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**I SPEAK FOR MYSELF**  
**By August Luelf**  
**(The Stuttering Boy)**

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"But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself." -- John 9:21

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**Chapter 1**  
**A PRAYER**

Before we begin, let us pray.

My Heavenly Father, I come before Thee again on this twenty-third day of September, 1940. Lord, I am so glad that thou didst call after me when I was going so far astray. I am glad

Thou hast saved me and sanctified me and put so much love in my soul that when I get to heaven I can praise Thee through all eternity. I love to feel Thee near me and feel Thy protecting hand over me.

Lord, here I am in my room all alone tonight while others are fast asleep. By next September I may be in heaven with Thee. Dear Lord! I may be in heaven before six months have passed. Dear Lord, I may be in eternity before three weeks have passed. I may be in eternity in three days. Dear Lord, I may be with Thee in heaven before morning. How joyous that would be! But Lord, if it were to be so, I pray that this book may be printed. Thou hast done so much for me that all books could not contain thy praises. Tears of joy flow as I think of that.

Now, Lord, help me write, for I cannot speak as others do. I do want to testify for Thee! I cannot speak well, but I am not discouraged -- I will write my testimony. As the tears flow down my cheeks, Lord, I pray that it will bless the readers. Help them, each one, to see where they stand in Thy sight. They also may be in eternity before next year, but help them to be ready to meet Thee, that they may not make their bed in hell. May this testimony help the unsaved to find Thee before they depart this life. When they do find Thee they will have the happiest days of their lives, and then when we all get to heaven we will all enjoy it better because of the souls that we have brought to Thee. Lord, help us onward as we go to the next pages, and we shall never cease to praise Thee forever and ever. Amen.

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## Chapter 2 STORY OF MY LIFE (Briefly)

Dear readers, I am just a rugged plow boy saved by grace.

I was born August 6, 1920, between Bellflower and Truxton, Missouri. When three years of age that dreadful disease of whooping cough seized me and took the best part of my speech. For a while it was doubtful that I would ever be able to speak at all again, but finally I began to stutter and stammer.

Years went by till I became twelve years of age. On the day of March 12, 1932, while on my way home from school, I knelt down by an old stump. God came and claimed me as a child of His. Oh the peace and joy that came into my heart that day, I shall never forget!

About two years later the devil showed me the pleasures of the world, and I lost the joy of the Lord. That was another day I shall never forget, for it was a sad day when God took His departure. It was the kind of feeling one has when a dearly loved friend leaves. I have experienced the departure of both God and friends, but the day God departed was much the saddest. In the next two years I became a very vile, bad boy; but I did not find pleasure as I had when God was with me.

One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was in a hospital and was very near death's door. Three of my best friends came to see me. I was so weak I could not speak nor even move a finger. They knelt down and prayed, but heaven seemed as brass. They prayed again, but it was the same. Again they prayed, but it seemed that God would not listen. When they ceased calling on God I wished they had continued in prayer. As they were rising from their knees my best friend said, "It won't be long till he will be moving against the bars of hell." When he said that, a cold chill ran up my back and I awoke from my sleep. That was one time when I was glad the dream was not true. I tried to forget that dream, but I never could. At first I told myself it was a dream like all others. But one day I went to a funeral and the preacher said, "God sometimes gives people dreams and visions to draw them closer to Himself."

A few days later I was taking up fence, and a staple flew up and hit me in the eye. (I am about half blind in that eye yet today.) I let that go by. A few weeks later I was thrown by a tree. I fell about fifteen feet backward -- over and over till I hit the ground. The axe I had been using fell within my reach. When I struck the ground my shoulder hit my leg, and when I tried to get up I found that my leg was hurt. I had broken it. One more time God had spared my life. I began to wonder if the dream I had had was going to come true, for I was still an unsaved boy. But time went on and I seldom got under conviction. God had not talked to me for so long, I wondered whether I had crossed the dead line.

Months went by, but one day God came back, I knelt at an altar of prayer and God came into my heart. Such joy and peace came into my heart that I have been trying to tell it ever since. But I feel like I haven't even started.

