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NEW WINE[®]

JULY 1970



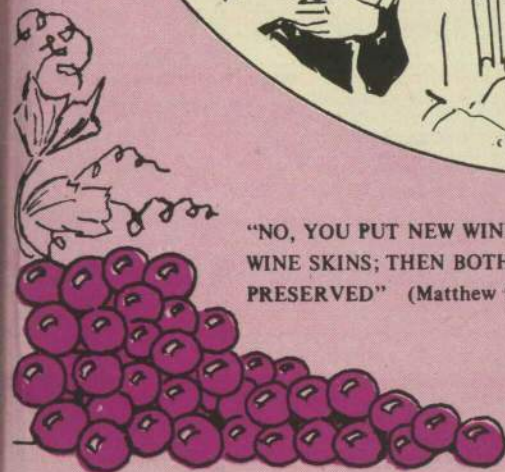
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UP TO
YOUTH**
..no matter
where...



"NO, YOU PUT NEW WINE INTO FRESH
WINE SKINS; THEN BOTH ARE
PRESERVED" (Matthew 9:17)

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This issue is dedicated to
and in support of those who
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themselves and their fellow
men to seek guidance from
and live in obedience to the
will of our Lord and
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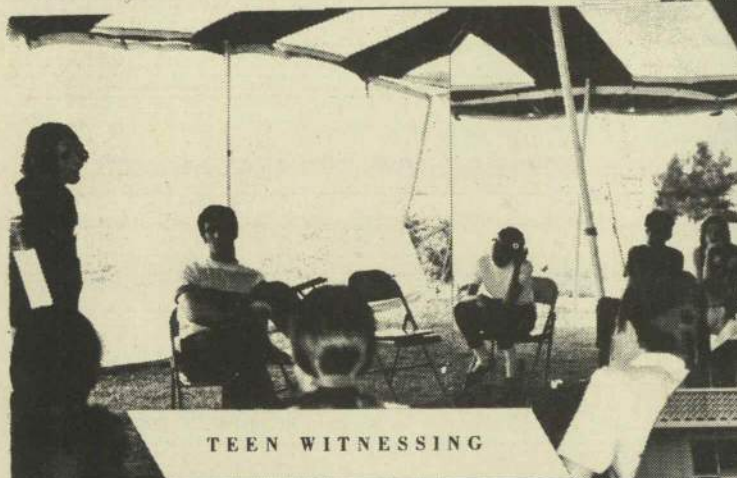
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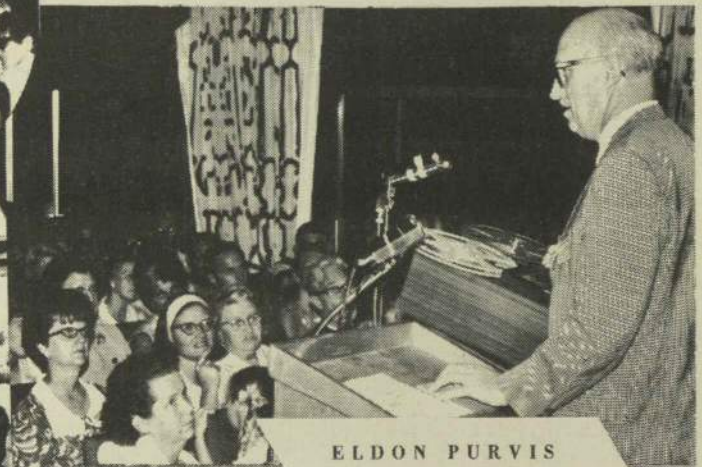
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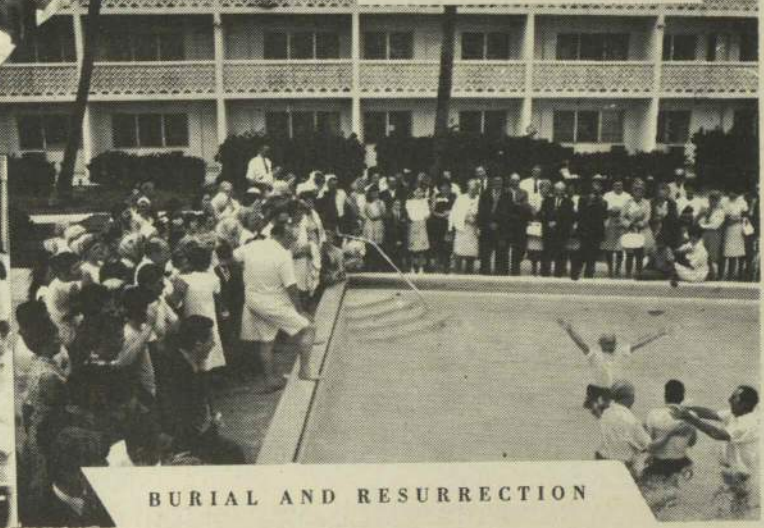
TEEN WITNESSING



ELDON PURVIS



PRAYER AND PRAISE



BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

NEW WINE®

EDITORIAL
BOARD

JULY 1970

VOLUME 2, No. 7

CONTENTS

CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE	2
CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT Eldon Purvis	4
WHAT SPIRIT ARE YE OF? Don Flora	5
YOUTH FOR CHRIST in Russia Too? From OPEN DOORS	8
FOR THE NEWLY SPIRIT-FILLED Dwight L. Niswander	10
RESTORATION THROUGH FASTING (Conclusion) Derek Prince	13
POET'S CORNER	17
THE CHOICE OF A PARTNER Derek Prince	18
IN HARMONY WITH GOD AND MAN Costa Deir	20
WHY A SCIENTIST BELIEVES IN GOD A. Cressy Morrison	22
WHO CHOSE JERUSALEM Mount Zion Reporter	23
THE REVOLUTION Reprint from "LIBERATION"	24
CONVERSATION OF THE BRUSH Sid Purse	26
WILL YOU BUY? (Newspaper article)	
THE HOLY SPIRIT IN AFRICA Silas Owiti	27
OPPRESSED OF THE DEVIL H. A. Maxwell Whyte	30

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"AND THE DISCIPLES WERE FILLED WITH JOY, AND WITH THE HOLY GHOST" Acts 13:52

NEW WINE

THREE



The Co-Ordinator's Report

Eldon Purvis

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What _____ Spirit _____ are _____ YE of ? _____

By DON FLORA _____



Jesus responded to James and John's desire to call fire down from heaven on those who did not receive him, with the statement, 'Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of'. Luke 9:55. Jesus rebuked them for not knowing their own spirits; and if Jesus rebuked his disciples for not knowing their own spirits, we can safely conclude that he wants us to know what manner of spirit we are of.

If we are born-again, Spirit-filled people, then the Holy Spirit of God has taken up his abode in our human spirit. This is the spirit we are of. Romans 8:9 says, 'Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his'.

