother do it? How could a father do it? How could a brother or a sister do it? No matter how sinful or how far she had gone, how could they do it? Beloved, when a soul is in this life and they are forsaken by father and mother and brothers and sisters and loved ones, there is a chance that they may be accepted of God to be saved and the picture change. Once they have crossed the line of worlds, they have gone out into eternity without God.

In the regions of the damned they will weep and wag their heads from one side to the other and say, "Oh mother, oh father, oh brother and sister, oh, if only I had listened to my good pastor, if only I had listened to sister so and so, if only I had listened to that good Sunday School teacher that pled with me, if I had only listened to that dear friend that tried to help me, Oh, I'm forsaken by all."

On the other hand, as we listen to the wail of Dives in hell, when he said, "Father Abraham, oh Father Abraham, if I just had a drop of water, just a drop of water, just a drop of water. Will nobody ever bring me a drop of water? I am forsaken, and I am starving for water and there is no water in hell." No water in hell. No love in hell. No friends in hell. Some people laugh and say, "Well, if I go to hell I'll have plenty of company." No you won't. No you won't. A few years ago when I was seriously ill in the hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, I was in the part of the hospital in a private room where they could put me where I could have it as quiet as possible. In the mornings, about time for daylight to break, there was an awful wail. Every morning it sounded more to me like a train that is loaded with cattle out yonder on the tracks somewhere on the hottest

part of the day with no water. Every morning, "Oh my God, oh God, oh nurse, oh my back, oh my leg, oh mother dear." And down the corridors every room, the awful moans, the awful groans until it would almost make you insane. And I lay there sick myself, so terribly that I would beg God to take me to heaven or get me out of my suffering. I'm ashamed to tell it now, but I begged God to kill me to get me out of my pain and to get me out of my suffering. I don't want to go to hell, if that is all there was in hell, that's enough. Everything the devil can throw out that he calls fun wouldn't begin to pay. I said, "Oh God, if hell was only like this my Lord save me from it."

Forsaken, with pain and suffering. But no matter how much I suffered at least every so often the nurse would come around with a needle. The needles hurt. But how welcome they are when pain is so excruciating. When the needle was socked in deep and heavy dope was put in to ease that awful pain, what a release for a little while. But it wasn't long because the pain was too great. It wasn't long until it wore off. They couldn't do it very often. But in hell there is no needle deep enough and there is no opiate to take affect. They don't have any there.

Oh, the pain, oh, the anguish. The dear Son of God hanging on that cross, was alone, forsaken by all, and most of all, by His Father. He was alone, homesick. A lost soul in hell will fall and fall in the bottomless pit alone, homesick forever. Forsaken, as one lost in the woods, in the dark. Forsaken in that his own Father forbears to interfere. Left to his enemies, wild, bloodthirsty, and ruthless. Left to the jealousies and dire hatred of those enemies, who like a pack of wolves preyed upon the innocent victim.

Forsaken, abandoned, abandoned by God and man. Hear it friend, that terrible cry of a lost soul coming through the lips of the Son of God. In hell every lost soul will take up this very cry, "My God, my God why hast Thou forsaken me?" And as long as eternity goes on that awful cry will vibrate the very region of infernal torment, like a great demon's infernal choir of horror and utter despair.

Will you listen? Will you look at that suffering Savior? The dear Son of God hanging on that cross for you? See His hands, His feet, His wounded side, His blood splashed brow, pierced with the crown of thorns, see the fevered body under the blistering hot sun? Flies and insects sucking His blood adding annoyance and discomfort. His tongue and body dehydrating for water. The pain, the agony, blood poisoning, the tendons being pulled out of place, the weight of his body hanging upon them, and he hangs there, by that time the awful headache, the nausea, the awful sickness and terrible reactions of it. Down in His heart a wound that is greater than any of that, your sin and mine. Then as He hung there between Heaven and earth, paying the penalty for my sin and yours, how He longed for companionship, how He longed for somebody to hold His hand and to soothe His brow. No nurse was there. I know when you are terribly sick it is a wonderful thing to have a good nurse. I was so terribly sick and they thought I was dying once. I could tell they were trying to get ahold of doctors and they were getting the nurses and the head nurses, and I couldn't talk with them, and they were rushing around because I was so sick.

There was one nurse especially, and I'll never forget it. Her name was Miss Roberts. She was wonderful. Oh, how she worked with me. I could feel it clear inside of me she was different from any other nurse. When I was able to speak to her one day, she was bent over working with me and I said "Nurse, You are a wonderful nurse. I don't see how you can put into me what you do."