Because the attendance of our church was very small, all the saints would testify at nearly every service. During the first year and a half after I was saved I would try to testify quite often, but about all I could say was "I still know I am saved. Pray for me." It took quite a while to get even that much said because I would stutter so much. I had a hard time testifying, but many times the Lord would bless and I was always glad when the Lord blessed.

I remember a revival which was held in a nearby town and I was there at nearly every service. Something seemed to tell me my testimony never did anybody any good and that even if some of the people did have confidence in me they would lose it all if I got up to testify. The same voice said, "You know how you sound. Nobody wants to hear you anyhow. You would be a disgrace to the meeting." It sounded true. So four weeks of that meeting went by and I had not testified. But on the last Sunday (I shall never forget) the testimonies were all given and the order of service was changed. There was a special song and before the preacher arose to preach, he said, "Is there one more who wants to testify?" It seemed the Lord said to me, "August, I'll help you." Then it seemed like the Lord put His arms around me and raised me to my feet. I stood there and looked down. Then I looked up, and immediately the fire fell from heaven. I didn't speak a word. Some of the people were shouting and others were weeping, and I found out that it was the devil who had told me not to testify.

I shall mention another time when I was in a young people's service in a large church. In the testimony service they followed the order of each one testifying after the one who was sitting beside him. My turn was soon to come. I told the one on the opposite side of me to go ahead, that I

didn't think I would try; but when my turn came I said to him, "I will try." I arose to my feet, and how I did stutter! But after I sat down I looked up and told the Lord I had done my best. Words could not express the good feeling the Lord gave me then. I was repaid.

Many times when I arose to testify people would laugh at me. But I could not blame them at all. If I had been in their place I might have laughed too. Sometimes the Lord would comfort me, and it would not bother me when they laughed. One thought I had was this: If I never have a chance to testify again, I can face the Lord and all the people that heard me and say, "I did my best." I believe the Lord has been honoring me lately, for I do not have to stutter as much as I did.

A good way to keep built up spiritually is to testify. I have never been sorry that I testified as often as I have. May the Lord bless each reader and encourage every saint to testify and do what the Lord has for them to do.

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### Chapter 3 WAYS OF OVERCOMING

There are many ways of overcoming. I will call your attention to four: (1) By the blood of the lamb, (2) By the word of our testimony, (3) By prayer, (4) By prayer and fasting.

(1) Overcoming by the blood of the Lamb. I speak for myself, because I have been an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb.

Before I was saved there were things which I did that really I did not want to do. No doubt every one of my readers has experienced that very thing. One thing I did not want to do was to lie, but I did it. Another was to steal. I knew I ought not to do these things, but the tempter overcame me, and I had all kinds of evil thoughts. But since I have been saved I have been an overcomer of lying, stealing; robbing, murder and all such things. It is wonderful to be able to overcome.

If you have not been an overcomer of the things I have mentioned, God does not dwell in your heart. You may say, "I believe a Christian should overcome such sins, but little sins don't hurt us." If you believe that, one thing is sure, the blood has not been applied to your heart. Where do you draw the line between sins?

Jesus said, "Go and sin no more," and still you believe a man has to sin a little. Read your Bible. Take for example I John 3. "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; (even little sins) for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God." How can you read these verses and still say you can get to heaven committing sin?

When the angel sinned, God cast him out of heaven. When Adam sinned, God drove him out of the garden and pronounced a curse upon him. You may try to defend yourself in committing

little sins, but all that Adam did was to eat a little fruit from the wrong tree. If God pronounced a curse upon him, what would He do about you?

You may have been able to overcome some sins by will power, and not by the blood of the Lamb. But will power will never overcome all sin, and no sin can enter heaven. So to get free from all sin you must have the blood, the cleansing blood, applied to your heart. When you have that, you will believe as I do, that a man can live above sin in this present, evil world. God is holy, angels are holy, saints are holy, heaven is holy; and if you go to heaven you will be holy. Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Again, I testify for myself, that I have been an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb.