I Corinthians 2:12 says, 'Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God! Hallelujah! Our spirit knows what things belong to us, as children of God.

Philemon 6 says, 'That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus'. We not only have to know the good things, but we have to acknowledge, or confess them. This is how our faith becomes effective. We acknowledge the good things that are in us in Christ Jesus, and we refuse to acknowledge the bad things that Satan tries to put in us.

II Corinthians 4:13 says, 'We having the same SPIRIT OF FAITH according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken, we also believe, and therefore speak'. We have the spirit of faith, don't we? According to scripture, we do. So if we have the spirit of faith, we will say that we do; because the spirit of faith does something when it believes. What does it do? It therefore speaks!

We acknowledge, then, that we have the spirit of faith. That is one of the 'good things'. If we have the spirit of faith, we believe according as it is written; and if we believe according as it is written, we therefore speak. By faith, then, we have the spirit of faith. You have the spirit of faith, so say that you do.

Never say that you do not have faith, as that is

contrary to the word of God. That would be calling God a liar, because Romans 12:3 says that God hath dealt to every man among you (every born-again believer) the measure of faith. God did not put 'a' measure of faith in your spirit, but he put 'the' measure of faith there. Just the right amount of faith is what you have, because God Himself measured it out.

What the scriptures say about us, we can say about ourselves. This is speaking by faith, according as it is written. This is speaking the word of God. What God says about us, we can say about ourselves; and it will come to pass in our lives, because God watches over his word to perform it.

Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:17, 'That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the SPIRIT OF WISDOM and REVELATION in the knowledge of Him'. If Paul prayed for us to have the spirit of wisdom and revelation, it would be all right for me to pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Now if I pray for it, I know that I have it, because I John 5:14,15 says, 'If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us; and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him'. If I ask for the spirit of wisdom and revelation, according to God's will, I know that I have it.

How do I know? Because it is written in the word of God, and the spirit of faith which I have believed according as it is written. It is the will of God for us to have the spirit of wisdom and revelation. It must be, since the Holy Spirit put Paul's prayer into the recorded written word of God. Therefore, you too have the spirit of faith, the spirit of wisdom, and the spirit of revelation.

Now, if you say that you do not have these, you would be making God out a liar. But God is not a liar; the devil is a liar, and the father of lies. You cannot go wrong quoting scripture. You are not lying when you say what God says. So if you do not quite understand these things yet, just say them anyway; because faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Hearing yourself speak the word of God will increase your faith.

Since we know, then, that we have the SPIRIT OF WISDOM, we will be interested in the Bible definition, and the Bible results, of wisdom. James 3:17 says, 'But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy'.

Praise God! Did you know that you are a pure, gentle, and peaceable man? God says you are. Did you know that you were easy to be intreated, full of mercy, and full of good fruits? You are. Did you know that you were without partiality, and without hypocrisy? You are. You see, brothers and sisters, Jesus wants you to know what spirit you are of. Because when you know it, you will talk about it; and when you talk about it, you will start living it. Whatever is in your heart and your mouth, will soon get into your actions.

Proverbs is the book of wisdom. The word 'wisdom' meant to Solomon what the word 'Logos' meant to John. It was his concept of the living, eternal Word of God. Proverbs 4:7 says, 'Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding.'

Solomon said to get wisdom and understanding, you see; but when you got born-again, you got wisdom and understanding. We already have it. When you received the Spirit of Christ, you received the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Verse 8 says, 'Exalt her, and she shall promote thee'. Chapter 3:13 says, 'Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding'. Verse 16 says, 'Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor'. Verse 17 says, 'Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace'. Proverbs 11:30 says, 'He that winneth souls is wise'.

So we see that the spirit of wisdom and understanding, which you have, will bring you promotions, happiness, long life, riches and honour, pleasantness and peace. It will also bring you souls. I ask you now, isn't Jesus good to us? Don't you think you ought to praise Him?

Paul prayed for us to receive the SPIRIT OF REVELATION in the knowledge of Jesus. He said it would reveal three things to us: 1. The hope of his calling, 2. The riches of the glory of his inheritance in us, and 3. The exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe.

In John 14:17, Jesus called him, the SPIRIT OF TRUTH. He said he shall be in you. He said in verse 26 that he shall teach you all things. He said in chapter 16:13, 'He will show you things to come'. This is the spirit we are of. The Spirit that is in us is the spirit of truth, of revelation of things to come, and of revelation in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel 5:12 says, 'Forasmuch as an EXCELLENT SPIRIT, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving

of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belshazzar'. Brothers and sisters, would you like that? Well, there is only one Holy Spirit. He is that Excellent Spirit, and you already have him in you.

We have to acknowledge the good things that are in us in Christ Jesus. The good things are the things of the Spirit. For them to become effective in our life, we have to acknowledge that we have them. By acknowledging a spirit of revelation and truth and knowledge, we open the door for him to work in us. If we want interpretation of dreams, showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, we have to confess the same excellent spirit that Daniel had.

With God there is no respect of persons. We can have whatever we have the faith to receive. Faith receives by believing with the heart, and speaking with the mouth. God is sovereign, in the operation of the spirituals. 'He divideth to every man severally as he wills'. It is according to his will, not our will. Nevertheless, the will of God is to give us all we can take by faith. His word says, 'Earnestly desire spiritual gifts'. Did he tell us to ask, so that he could turn us down? No. He said, 'Ask, and ye shall receive'. If you have faith for all nine gifts, then all nine gifts will operate in you, because the OPERATOR is already there. It is according to our faith.

II Timothy 1:7 says, 'For God hath not given us the SPIRIT of fear, but OF POWER, and OF LOVE, and OF DISCIPLINE. If God has not given us the spirit of fear, then we have no fear. I cannot speak for you, but I have no fear. I believe it, according as it is written, and therefore I speak. I do not want any spirits from the devil. I accept no gifts from him.

We have, therefore, the spirit of power, and of love, and of discipline. If God gave us the spirit of power and love and discipline, you see, then we have the spirit of power and love and of discipline. That is, we have them unless we have insulted God by refusing his gifts.

You have the SPIRIT OF POWER. But you say, 'I am weak'. Don't say that. The Bible says, 'Let the weak say, I am strong'. Joel 3:10. Paul prayed for you, in Ephesians 3:16, 'to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man'. Jesus said, in Acts 1:8, 'But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you . . .'

In Isaiah 11:2, the Spirit of the Lord is called, among other things, the SPIRIT OF MIGHT. You have the spirit of power and might. You have a strong inner man, so acknowledge him. You have power to witness so say that you do.

If we have the spirit of power, then we have the power gifts of the spirit. Do you see that? The power gifts are faith, gifts of healing, and working of miracles. Let us acknowledge that we have these good things in us, in Christ Jesus, and then expect them to start working in our lives.

