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## **LOOKING HEAVENWARD**

**By William H. Pratt**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

"Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith"

"When these things come to pass, look up."

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## **DEDICATION**

Lines, designed to bring rays of light, beams of sunshine and gleams of hope and cheer to  
those who are tempted to be disheartened and discouraged.

May all who read, be enabled by the Spirit to look heavenward and discover God, who is  
able to lift you up.

To those in need of encouragement, due to trying circumstances of life, we dedicate this  
little book, praying that it may be used, for God's glory to bring the reader to a more intimate  
acquaintance with Jesus Christ: Whom to know is to love.

May the bond of fellowship unite your hearts in divine love for God and all mankind.

William H. Pratt

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## SCRIPTURE -- ISAIAH 12

And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call. upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

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## 01 -- INTRODUCTORY SURVEY

"They looked unto him and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed." Psalm 34:5.

There are certain chapters in the Bible which have stood out as special favorites. These have been called "Pet Chapters". Among many such passages, the twelfth chapter of Isaiah has for many years been one of my "Pet Chapters". Re-reading it many times has not lessened its attractiveness and freshness. It is alive with vividness which always blesses, when the heart is hungry and the spirit is in need of a lift. That the reader may share in the benefits which have come to my own soul, I am presenting some truths which I pray may be a help and inspiration to others. To encourage the spirit of optimism is my motive in bringing to you the following exposition.

Praise is one of the essentials of victorious living. Praise and prayer work together as naturally as the two wings of a bird. When one of these wings of spiritual locomotion is missing,

we go in circles, and progress comes to a stand-still. Praise and prayer operate like a team of good horses, pulling together. But if one horse balks or fails to pull his share of the load, the wheels of progress cease to turn. A lack of praise will slow up the fountain of joy, and hinder the moving of the Spirit in the spiritual life. The prayer life is never a success when the element of praise is missing. The happy Christian is a most convincing argument in a world where dissatisfied lovers of sinful pleasure seek in vain for something to satisfy.

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" This is still the age-long question, which can only find an answer in God. David found the answer to the soul's inquiry: "Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him." In Psalms 3:2-3 we read: "Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God." The accusation is quickly met: "But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."

The world is full of complaining people who are finding fault with God and His dealings. Human Nature is depraved, therefore, the heart is out of harmony with God. To know true joy, it is necessary to be in line with God's will. As the sun is the center of gravitation and all the universe revolves about the sun, so in the spiritual realm God is the center of all attraction. Those who live on the gloomy side of life are off center in their plan of life. Only as self is dethroned and Christ is enthroned can we find the sunny side of life. We limit ourselves and narrow down our opportunities in life when we choose anything other than God. As every drop of rain that falls from heaven comes from the ocean; so every blessing in life comes from the ocean of God's eternal love. As the light, which makes the stars gleam comes from the sun; so does all good come from God.

The story of Noah and his ark is full of encouragement. He lived in a degenerate world. So much so that it repented God that He made man. Noah stood alone and God did not overlook him in the crowd. It was a dark night for the world, but Noah was preserved from the rising flood-tide of God's wrath. Through all the past, since God proved His faithfulness to Noah, He has stood by those who dared to trust Him. An upper window was provided in the ark for Noah. God has given His children the same open view of heaven above, and we may still look up and praise Him.

Noah became God's spokesman. His piety was in contrast to those about him. His life was a rebuke and a testimony. He was in communication with his Father and the scripture tells us: "God remembered Noah." He survived the storm and was not included among those who were destroyed. God's faithfulness is the same today and no matter how starless the sky and how dark the night, His presence is with us and we are assured that the darker the night the brighter will be the light from heaven.

The purpose of this little book is to point the reader to One, who is able to lift us above our circumstances, and give the spirit of praise for the spirit of heaviness. We live in a day of unusual testing for the child of God. Clouds are deepening, storms are gathering, lightning is flashing and thunder is rolling. One of the signs of the last days is: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth." We are apt to give way under the pressure, and find ourselves helplessly drifting, like a ship on the surging sea. To give way to temptation, and allow ourselves to become disheartened is to lose in the fight. Some one has said:

"An optimist sees an opportunity in every obstacle; while a pessimist sees only an obstacle in every opportunity."

I was riding in a bus in the Holy Land with twenty tourists. The day was unusually hot, and the passengers were trying to keep up their courage by singing some light songs. "Give me five minutes more", "Good-night, Irene", and other cheap and chaffy ditties. I noticed a look of dissatisfaction on the face of our guide, a serious minded Jew, by the name of Jacobus Avnon. Jacobus had endured a lot for his people, for he was a general in the army of Israel, during the recent "War of the Liberation" He had suffered with other Jewish immigrants, who were struggling against strong opposition from the Arab States. He was in no mood to join in the levity.

Finally, one of the party said: "Jacobus, why don't you sing for us" He did sing, and I shall never forget. Standing erect, in a manner becoming a soldier, he said: "I'll sing something you all know." Then with a strong and clear voice, he began:

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage, where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on."

The Jews in the State of Israel are no longer a melancholy people. They are very hopeful. To those who are orthodox, this is the day of the Messiah. Some of them are so enthusiastic, they believe he has come, and will soon completely fulfill the promises recorded in the Old Testament by the Prophets. Children singing in the streets of Jerusalem, as the prophet said would come to pass, is now a reality. The first night I spent in the Jewish sector of Jerusalem, I was literally sung to sleep by the voices of children. In the morning I was awakened by the songs of children, who were loading into trucks, preparing to give four hours of work planting trees and building terraces before the school hour. This they are happy to be able to do for the hopes, which well up in their little hearts. Many of them are more enthused about the coming of the Messiah than we pre-millennialists are about the coming of Jesus. They are blinded in part, for they know not their Saviour; but as to the coming of a deliverer, they are confident.

As Jacobus continued to sing our National Anthem, he became more enthused, and finally he was gesticulating like a campmeeting song evangelist in an effort to get our party to help him. To him the song was an expression of hope, which had been buried for centuries and was suddenly being fulfilled.

"He is sounding out His trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;  
Oh, be swift my soul to answer Him! Be jubilant my feet!  
His truth is marching on."

The spirit of optimism which prevails in Israel should be prevalent in the hearts of those who look for the coming of our Lord. In the twelfth chapter of Isaiah, the author gives to us his enduring hope. His words are full of encouragement and helpfulness for those who may be passing

through great trial. He numerates and enlarges upon God's fidelity and enduring mercies, pointing the way to a better and more promising future.

In the following pages may we study together what God's eternal backing includes. May we accept His guarantee of full and complete deliverance in the day of final victory over every foe. It is my desire that the spirit of fear and uncertainty which disturbs the peace of heart and mind may be removed from your life. If such may be accomplished, through the efforts of the writer of these pages, I shall be very happy, and amply rewarded for my part of service rendered.

Look for the rainbow. In every clouded sky there is a beautiful arched rainbow of promise, spreading from skylines of hope to extended horizons of faith and triumph through Christ. The spirit of uneasiness is in the world and is of the world; but there is rest and assurance for all who are under the blood.

"They that put their trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

"Lord of our souls, thou Saviour ever dear,  
Be still our Rainbow in the clouds of life;  
In Thy pure sunlight, melt each rising tear,  
Our Arch of Triumph in the scene of strife."

-- Anon

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## 02 -- SALUTATION OF PRAISE

"And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee;" -- Isa. 12:1.

Isaiah lived in a dark and dangerous age; yet he found the way out of the gloom, through faith in God and the promise of a better day. In the twelfth chapter of Isaiah the author peers into the future with a forward look and a cheerful note of praise. "And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee." These were not the words of one who encountered no trials of patience and endurance. His surroundings were quite unfavorable; yet he made known his purpose: "I will praise thee." Israel was going rapidly down an incline which would soon lead the nation into captivity and ruin. In a far off heathen land they were to become slaves. The priesthood was defamed and the worshipers demoralized. Judgment was sure to follow. Amid such surroundings, to find a man with an uplook of faith and an outlook of praise, gives inspiration to the church of the twentieth century.

It is not always easy to praise the Lord under unfavorable circumstances. When the way is rough, and the going is hard, we find difficulty in keeping our praises ahead of our depressed spirits. We must then put our wills into the conflict and say with Isaiah "I will praise thee."

The evidence of piety and spirituality is not found primarily in the emotions. My feelings may not always register in high C. They will sometimes go down the scale and hit low G. Feelings of ecstasy and joy may come and go; but the test of our fidelity to God is found in our ability to still praise the Lord when things are, seemingly, out of line with our likes and dislikes. The natural man may not feel like praising the Lord under such adverse circumstances, but the grace of God enables the tempted and tried one to put the "Will" into action, in spite of opposing forces and contradictory emotions. With Isaiah we may triumphantly shout with challenging emphasis: "I will praise thee."

A very spiritual lady who served in Beulah Rescue Home was called upon by the Lord to be an example of suffering and patience. Many long nights of pain and anguish did not change her attitude toward a loving God, who allowed the prolonged affliction. When asked how she felt, by those who loved her and knew her best, the characteristic answer was simply, "I'm happy on the way." She had learned to praise the Lord, even in her affliction. When an ink bottle broke which had been packed in her suitcase with her clothing and books, it was very shocking to discover the results. For the emergency God gave her the scripture which is used in the heading of this chapter. "And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee." The occasion naturally called for the will to praise God in the face of misfortune and loss; so instead of worrying and complaining she willed otherwise and praised God. When the will is given over to God, praises are in order, even when the ink bottle breaks. This may seemingly be unnatural and humanly impossible; but this suffering saint could still see much to be thankful for; and had she failed at this point, and given way to complaint because of her misfortune, the ink would still be on her clothes. Brooding never restores our losses, and complaining never cures the malady.

Shouting for joy, when the clothes line breaks may be an exaggerated illustration of spiritual triumph. We are all very human, even after being sanctified. A sanctified mother who has toiled to get a big washing on the line is still human enough to feel the shock of disappointment when the line breaks and the clean clothes have to be washed the second time. Under such adverse circumstances the first impulse would hardly be that of praise. Nevertheless it is profitable and, by the grace of God, possible to lay aside our feelings and say with Isaiah, "I will praise thee." The clothes may be soiled but the heart can be kept clean and free from the contamination of an ugly and unholy temper. To still be cleansed from sin and unstained by the pollution of carnality is a victory which promotes the spirit of praise, even when the clothes line breaks.

Habakkuk was only a minor prophet. Not much is known about his history. His writings were few; but he did have a will to praise the Lord, even when void of normal prosperity. Listen to his testimony:

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." Hab. 3:17-18.

An interesting historical note may be added here concerning Habakkuk. In the conclusion of his writings we find that he addressed his message; "to the chief singer on my stringed instruments." This infers that, though he was a captive, he was still interested in music. Not even

the defeat of his nation was allowed to rob him of his song. In the midst of famine and the scarcity of bread he refused to allow his circumstances to overpower him. Habakkuk became an accompanist on musical instruments to the chief singer of his day. A strange and unusual profession, one would say, especially for one who had met with such adversity.