(2) Overcoming by the word of our testimony. Sometimes when I have stood up to testify I would stutter so much that some of the people would laugh. I could not blame them. I have seen times when the Lord came, and those who had laughed were weeping. I could not have been an overcomer without the Lord's help. One thing every converted soul should do is to testify, for the Bible says we are overcomers by our testimonies. Many times you can overcome by testifying outside the church. After all, it is not what you say that counts most, but your daily life is your biggest testimony. Live right, keep yourself unspotted from the world and bridle your tongue from slang and by-words. Such things should not be found in a child of God, and truly, they are not found in a true saint.

(3) Overcoming by prayer. We overcome, not merely by saying prayers, but by believing and having faith as we pray. Paul said, "Pray without ceasing." Everyone should have an especial place to which to go for daily prayer. The Bible says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." God hears His children as they call upon Him, and He grants their requests according to His will. I can testify that I have been an overcomer by prayer.

(4) Overcoming by prayer and fasting. Recently I was in a revival which was progressing very slowly. It seemed that not much good was being accomplished, so we took a day for prayer and fasting. The next night the meeting broke through, and souls began to get saved.

There was one man whom the disciples could not heal, and he was brought to Jesus. Jesus healed him. The disciples then asked Jesus why they could not heal him and Jesus said, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

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#### Chapter 4 A LESSON ON GOOD AND EVIL FRUITS

Luke 13:6-9. "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then he said unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?"

Matt. 7:19, "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

Corrupt fruit, its kinds, are listed in Gal. 5: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like. Good fruits are listed in the same chapter: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

A true Christian bears only good fruit. A sinner bears corrupt fruit. If you see someone who calls himself a Christian, bearing corrupt fruit, he is not a true Christian. One rotten apple will spoil a whole basket of good ones. One can never be a true Christian and bear a little corrupt fruit. When you are out in public, do you always act and talk as becometh holiness? Remember, you may do many good things, but one corrupt thing (as for instance, a vulgar joke or "yarn") will spoil all the good you may do.

When a Christian goes down the street he will never join worldly conversations I like to see him go down the street with a smile. Some people believe he should, always have a long face, like he is sad, but they are entirely wrong, because Christians are the happiest on earth.

Let us liken sin to a tree -- sins to the trunk and limbs of the tree. When a person gets saved, justified, born again, the tree is cut down -- all his sins have been forgiven. When he has straightened up his back and is living a justified life we will say the tree has not only been cut down but has also been removed. But the stump is still there, and there is danger because the stump will sprout. A person can never keep saved and let sin sprout. The best way to do, as soon as you get the tree cut down, is to take the stump out. In other words as soon as you get justified, go on and get sanctified. If you are justified and not sanctified, the thing which made you commit sin in the first place is still in you. A justified man is double minded, and the Bible says, "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways." The mind of Christ and the carnal mind are enemies. The carnal mind tends toward bearing corrupt fruit, but the mind of Christ toward good fruit.

Tonight as I looked out toward the West I saw a great black cloud rising higher and higher. I wouldn't like to be in a storm, and would feel much safer if the sky were clear; but the ground is all dry and hard, and we must have rain. Rain comes in two different ways, we will say, in showers and in outpourings.

(1) Showers. When the ground is dry and cracked and nothing much will grow and when showers come, that ground softens -- the cracks and clods disappear. If you do not have the spiritual zeal you once had and if you do not love your brothers and sisters as you should, let the showers of spiritual blessings come to your soul and your strength will be renewed, your heart will be softened and filled with love for everyone.

(2) Outpourings. When a branch is cleaned out and a hard rain comes, the creek will rise and get out of its banks into old fields, making new fields out of them. The creek gets so full it doesn't stop running for anything -- and finally it reaches the ocean. The outpourings of God's Spirit often start the Christian to shouting and running, helping to bring souls to Christ from far and

near. If he keeps this outpouring of God's spirit on his soul he will not stop running and shouting till he reaches heaven.