By the same token, if you have the spirit of revelation, in answer to Paul's prayer, then you have the

revelation gifts of the Spirit in you. You have the gifts, because you have the Giver. The revelation gifts are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discernment of spirits. Expect them to work and they will.

Revelation 19:10 says, 'Worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY'. Jesus said, concerning the Spirit, 'He will testify of Me.' He said, 'He will glorify Me.' He said, in John 14:26, 'He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you'.

Do you have the testimony of Jesus? Does the Spirit teach you to glorify Jesus in your speech? Then you have the spirit of prophecy, because the word of God says that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Therefore you see, if you have the spirit of prophecy, then you have the vocal gifts of the Spirit, which are tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy.

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the vocal gifts are for the purpose of speaking comfort to the church. Prophecy is speaking unto men, to edification, exhortation, and comfort. It is to build them up, comfort, and encourage them. To see God's people built up is the mind of the Comforter, and he will speak life-giving words to them, through you, if you let him.

We have the SPIRIT OF LOVE. I Corinthians 13:4-8 says, 'Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not himself, is not puffed up, doth not behave himself unseemly, seeketh not his own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth'.

Did you know that you could never fail? You never can, because God has given you the spirit of love, and love never fails. We are longsuffering and kind, aren't we? I am longsuffering and kind. You are longsuffering and kind. God's word says so, and God's word is forever settled in heaven.

Jesus said, in John 17:17, 'Thy word is truth'. That settles it. If God says that we are not puffed up, not easily provoked, and thinketh no evil, then we can say that we are not puffed up, not easily provoked, and thinketh no evil. If God says that we bear all things, believe all things, and endure all things, then we can say that we bear all things, believe all things, and endure all things. Brothers and sisters, it's time we acknowledge what spirit we are of; because anything which says contrary is a liar!

Galatians 5:22,23 says, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.' If we have the Spirit, then we have the fruit of the Spirit. If I have an apple tree in my yard, then the apples are mine, are they not?

The fruit of the Spirit is love. Love includes all of the others. Did you know you were a peaceful and

longsuffering man, full of gentleness, goodness, and faithfulness? You are; my Bible says so. You have love and joy in your life; temperance, and a spirit of meekness. I have love and joy in my life, temperance, and a spirit of meekness. These are deliverance scriptures, so dare to repeat them often.

The devil has spirits contrary to these, it is true; but they will have to go, when you speak the word of God. Truth is light, and Satan cannot stand the light. Maintain a positive, Bible-based testimony, and he will have to go. That is the best way to develop the fruit of the Spirit. Every time we acknowledge that the fruits are in us, we water them with the Word.

Finally, we have a SPIRIT OF DISCIPLINE. The Holy Spirit within our human spirit disciplines our total man. God's Spirit is united with our spirit; we are one spirit in Christ. We have a sound mind, able to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We keep our body under. The SPIRIT OF HOLINESS within us gives us a holy thought-life, a holy way of speaking, and a holy walk. Our spirit disciplines our whole soul and body.

We are motivated by the SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD. We dare not be disobedient. We dare not confess anything contrary to the word of God. When Solomon went to get the ark out of the tabernacle of David, to bring it to the new temple at Jerusalem, he found 'nothing in the ark' save the tables of the law. II Chronicles 5:10.

According to Acts 15:14-17, it is the tabernacle of David that is being restored as the New Testament Church. We are the living tabernacle. There is nothing in our heart except the laws of God. We have no other motivation for anything we say or do. Everything else is being purged out, by the SPIRIT OF JUDGMENT and the SPIRIT OF BURNING. Nevertheless, we know what spirit we are of. We have made our confession; we have taken our stand.

Sometimes the SPIRIT OF COUNSEL has to dig deep into our hearts, and into our past, to bring out wrong spirits which have been motivating us. But when they are brought to the light, they have to flee, because they belong to the kingdom of darkness. We have nothing in our heart, but the laws of God.

The SPIRIT OF LIFE in Christ Jesus controls every phase of our lives. In him we live, and move, and have our being. We are dead to the old life; dead to sin and dead to the law. The sting of death is sin, but we are deadened to it. We have been immunized, by an injection of God's Spirit into our spirit. Everything we think, say, and do, is brought into subjection to the will of God, by the Spirit.

Aren't you glad, now, for the spirit of discipline, who is working in you mightily, even now? Praise God for the SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE that knows what spirit we are of.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST...

in RUSSIA too?

From OPEN DOORS - April, 1970



Despite the waves of terror which swept through Russia in the thirties, despite the systematic attempts to put an end to faith in Jesus Christ, despite attempts at intimidation, public trials, excessive penalties, exile and imprisonment, closing the churches, even removing children from their parents, the atheists in Russia have not succeeded in destroying the Church. To the contrary, it appears from all kinds of publications, conversations with experts in Russia and with Russians themselves that the younger generation in particular is showing an increasing interest in religion.

RELIGION NOT ONLY FOR THE IGNORANT MASSES

Those whose task it is to educate the people in the doctrines of Marx and Lenin still try to give the impression that belief in God is only for the ignorant masses. According to their idea, belief only occurs amongst the least educated. But recent research shows that the opposite is the case. V.A. Smirnov writes in an article published in "Questions concerning scientific Atheism", Moscow 1968,

concerning research in Gorky: "At the present time baptism is one of the most frequent events in the Orthodox Church."

He states further that the number of baptized persons among school children, and even among adults, has increased in recent years. His research indicates clearly that the level of education of parents who have had their children baptized is noticeably higher than that of parents who did not have their children baptized. He discovered that only 29.8% of the parents who had baptized their children had received no more than elementary education, whilst no less than 69.9% had received partial or complete secondary education. Other articles indicate that young people no longer hide their beliefs, but openly write down their convictions on official forms and frankly express their criticism of atheism.

Students must usually fill in a form with questions before they are accepted at a college or university. The questions include such things as: "Do you believe there is a God?",

"Have you been baptized?", etc. If the answer to such questions is "yes", that can mean that the student is not accepted.

A pamphlet with the title "Happiness as Illusion" about religion, indicates the increasing number of religious young people. Amongst other things, it states:

"About 200 young people were present at a prayer meeting of the Baptists in Leningrad: The choir of the Baptist Church in Leningrad consists mostly of young people.

These, of course, are only Baptists. Young people in our own town attend Orthodox and Catholic churches, the Jewish synagogue, and the Mohammedan mosque."

The writers of the above pamphlet state how they came into contact with religious young people who differed in social standing, upbringing, religious convictions and the intensity of their religious experience. - "but they all had one thing in common . . . they were of the opinion that they had found their happiness through their faith."

The Russian daily newspapers frequently mention the activities of the Evangelical Christians and the Baptists. These activities are not always in secret; believers dare to come out into the open in confessing their Lord. The propagandists of atheism have the bitter experience of finding that they are rowing against the tide. The influence of preachers on young people is in some places, especially villages, greater than that of the authorities.