How striking the attitude of the disciples after the resurrection of Christ. Before the opening of the grave a handful of scattered and discouraged followers had lost hope. There were no visible assets with which to build the kingdom. Suddenly something took place; the scene was changed by the appearance of the living Christ. Then came the happy announcement: "They continued daily in the temple, and did eat their meat with gladness, praising God and having favor with the people." When Christ comes into view the horizon is filled with light and hope.

We are greatly in need of a "God Consciousness." Burdens, problems and challenges from the enemy have presented themselves so frequently that our spiritual vision has become clouded. Examples of faith, such as Elisha, are almost unknown in this day of unbelief. When surrounded by the hosts of Syria, he saw, and behold the mountains were full of the chariots of fire and God's horsemen. Again, we are in need of some one who can pray: "Lord, open his eyes." Our dimmed eyes see only the forces of the enemy surrounding us. We are threatened with defeat, not because of the strength of the foe; but because we fail to test the overwhelming strength of God and our heavenly allies.

"They that be with us are more than they that be with them."

A thought provoking sign was found in the ashes of a home which had been destroyed by fire: "All gone but wife and hope." The sentiment was similar to that which Paul wrote one day to the church at Rome: "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." Such an optimistic look on life is within reach of all, who put their trust in God. This is the faith which balances our character and steadies our wing by making us "Patient in tribulation" and "Instant in prayer." It gives calmness and confidence in the assurance that God is governing the affairs of our lives and will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear; "but will with the temptation also make a way of escape."

The optimism of the saints is well founded. The rosy dreams of the world are all vain fancies; but the Christian's hope is eternal. Soon Jesus is coming, and after he has house cleaned this old sinful world, earth's golden age shall dawn. There is only one thing of value we can carry through life and the darkness of death. It is the glorious hope of heaven, through Christ. Such optimism will illuminate the eyes. It will fill the heart with cheer and buoyancy. Springs of hope and life abundant will flow, forcing the way onward like a mountain stream through rocks and seeming impassable obstructions.

Paul's optimism was more than sentiment. He could truthfully say: "Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." Winter storms as well as summer breezes are common to all, yet we can be "More than conquerors, through him that loved us. In the face of seeming defeat Paul declares "We are always confident." "Thanks be to God who causeth us always to triumph."

The secret of Paul's optimism is found in his forward look. This is made plain in his expressions, such as the following: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." "The glory which shall be revealed," "To be with Christ is far better", "The blessed hope and appearing of our Lord," "At home with the Lord." These and many other passages which give us a view of coming glories, will bring repose and assurance to the soul when tempted to be discouraged.

It is recorded of Elijah, that he buried his face between his knees while in prayer. His object may have been; first, to aid the soul in getting alone with God. His second motive may have been to close his eyes to discouragements. There was no visible sign of the much needed rain; yet faith must purposely blind the eyes to difficulties and pray on. Abraham's faith was tested, yet it was said of him: "He staggered not at the promises.

Life is a battlefield. The greatest conflicts of the world are not with guns and tanks. The weapons of this war are not carnal. Battles are won through prayer and faith. We may overthrow the enemy by being identified with the Lord Jesus. Discouragement should never be given place in the citadel of Man-soul. It is one of the Devil's most effective weapons. Few of us are immune to this danger. If the soul is tempted to waver, "Commit thy way unto the Lord and trust." There are times when it will be more profitable to "Wait on the Lord" than to act impulsively. Don't attempt to settle every question when you are tired and weak. It may be better to rest awhile. The Devil likes to attack when you are ill. This was perhaps Elijah's trouble when he fled to the wilderness. There, before God could minister to his need, he must have food and rest. After the angels had ministered to him, Elijah went to the mount and there it was revealed to him that his greatest usefulness was still in the future. His miracles and victories were the most extraordinary after the testing.

Don't worry. Think of God's faithfulness in the past. Recall the victories which came when the way was dark, and the journey seemed hard and long. Doubt and gloom can not reside in the heart which is full of praise. Live and learn to walk by faith, not by sight.

"And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee." Live in this spirit and be able to say with the poet:

"Rest for the toiling hand,  
Rest for the anxious brow;  
Rest for the weary way-worn feet,  
Rest for all labor now."

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### 03 -- GOD IS MY COMFORTER (Sanctifier)

"Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me." --  
Isaiah 12:1.



Here Isaiah begins to enumerate the richness of God. "God is my Comforter." God has had many justifiable reasons for being angry with man. The quarrel between the human race and the Creator did not originate with God. Man was responsible. Man struck the first blow and, rightfully, he deserves punishment. "The carnal mind is enmity against God, and is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Only in the person of God's Son is there forgiveness and cleansing. Herein is one of the greatest mysteries of the atonement. Christ died, not for his friends; but for his enemies.

"But, God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." -- Rom. 5:8.

It is unnatural for man to love his enemies, but Christ died for us, while we were yet sinners. Since his love is so infinite and abounding, and reaches even to the sinful; how comforting to know that the redeemed child of God is loved with the same love and in an increased measure.

The extent of God's interest in the welfare of His redeemed children is described in Romans 5, with two words, much more". This expression is a safeguard against a feeling of insecurity and uneasiness. Five times in one chapter Paul clearly states that God's first and foremost consideration is given to his own children. He gave his life to save a poor lost world from sin and hell. This is a miracle beyond our finite understanding; but Grace reached farther than merely saving the sinner. Notice the "much mores" of Christ's eternal fidelity; extended in a particular sense to those who are his own redeemed children.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." -- Rom. 5:8-9.

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." -- Rom. 5:10.

"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." -- Rom. 5:15.

"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus; Christ." Rom. 5:17.

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." -- Rom. 5:20.

In Luke 11:13 we find another "much more" which applies to the redeemed. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Before going to Calvary Jesus gave his disciples a blessed promise: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." -- John 14, 16, 17. This was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, and is today being fulfilled in the hearts and lives of his followers. In the 26th verse Jesus makes it clear to his disciples that the Comforter is none other than the Holy Ghost, the third person of the Trinity.

A passage found in Isaiah 66:13 has many times brought comfort to my heart. "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you."

Memory recalls the days of my childhood, when two brothers and myself were snugly tucked in a big, old-fashioned bed. The night was cold and the winds howled and moaned through the tall spruce and hemlock trees. The snow piled high, and a Northern Michigan blizzard threatened ever with more furious bombardment, our little dwelling which nestled in the forest. It seemed at times that we might even be buried in the drift of flying missiles of ice and snow.

Being the youngest of three brothers, it was my good fortune to get to sleep in the middle. Sometimes it was morning before I was fully aware of the fact that while I slept, a thoughtful and loving mother had forgotten her own interests and had tip-toed to the bed-side of her children to make sure of their comfort. A few gentle pats adjusted the big feather tick and we were able to dig in a little deeper. Then after covering us over with the thickest comforter she could find, she guided herself back to her own bed-room by the light of a coal oil lamp and was soon ready to enjoy again a season of well deserved rest and repose.

Comfort: there is magic in the word. Especially is this true when it is the Lord who comforts. Have you ever had the Lord to tuck you in and cover you with his overshadowing protection? Isaiah enlightens us on this subject when he declares: "Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away and thou comfortedst me."

Dr. A. B. Simpson gives us the correct translation of the Greek word for Comforter. It literally means: "a God at hand," "One by our side," "One we may call upon at any time."

Dispensationally, Isaiah lived before the Holy Ghost was given, yet to him a personal experience was a glorious reality and we hear him jubilantly and triumphantly shout; "Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me."

The comforting presence of the Holy Ghost is a reality. Jesus said, "If I go not away the Comforter will not come." His presence is as real to the Church as the personal presence of Jesus was to his disciples. The Comforter takes up his abode in our hearts and makes Christ more real. O what a delight to be aware of the Personal presence of the Master. "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will in make our abode with him." -- John 14:20,23.

The journeying of the Children of Israel was accompanied by the Pillar of Fire by night, and the sign of the cloud by day. This beautifully illustrates the companionship of the Comforter through our Christian pilgrimage. God not only guided Israel to the Red Sea but through the sea. The wilderness was not a smiling paradise but a place of trial. The waters of Marah were bitter, but God had a way of sweetening them with a branch of healing. He did not remove the waters, neither does he always see fit to remove our trials; but he can sweeten them with his grace. He may not change our circumstances; but his presence transforms them into blessings. Joseph's round-about course to the throne was long and tedious; but he got there, and became a savior of his father's house and the preserver of the Jewish race. John Bunyan's jail was dark and gloomy; but in his dungeon he was inspired to write a book which has been more widely circulated than any other book, with the exception of the Bible. The walls of Madam Guyon's prison were illuminated with heavenly light, until she declared they shone like gems of rare beauty. Beside every Marah there are trees of promise and branches of healing for the bitterness of sorrow. Look for them and find them nearby in the person and presence of the divine Comforter. Jacob, at Peniel reached out, and his hand touched a promise which transformed a place of peril into a place of power. The darkness of the night was changed to morning, and his victory became the turning point of his life. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Journey with the Comforter and you will find there are green oases in the deserts. There is a land of Beulah as well as a valley of Baca. God knows when our faith needs testing, and after the storm and tempest of trial there will be a calm and you will come to a land of palm trees and fountains of blessing. At Elim there were twelve wells and seventy palm trees. (one well for each month in the year, and one palm tree for every year of the three score and ten years span of life.)

How graciously God provided for the children of Israel in the wilderness journey! There was manna from heaven to feed them. Daily the supply was renewed, falling from heaven as gently as the morning dew. Jesus declared:

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever."

When the weary travelers thirsted for water, God gave them water from the smitten rock. From the open side of the smitten rock at Rephidim water flowed and became a mighty stream, which slaked the thirst of Israel, with the famishing flocks and herds. Paul the apostle interprets this miracle to mean Christ.

"... for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." -- I Cor. 10:4. From the pierced side of Jesus there flowed a stream which today is bringing life eternal. We may draw and drink daily from the inexhaustible supply.

Shadows will come as well as sunshine. Normal spiritual growth requires them both. Ferns are beautiful, as well as flowers, but ferns grow in the shady places. The most beautiful bouquets have both ferns and flowers. In the spiritual life there are ferns of long-suffering and flowers of grace which adorn the soul. Shadows come to every life, but they form a background for the blossoms. Together they bring out, with more colorful and imposing charm, the loveliness of Jesus Christ.

In the darkest hours of life's struggles, God is still nigh. He is the approachable one.

"Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you." If you are caught in the surge of the multitude, and the mind and heart is sick and sore, press through the crowd and touch but the hem of His garment. New life and courage will be yours.