Often before a rain comes there is a strong wind which tries every tree and branch. So it is with the Christian. He is tested and tried, but if he keeps holding on and does not drift with the wind, the showers of blessings will soon fall upon his soul. The air is very fresh after a shower, and spiritually speaking, it is easy to feel the Lord and to sing and praise Him.

Let us look at Peter. When Peter started with the Lord, he had just a spiritual shower, for as soon as Jesus was to be crucified, he forsook Him and denied Him. But on the day when God gave the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Peter got established, and when he preached three thousand souls were saved in one day. Peter then lived and preached with God's spirit outpoured upon Him. Finally he was crucified with his head down, and he made it to heaven.

Lord, give us, not only the showers we need, but gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit -- like Peter had.

One time there was a city which had a great wall around it. There was a river running through this city, and the people inside the walls felt safe. One day the enemy came, but the people of the city were not afraid because they had the river and were protected by a wall. Seeing they could not get into the city, the enemy started digging to change the course of the river. They worked and worked and finally had the river turned so that no water ran into the city. They had caused the water to run around it. Soon there was a scarcity of water in the city, but the people pretended they had plenty. They took great carpets and poured on them what little water they had and then threw them on top of the great wall and let them bang and drip on the opposite side. They were trying to make the enemy think they had plenty of water. But the city soon became weak because of the lack of water, and one night through the same hole that the river had run through, the enemy marched in dry shod and captured the city.

Now, friends, you who have had the blessing of God on your souls, who claim to be saved, does God still bless you like He did in times past? If not, the enemy of your soul has changed the course of your river. Your Christian life is not so bright. You do not go to church much. You do not speak to people about their souls. You do not go to prayer meeting. You do not read your Bible much. You do not pray fervent prayers that bring an answer. Do you know the reason for all this? The fresh, living water has been cut off and you are living on stale water.

Sometimes when you go to a big camp meeting or revival you will throw your big carpet over the wall and let it drip a while. But the devil doesn't care for he knows he is getting you. The enemy is marching into the same heart and taking possession where God had once been. How sad! but you say, "How can I keep the devil from changing my river?" You can pray so much fire down out of heaven that when the devil starts digging, his pick and shovel will melt.

About a year ago in October as I was husking corn and was riding on the wagon I looked over to a hill which was nearly covered with trees. What do you think I saw? The leaves had turned many different colors, and they looked very beautiful. Do you know what made them change colors? The weather had turned cool and the sap had gone down.

When we see some so-called Christians look so pretty (outwardly) we fear they have cooled off spiritually. The sap seems to be going down.

A few days later I looked out again. What do you think I saw this time? A little breeze had come, some of the leaves had fallen and I saw some of the bare limbs of the trees. How true this is of many professed Christians. They expose their limbs, and wear such thin hose it makes one wonder whether they have any on at all; and they are cutting their sleeves off their dresses little by little.

Now let us compare the trees to the so-called Christian churches. A number of days later, I looked at the trees again. The leaves had all fallen, and the trees looked dead. But what else do we see? There are two big black birds, the crow and the buzzard. They are very large and they fly around, looking over everybody. They think they can sing beautifully, but did you stop to think what they live on? A little water and a lot of dead stuff. The so-called Christian or modern day church in many cases lives (spiritually) on water baptism and a lot of dead preaching which has not the power of God in it. Spiritually speaking, you do not have to change colors whenever the weather changes. But you can be like the evergreen tree which always stays the same, with the sap up. You will notice how the little birds like the evergreen tree where they find shelter from the cold. It is the same way with true Christians. They like to worship where they can feel God's spirit.

You will notice too that trees usually liven up in the spring of the year. The sap comes up and makes them bring forth leaves. But not all do, for some die. Most Christian people who cool off finally die spiritually. But when a good revival comes some of them get warmed up and the sap starts coming up again. They start looking and acting like Christians again.

What kind of tree are you like? A tree with the sap down never bears fruit. The Lord will come to you one of these days and say, "Cut him down. I have come several times and he does not have any good fruit." But Jesus said, "Give him one more chance. I will deal with him, and if he does not get saved, then you may cut him down."

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THE END