From another source I learned that a seminary where young people are trained for the priesthood of the Orthodox Church receives thousands of requests for admission each year. However, the government allows the seminary to take only 100 students each year. In the west, if someone wants to

become a minister or priest, he knows that he will not have an easy life. He will have to work hard and will not earn a great deal.

None the less he will have a church to preach in and he will be respected by many people.

But if a young fellow in Russia decides to be a priest, he knows that his life will be in perpetual danger, that he will probably have no church, and that it is not impossible that he will spend his last years in a camp of forced labour.

REVIVAL

There are reports of a big revival in Turkestan, in Soviet Armenia, and in the Caucasus. The revival began with five thieves who were converted in prison. After they were released, they travelled through these areas, and their testimony caused a revival. Another spent three and a half years in prison because of his faith. Now he travels secretly from village to village holding big meetings. The army tried to surround these villages and prevent the meetings being held, but so far without success.

In another village a group of Christians came into existence through one Bible which had been smuggled in.

A young man wrote from a Russian prison as follows:

"Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, I could not have written like this some time ago. I was a criminal, but praise the Lord, I heard God's message of grace.

Brothers, who were wrongfully imprisoned here told me the Gospel. For my sake they had to suffer imprisonment. I still have four years to do inside, but I have been saved from my sins. My great concern now are my dear wife and my daughter of five, my old mother

and my brothers and sisters; although they seem to be free, they are really still bound in darkness. But I would like to tell them of eternal life! Please send my mother a Bible. Through His Spirit and His Word, Almighty God can speak to their hearts and answer my prayers."

Two sisters who were in Central Asia until spring 1968 gave us the following report:

"The church which we attended was officially recognized and had more than 800 members. We had five meetings every week. Our minister has been called to account a number of times because there are so many children and young people present at the services. When they threatened him, he replied:

"I cannot forbid the young people to come to my meetings." He was put in prison, but set free after a few weeks. After that they threatened to close the church if the young people continued to come to the services. In fact, this actually happened on a Sunday morning. But the church went on holding the services in the open air. The singing and the prayers attracted so many outsiders that the throng quickly grew. When the communists saw this, they quickly opened the church, and ordered that in the future the services should be held inside the church."

These reports, just a handful out of many, underline the fact that the communist propaganda has an opposite effect upon many people. Is it not possible that God is actually using the atheists to make the Soviet Union ripe for a revival? Alongside all the tragic news of the suffering of our brethren; it is tremendously encouraging to hear this kind of news as well. God has a plan for the whole world, and despite all appearances, it is not Marx, or Lenin or Brezhnev, but Jesus Christ, who has the last Word in Russia.

FOR THE NEWLY SPIRIT- FILLED

by DWIGHT L. NISWANDER

I am writing to you who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You are on a wonderful road, and you will immediately encounter new but precious experiences. I would like to give you a little help as you go on your journey.

READ YOUR BIBLE

First, you want to read your Bible. This is important because it is the only thing that the Holy Spirit can use in full power and strength. We always appreciate anything that will encourage and help us - and many good things are written - but the Word is now yours. You must learn to feed on it, believe it, and let the Holy Spirit interpret it. There are promises in it, and many are just especially tailored for you. And then, there is so much in the Word that pertains to redemption, holiness and wisdom. Choose that which you can assimilate. Feed on that which is needed, and let the Holy Spirit teach you. Don't enter with doubt, but enter with faith. Don't be hasty in the Word! Don't read too fast! Let it digest, and be strengthened by it.

I feel that a word of caution is in order here. There is a danger of absorbing Old Testament teaching and creating strong doctrinal views or exaggerating some teaching to an extreme position. I insist that we be careful to let our views be "aired out" with those who have had more experience than we have had.

In this connection it is also wise to appreciate the high moral standards and influences, for Satan can also bring visions that instill impressions that might convince you that you are justified in certain immoral actions. We must be led by the Spirit, but also learn to walk in the Spirit so that we are not governed by the human spirit or quicky flashy impulses. Impulses are not always from God. We need to maintain an attitude of great humility for we are under His mercy plan.

LEARN THE BODY MINISTRY

You want to go with others. Find those who also know how the Holy Spirit works. You must learn well so that

you can sense a full liberty in the Spirit. You must learn to work with others, and learn humility, for the Holy Spirit binds us in love to Christ and to each other. The Holy Spirit also works in the "climate" of simplicity and so you may be shocked about the old order of tradition that was your custom before you came into this experience.

Some fail because they get discouraged with others. They have lived independently or lived without ever really appreciating the need of others, but now you must learn to live with the group, and you will learn that worship builds new confidence in people. You will find that friendliness will come easier, and, you will learn new lessons of trust. Love is the most important thing you take on your journey. "Keep yourself in the love of God" . . . (Jude 21), for Jesus commanded us to love . . . "By this shall men know that you are my disciples" . . . (John 15:17 - "These things I command you, that you love one another"). Whenever you feel "put out" with someone, you should immediately seek spiritual help. I cannot emphasize this point too strongly, for it was of the greatest concern in Christ's high priestly prayer . . . John 17:26, ". . . that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." Be careful how you answer people that don't agree with you. Learn to live with people that may be a "cross" to you, but let love teach you lessons of new confidence. See that you are patient as He has been and is patient with you.

Summing up, then, establish new friendships; blend with the saints. The Holy Spirit can teach you to be natural. Don't resent those who are not generally in your social class. The Holy Spirit breaks down these walls, and so don't try and build them again.

If you are married, learn lessons of compatibility, and seek the mind of the Lord about it all. If you have received the baptism and your mate has not, don't let your love waver, but prove yourself. The Holy Spirit helps you to be more unselfish.

Learn how to adjust. Watch the spirit in which you give your testimony. Be sincere, but don't be domineering. Give your testimony without sounding "preachy". Learn to walk in love.

EXERCISE A FREEDOM IN THE SPIRIT

Learn to speak freely in tongues in your private devotions. Many lack a vocabulary and are bothered with limited words, but pray or have someone pray for you if you need help. Freedom to speak the new tongue is often an indication of our freedom in the Spirit. If the intellect has assimilated the language, pray for another language. The Holy Spirit wants to work in "freshness".

It is not wrong to pray with believers in the tongue, but do not use the tongue in the presence of those who may resent it. Learn to intercede in the Spirit. This is your prayer tongue. And the Holy Spirit will sometimes give you a spirit of intercession and it will create a travail that causes a deep emotional and physical experience. Thank God for a way in which He can work out your tomorrows. Thank God for the Holy Spirit's way of interceding. Thank Him for letting you be an instrument through which He can work. Thank God for the edification. I Cor. 14:4.