Adam and Eve found God in the cool of the evening. Moses drew nigh and beheld God's glory as he was hidden in the cleft of the rock. The Priest approached God in the Holy Place and the High Priest met him yearly in the Holy of Holies. Even Nicodemus could come to Jesus by night and find the way to the new birth. Children too, were invited to his arms as he blessed them, even when the disciples protested. As the child of God approaches death, God is there. David testifies to this fact.

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.

As I approach God after death and appear before Him at the judgment, Jesus will be there to stand in my place. What comfort! What consolation we find in God!

A rose grew near a shady wall, budded, blossomed and climbed to a little crevice where a little light shone through. It followed the rays of light to the other side of the wall. There it opened its buds in new beauty. The triumph of faith never ends. There will be dark places, but like the rose the dark places will be but a challenge for the determined resistance to opposition. We may meet with threatening, seeming impassable crevices of darkness, but on the other side of the wall there will be light. This is comfort, indeed, if we will but follow the gleam.

If the little seed, buried in the darkness can shoot forth a little plant, which lifts its head in the light, why can't we? If the flower bulb and the seed potato can still live, when they are put down in a lonesome cellar; if they can reach out for the light and finally grow to become useful, why can't we? If Columbus viewed a far off land, a haven: for his tired and discouraged shipmates, why can't we? Faith sees an opportunity in every obstacle. Faith looks beyond; not simply to view the expanse of water; but to sail to the distant port called heaven.

"And when even was now come, the disciples went down unto the sea, and entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum, and it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them."

What a testing time! It was dark, the storm was raging, the boat was tossing and Jesus was not with them. This account is full of meaning.

The disciples had been disappointed because Jesus had not been willing to accept the offer to become King. His time had not yet come. While Jesus went to the mountain to pray, the disciples went to the sea of Galilee. When they had launched out without Jesus at night, one could but expect them to run into storm and distress. How fortunate they were when they discovered Jesus in the

fourth watch. Many times God has to let us come to our extremities before we receive him into the bark. In the midst of their troubles they were never beyond the range of his vision.

The deliverance came. He did not still the waves; but he came walking upon them. He did not quiet the storm; but he took them through the tempest, and immediately they were at land. This triumph was not realized until the disciples received him into the boat. They had heard and accepted the call of Jesus: "It is I; be not afraid."

"Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah."

"But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."

"I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah."

"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me."

"I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about." -- Psalms 3:2-6.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 04 -- GOD IS MY SALVATION

"Behold God is my salvation" -- Isaiah 1:2

Isaiah finds occasion for praise in the fact that God is the salvation of his people. The great objective in sending his Son into the world was to provide a Saviour for fallen man. In our sad plight there is no salvation except through God's plan. The mission of Christ's coming to the world was to save us from our sins. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the only door by which the sinner may enter into the Kingdom. David rejoiced in God's salvation. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: He is their strength in the time of trouble."

The Bible is the most interesting book of deliverance ever written, and every thrilling story of God's marvelous deliverances gives evidence of God's salvation. In all the writings of the centuries, where can one find stories so thrilling as the deliverance of David from the Philistines, the escape of the three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace, or Daniel from the lion's den? The Lord stood by Peter while chained in his dungeon and sent the angel to escort him to safety. God delivered Paul and Silas from the Philippian prison, and converted the jailer with his household. His promise of deliverance is the same today. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished".

Perhaps no Bible writer has described more graphically the total bankruptcy of a sinful world, and the way out of the sad plight than Paul the Apostle. Writing to the Romans he describes

with lurid, unvarnished terms the sinful characteristics of both his age and also those of the twentieth century.

Man's life is as entirely dependent on God, as the earth is dependent on the sun for light, heat and energy. Yet man is trying to live independent of his Maker. He has become detached and will in the end be lost and damned forever. The present generation seeks to obliterate God from their thoughts. It is this practical neglect which Paul defines in Romans 1:18 as ungodliness and unrighteousness.

Paul paints with even darker shades, the progress of sin and its more devilish practices. When light is abused it becomes darkness. "Because, that when they knew' God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened." Rom. 1:21. Conceit of human wisdom is being substituted for light from God. Thus the world is getting farther from God.

"When they knew God they glorified him not as God, but became vain." This seems to have become an abiding principle of evil. In ages of advanced culture, morality has been at its lowest ebb. Babylon with her luxury and pride, Greece with her culture and art, Rome with her power and glory were outstanding examples of crime and immorality. Japan was advanced in modern ways of living. Yet she disgraced and degraded her good name by her sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. The wound: was so deep to the heart of America that it may be centuries before confidence is fully restored.

We may well take warning, and profit by the destruction of nations of the past, as they dared to ignore God and His laws. Today America leads the world in progress. We are prospering in material wealth. Our natural resources are unsurpassed. Our land is a land of plenty, yet society is full of unrest. Labor has never been paid better, still the spiral of higher wages and less working hours is climbing upward and still upward. The rich, too, are clamoring for advantages through time-saving devices and methods of greater production on the assembly lines. When will the race end, and where will it lead us? What will be the final results of man's greed for gain?

Despite the progress of science today and the discovery of means of harnessing the forces of the world, we are rewarded by a certain over-shadowing of fear and uncertainty as to the tomorrows and the possibilities of the complete destruction of the world and its last remnant of civilization. Science has produced instruments of death which are so terrible that even the most brilliant scientist is at a loss to know how to handle their own work of genius. The stored up energy in the A bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima was equal to twenty thousand tons of T. N. T. This had more destructive possibilities than two thousand block busters. Nearly two hundred thousand lives were lost in a matter of seconds. This was sixty percent of the entire population of that fated city. Four and one half square miles were pulverized, and black clouds, like boiling dust were sent into the air to the height of forty thousand feet to be seen one hundred and sixty miles at sea. All this description strikes terror to the hearts of millions. Those who are not ready for the things which are coming upon the earth should be afraid. Only those who are under the blood of Christ Jesus can rest assured of a place of safety in the midst of the on-coming storm. Since more recent developments of research work have revealed the hidden energy stored in the atom, and since the H. bomb has become a reality, one would wonder if God is not going to use these very

powers and forces which have been and are being discovered to destroy the world with fire. Peter gives us a description of that terrible day, which he calls, "The day of the Lord."

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up".

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,"

"Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

This presents a dark picture to those who are not ready for the coming of the Lord. But read on and you will find that salvation is promised for those who are prepared.

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

As Noah was saved when the earth was destroyed with water; so God will save his people when wrath is poured out, without mixture upon those who refuse to obey the Lord.

Paul writing to the Romans tells of the wrath of God. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness". In the same chapter Paul declares: "God gave them up." Again, "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, deceitful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death."

The above picture represents the world of today, as well as in the days of Roman glory. The dark shades of degradation form a background for a brighter and more inviting picture: It is the Christian's hope and faith. As a prisoner of hope, Paul refuses to be cast down. With firm stroke, he paints with steady hand a scene of triumph. He faces the foe; but without fear or favor. Standing alone with no sword but the Sword of the Spirit he defies the proud city of Rome, the citadel of heathenism.

"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."

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

In the hour of testing Paul was not defeated. Traveling as a prisoner to Rome at the expense of the government, the Lord appeared with assurance. Even in Caesar's palace he refused to

compromise. As messengers of God, we too may expect opposition; but faith will open gates of heaven and hell will be defeated. The gospel of Christ reveals Christ in his power to overcome sin and the devil. Christ breaks the fetters of the world, the flesh and the devil. This power will eventually bind Satan and cast him into the bottomless pit.

Faith is progressive. " . . . the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith". The victories of the past are but preludes of future victories. Transcending triumphs are just in the offing. The darkest hours precede the coming dawn. The morning is sure to break and the mist of the present world crisis will disappear.

The devil is on his way out. Yes, literally he is getting, each day, a little nearer his final doom; the Lake of Fire.

Satan was once an angel of light; but he was cast out of Heaven. His abode is now the air, for his title is "The Prince of the power of the air". This accounts for the fact that when the saints pray the air is charged with opposing darkness which requires battling to get through.

Revelation 12:9 gives a description of Satan's next step downward. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

This event will take place during the tribulation period, at which time his throne will be on the earth. His reign shall be cut short, for the sake of those saints who are still here as tribulation saints.

"For there shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." -- Matt. 24: 21,22.

The devil is still due to take other plunges downward. Near the close of the Great Tribulation we read of another fall:

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." -- Rev. 20:2-3.

Thank the Lord he will only be loosed for a little season, and then he will meet his final "Waterloo."

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."



This is a description of the last plunge downward for old Satan. Some of these days he will get his last shot at the children of God. You wonder why you are tempted, and especially so, in more recent years. It could be because the devil knows that his time is short. The devil is a powerful foe and he knows his future doom.

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." -- Rev. 12:12.

Take courage then my tired friend; the battle will soon be over. "The night is far spent; the day is at hand." The faint glow of the morning sun is returning; streaking the sky with shafts of light. The flush of rosy dawn announces the approach of the "Sun of Righteousness." David cried: "My soul waiteth for the Lord, more than they that watch for the morning."

A terrified girl was vacationing in the woods. Before retiring, she listened to some exciting stories of the terrors of forest fires. This resulted in a fearful night-mare in which she dreamed that the woods were in a sheet of flame. She awakened, shouting "Fire! Fire! Fire!" An old ranger, who was in the company gently lifted her head, and turned her face toward the rising sun. Her fears were dispelled, for what she thought was a blazing forest fire was the glowing sun. It was morning. Fear not the angry threats of Satan. Soon Jesus shall come, the devil shall be chained and locked in his dungeon and earth's golden morn shall dawn.

God's Word, above all other books, has a forward look. It points the way to the coming King, and his righteous rule over the nations of the earth. This is clearly taught in the scriptures. The purpose of the coming of the Lord to this earth is far reaching. It includes, not only spiritual recovery, but restoration of that which was lost through the fall. Christ died not only to save us from our sins; but he died that the earth which was cursed might be retrieved and given to the Son Jesus and redeemed mankind. In the ultimate stages of the plan of redemption a new social order shall be set up. Wrongs are to be righted and restitution made.

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you; whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

The day of God's salvation will be a day of rest and deliverance. We live in "Man's day", and "Satan's day" also. It is a day of turmoil, confusion and war. God's new day will be God's "New Deal". Final deliverance will be ours. Paul speaks of three deliverance s; past, present and future.

"Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."

Man has failed miserably to bring peace to the world. In the beginning of the twentieth century it was planned that we should begin an era of peace. The century was to be designated as a Christian Century. Andrew Carnegie gave ten million dollars toward building a World Court at The Hague for adjusting all international disputes. The intention was noble, but the plan was weak. In 1914 a world war flamed and spread until thirty-six million lives were lost. Renewed agitation

through the League of Nations, the Kellogg Pact and other organized groups ended in defeat. Movements within the Church resulted in the same miserable failure. The Federal Council of Churches came out with a proposal for a "Just and durable peace". This sounded very hopeful; but there can be no peace until the peace of God reigns in the heart, and the "Prince of Peace" comes to set up His kingdom on the earth. Peace is the work of Christ.