She leaned over me and she looked into my eyes, and said, "Rev. Bradshaw, my mother was sick just like you are and she never got over it." I knew then why I felt different whenever she nursed me than the other nurses. And that is what Jesus felt for you and me when He was on the cross. That is why He could go where He went, and that is why He could weep like He wept. That is why He could suffer like He suffered. That is why He could die like He died. Does it mean anything to you? Does it mean anything to you?

Oh, God, forbid that you or I should go from Holiness Churches to hell. Go there hearing that cry that goes up from the cross that He made for you in your stead so that you wouldn't have to do it. You laughed and scorned and sold out. As long as eternity rolls on, you will be hearing the Son of God saying in your stead, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Friend, notice this, why would He say "My God?" Because He is my God. For a soul that is lost in eternity and in hell to be faced with the awful fact that he is my God and in Him is all the Salvation needed. It is mine, I can take advantage of it. My God, my God, I'm lost. Why? That little something that I sold out for. "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

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16 -- CROSSING THE DEADLINE -- WITHOUT REMEDY

Proverbs 29:1 -- "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

Proverbs 1:24-31 -- "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all of my council, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you, then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my council: They despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."

God, through the Holy Ghost, spoke these words, through the mouth of Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived. How wise it is to take heed, and listen to his words. How unwise not to do so. We find, all through the Bible, and our earthly environment, that God does reprove man. To reprove means to censure, to rebuke, to condemn, to convict, to express disapproval.

I. Let us note some ways God reproves of sin.

First God reproves through the conscience. When young, the conscience is tender, clearly registers God's reproof.

That boy who smokes his first cigarette, will usually do it in an alley, back of the barn, or some hiding place. Why? Because his conscience reproves him, he feels guilt: Like Adam and Eve in the garden, after they fell into sin, hid themselves in the garden. They thought they were hidden from God: But God saw them all the time: And they had to come out and face God. The old Indian

said, "Conscience is a three cornered thing, in the heart: the corners are sharp: When we do wrong it turns and the edges hurt; but when we keep on doing wrong; it continues to turn, but the sharp edges wear off, and it does not hurt anymore."

People can go on searing the conscience until they do not feel any hurt. Ephesians 4:19 -- "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." Ephesians 4:8 -- "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God." II Thessalonians 2:11 -- "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusions, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Second God reproves through His Word, the Bible.

The Bible is like a mirror. We can not read it thoughtfully without seeing ourselves, just as we are. Without Christ, our image is frightful, and unpleasant. That is why many people do not read it.

God's Word is God's only way to show man his fallen nature, his sin; and to reveal God's love for man, and His plan to redeem man, to make him a new creature.

In the preaching of the Word, the teaching of it, in hymns, singing God's truths -- God reproves the sinner, the carnal, and worldly man.

God reproves through Godly music, through the prayers and testimonies of God's truly saved people.

God's Word is our road map, and our law. Let us follow it, obey it, and we shall be safe.

Third God reproves through the lives of Christians.

One of the commonest excuses made for not being a Christian is -- "There are so many hypocrites." No one can deny there are hypocrites. There is counterfeit money too. I am not going to refuse to accept good money because there is counterfeit.

Everyone, if they look, can find some old saints, whose lives are full of the joy of the Lord, and by His grace they live Holy lives. These lives are a constant rebuke and reproof to sinners. My own mother was just such a one. Her constant victorious life made very deep impressions on my young heart and mind. I knew, by her life, that God could hear and answer prayer, could save, sanctify, bless, keep, and make life worth living. I said, "I want the kind of religion like my mother has." Thank God, at an early age of ten I bowed at an old-fashioned Methodist altar, repented, confessed, really and truly prayed through, till God's Spirit bore witness to my spirit that I was born of God. "I got that kind of blessing." It has worked in all kinds of experiences, and it is still working. Praise the Lord! I didn't stop when I got saved. While in a good justified state, I went right on to seeking a Holy heart, an induement of Power, a filling with the Blessed Holy Spirit. I have found Him sufficient at all times. Glory to God! There is no life like it. In fact a life without the fullness of His presence is a barren, hard, life.

Psalms 16:11b -- "In His presence is fullness of joy, and at His right hand there are pleasures for ever more." But, in the words of the Apostle Paul: "She that liveth in, (sinful), pleasure is dead while she liveth."

Fourth God reproves through sickness, accident, and death.

If we will not turn from our life of sin, from our hellbound way, when God reproves by His tender messages of reproof, then He still loves us too much to forget us. He often uses drastic and serious methods to wake us up, to get us to flee the wrath to come, to enter the Fold of Christ-our Eternal Life.