TEST THE SPIRITS

Some are in a position where they need to pray immediately for the gift of the discerning of spirits. Don't try to interpret every dream, although the Holy Spirit may work through dreams and visions, but build a solid foundation of truth so that the Holy Spirit can minister to you. Realize that Satan can work as a minister of light, and don't get into a doctrinal rut where the devil gets you conceited over a pet doctrine. Don't draw on hobbies of spiritual understanding or put yourself in a position of superiority. Learn the body ministry and let others always help you, too.

WORSHIP WITH THOSE WHO HONOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Get "with" a church that can help you. Don't be a drifter, but find a place where you can be helped and give help. Each person must carefully seek sound guidance. Over-caution can be very harmful, and yet we must learn courage and boldness. There is a danger of being fearful of "emotionalism," and yet there is also a peril of services that are dead in formalism. The Holy Spirit teaches us to have the courage Christ had in His ministry. We are not weaklings, but strong and helpful, but let us not be domineering. Don't allow every inconsistency to defeat you, but appraise a church group on the basis of what it does contribute and then get a definite leading from the Lord about what you must do. Churches are all different. Be careful not to allow an incident, an individual, or an offense to discourage you. Don't make fast judgments. See the mercy of God in yourself as well as others.

DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"Desire spiritual gifts and pray that ye may prophesy." If you feel an anointing to give forth a prophetic message, speak slowly and naturally. Since it is the gift for the church, let it be presented as a gift. Don't hurry! Speak as naturally as you can under the anointing of God. Go to church to contribute, but don't expect to be the only one to operate in the gifts. If God uses you

largely at times, be gracious and humble. Take your place in God, and minister under the anointing and never allow the human spirit to enter in.

LEARN HOW TO PRAISE

Learn to worship. To many, this seems strangely different at times. Read the Psalms and learn worship from those precious chapters. Learn to be free in your worship to the Lord. Let your hands enter into your worship, too. Be relaxed and appreciate that worship takes the whole man into consideration. Perhaps you must enter into the "sacrifice" of praise, but true worship will come. Sometimes, the presence of the Lord may cause us to bow down or stand, but give the Holy Spirit a right to direct and guide and let your heart worship as well as your mind. Learn praise choruses that lead to worship. Honor the Spirit's leading in worship.

LET EVERYTHING BE CENTERED ON JESUS CHRIST

Spirit-filled people love to sing of Christ. Sing songs of praise, and let praise be in evidence in your worship. (Psalms 47:6 - "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.") Praise brings down a heavenly glory and we worship in the glory so that by that very worship Christ is reflected in our actions and life. Speak well of Christ at all times. Always remember that the Holy Spirit seeks to glorify Christ. We are living our life in the Spirit for the honor and work of Christ, and He is the object of our worship so that through Him we are drawn to the Father.

LIVE A SANCTIFIED AND HOLY LIFE

This is the most important thing. More is said in the Scriptures about this than any other important subject. Learn to live a constant life of repentance which means taking sides with God against yourself. Remember that the fruit of the Spirit is also a supernatural work. Be as objective about receiving the fruit of the Spirit as to minister the gifts. Let the Holy Spirit show you where the spirit of worldliness lies so that you can get the victory immediately. Bathe in the worship and beauty of His holiness. When you worship in this spirit, holiness is attractive, but don't let your holiness be negative. Always remember the cross precedes the glory. Hebrews 12:2; Luke 9:22.

LIVE IN HEAVENLY PLACES

Let your life in the Spirit be lived in the heavenlies. You are destined to great things. God gives you heaven, and prayer is now a reality. Our sonship rights are to be exercised by the life we now live in a state of constant

victory. Don't let worry or fretting beset you. Appreciate that everything is bequeathed to the church. We are to reign as kings and priests. Let us live it well. Let the Holy Spirit teach you what you need to know along this line of truth.

DO EVERYTHING BY THE ANOINTING

Learn to do everything with special anointing. If you sing, and sing a gospel song in a service, see that the message is on your heart with a special anointing. Be sure and sing words and not only music. And, use a message that meets the need to build up and edify the church. So many songs tend to be shallow. Find songs with a message. If you teach a Sunday school class, be sure that you teach with anointing. Don't waste the time! The Holy Spirit holds you accountable. It will have to stand the test of fire. If you preach, preach in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. WE must all learn to be "instant in season out of season", but we need anointing in all we do.

KEEP THE CHRIST WITNESS IN YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

Learn how to lead others to a saving experience of Christ. Be encouraged in what He can do. Learn to pray with others. Prepare the believers to receive the baptism. Take careful precaution to help and not hinder. **DON'T WITNESS WITHOUT THE PROMPTING OF THE SPIRIT.** You are on an important assignment and you need divine ANOINTING.

CONCLUSION

Yes, you are on a strange way, and as the days go by, there will be new demands made on you. You will have new tests of consecration, **BUT LET HIM GUIDE YOU.** Don't fear the storms! Don't get weary of well-doing. Don't set your standard of consecration. Don't say what you will or will not do; for the Holy Spirit may cross over every line and make a demand that makes all human daring and heroism small and uneventful. We are in a great business and our business is to serve. We may get tired and sometimes discouraged, and there are times when we may not know the will of God for a short period, but let us not lose heart, for we have every power at our disposal, and let us always realize that we are born to suffer so that we can also reign. We can always find a new inspiration to spur us right back to our task.

You are in a great company of believers like yourself all over the world. In a time when everything is tested and the coming of Christ draweth nigh, let us not fail the grace of God, but let us be everlastingly at it for Him.



Restoration Through Fasting

by DEREK PRINCE

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE AND CONCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE.)



Now let us turn to that part of the Old Testament record which deals with the restoration of God's people from their captivity in Babylon. Because of persistent waywardness and rebellion, God's people were driven right out of their inheritance, and taken captive to Babylon. Then in due season God in his grace intervened, and opened the way for them to return to their inheritance and to the city of Jerusalem. Martin Luther wrote a pamphlet entitled "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church". I would agree with Luther that the Christian church was then in a condition of Babylonian captivity. However, I do not believe that the process of deliverance and restoration was completed by Luther or the so-called Protestant Reformation. I believe that the great climax of this deliverance and restoration is taking place in our days. This is the truly significant thing that is happening in Christendom today.

If we study the Old Testament record of the deliverance of God's people from Babylon, we shall discover spiritual principles that apply equally to the restoration of the church today. There are four main historical books that deal with the restoration from Babylon and with the period that followed it: Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. Each book is named after the leading person in the events which it records. Each of these persons who played a leading role in this period used fasting as a means to bring about the deliverance and restoration of God's people. I believe that the same means are equally necessary, and equally effective, in the spiritual deliverance and restoration of God's people today.

Consider first the testimony of Ezra in Ezra 8:21-23: "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, the hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us."