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still and know that I am God." -- Psalms 46:9-10.

Some one has well said: "The League of Nations tried to save the peace of the world, and failed. Today the United Nations is trying to save the pieces of the world." We appreciate any effort toward peace in the world; but how can we expect any success when God has no place in the organization, nor in their deliberations? From the very start God has been left out, Christ is ignored and humanitarianism has been substituted for the Bible plan.

The cause of war is too deep-seated to be cured by surface applications and human arrangements. War is the result of departure from God. The account of the first war is given in Isaiah 14:12-17. Lucifer aspired to take the position of God, and was cast out of Heaven. God's place of authority is not recognized today. His laws are not taken seriously, and even in high church offices men dare to deny the saving efficacy of the blood of Jesus, as a means of salvation from sin. Such apostasy will only plunge us deeper in the darkness of night, which is gradually enveloping the world. To depreciate the person and the authority of Jesus Christ is to bring down the wrath of God upon the unprotected heads of Christ's enemies. How can we escape judgment, when as a nation we have outlawed the Bible in our public schools and opened the door to skepticism and infidelity? In the State of Israel the Scripture is read and taught daily in every school. Beginning with the primary schools and continuing through each successive year of training the Jewish children must study and memorize passages from the Old Testament.

In the day of God's salvation, "He will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths". There will be no need of a disarmament proposal, for Christ is the only one who can inaugurate such a disarmament. He shall bring peace to all the world. The spears and swords shall be beaten into pruning hooks and plowshares. He will need no blazing guns and belching cannon. His command will be sovereign, and his will must be obeyed. When the tumult is over and the kingdom of Christ is set up, then shall be answered the prayer we have prayed so long: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". God speed the day.

Before the day of God's final triumph, Israel will be in her own land. "And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God." This promise is being fulfilled. A new nation has been literally born politically in a day. The time will come when the Jewish nation shall be born spiritually in a day. Watch Israel and learn our place and position in God's sun-dial of time. The sands of time are fast running out dispensationally. Daily the orthodox Jews are praying this prayer:

"Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together and deliver us from the nations. May it be acceptable unto thee, eternal; our God and the God of our fathers, that the sanctuary may

be rebuilt speedily in our days and our portion assigned us in thy law. There will we serve thee in reverence as of old in days of yore."

Read in connection with the above prayer what Simon Peter said.

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name."

"And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written," "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up : " -- Acts 15:14-16.

Today the Jews are still in blindness as to who shall be their deliverer; but as to the coming of the Messiah, the orthodox Jew in Palestine is far more enthused about the prospects than we Gentiles. Recently, Ben Gurion, former Prime minister of Israel, had this to say: "This is without the shadow of a doubt the day of the Messiah." "You may call me a visionary; so were the prophets." When being questioned about the United Nations partition plan, he said, "So far as we are concerned the present boundary is to be kept as it is. When the Messiah comes, then he will give the Jews all the land promised them in the Bible." Ben Gurion has done more toward molding the political mind of the Jews in Palestine than any other man. Concerning David Ben Gurion the Christian Life magazine had this to say; "David Ben Gurion, first premier of Israel may unknowingly set the stage for the Battle of Armageddon." Surely things are shaping up for the end of time for this dispensation. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Among the interesting and inspiring things seen in Jerusalem, the "Watch Tower", now called the "Prayer Tower" drew special interest. My mind went back to Isaiah's day. In the fourth watch of the night nervous excitement prevailed at the approach of threatening danger. Some of the uneasy residents of Jerusalem left their homes in the darkness, and from the streets, called to the watch man: "Watchman, What of the night?" From the tower high above the city wall the faithful watchman shouted encouragingly: "The morning cometh, and also the night."

Today, as God's watchmen, we stand in the watch tower and send out this message: "The morning cometh and also the night". For the Lord's children; it will be morning, not evening. We are too prone to dwell in our thinking on the dark side of the picture. There is a dark side; but the approach of coming darkness is only for those who are unprepared for the coming of the Lord. The darkness of the night will follow the rapture of the Church. In speaking of this day of tribulation, Jesus said:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

"And except those days be shortened, there should be no flesh saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Surely, we must be living in the last watch of the night. The slogan on the lips of millions during the World War I was: "Time is short." Today it is the same in meaning: "It's later than we

think." All the feeling of expectancy in the world must mean something. To the child of God it means: "The morning cometh." Paul said, in writing to the Thessalonians:

"But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly Ye are all children of the light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." -- I Thess. 5:1,6.

Jesus bids us watch, wait and work. As sentinels on picket duty, may we not shrink from duty. We must not fail. Failure will result in death and destruction; both to ourselves and those for whom we are responsible to give warning.

To the drowsy, dazed church: "Wake up", "The night is far spent; the day is at hand." We conclude the chapter with the words of a song the Lord gave me recently.

1

Watchman, is night soon breaking?  
Are there signs of day?  
Tell me why shadows deepen;  
I cannot find my way.  
Perils lurk in the shadows.  
Will it be coming doom?  
Or, Shall I look for the Saviour?  
Will He be coming soon?

2

Watchman, When comes the morning?  
Light is now veiled by clouds.  
Night is now growing darker,  
Gloom the world enshrouds.  
Still I wait for the morning;  
Surely it won't be long.  
Sunlight now streaks the darkness:  
Flush of a rosy dawn.

3

Faintly the glow of heaven  
Lights the eastern sky.  
King of the day, for ever,  
Son of God, most high.  
Blessed the panacea,  
Balm for my aching heart;  
Jesus shall come in the morning,  
Bidding the night depart.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 05 -- GOD IS MY SAFETY

"I will trust and not be afraid" -- Isaiah 12:3.

Fear is one of man's greatest enemies. It stunts the physical and the spiritual man. It wrecks the soul, mind and body. The world is full of fearful people. The child is afraid to go to bed in the dark. Youth is afraid to face the problems of life. Men and women are afraid of old age, and old age is afraid to die. Thus fear blights the life and destroys the happiness of many with mildewing and remorseful forebodings.

More people die of worry than over-work. Some are growing old too soon. Their lives are shortened by needless anxiety. The Psalmist David points the way of deliverance:

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." -- Ps. 34:4.

Fear may not always be the result of sin. It is sometimes normal and natural. The fear of fire is a protective instinct, which serves as an alarm signal, warning of danger. Physically, we are constructed with a recoil, which causes us to withdraw from fire instinctively, because it is destructive and injurious to the body. This type of fear is God-given.

Again, for some unfortunate ones, circumstances surrounding the life have wrecked the nerves. Pity, rather than censure is in order when the nervous system has been shattered. An unusual and startling experience, such as passing through a tornado may result in a physical reaction which disturbs whenever a storm gathers. The horrors of war are not easily forgotten. The shock may leave a strong young man with haunting memories which affect the body and mind.

Parents have been guilty of branding their children with an uncontrollable fear, which sometimes clings in later life. Ghost stories and frightful tales leave their marks and make mental pictures on the mind of the child which are not soon erased. A disobedient girl with a strong imagination may be punished by confinement in a dark closet. If this form of punishment is resorted to, the child is likely to become hysterical and abnormal at the thought of unreal dangers lurking in the shadows. Such fears may cling in later life, and even the regeneration of the soul may not always completely remove this particular form of fear.

For some unexplainable reason, a woman may scream with terror and flee for safety to a near-by chair or table, if a little mouse makes its appearance. The innocent intrusion of such a little creature would do no violence; yet we, emotional beings, are so susceptible to sudden shock, that some over-conscientious Christians have allowed the devil to attribute the disturbance to the presence of sin in the heart. Who would dare to be so accusing, as to condemn another for such weakness? Which one of us can truthfully say we have never had an imaginary danger shock our temperamental disposition? Scarecrow experiences are quite common to most of us, and unwanted, unpleasant intrusions are to be expected in every life.

We have purposely given consideration to fears which are not of moral consequences, because many allow the presence of such to bring condemnation to the soul. Spiritual darkness may

be the result. It is possible to consult our feelings and our emotions until we become depressed and melancholy. In times of pressure, the heading of this chapter should be put into practice: "I will trust and not be afraid."

There is a vast difference between being in "spiritual darkness" and being "In heaviness through manifold temptations." All of God's choicest saints have the common experience of passing through heaviness, because of manifold temptations. Elijah, the man of God, who prayed a famine into existence, and again caused the heavens to give rain, was no exception. See him under the juniper tree in the desert. This fit of despondency was only temporary and not an evidence of breaking with God. Backsliders do not want to be taken out of the world. They are unfit to die. Yet we hear Elijah praying to God to release him from further staying in the line of service, and allow his departure. Surely his desire to depart was not indicative of a backslidden condition. Paul the Apostle was at times homesick for heaven. Writing to the Philippians, he said: "I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." Jesus Christ, himself, in the hour of his suffering prayed in Gethsemane: "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me."

This was, by no means, evidence of spiritual weakness. Christ was one with the Father and in him was no sin, yet he was human as well as divine. For a time his human sufferings seemed unbearable. However the spiritual was triumphant over the human and he prayed, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done. As with Jesus in the garden, angels will minister to the tempted and tried child of God.

There are tunnel experiences for all of us on the journey to the Celestial City. Nothing is gained, but harm is done, when the passenger becomes alarmed, while passing through the dark places. There are lessons to be learned which require testing. As the astronomer must have the night season to perfect his study of God's heavens, so we too need the darkness as well as the day. Fear not the haunting hallucinations of the enemy of your soul; look for the glories of God's eternal heavens.

There are fears which are more perilous to the soul. Together may we analyze and study the nature of these evils which sap the strength, and drown the spiritual life.

In recent years the pressure of a restless age seems to be affecting the ranks of the Church, as well as a perplexed and distressed world. Some, like discouraged Peter, after the crucifixion of Christ, are turning back and influencing others to do the same. Peter said, "I go a fishing". His fellow fishermen said, "We also go with thee". These are days of testing. Titanic forces of evil war against the soul, and try the spirits of God's children to the breaking point. It could be that this spirit of uneasiness is the aftermath of recent wars, which disturb and threaten civilization. Distress is the characteristic of the age. To those who know not God the future is even more dark and foreboding.

Whatever the cause of this restlessness, we would point you to Christ, the Hope of the world. He alone has the answer to the problems of life. On the cross he was lifted high that all might look and find life. When Moses lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness it was a symbol of the cross. If the shadow of the cross was so effective as to bring life and restoration of

health, how much more is there life and victory for all who look to Jesus! In him there is rest and comfort for the troubled heart. Assurance of faith is found in him, who is able to cause us always to triumph.

Society is gradually breaking down, morally and spiritually. Swiftly the world passes into a state of bankruptcy and ruin. The line of battle among the forces of righteousness seems to be meeting with some serious set-backs, due to the plundering of modernistic teachers and the worldly spirit of compromise, which is so prevalent in the church of today. Bitter opponents of the true and simple gospel of Christ are hindering the reception of the truth as taught in the Word of God. These opposers have climbed into the seats of authority, and with the popularity they have gained with the masses, they are in position to drive a materialistic world and a modernistic church faster and farther from God and nearer to their final doom.