A certain woman had longed for several years for a child to bless their home. She was a good Christian woman and very active in the church. God granted her desire and gave her a baby -- a beautiful little girl. She was taken up with the baby. She forgot the church. Often when the pastor would call and invite her to church, she would say, "Well, I can't come while the baby is so young. Time went on. The baby grew to the age of four. She was a little curly-haired doll. Her mother worshipped her.

One day the beautiful little girl got very sick. The doctor was called, and the preacher, but in spite of all efforts, she died.

The mother was desperate in sorrow. Right after the funeral she went to church. She went to the altar, wept and truly repented, and was restored to the fold. She arose and faced the audience and said, with tears falling fast, "I want to tell you something. God showed me that if I had been faithful to Him I could still have had my darling little girl, but because I forgot God and His work for her, God had to take her to wake me up. I will never again allow anybody, or anything, to come between me and God. I am going to live for God and do His work, then I can go to be with my Savior, and then I can be re-united with my dear little curly head. Please pray for me, that I will always obey God."

God permits affliction to come sometimes to the wayward one, to get him to stop and face himself and think. Many have made vows on a sick bed, or in a hospital. Some have kept them and are serving the Lord. Others have broken them and continue on their own downward way.

I know a young man whom God called over and over. But he went right on in sin. A Godly father and mother were praying for him. One day he had a terrible accident which almost killed him. After a long, long time in hospitals, and a number of serious operations he was released to go his way -- but his face was marred for life. During his suffering and confinement, God reproved him. He saw it was God reproving him. He truly repented, was saved, consecrated his all to Jesus. God sanctified him and called him to preach. He has been a successful minister for years.

Fifth Revivals, campmeetings, and evangelical campaigns are God's special efforts for men's souls.

Numbers heed God's reproofs at such times and are happy finders. But, oh, so many run from God, and from these meetings, many will not even listen to a sermon on the radio. They do not want any program that is spiritual. Why? Because God reproves them through all of these means. It is an extremely dangerous thing for one to harden his neck and heart, and refuse to listen to God.

II How do people harden their necks?

This expression is taken from the ox hardening his neck. When the ox is pulling his wagon, or load, all of a sudden he becomes stubborn, stops dead still, refuses to budge. The master can scold him, whip him, kick him, or abuse him in any way, but he stiffens and hardens his neck. In fact his whole body is set in rebellion to his master.

People harden their necks and hearts, and stubbornly refuse to move toward God every time there is a still small voice calling them to get right with God, and they do not obey.

They harden their necks by drowning out God's voice with worldly pleasure, business and selfish pursuits. They harden their necks when they wait for another chance. Every decision they make with their back turned on the cross of Jesus -- their necks are hardened.

He that is reproved often, but disobeys, hardens his heart often, shall suddenly be destroyed.

III. Suddenly Destroyed -- Without Remedy.

He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

In my home church, Ada, a beautiful girl, was under deep conviction. The Christians plead with her to surrender her life to Jesus. She shook all over and wept. But she would brace up and say "No, not now." "But why not now?" Finally, after much entreaty, she looked up and said, "I like pretty clothes, and I like to dance and have fun, and I am not ready to get saved." No one could move her. She hardened her neck.

In less than six months, after dancing all night, she went home sick, took severe chills, went into convulsions and died.

As she lay in her casket, she had chewed her tongue and lips, till her lips were ragged and unsightly, I could only, with terrible heart ache, remember her words, "Not now, some other time."

She had been often reproved, hardened her neck, and was suddenly destroyed and that without remedy.

W. N., a young man of seventeen, in the Bush Country of Ontario, Canada, attended a revival meeting every night. He was a moral, manly, and courteous young man, but not a Christian. The Holy Spirit was faithful, convicting him every service.

When invited to give his heart to Jesus. He would say, "I will, but not tonight -- thank you."

This kept up all through the two weeks revival. The last night was no exception -- same answer. After the meeting closed the Evangelist, (the writer), went to the United States. While seated at the table, mail came. One letter took away all my appetite. W. N., only seventeen, was in the bush cutting down trees for lumber. No one will ever know why, but a very large tree -- healthy, firm, etc., had never been cut on, was not hollow or rotten -- fell suddenly and hit W. N. right on the head and broke his neck in a moment of time. No remedy. All opportunities over, every reproof spurned, sudden destruction -- a lost soul, no remedy.

I John 5:16b -- "There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for that."

This sin we call, "Crossing the Dead Line."

The Dead Line

There is a time, we know not when,
A place we know not where,
That marks the destiny of man,
To glory or despair.

There is a line by us unseen,
That crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between,
God's mercy and His wrath.