Ezra did something that you and I sometimes do. By

testifying to the king he put himself in a position where he had to live up to his own testimony. He had told the king: "We are the servants of the living God. Our God protects us and supplies all our needs." A little while later the way opened for Ezra to lead a company of returning exiles back to Jerusalem. They had to make a long journey through country infested by hostile tribes and by bandits. The questions arose: How were they to be protected on the way? They had their wives and their children with them. Even more important in the eyes of devout Jews, they had with them the sacred vessels of the temple, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. What a prey for bandits! How were they to travel safely all the way from Babylon to Jerusalem? Should Ezra go to the king and ask him for a company of soldiers and horsemen to protect them on the way? No doubt the king would have granted this request, but Ezra felt ashamed to make it, because he had already testified to the king that their God, the true and living God, would protect those who served him.

At this point Ezra and the returning exiles made a vital decision. They would not rely on natural or carnal means of protection. Rather they would seek their safety and protection from the supernatural spiritual realm of God's power. Like Jehoshaphat and the men of Judah, they fasted and afflicted their souls. They prayed and asked of the Lord a right way for them and for their little ones. The Lord was intreated of them. They had no problems with bandits or hostile tribes. God took care of all that. When they ministered to the Lord in fasting, the Lord ministered to all their problems. There would not have been anything morally wrong in accepting from the king the band of soldiers and horsemen, but it would have been living on the carnal plane rather than the spiritual plane. By what means? By fasting!

At this point I have to interpose my personal testimony: Ezra's method still works today. Over the past twenty-five years my wife and I have travelled with a large family of adopted children half way around the world. Sometimes we had no money, no passports, no normal means of transportation. What did we do? We fasted and prayed. We asked of the Lord a right way for us and for our little ones. The same thing that worked for Ezra worked for us. Actually, I never make any

major journey or major commitment without first fasting and praying. I would be afraid to do so. I have learned by experience that if I fast and pray, I can be sure that God is in the results.

Consider next the testimony of Nehemiah in Neh. 1:4 : "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven." Nehemiah had learned the secret. The way was closed, the situation was hopeless. He fasted, and prayed, and God opened the way for Nehemiah. God not merely opened the way for Nehemiah. He also obtained for him from the king full authority and provision to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. All this came through prayer and fasting.

Turn now to the fourth chapter of Esther. Here is the greatest single crisis that has ever confronted the Jewish people in their entire history up to the present time - greater even than the crisis under Adolph Hitler. Hitler had only one third of the Jews at his mercy. The Persian emperor had the entire Jewish nation. A decree went out that they were to be annihilated on a certain day. The name of the man who was Satan's advocate against the Jews was Haman. This story has given rise to the feast which the Jews call Purim. "Purim" means "lots". The feast is so called because Haman cast lots for the right day to proclaim the destruction of the Jews. He had a very willing helper in Satan for that project. It was really a conflict of spiritual powers. It was not just flesh against flesh; it was spirit against spirit. Haman relied on unseen spiritual powers to direct him in exterminating the Jews. (It is noteworthy that Hitler did the same. He heard voices that spoke to him and directed him.)

It would have been an everlasting reproach to the Lord's name, had the power of Satan been more effective than the power of God. But when the decree went out, Esther and her maidens accepted the challenge. They agreed to fast three days, night and day, neither eating or drinking. They arranged with Mordecai to gather together all the Jews in Shushan, the capital city, to unite with them in fasting for the same period. (notice that once again, in this hour of crisis, God's people were "gathered together", just as in the days of Jehoshaphat.) So all the Jews, with Esther and her maidens, fasted and prayed three days - seventy-two hours - without eating or drinking. What happened? The course of events was changed completely. There was a total reversal of everything that Satan hoped to accomplish. Instead of defeat and destruction, God's people achieved a glorious victory. I believe that this is the way it works. I believe that we can change history. I believe that no matter how far Satan's power has come, it can be reversed. His victory can be turned into disaster, if God's people will pray and fast.

I suggest to you that if you are planning to go without food or water, you should set the same limit as

Esther: seventy-two hours. Beyond that period, do not go without water, unless you have real supernatural direction and faith. I once met a fellow preacher who had fasted eighteen days without food or water. God used that man to turn a whole nation upside down. He was the central figure in one of the greatest supernatural moves of God ever recorded in the history of the church. However, God does not give to us all the same measure of faith. Generally speaking, I would not advise you to go beyond three days and nights without water. It will be bad for you physically, unless you are on that supernatural plane where Moses was when he fasted forty days and forty nights without eating or drinking.

Now consider the fourth great figure in this period of restoration from Babylon - that is, Daniel. From the human point of view, it was through Daniel's intercession that the process of restoration was set in motion. Let us look at Daniel's testimony in Dan. 9: 2-4: "In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth, and ashes . . ."

This is a wonderful pattern for you and me. Daniel was a prophet, but he was also a student of prophecy. He was a student of God's Word, he studied the prophet Jeremiah. In studying the prophet Jeremiah, he received this revelation that the desolation of Jerusalem was to last seventy years. You will notice this about the prophets of the Scriptures. Every one of them showed by his message that he was himself a student of God's Word. They all spoke as people who knew intimately the revelation of God in their day. If you want to be a prophet, be a student of God's Word first. Prophecy does not come out of the air by a tremendous revelation that sets you apart from the line of Biblical revelation. It grows out of that stem. The more you live in the Word, the more effectively you will minister in the Spirit. Never divorce the two. If you meet people who do not need the Bible, because they have direct revelation, accept my advice and stay away from them. If you stay with them, you will end up in trouble.

Daniel knew from the Scriptures that the desolation of Jerusalem was drawing to its close. What did he do? Did he sit back passively and say, "Thank you, Lord, we will soon be back home" ? No! He prayed more earnestly than he had ever prayed in his life before. He set himself with prayer and fasting to seek the Lord. The revelation of God's will was not an excuse to cease praying, it was a challenge to pray more than he had ever prayed before. This applies to you and me. When you receive a revelation that God wants to do something, do not sit back passively. Say, "Lord, I want to do my part, I want the privilege of sharing in what you are doing."

I believe that this applies particularly to this latter day outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The great prophet of this outpouring is Joel. He sums it up in the briefest and most complete way. In Joel 2:28 you have the great promise which was taken up by the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions . . ." Where Joel says "afterward", Peter by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says "in the last days". I do not quarrel with Peter's interpretation, given by the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, I do not believe that Peter's "in the last days" sets aside Joel's "afterward". That also still remains true. In order to understand the total message of Joel, we must rightly interpret this word "afterward" in Joel 2:28. What does Joel mean by afterward ? After what ? Obviously he refers to something that he has said earlier in his prophecy.