Such conditions as prevail in the world today have a tendency to dishearten and discourage. When this is allowed, hope is destroyed within the soul, and faith becomes crippled. We are prone to become problem-conscious, instead of God-conscious. Looking at difficulties never inspires faith.

"Why do the ungodly prosper?" This is still the age-long question. Why do the unrighteous advance and grow in worldly power and influence? Those who hold high the Bible standards of righteousness seem to continue in the minority party, unrecognized and unwanted. The answer to these questions is found in the Word of God; "They that live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution". Christ and the true church, throughout the past have been misunderstood and misrepresented. Through it all the Holy Ghost has been faithful. We may still rely on the promises of God and his unfailing grace. The compiling of evidence proves unquestionably that though oppressed and suppressed, depressed and almost expressed, we shall ultimately triumph over every foe. God alone has the solution for the problems which confront us. In him there is a certain cure for the hysteria and uneasiness which grips so many worried hearts. The best antidote for fears is "Trust". "I will trust and not be afraid." "I sought the Lord, and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears". -- Ps. 34:4.

Contrary winds shall not always toss the ship. Jesus once bade his disciples: "Let us pass over unto the other side." A storm broke in all its fury on the Sea of Galilee. The storm may be breaking on your soul today. Like the disciples, you may be toiling in the tempest. Will the bark go down and sink in the deep sea of life? No, not if we are obeying Christ's command. It is not for us to understand the meaning of God's order; ours is but to obey the Captain. We may be toiling in the night, the tempest may be raging and our frail bark may be tossing on the waves of adversity. Heed not the threatening storm and howling winds. We are in training, and it takes threatening winds to make good sailors. Reverses, hardship and struggles are sometimes unwelcomed, but in due time they will prove a blessing in disguise. Life is made worthwhile by overcoming difficulties. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

Again we ask, "Will the boat go down?" No, not if Christ is within. Millions have met with tragedy because they faced a storm and discovered Christ was not within. Too many lives are wrecked because the sailor ventures on the sea of life with no captain on board. Christ has been left behind. He who made the winds, knows how to command them; "Peace, be still." The Psalmist

David once said, "He caused the wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he brought the south wind." When the outlook is dark and threatening, try the uplook. Christ will appear in the midst of the storm, saying: "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

Happy Christians never worry. Andrew Carnegie once said: "I know few millionaires who smile." There are values, far greater than earthly treasures. Spiritual values count most. A clear conscience before God and man brings contentment. Earthly riches cannot drive worry away, but Christ can. There are none more optimistic than those who know they belong to God. He inflates the heart, cheers the soul and lifts the spirit. Let Christ have your life and he will cure that tantalizing, nerve-racking, heart-torturing worry.

There is something restful in the thought of the Heavenly Fatherhood of God. This term has been misused and abused by some who include all mankind in the family of God. This teaching is erroneous and unscriptural, for only those who are born of the Spirit are members of the family of God. Those who can truthfully pray, "Our Father, which art in heaven", have something to rest upon which brings assurance.

God is an understanding Father. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. We all have our share of human weakness, and some of us feel we have more than our share; but it is comforting to know that Christ bore, not only our sins upon the tree, but He bares our infirmities. This is not an attempt to condone sin, but many need to understand that as long as we are in the flesh we are far from being absolutely perfect. We are subject to mistakes and blunders. Sometimes the other fellow is right and we are wrong. Willful sin breaks the contact with God, but mistakes of the head are atoned for and forgiven. The honest soul will acknowledge them, and profit thereby, but God will no more disown his children for unintentional error than a mother would disown her offspring, because of lack of knowledge of right and wrong. Many constantly goad themselves because they find it difficult to measure up to the standard of absolute perfection. This type of perfection is for the next world. Here we may have Christian perfection, but we will have to wait until we get to heaven before we receive the finishing touch. Then we will have bodies like unto his glorious body. We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Our minds will be perfect so that never again will we be in error. Here we are sometimes dull in our understanding, but then we will understand. "Now we know in part; but then shall we know, even as we are known." Things which Thomas Edison, Daniel Webster, Noah Webster and all the high-brows have failed to understand, we will catch at a glance. When this lesson is learned, it will not take away the desire to be conscientious and careful of our deportment, but it will cure us of the self-torture of our own condemnation. If this is your weakness, for the sake of a peace of mind and a rest of spirit, throw away the whip of remorse and trust God. "I will trust and not be afraid."

Don't allow the devil to cause you to believe that every apparent defeat is total loss. Many have suffered setbacks without being permanently ruined. At times in the battle, we may be justified in entrenchment, but this will give us an opportunity to gain a little strength and renew the fight. Reinforcements are on the way, and at the right time, they will arrive to support us in our needed hour. Some day the war will be over, and the final victory will be won. "He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved."



Nothing is gained by becoming discouraged. Anxiety is a prelude to defeat. Paul exhorts: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"

Sometimes we fail to get relief in trouble and help in time of need because of failure to mingle praise with prayer. In the scripture above, notice we are to offer supplication, with thanksgiving. This lesson was made real to me in Springfield, Illinois. We had cut a big hole in the roof at the Rescue Home for dormer windows, while doing some remodeling. A torrent of rain came unexpectedly and we found ourselves without coverage to keep the water out. I prayed but it kept raining. Seeking the reason for my failure in prayer it was made very plain that I was anxious, and in my anxiety I had not taken time to make my supplication with thankfulness. I slipped over to the workers' home while the rain was falling, and got alone with God. I told him the property was his, and if damage was done, it was his loss, and I would not allow my "well of thanksgiving" to be stopped up by anxiety and complaint. The burden lifted, I went outside and behold the sun was shining and the rain had ceased.

"O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer."

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus assures us of his protection, promises and his providences. Not even the sparrows, nor the lilies of the field are without his provision and watch-care. In the sixth chapter of Matthew we are commanded; "Take therefore no thought for the morrow

No doubt this admonition aroused plenty of questioning among the disciples, as it does today. It is generally considered prudent to look into the tomorrows. Jesus is not denying us this privilege. He is simply relieving us of the anxiety of anxious worry. He is inviting himself to carry our burdens by assuming the responsibility of taking care of all the future, as well as the past and present. Nowhere are we promised in this life a sudden transporting into a troubleless world while here below. Such a place is heaven, but while we are in this life we are invited to cast all our care upon him, for, "he careth for you." Come therefore with your burdened heart and find rest. He who bade the disciples: "Let not your heart be troubled" is the trouble bearer for all who trust him. "I will trust and not be afraid".

"Upon thy word I rest,  
So strong, so sure,  
So full of comfort blest,  
So sweet, so pure,  
Thy word that changeth not--  
That faileth never.  
My God, I rest

Upon thy word forever."

\* \* \* \* \*

## 06 -- GOD IS MY STRENGTH

"For the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength" -- Isaiah 12:2.

God gets no special glory out of a testimony which magnifies our own weakness. There is a humility of spirit which acknowledges our helplessness apart from God. This is commendable; but our weakness should be coupled with God's omnipotence. It is his desire that we should be strong. "Strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."

Paul, writing to the Ephesians, desires that they be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." -- Eph. 3:16. He goes further in the 18th and 19th verses and prays that they "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." The climax comes in the 20th verse. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. There is no doubt about God being able. The question of importance is, are we in contact with God? Is the supply line open? Is the power turned on? The power will work, but only as we provide the right medium.

Don't blame God if your life is full of defeat. It could be that you have been short-circuited by the world. There is no end to what God will do in us and through us, if we are adjusted to his perfect will and plan. We can no more make the grade without his power in our lives than a street car can climb the hill with the trolley off the wire. We can no more produce the fruit of a Christian life, without the Spirit, than a modern industry can manufacture its products with broken-down machinery and without power to operate.

We make no pretense. It is useless to under-estimate the strength of the adversary. Satan is mighty but God is almighty, and he will fight for us. The parting promise of the Master to the disciples was "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

This was not power in an abstract form. It was the power of a Person, the personal presence of the Holy Ghost. The lack of this power is the peril of the Church and the ministry. We can never hope to be good examples of Christian living without this power. We may be full of scientific facts about God and religion; our argument may be logical; our historical records of the church may be accurate, but if the Spirit is lacking we cannot convince the world of their need of God.

Do you lack this power? Then wait in the round-house and get a check-over. Perhaps the machinery of your soul should be over-hauled and oiled. Are all the adjustments made? Is everything in harmony with God's plan for your life? When these conditions are met, like Isaiah we can say, "The Lord, Jehovah is my strength and song".

We live in momentous days; titanic forces sweep the world and dangers imperil the sailor on the voyage of life. A storm is gathering, the clouds are thickening and the lightning is flashing. A gigantic tornado of God's wrath will soon break upon the ungodly. The problems of life must be faced. One is apt to think of himself as a helpless ship on the surging sea of turmoil. To believe this is to be defeated. God wants to be our "Strength and Song." There is nothing gained by pitying ourselves for being born in such a day.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" -- Isaiah 40:29-31.

We have no might of our own but Paul declared, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Our strength is in God. What He does for us and in us determines what He can do, and does do through us. Our measure of strength is according to what we let him do in us. The inner life is the life which counts the most for good or evil.

To be strong, we must be willing to face the difficulties, in partnership with God. It was Captain Eddie Rickenbacker who made the words famous: "God is my Co-Pilot." In perils of the sea, floating on a raft for many days, this World War hero trusted God and was saved from death.

It is the spiritual forces which are the final forces. These count the most in the trying hours. Accept the difficulties which come your way. They will come. The winds will sometimes be contrary; but with Jesus in your bark, your little boat will not sink. The tide will sometimes go out but it is sure to come in again and it will bring you new life, strength and blessings untold.

To be strong we must be willing to suffer reproach; others have; but you can keep your feet on the ground and your head above the clouds. Joshua had his enemies; but God enabled him to tread them under his feet. See things through; never be a quitter; the prize is at the end of the race. "As thy days so shall thy strength be."

If you go with God you must have convictions and stand by them. Daniel and the three Hebrew children lost nothing by being true to God-given convictions. In all the past, some have lived their lives in keeping with God's plan, and as life is defined by Christ were endowed with a power from on high which enabled them to be victorious in every battle. Paul made a startling statement when he said, "We glory in tribulation." Jesus never promised a life of ease to his people. "All that live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution".

The same enmity manifested toward Jesus is in the world today; and the followers of Jesus Christ must expect to share in Christ's sufferings. Suffering prepares for future glory. "If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him." We will appreciate heaven more for having endured the cross while on earth below. The hardships of war make the peace which comes after battle, and the liberty, for which brave soldiers have fought, heritages of priceless value.