To pass that line is to die,
To die as if by stealth;
It does not quench the beaming eye,
Or pale the glow of health.

The conscience may be still at ease,
The spirit light and gay,
That which is pleasant still may please
And care be thrust away.

But on that forehead God hath set,
Indelibly a mark;
Unseen by man, for man, as yet,
Is blind and in the dark.

And yet the doomed man's path below,
Like Eden may have bloomed;
He did not, does not, will not know,
Or feel that He is doomed.

He thinks and feels that all is well
And every fear is calmed;
He lives, he dies, he wakes in hell,
Not only doomed but damned,

Oh where is this mysterious bourne,
By which our path is crossed
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn,
That he who goes is lost?

How far may we go in sin?
How long will God forbear?
Where does hope end? And where begin
The confines of despair?

An answer from the skies is sent
"Ye that from God depart!
While it is called "today" ... Repent!
And harden not your heart.

After that there is no hope for that soul. Many have asked, "What is the unpardonable sin?"

Mark 3:29 -- "He that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

I believe, according to the Scriptures, and according to my life ministering to people, as a minister of the Gospel, that the majority of those who do cross the Dead Line, do so by their continued rejection of the Savior.

Hebrews 2:3 -- "How shall ye escape if ye neglect so great a salvation?"

Note: The text says, "He that being often reproved and hardeneth his neck, (his heart), refuses to budge, shall suddenly be destroyed, without remedy."

King Saul was an outstanding young man. He was God's choice to be Israel's King. God blessed, and prospered him. But he gradually disregarded God's reproofs, given him through Samuel the Prophet.

As a result, God left him. Hear his crying, first to the Witch of Endor, in his distress, then to Samuel: I Samuel 28 -- "I am in distress, the Philistines make war against me. What shall I do? God is departed from me, and answereth me no more. Samuel said, "Because thou obeyest not the voice of the Lord." God never spoke to Saul again. Saul died a miserable backslider, and a suicide, in fear, and frustration: because he would not heed God's reproofs, or take God's council.

While pastoring a church in the far North, Mr. R. and his daughter were faithful members. They ask me to deal with the wife, who never came to church, or showed any interest in spiritual things. At different times I tried to talk to her. But she resisted and would always say, "I'm all right. I'm just as good as any of them." She would not receive any council. She would throw her head back and say, "I belong to a church." She had joined a church years before, but was never converted to Christ, born again, or changed. Now she was in her eighties. Jane, the daughter, with tears begged me to try again and again, but to no avail.

Finally, the mother took sick. She still held her ground. She grew worse and worse. Death stared her in the face. Now she sees she is dying, and she is lost without God. She said, "Call the preachers." It was seven miles, by horse travel to the preachers. But when the messengers came, another preacher and I drove our horse and buggy as fast as we could.

There she lay fighting the flames of hell. She would rise up in bed fighting the devil and hell. There was no doctor or nurse to give her a shot. She was conscious, and she knew. Now she wanted us to pray. But she fought the flames of hell till she fell back on her pillow dead and lost.

It was so terrifying that her husband and daughter ran out of the house. Her two sons came in, and they went out of the house. Finally, the other preacher said to me, "How can you stand it? I can't." And ran out of the house. I had to stay till she fell back in death and despair -- "without remedy." I shall never forget the day we laid her beneath the sod by the country church, where she had refused to go and get right with God.

The ox who does nothing but browse is living the lowest form of life, a brute. He sleeps, and eats, and fattens himself for the slaughter.

If he submits to the master's yoke and plow, he becomes a co-worker with man. He not only helps raise the corn for himself, but for man too.

As with the ox, so it is with man.

IV. Christians too are reprov'd.

When we truly repent and are born of God, we promise God, if He will forgive us our sins and save us, we will walk in all the light He gives us. We will heed His reproofs.

The inspired Word tells us in St. John 16:7-11 -- "When He, the Holy Ghost is come, He will reprove, of sin, of righteousness, and of Judgment.

He who has his actual transgressions forgiven, is reprov'd of the carnal nature, the sin principal. We are not responsible for it being there. But we are responsible if we keep it there. For Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people, with His own blood, suffered without the gate.

"Let us go forth therefore unto Him, without the camp, bearing His reproach." -- Hebrews 13:12, 13.

Hebrews 12:14 -- "Follow peace with all men, and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

I Thessalonians 4:3, 4 -- "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that everyone of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor."

Romans 12:1 -- "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

I Peter 1:16b -- "Be ye Holy, for I am Holy."

II Thessalonians 5:23, 24 -- "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

Romans 6:6 -- "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Acts 1:8 -- "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me."