Turn back therefore to Joel chapter 1. The prophecy opens with this tremendous scene of desolation. Everything is blighted; nothing is fruitful. There is no hope; there is no solution. What does God tell his people to do? In verse 14, God says: "Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord". To "sanctify" means to "set apart". Everything else takes second place. Drop every other activity, religious or secular. Sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly, a solemn gathering together. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord. This is God's remedy for his people's desperate need. Notice the emphasis upon "the elders". I believe that the leaders of God's people have a special responsibility in this respect.

Again, in chapter 2, verse 12: "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning . . ." In hours of crisis such as this, prayer alone will not suffice. Prayer must be accompanied by fasting, and weeping, and mourning.

Yet again, in chapter 2, verse 15: "Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly." Blowing the trumpet is the most public form of proclamation that ever can take place. Without a doubt the devil is behind this theory that you must always have a fast in secret. It certainly suits his purposes. People sometimes tell you, "Don't let any body know that you are fasting, brother. That would be pride!" No, it would not. It is obedience. Joel cries: "Sanctify a fast! Call a solemn assembly! Blow the trumpet!" Do it as publicly as it can be done. Of course it must be done with the right motive. But the Bible clearly teaches that there are times when fasting is to be publicly proclaimed for all God's

people. In the early church they came together for set times of fasting. You cannot do that except by public agreement. Sometimes "humility" is a polite religious name for unbelief or disobedience.

Verses 16 and 17 continue: "Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts. . . Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar." You will notice that the priests, the ministers and the elders have a special responsibility. I believe this to be no less true today. If leaders are going to lead, they must go ahead of the people whom they are leading. I was speaking once to a man who held a position of spiritual leadership. He said, "I have to run to keep up with the people I'm leading." Make up your mind whether you are a leader or a follower. If you are a leader, you have to be in the lead. God needs a lot more leaders of that kind than are at present available.

Three times Joel calls God's people to fasting. Then there follows the promise: "Afterward I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." After what? After God's people have obeyed his call to fasting and prayer. Today we see the Holy Spirit poured out upon all flesh in a measure. This is God's sign that his time has come for the promised last great outpouring. But I do not believe that we shall see the fulfillment or the culmination of what God intends to do until we join fasting to prayer.

So it was with Daniel. He saw God's hand moving. He saw from the Scriptures that God's time had come. But he did not sit back and say, "There is nothing I need to do." He gave himself to prayer and fasting in a way that he had never done before. I believe that if you are in tune with heaven and with the Holy Spirit, this is what you too will do. You will give yourself to prayer and fasting. You will not be content to be a spectator. You will desire to become an instrument in the fulfillment of God's will.

Mordecai said to Esther: "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" This is the choice that is set before you. You can choose to become an instrument of deliverance to God's people. Why not make the latter your choice?

It is appropriate to close this study of Old Testament teaching on fasting by turning to Isaiah chapter 58. This is the great "fasting chapter" of the Old Testament. In it Isaiah describes two different kinds of fasting. In verses 3-5 Isaiah describes the kind of fast which is not acceptable to God. Then in verses 6-12 he describes the kind of fast which is well pleasing to God.

The fault with the first kind of fasting lies mainly in the motives and the attitudes of those practicing it.

"Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours (or things wherewith ye grieve others). Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness . . . Is it such a fast that I have chosen? . . . is it for a man to bow down his head as a bulrush?"

For the people here described, fasting was merely an accepted part of religious ritual. This was the kind of fasting practiced by the Pharisees in Jesus' day. There was no real repentance or self-humbling. On the contrary, they continued with all their normal secular affairs, and they retained all their evil attitudes of greed, selfishness, pride and oppression. The "bowing down of the head as a bulrush" is a very vivid description of certain forms of prayer still practiced by some orthodox Jews, in which they rock to and fro with their heads, repeating by rote set prayers of which they scarcely understand the meaning.

On the other hand, the kind of fast which is well pleasing to God springs from motives and attitudes that are totally different. In verse 6 Isaiah defines the motives behind this kind of fasting: "to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke." Scripture and experience alike confirm that in the spiritual realm there are many bands that cannot be loosed; many burdens that cannot be undone, many yokes that cannot be broken, and many oppressed who will never go free, until God's people - and especially their leaders - pray through on their behalf with fasting.

In verse 7 Isaiah describes the attitudes towards other people - and especially towards the needy and the oppressed - which are part of the kind of fasting approved by God. "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Fasting of this kind must be united with sincere and practiced charity in our dealings with those around us - particularly those who need our help in material and financial matters. In verses 9 and 10 Isaiah once again warns against the wrong attitudes associated with the kind of fasting not acceptable to God, and contrasts these attitudes with true, practical charity. "If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; and if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul." "The yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity" may be summed up in three words: legalism, criticism, insincerity.

Now consider all the blessings promised to those who practice the kind of fasting acceptable to God. These blessings are listed in successive stages in verses 8 through 12. In verse 8 Isaiah describes the blessings of health and righteousness. "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth

speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward." This is in harmony with the promise of Malachi 4:2: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings . . ."

In verse 9 Isaiah describes the blessing of answered prayer. "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am." Here is God at man's disposal, ready to answer every petition and to supply every need.

In verses 10 and 11 Isaiah describes the blessings of guidance and fruitfulness. "Then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

Finally, in verse 12, Isaiah describes the blessings of restoration: "And they that be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in."

One thing is sure. Throughout church history the men who laid spiritual foundations that stood the test of time were men who practiced fasting. Martin Luther fasted. John Knox fasted. John Wesley fasted. Charles Finney fasted. Almost every internationally known evangelist of our generation has practised fasting. In early Methodism there was particular emphasis upon fasting. John Wesley taught that the early church practised fasting on Wednesday and Friday of each week, and he exhorted all Methodists of his day to do the same. In fact, he would not ordain to the Methodist ministry any man who would not undertake to fast until 4 P.M. each Wednesday and Friday.

Notice that again in this chapter fasting is closely associated with the process of spiritual restoration out of desolation. Isaiah closes his message with this theme of restoration: "building the old waste places . . . repairing the breach . . . restoring paths to dwell in." Today God's people need the old waste places rebuilt; they need the breaches repaired, and the paths restored. The divinely appointed means to accomplish all this is prayer and fasting with the motives and the attitudes which Isaiah here describes.

In Ezekiel 22:30 God says: "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it." Today again God is looking for a man like that. Will you offer yourself to God for this purpose? Will you give yourself to prayer and fasting? Will you join yourself in fellowship with others of like vision and determination, and with them unite in special periods of intercessory prayer and fasting?

Let us sanctify a fast! Let us call a solemn assembly! Let us gather together!

POET'S CORNER

BLESSINGS

Jesus bless our land far and wide
Make us nice deep inside
Help me be nice just like you
And I'll help other people too . . .

Because I wouldn't want to be in the devil's bars
I'd rather like to walk the stars
I hope you'll do what I say
So I can be nice every day . . .