To be strong we must give ourselves completely to God. Things clamor for attention and every one gives themselves for something. God seldom gets his portion. The cheap and cheapening gifts too often find their way into the coffers of the Lord's house, thus the soul is stunted and weakness of Christian character follows.

Our contribution to God may not be spectacular, but if it is our little all, it is important, and will not be overlooked. He will reward with his love and tender grace. He gives himself to those who give the same. Many are willing to give, when they can make a display and a noise. There are plenty who are ready to take the job which pays well, and does not subject them to too much hard work. The glitter of gold may catch the eye, but it is not best to pass on values before a careful analysis is made. There are spiritual blessings which surpass the things of rarest worth in the natural world. God's choicest rewards for faithfulness are reserved for those who are willing to give and labor; though their names may never be seen in print. The world knows little about them, but God sees and appreciates.

"Father, where shall I work today?  
And my love flowed warm and free.  
Then he pointed me out a tiny spot  
And said, 'Tend that for me'.  
I answered quickly, 'O no, not there,  
Why, no one would ever see,  
No matter how well my work was done,  
Not that little place for me!'

And the word he spoke, it was not stern;  
He answered me tenderly,  
'O, little one search that heart of thine;  
Art thou working for them or me?  
Nazareth was a little place  
And so was Galilee.'"

It makes a lot of difference, when you are working for one you love. The Lord gave me a gentle rebuke at one time, which has helped me, when otherwise I might have been tempted to complain. I was thrown into circumstances where the work assigned to others fell on me because of their neglect. I did not openly give way to the spirit of complaint, but in my heart I felt that it had been unjust for me to have to do my own work and the work of the other men, who had failed to do their part. The job was completed and I went home, not feeling too happy over the affair. As I neared home, my little daughter and her playmate met me, and the elder of the two offered to help me carry one of my suitcases. It was very kind of her, but my daughter felt pained at heart, because I did not give the job to her. "No, daddy", she said, "let me". I knew the load was too much for my little four year old daughter, but she thought nothing was too hard to do, if it was for her own dear daddy.

The sermon she preached to me was not long, but it was pointed, and it went straight to my heart. I stopped in my tracks without taking another step. Looking heavenward, I prayed, "Lord, if

you will forgive, I'll not murmur when the load is heavy." When it is for Jesus' sake, no task assigned should be shunned, and the more we love him, the more we will joy in doing his bidding.

To be strong, our decisions for Christ must be final. Too many try to take God on approval, and their religion on trial. Halfway religion is made for the convenience of a soft, pleasure-loving age. To be on the fence is an awkward position, and entirely unsatisfactory. There are fair weather Christians who are so delicate they cannot stand the pressure of adverse circumstances. The opposition from the world is so strong that the soul gives way under the weight of trial and the life is defeated. It is the do-or-die Christian, who wins in the conflict. As physical strength is developed by overcoming opposition; and as the mental aptness is increased by exercising the mind; so moral strength is improved by overcoming difficulties. The stress and strain of life is necessary. We need burdens as much as the ship at sea needs ballast to enable it to weather the gale and reach the harbor home at the end of the voyage.

Life is a battle field, where stern battles are fought. The greatest conflicts are sometimes silently fought, but nevertheless they are real. The secret of victory is knowing that the cause is right and that you are identified with the Lord. Venture your all on God and he will never fail you in the trying hour. Courage is needed but strength will be given. "As thy days so shall thy strength be." Bargain counter religion is not popular with heaven nor conformable to the spirit of Christianity. Rugged followers of Jesus Christ are those who venture all for the cause of Christ.

When Commander Perry explored the far North, he had no trouble getting a group of men to suffer the hardships of the cold Arctic Circle. In loneliness and darkness they were willing to endure suffering and privation. Jesus, too is looking for those who are willing to sacrifice. "If any man will come after me; let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." This requires strong hearts. Early Christians were willing to die for Christ Today men are looking for the "safe-and-sane" religion, which meets the approval of a pleasure-loving, easy-going, compromising age. We can never expect to popularize the religion of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The strongest character is necessary to enable one to meet the opposition of the twentieth century to true religion.

"To him that hath no might, He increaseth strength." "Even the youths shall faint and grow weary, and the young men shall utterly fall".

"But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

"When we were without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly." God is our strength. May we ever draw from the ever inexhaustible supply.

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07 -- GOD IS MY SONG

"The Lord Jehovah is my Song." -- Isaiah 12:2.

The world has lost its song. There are times when Christians, too, seem to be in heaviness for want of a song. The song-birds have all gone to the sunny Southland. The heart is heavy and the spirit is pressed at times. There are crushing circumstances which weight the soul down until one may be tempted to discouragement and despair. When such moody, melancholy feelings crowd you into the dark, what can be done to lift the spirit and lighten the heart? Has it ever occurred to you that God wants to be your song? Let God change the picture and lighten up your horizon with Himself. Listen to Isaiah. "God is my Song." He wants to sing to you.

It is easy to tell one to forget his troubles, and sing the blues away; but first, one must have a song within the heart. To try to laugh and be gay can't always lift the burden. You can't make a cross dog happy by wagging his tail; neither can you make the soul happy by resorting to jazz music or Indian war-whoops. The music of the world in this jitterbug age is empty and meaningless. Such conglomeration of hideous sounds can never drown the sorrows of a sinful heart. When God sings there is music within, which is heavenly.

In the Bible the story is told of two singers who sang until the earth quaked and the prison doors were opened. These men were put in jail by the authorities for preaching the gospel. There was no losing heart. In their foul dungeon, "They prayed and sang songs." Notice the order: first they prayed, then sang. "Prayer changes things." Real praying will make a difference in every life. Perhaps they first prayed in secret; but later secret prayer was intensified. It grew louder and louder, until the prisoners heard unusual voices, and the jailer was disturbed. When I was a boy I knew a man who prayed in secret until his voice could be heard a block away. When strangers in the community asked about the unusual noise, the answer was, "It's Parson Jackson, praying in secret."

I have often wondered what Paul and Silas sang. If it had been today they might have sung:

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
And all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for ev'ry one,  
And there's a cross for me."

That would have been appropriate but, as far as we know, when they were living, the Book of Psalms was perhaps the only hymn book in use. The selection fitting the occasion could have been: "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Their singing may not have been with artificial vibration of the vocal cords, but surely it was heavenly. It was real singing. There was no attempt to display human talent. It was God, singing in the night, through the lips and voices of his faithful children. O what a contrast to the songs of the world! A woman, after listening to a classical vocal concert made this remark, "The singing was completely out of this world." Her husband was not impressed so favorably. He, rather humorously replied, "Well, I knew it was unearthly, but I didn't know what to call it." Yes, there is a lot of vocal vibration and voice gymnastics which is far from being real singing. David said that God put a new song in his mouth, even praises unto the Lord.

The song Paul and Silas sang had not been heard before in that dark prison. The prisoners were used to hearing bitter oaths and shrieks of the sufferers, who were punished by the callused and cruel Roman jailer. Now they heard songs of irrepressible joy. When this heavenly melody rang out on the midnight air, something had to happen.

Something did happen. God opened the prison doors. The chains fell from the captive messengers of salvation. The jailer and his house were converted, and a revival was in progress. When we can sing in the night, instead of complaining and worrying, then others may come, asking the question of the jailer, "What must I do?"

The formula for joy and victory is found in Psalm 16:11. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Jesus Christ is not a joy-killer, he is a joy-giver. It is. God's plan that man be happy. "And these things we write unto you, that your joy may be full" -- I John 1:4.

Hand your life over to Jesus and he will work out all the perplexing problems and give you a song. The pathway to the fountain of joy is found in obedience and trust. The Bible is full of texts which speak of songs. Moses. said, "The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation." -- Ex. 15:2. David verified it. "The Lord is my strength and song." -- Ps. 118:14. He was a lover of music and wrote the sweetest songs ever composed. The secret is found in the fact that God was the giver. David infers that God not only gave him the music, but taught him to sing. "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto God." -- Ps. 40:3. The song was not only in his heart, but in his mouth.

In Ps. 42:8 he said, "In the night his song shall be with me." When your heart is aching, almost breaking, you can have a song down in your heart; a melody of heaven. Any one can sing when the sun is shining bright but you can have songs in the night; through every trial and every mile of your journey.

What an impressive lesson we find in Matt. 26:30. "And, when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives." Approaching Gethsemane, with its agony and humiliation: yet they sang. Jesus knew there was light beyond the shadows. There was a glorious resurrection morn beyond the brow of Golgotha. We, too, are under the sentence of death, but looking beyond the darkness of the chilly waters there shall be heaven at last.

It is said that the song of a wounded bird is softer and 'sweeter. The story is told of a girl who possessed rather unusual ability as a vocalist. But, in spite of wide study and training, her voice seemed to still lack some of the rareness of quality which was necessary to an outstanding career as an artist. A great master sensed her disappointment, and in conversation with a friend said, "If her heart is broken she will become a great singer." Later the girl was disappointed in love. It took this to give to her voice a certain tenderness which won for her the applause of great audiences and the admiration of many people.

Christ must become the central desire. All other earthly joys must be secondary. Many affections must be weeded out. Cheap things, little things, must be removed, as the gardener pulls

out the little plants to make room for the better and stronger. During our entire life the thinning process goes on. If you have a desire which might sap your spiritual life, it is better to sacrifice it. In the end you will find a sweeter song will be your portion. "God is my song." "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

The language of Paul in this passage is not a sigh of sadness over sacrifices cruelly imposed. His words are words of triumphant and hilarious promptings. His announcement is not of defeat; but a declaration of victory. He is not putting up a bankruptcy notice; but rather, he is giving his slogan for success. His advertisement is for an investment which yields eternal dividends. No one has ever parted with things earthly, for the sake of the cross, without receiving from the Lord that which is richer and fuller. The joy which Jesus gives brings no regret; but ecstasy which thrills the heart with fullest satisfaction.

Man has a capacity for joy which can only find fulness in Christ. Having a good time in the world, making money and partaking of sin to try to find satisfaction always ends in remorse. If it were possible to own all the world, that would not bring contentment and joy. The road to happiness is not by a program of earthly pleasure. Rather, it is by giving all to Christ. Paul expresses this truth when he makes the statement:

"For me to live is Christ."

For many, the goal in life is earthly joy, prosperity and the praise of men. Such low estimates are far beneath the plan of God for man's enjoyment. When God has the preeminence, the life will count most. Eternal joys and abiding values will be the portion of those who give God the right of way. Investments made for God never depreciate. To have stock in the "Company of Heavenly Assets" is to be a part of a business concern which can never go into bankruptcy. The dividends are compounded throughout eternity.