The Christian who is often reprov'd for his unsanctified heart and life, does nothing about it, is hardening his neck, and may suddenly be destroyed, without remedy: because he refuses the remedy.

V. Sanctified Christians Are Reprov'd.

John 8:31b -- "If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed."

John 1:7 -- "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin."

This last text infers that if we do not walk in the light God gives us, He will reprove us, and will continue to reprove us, until God sees we are not going to walk in the light: then the hardening of the neck, and heart, then sudden destruction without remedy.

Any time a Christian gets new light from God, if he walks in it, He has unbroken fellowship with God, and with his fellow Christians. If he does not walk in the light; the Word says that light becomes darkness, and how great is that darkness.

No matter what is our status before God, there is but one way to escape the horrible results of our first text. That is to heed God's reproofs, when, and where ever, and whatever. "He that hath ears to hear let him hear what the Spirit sayeth." -- Revelations 2:29.

Jesus said, "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation. And what I say unto one, I say unto all, Watch." -- Mark 13:37.

Rev. A. preached Holiness up and around the country and many souls were saved. He was the Evangelist in the revival in which I was saved. In the church the older ministers were set aside for the young preachers just out of college. This hurt Rev. A., and he brooded over it until he lost God, became backslidden. He drifted so far he began smoking and drinking.

One day a tire blew out, threw him off the road, and into a ditch. At the hospital the Dr. said, "His neck was broken. He can only live seventy two hours, in a case like this."

I was pastoring a church in the town where he was in the hospital. He sent for me. At his bedside he looked up at me and said, "It is up to you to pray me out of here, or preach my funeral."

I read God's Word, talked with him, and prayed with him. It seemed the skies were brass. I went to the parsonage, got two other Godly Christians to help me pray. We prayed and prayed; but we could not get any assurance for his life, or his soul. Back to the hospital again, his fevered up face flushed, he knew he was near death, but he was light and frivolous -- no conviction whatever. After all of our efforts he was the same, He had no feeling to pray, to repent for his backsliding. No sorrow for sin, no drawing of God's Spirit. He died that way.

He had so many friends I had to preach three funeral sermons. In one church, then another church, and at the cemetery.

As I saw the widow weeping I felt my heart would burst. Oh, how I longed to comfort her and all the family and friends. But the Holy Ghost would not let me say one word that, he might have made it, or such like. I felt if I did, I would be blaspheming almost. It was that serious.

He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy.

God is no respecter of persons. The most beautiful angel was cast out of heaven, with one third of all the angels who followed him, because of sin.

Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden because of sin.

Noah's generation was destroyed by the flood because of sin.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire because of sin.

The death angel slew all the first-born of Egypt because of sin.

God strives with man, God reproves man of sin. What is man to do?

Jeremiah 8:22 -- "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

Romans 6:23 -- "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life."

II Peter 3:9 -- "The Lord is - not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Luke 13:3, 5 -- Jesus repeated twice, "I tell you, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish,"

Isaiah 55:6, 7 -- "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near; 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; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. Amen.

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17 -- REMARKS ABOUT "THE PREACHER GIRL" BOOK

Rev. Fylena Beard. Columbia, Ohio -- "I never stopped until I read your precious book clear through. It surely glorifies the Lord."

Rev. E. H. Eberle -- "Your book is just wonderful. God is really going to use that book."

Rev. H. E. Schmul -- "Your little, but blessed, book, God is going to make it a blessing to many people."

Marie Waters. Los Angeles, California -- "My eyes filled with tears as I read the 'Purpose' and the Foreword, I have read almost all of it. It is very good. Very Good."

Jean Garrard. Essex, England-Missionary -- "What an interesting book, the title is cute, but most of all we praise God who can make such transformations. I had no idea you had had such a wonderful life."

Irene Remy. Cincinnati, Ohio-Christian Worker -- "The book is interesting, I'm glad it turned out so well. I'm going to pass mine around the church for people to read."

Alma Crouch. Lady in Cincinnati in Home for the aged -- "Received your book. It is a wonderful gift. Thanks a lot."

Elizabeth Carter. Chillicothe, Ohio-Teenager, a Junior in High School -- "I received your book, I can't tell you how happy I was."

Mrs. Coonse. Nice elderly lady from near Oretton, Ohio -- "My dear Sister Winkle, I just wanted to tell you how very much I appreciated your precious book. I started and could not stop until I had finished it, I praise God for your getting it to me."

Mrs. Gillette. A Neighbor -- "I really enjoyed reading your book. I was in hopes you would write more of your experiences."

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THE END