To be a share-holder in heaven's corporation, it is not necessary to have large capital for investment. All that is required is to turn over to the management your little all. A poor widow turned over two mites and received in return, a blessing which was beyond calculation. The fishermen of Galilee left their nets and became the leaders of the church. Jesus said of them, that in the future kingdom they should sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. A little lad turned over his lunch to Jesus and when it was blessed it multiplied and a multitude was fed; the fragments being gathered after the feast was abundantly more than he gave to his Lord. Nothing given to God in sincerity shall ever be unrewarded. Giving himself for us, and to us is our everlasting reward. He is our portion. He is our joy and song. "The Lord Jehovah is my strength and song; he also is become my salvation."

Not even old age can rob the Christian of his hope and his song. When Joshua was old and stricken in years, he was still looking forward to greater victories.

"Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the Lord said unto him, there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." -- Joshua 13:1.



The Jews divided old age into three divisions: 60-70 was the commencement of old age, 70-80 was called hoary-headed age, 80 to the end of life was advanced age, called "stricken in years."

Joshua had reached the last stage of life; yet he was full of courage. Addressing Israel, before his departure to be with God, he said:

"And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." -- Joshua 23:14.

Joshua grew old: so will we all, if Jesus tarries: but God will still be our song, if we are in Jesus Christ.

The poet has written: "Time writes no wrinkles on thine azure brow." This was said of the ocean; but not of man. David was "a man after God's own heart". Yet he said of himself: "I have been young; and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

John the Beloved reached the stage in life where he addressed those about him as; "My little children, these things write I unto you."

Paul wrote to Philemon: "being such an one as Paul, the aged."

Yes, according to the laws of nature, we too will some time be going down the western slope of time; but not in despair. The decline will simply be the approach to Heaven, our "'Harbor Home". Job testifies with certainty: "I would not live always". The flight of time would bring him home to be with God which is far better.

When John Wesley was old and infirm, he still had great perseverance. Attended by two young ministers, supporting him; one on the right and one on the left, he took his place in the pulpit. In the course of his sermon, he repeated the following verse:

"Oft am I by women told;  
Poor man, thou growest old;  
See thine hairs are falling all;  
Poor man, How they fall!  
Whether I grow old or no,  
By these signs I do not know;  
By these I need but to be told  
'Tis time to live, if I grow old."

The wise man said: "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness."

Two well-known men died in the year of 1899. The first was Robert Ingersoll. The second was Dwight L. Moody. Both of these men were champions of opposite causes. Among the last words of Mr. Ingersoll were the following:

"Death is like a narrow vale between two peaks of eternity; we cry aloud and the only answer is the echo of our calling. Death is like a leap in the dark."

How different were the last words of Moody. Rejoicing with a song in his heart, he exclaimed:

"Earth recedes, Heaven opens before me. It is beautiful; if this is death it is sweet; there is no valley. God is calling me, I must go." Thank God for the everlasting hope of the Christian, which gives a song, even in the twilight of evening's sun-set. In the eternal world songs will still be part of the raptures of Heaven. There angels' voices will blend in loud Hallelujahs with the redeemed saints, singing praises to God and the Lamb forever.

1

"Sometimes I hear strange music,  
Like none I've heard before,  
Come floating softly earthward  
As through Heaven's open door;  
It seems like angel voices,  
In strains of joy and love,  
That swell the mighty chorus,  
Around the throne above."

2

"Now soft, and low, and restful  
It floods my soul with peace,  
As if God's benediction  
Bade all earth's troubles cease.  
Then grander than the voices  
Of wind, and wave, and sea,  
It fills the dome of heaven  
With glorious harmony."

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## 08 -- GOD IS MY SATISFACTION

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." -- Isaiah 12:3.

Nothing satisfies thirst like water. You may have a taste for buttermilk and perhaps at times you crave soda pop, but there is no substitute for water.

Salvation is likened unto water. It satisfies. When Isaiah uses the comparison of water he gives a mental picture of a thirsty soul drawing water with a bucket he calls "joy". It is a hot sultry day in July or August. A weary traveler is walking along a dusty road almost exhausted and famishing with thirst; his lips are parched and dry. At a point along the journey an old-fashioned well greets his view. Sitting on the stone curb is a wooden bucket. The traveler eagerly grasps the bucket and letting it down into the depths of the well, I hear it splash, and the cool refreshing water is drawn to the surface of the veil where he drinks to his satisfaction. Thirsty soul, take the bucket of joy and drink from the wells of salvation. Paul gives joy second place in the list of fruit of the Spirit.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance," -- Gal. 5:22,23.

We are commanded: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." -- Phil. 4:4.

David too, makes joy imperative: "Be glad in the Lord and rejoice ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart." -- Ps. 32:11. To suppress the emotions when the soul is blessed is dangerous. Harm is done by teaching that gloom is a mark of piety, and that restrictions of happiness are essentially in keeping with Christianity. Monks and hermits are not made pious by isolation. The Christianity of the Christ goes farther. It will insulate the soul. God's grace keeps us clean and uncontaminated by sin. We may be as completely surrounded by sin as a diving duck under water. Yet grace enables us to be so separated from that which would cling that the soul is kept spotless and clean, as easily and naturally as water rolls from the feathers of the duck. Sin and the world have nothing in common with the Christian's manner of living..

Joy is from within the soul. Its source is divine.. Thrills, excitement and temporary pleasures are all outside sources. Glitter, glamour and earthly glory soon fade from view, but the joy of the Lord is enduring and satisfying. I knew a good Christian lady who got blessed easily She was a happy Christian at home as well as in church. Her worldly daughter once decided to attend the prayer meeting with her mother, and as usual, mother got blessed in the service. On the way home the daughter seemed serious. Finally the silence was broken and she inquired: "Mother, what makes you so happy? I'm not enjoying life, I have gay friends, I go to theatrical parties, dances and many places of amusement, but I never feel the joy in my heart you have shown tonight."

Mother had the answer. "Daughter," she said, "I'll give you the secret. You have been searching for joy, but I have found it." What was true with this young worldly girl is true with every joy-hunter. They who seek soul satisfaction can only find it by drinking from the wells of salvation. "In thy presence is fulness of joy."

Joy is divorced from circumstances. It has been fittingly said, "The pleasure of the world is like the song of the meadow lark, but that which Christ alone can give is like the song of the nightingale." The meadow lark sings when skies are blue and the weather is fair, but when the sun hides behind the clouds and the day is gloomy the meadow lark loses her song. But the nightingale sings in the night, and the darker the night the sweeter the song. So it is with the trusting soul, "Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation." His eyes are illuminated with promises from God and his spirit is buoyant with faith and full of cheer. He knows the sun will shine again and the clouds.

will soon be cleared away. Paul the apostle had his sorrows,. but in the midst of his grief he could say, "Sorrowful yet always rejoicing." Summarizing the eighth chapter of Romans he challenges the reader with some pertinent. questions and answers.

Question 1. "What shall we then say to these things?"

Answer 1. "If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Question 2. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?"

Answer 2. "It is God that justifieth."

Question 3. "Who is he that condemneth?"

Answer 3. "It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is.. risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also. maketh intercession for us."

Question 4. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

Answer 4. "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

"More than conquerors;" a happy rendering of this passage is, "We are always confident." Paul exclaims, triumphantly, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is the glorious exaltation of the victorious life through Jesus Christ. Only sin can separate from God. "Thanks be unto God who causeth us always to triumph."

Victory through Christ is not only obtained, but retained and maintained. The redemptive purpose of God is final as well as immediate. Salvation from sin is only the beginning. "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."

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is the author and the finisher of our faith. Paul's testimony to Timothy not only views past victories but coming glories: "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 at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

The coming of Christ is referred to in the scriptures as, "the blessed hope and appearing of our Lord." Today, like Noah in God's ark, we view scenes which indicate the approach of the coming of our Lord. The dove, with an olive branch appears, and land is just ahead. Heaven will soon break through the mists. Our voyage on the sea of life will soon be over. There is a distant shore where life shall begin anew. By faith we already catch the scent of fragrance from the tree of life. What a glorious hope, what a pillow to rest upon! There are tokens of land ahead. Such visions of hope cheer the heart and lift the spirit into the realms of joys eternal.

The nearer we come to our heavenly home the more we feel the pull. As an evangelist, experience gives me permission to tell of certain heart-throbs which characterize most travelers. There are land marks nearer home which thrill the soul and quicken the pulse. A restlessness sometimes causes me to begin to get my suitcase down long before the conductor calls the station. Home and loved ones will soon greet my longing eyes.

I shall never forget the sight I saw in Portland, Oregon A ship was docked at port. It had just completed its proud voyage of the sea. On board were about 1600 soldiers, veterans of World War II. At last they were home. Standing on the prow of the ship were some of these boys, training their eyes to see if they could locate a friend, a loved one, a father or a mother. What a thrill to watch them Finally the gang-plank was lowered. The sick and wounded were removed first; some supported by a comrade and some on stretchers. As I watched with unbidden tears flowing freely, I saw one big boy from the hills of Kentucky coming down the gang-plank. With a happy countenance and a cheery smile for everyone, he shouted joyfully, "This is what we have been waiting for."

Today we stand on the deck of the "Old Ship Zion". Along the horizon we have already caught a glimpse of land. What a welcome awaits those who are among the faithful! Some who read these lines have passed the average span of life. The snows of many winters are on your heads, but summer is still in your heart. You soon must cross the river of death, but beyond is another river; the River of Life. After the Winter-Spring! Eternal Spring. There will be no falling leaves of Autumn to remind you of a long winter ahead: Spring, eternal Spring. Flowers shall bloom again; birds will sing again. Praise God for the joy that is set before us.

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed." How annoying Satan is! How often we are tempted to worry or complain! It will all be over bye and bye. This is the joy of the Christian. The Christian's joy is both joy of realization and anticipation. We have forgiveness and cleansing now; and in the future, a fuller and more complete reclamation of all that was lost through the fall.

The joy we share, when we drink from the wells of salvation can only be realized by saying, "No" to Satan and the world. Because we take this position does not imply that we are entirely negative in our religion. Christ was both negative and positive in his ministry. Because he was King in spirit, he refused to become an earthly king, when tempted by Satan. In the Garden of Gethsemane he refused to call on a host of angels for his own defense. We must say no to self, as well as selfish interests. To choose the best instead of the cheap and worthless, means renunciation. We must come to a decision between the high road and the low road. Many things are to be rejected and completely ruled out, if we are to enjoy companionship and fellowship with God. As with the choice of a life's companion, so with taking Jesus. It must be for life. It means

"Forsaking all others, take him only unto thee, so long as ye both shall live." This consecration requires a rigid separation from all which Jesus cannot accept. "The purest joys are found in self-control, not in self-indulgence.

There are some thrills which prevent life from becoming thrilling in the future. A joy-hunter ended his career in the penitentiary. This was his confession as he stood attired in prison garb, "Do you want to know where I got these stripes I wear? I got them chasing joy." Like one in search of the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, joy is never found outside the will of God. Pleasure and profit may come in pairs, but only as we walk in the paths of righteousness.

An artist painted a picture titled "The Joy Hunter." A rider on a wild steed pursued a fantasy of Joy which seemed to be just out of reach. The foam-covered horse, in desperation frothed at the mouth and nostrils as it plunged on toward a steep precipice and a deep canyon, where the man and his bearer would meet with certain death. Blinded by the imaginary hope of finding and holding pleasure this poor deluded man was headed for his certain doom. There is danger and death in the path of all who seek worldly pleasure through sin and the gratification of the flesh.

To leave all and follow Jesus is to gain that which truly enriches. Nothing given up for God can compare with that which we receive in return. The woman at the well left her water pot; but went back to the city of Sychar with a well. It was an artesian well, springing up into everlasting life. The prodigal left the swine-pen with filth and mire. He found a home, a loving father, plenty of food, shoes for his tired feet, and clothes for his rags.

All life is made up of forsaking and taking. We must put away childish things to become an adult. To gain a home in heaven, means leaving home down here. The bulk of the pilgrim's possessions are in heaven. "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." -- Ps. 37:16.

The Christian who desires God's best at all times is sometimes called upon to give up things which in themselves may not be evil. The radio and television could become a source of valuable information and a means of education. When the temptation to listen to or look at hurtful programs is so strong that you find yourself wasting time with things which are destructive to your spiritual life, then it is time to give up the radio and the television. Jesus said, "If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." -- Matt. 18:9. The eye is a useful member of the body, but Jesus teaches us that we can better afford to sacrifice an eye, or that which is dearer than the apple of our eye, than to be led astray and be lost through indulgence in sinful practices. We must learn to leave the good for the better, and the better for the best. Anything injurious to the spiritual life becomes detrimental and should be omitted. Jesus refers to this principle of separation and forsaking when he said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." -- Lu. 14:26.

Such demands of discipleship are not too severe. Neither do those who follow Jesus go without reward. Peter once said, "Lo, we have left all, and followed thee." "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." -- Lu 18:29, 30.

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## 09 -- GOD IS MY SECRET SOURCE OF SECURITY

"Great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." -- Isaiah 12:6.

How wonderful it is to know God, and enjoy His favor! In the early morn of creation God came down in the cool of the evening and fellowshiped with Adam. Their joy was mutual. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was so familiar with God that he walked with him for three hundred years on earth, and then went to heaven without the ordeal of death, and the trouble of engaging an undertaker or purchasing a burial ground. Moses was so intimate with his heavenly Father that he stayed on the mount forty days and came down with his face so radiant that it became necessary to wear a veil, for his countenance shone like that of an angel. Abraham knew God as a friend. "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God." God was with the children of Israel in the wilderness in the form of a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. He desired to get closer to his people, and Moses was commanded to build a tabernacle. God then came down in the midst of the camp. Later God sought a more permanent abode and the temple was built, this was God's house among men.

Scoffers tell us that man is of no importance to God, and that God's interest in the affairs of man is remote. Such a charge is entirely ungrounded. Had it not been for man's sin, fellowship would never have been broken, but when man fell, Adam was driven from the presence of God, and an angel with a flaming sword was placed at the entrance of the Garden to prohibit man from communion with his Maker.

Broken fellowship would never have been restored had it not been for the fact that God sent his Son into the world to redeem us from our sins. The Spirit of God is now in the world beseeching men to be reconciled to God. God is in the midst. He dwells, not in temples of wood and stone, the work of man's hands, but in the hearts of those who receive Him.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not 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."

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Ghost came into the hearts of the believing Church. He is still in our midst today. This was the fulfilling of the promise, which Jesus said would be an abiding presence. "I will give you another Comforter, which shall abide with you for ever." What a glorious reality: our hearts may be indwelt by God, in the form of the Third Person of the Trinity. This is our guarantee of victory and security in Christ. To reach this position may we notice six steps which Isaiah gives in the twelfth chapter of Isaiah.

First Step -- Praise. "And in that day shall ye say,. Praise the Lord". We have already dealt with the subject of praising God In the first verse we read: "And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee:" In verse four Isaiah, for the sake of emphasis, almost repeats himself: "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord."

In verse one the will is brought into action: "I will." In verse four praise is more spontaneous. Praises flow from the heart like an artesian well. God is honored by our offering of the incense of praise as well as the offering of prayer. We are all far behind in our praises. If you are inclined to whine and complain try counting your blessings and give God thanks.

Second Step -- Call. "Call upon his name" this is prayer.

Prayer is as natural to the child of God as the cry of a hungry baby. Prayer is the touch-stone of success, the key-stone of all spiritual structure, the cable which connects us to God and heaven, and the key which unlocks. all the doors of God's storehouse.

As the man, who came at midnight received as many loaves as he needed; so we may receive unstintingly of all God's bounties. The conclusion of this parable is summarized in these words: "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." God's "How much more" can only be measured by the difference between the finite and the infinite; by the difference between the human and the divine. We are authorized to call upon the Lord when the soul is pressed and the heart is heavy. "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee."

As Esther came into the presence of the king, we may enter the sanctuary of God and make our requests known As Ruth claimed her lawful right at the feet of Boaz, we too may find at the feet of Christ the answer to our cry. As blind Bartimaeus, called and received sight for his blinded eyes, so we too may call and hear from heaven.

Third Step -- Testimony. "Declare his doings among the people," No man can keep his candle burning if he puts it under a bushel. God is looking for consecrated lips to carry the message of Christ to those who know not the way of salvation. We are mediums of transfer. We must reflect and radiate. The Holy Spirit seeks embodiment in our hearts that we may properly represent Jesus Christ. To say you are not gifted is no excuse: He is the Gift you need.

A minister was called to conduct the funeral of a girl who died suddenly. Not being acquainted with the girl. the minister asked concerning her spiritual condition. To her Sunday School teacher he went for information. This was the reply he received. "I felt impressed to speak to her about her soul, but I put it off." God was trying to get lips to carry the message of salvation, but he failed. He may not ask you to speak to all you meet about their spiritual need; but he will give you opportunities; and opportunities bring responsibilities. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever."

Fourth Step -- Exaltation. "Make mention that his name is exalted." Christ must be exalted. "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." There is a great need of preaching Christ, rather than a creed, to the nations.



When Nicodemus came to Jesus, seeking the way into the Kingdom Jesus did not point him to the law. Nicodemus probably kept the law, but that alone was not the true way to salvation. He was a hungry man. He had given his life for the church of his day, but he had not found peace. His heart was not yet satisfied. He somehow felt that Jesus had the secret. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

A man will quit his meanness when he gets saved, but merely quitting his sin will not make him a Christian. His heart must be changed. Now Jesus did not leave him in the dark by simply telling him he had to be born again. Jesus pointed him to the one and only remedy. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Christ is the soul healer, extracting the poison of sin from the heart. Christ is the ladder which Jacob saw reaching from earth to heaven. Jesus said to Nathanael: "Henceforth ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." Christ is the only way and the only medium by which the sinner can come to God. You can never heal the man with poison in his veins, and lift him to heaven, by administering a code of ethics. Education, art, culture and refinement are not enough. Jesus alone can save.

"E'er since by faith I saw that stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die."

John the Baptist called Christ "The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." He is our Paschal Lamb, offered for our sins. He is our Manna; food and life for the famishing. Jesus declared it: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." -- John 6:51.

Both the ladder and the manna came down from heaven. This teaches his deity. Yet Christ is within reach of the sinner. The manna lay on the ground, so that the youngest and the oldest could gather. The ladder reaches from earth to heaven.

Christ is our "City of Refuge." In the twentieth chapter of Joshua, mercy and justice were offered for those who fled to the place of refuge. These cities were divinely appointed. They were within easy reach of all. Sign posts along the highway directed the guilty and condemned to the place of safety. The way was plain and the door was always kept open. God has removed every obstacle for the repentant sinner. If a man is lost it is because he fails to flee to Jesus Christ. The refuge is provided; but man must make the effort or be lost. It is possible for the sinner to die when he is just outside the gates. He may starve within reach of God's garner. Jesus is the Smitten Rock, from whence comes the water of life. On the last great day of the feast, Jesus stood in the temple and cried: "If any man thirst let him come to me, and drink." He is the satisfier of the thirsty soul.

The presence of Christ is heaven below. There is a place called heaven, and there is a state of heaven we may enjoy while on our way to the city eternal. Heaven is the absence of sin and the presence of Christ. "Where Jesus is 'tis heaven there." A soldier, away from home and loved ones, lay dying alone on the battle field. In the morning the chaplain bent over his broken body, lifted his head and listened to the boy's testimony. "Last night, as I lay here looking into the stars, I prayed, and Jesus came near to my side. It was the happiest night of my life."

The presence of Jesus is so sweet that it scorns all suffering and worldly pleasure. If so great here, with sin all about us, and a devil to contend with; what will it be when we sweep infinitely beyond all the realms of sin and temptation? Suppose the world could bring joy: we must admit that it comes to an end. It is compared to a passing cloud, a shadow and the disappearing of the morning dew. The presence of Christ is more than all human joys. Jesus drops sweetness into the cup of human joy, when we let him become a companion. In dealing with the subject of giving up the world, it is important to have something better to offer, before taking away worldly pleasure from young people. Don't talk of what you have to give up without showing the other side.

Fifth Step -- Singing. "Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth."

Salvation will make us bright in our outlook and optimistic in our uplook. It will give us songs in the night, life and joy in the heart, and a spiritual lift which is beyond the realm of earthly joy. Christ is more than creed and ritual; he is the life. He is the dynamic power which throbs and glows and flows out to the world, living in darkness.

Singing the praises of God plays a prominent part in making God to become a reality. It is important that we become joyful. "The joy of the Lord is your strength." A joyful heart is an asset in winning men to God. David realized this fact when he prayed: "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation. . and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

Sixth Step -- Shouting. "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel."

This is our license to shout: "Cry out and shout." And the child of God has something to shout about. God is in the midst. When he comes in, Satan goes out, and we are no longer servants of sin.

Some may say they do not believe in demonstration; but what is inside the heart is bound to give expression in the outer life. Before you have been in a new community a week you will be labeled by those you contact, and will be placed in some religious category. If you are a baseball fan it will come out. If you are an enthusiast for a political party, you will be enthused, and will not be ashamed. Why not get enthused for Christ?

We are all emotional beings. We may not demonstrate in the same manner. Some may laugh, some may cry, and some shout. All Christians must share in telling the good news of salvation, for "Great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." There will be shouting in heaven. When Jesus comes from heaven, He will come with a shout, the voice of an archangel. It

will be so loud that it shall wake the dead. Shall we not be looking heavenward, when he comes?  
"They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed." "This poor man  
cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."

"Death itself shall soon be vanquished,  
And his sting shall be withdrawn;  
Shout for gladness, Oh, ye ransomed!  
Hail with joy the rising morn.

"Sing, Oh! sing, ye heirs of glory!  
Shout your triumph as you go;  
Zion's gates will open for you,  
You shall find an entrance through!"

\* \* \* \* \*

THE END