I'm glad the Bible is true
So if I follow it I'll walk the sky that is blue
But please take my advice
That the Lord and Jesus is nice . . .

I hope I can walk the sky with my feet
But now my poem is complete



*By Kim Mitchell, age 8,
So. Charleston, W. Va.*

Myrtle Cassidy writes from Greensburg, Pa., "God gave me this song, words and music, while I was preparing to go to church one day."

Oh! to be chosen of Jesus
Just to walk in His light all the way
Just to hear Him call us His children
Just to be led by His Spirit all the way . . .

Oh! to be near our dear Jesus
Every moment, every minute, each day
You can be freed of your iniquities and burdens
If you walk close in His Spirit all the way . . .

(Rather than attempt to thank each individual for the tremendous response to our request for contributions of verse to the "POET'S CORNER", we wish to express our appreciation to you collectively for the interest displayed and the many fine works received. Many will be blessed as a result of your generosity.)

PURGE ME LORD

Purge me Lord and make me wholly Thine,
I am so human, Thou are Divine,
Purge my thoughts Lord,
My will and my every desire,
Must be cleansed by Thy pure fire.
Purge me and fashion me anew,
'Till I shall be always faithful and true.
'Till my supreme desire,
Is Thy holy will to do.

Purge me Lord, 'Till I am not my own
'Till all of sin and self I shall disown.
Purge me Lord, Fill me with light from above,
Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all my life is love.

By Mrs. A.A. Hagler

The sea is a liquid expression
of the thoughts and feelings of men
given to a long wait. There is no
sorrow in the sounds of the moving
mass of sea, only patience expecting
release. Theirs is a confident hope
that rises up from a silent, motionless
depth to bravely meet the upheaving
windy storms sent from the
unreachable sky. But every disturbing
doubt has been outlasted by their trust
and waiting. The force of their own faith
has been a relentless, powerful rush-tide
on the sandy, self-made plans of
impatient men. And they wait for the
soon coming of their king. They shall be
released from the unseen basin depths
of wait and turned to laughing, splashing,
sunlit streams, flowing toward the sky.
Everlasting life.

By Paul Beaird, Fort Bragg, N.C.

THE CHOICE OF A PARTNER



by DEREK PRINCE

There are three choices of very great importance which usually face young people as they grow up: the choice of a Saviour; the choice of a work in life (a career); the choice of a partner in life. (a wife or a husband) If we have chosen Christ as our Saviour, we should ask Him to guide us in the other two choices; and these other two choices are closely connected with each other, because husband and wife should be partners (workers together) in life. (Read Genesis 2:18-25)

A Christian should **ALWAYS CHOOSE A CHRISTIAN PARTNER**. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) "Be ye not unequally yoked (in marriage) with unbelievers" - that is, a Christian marrying someone who is not a Christian. (Read carefully II Cor. 6:14-18).

You may ask: "How can I know that the person whom I intend to marry is a Christian?" Well, here are some of the things which you should look for in that person:

1. Does he or she witness with assurance that he or she is **BORN AGAIN** of the Spirit of God?
2. Does he or she **REGULARLY READ THE BIBLE** and know what it teaches?
3. Does he or she **REGULARLY ATTEND A CHURCH** where the Word of God is preached?



4. Does he or she like to TALK ABOUT SPIRITUAL THINGS? "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34).

5. Does he or she lead A CLEAN PURE LIFE?

6. Does he or she have a real desire to LEAD OTHERS TO THE LORD and to see them saved?

7. Has he or she received THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

If the answer to several of these questions is "No", then you are NOT choosing the right partner.

If you are a Spirit-filled Christian and you marry someone who is not a real believer and so cannot share your spiritual experiences, two things are sure to happen:

1. You will have much sorrow and pain in your own heart.

2. You will not be able to serve the Lord so well as you would, if you had married a real believer.

Perhaps you are thinking: "I will marry an unsaved person, and then I will persuade that person to become a Christian." But that is foolishness! Above all else, a Christian is a person who obeys God. So you are planning to disobey God (by marrying an unbeliever) in order to persuade that unbeliever to obey God (by becoming a Christian). You will try to persuade that person to obey God, when you yourself are disobeying God! How will that ever work? A young lady once took a young man to see her pastor, and said: "This is the young man whom I am going to marry." "Is he a Christian?" asked the pastor. "Not yet," said the young lady, "but I will help him to become one, after we are married."

"Before you finally make up your mind, I would like you to do something for me," said the pastor. He pointed to a table in the room, and said: "Just climb up onto that table and stand there for a moment." The young lady did so. "Now," said the pastor, "give the young man your hand, and try to lift him up onto the table beside you." Then he turned to the young man, and said: "Now you try to pull the young lady down to you." Within a few moments, the young lady was down on the floor beside the young man!

"That's how it will be when you are married," said the pastor. "You will not be able to pull him up to your level, but he will pull you down to his."

So it is when a Christian marries an unbeliever. It is always easier for the unsaved partner to make the Christian a backslider, than for the saved partner to make the unbeliever a Christian.

Finally, here are three things to remember:

Remember that MARRIAGE DOES NOT CHANGE A PERSON'S CHARACTER. If a person has a bad character before marriage, that person will still have a bad character after marriage.

Remember that MARRIAGE IS FOR LIFE. If you buy a bad shirt or a bad dress, it will wear out and you can buy another. But if you marry a bad man or woman, you cannot change that person, but you will have to live with that person for the rest of your life.

Remember that when you have strong feelings about a person or a thing, it is not easy to find out the will of God about that person or thing. Therefore, before your feelings become too strong for you, you should earnestly pray to the Lord: "Saviour, choose my partner in life for me. NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE, BE DONE."

May God bless you, my dear young Christian friend, and may He so guide you in your choice that you may make the best of your life in this world, and may reach heaven safely at the end.

In Harmony with GOD and Man

by COSTA DEIR

"Once more I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything for which you pray, it will be done for you by My Heavenly Father." (Matthew 18:19 Berkeley)

The Lord Jesus assures us over and over in the scripture that He hears and answers prayers. This assurance is essential to the peace and joy of a Christian. But the assurance which is granted and guaranteed by the Master requires first the harmony, the unity, the blending of the brethren joining and being knitted together, being moulded together in our motives, attitudes and actions. The Lord is as concerned with our coming into the very place of divine amalgamation, as anything else. This is a most essential step to all that will follow.

Being out of harmony with God, results in being out of harmony with man. When we've the right relationship with the Father maintained by continuous fellowship, humility and utter obedience, it is inevitable that we find our hearts warm toward each other, and as we fellowship together, we discover that the Spirit has been speaking the very same thing to each other - that which is on the heart of the Father.



BE PERFECTLY JOINED

Paul exhorted the Corinthians saying, "Now, I beseech you, brethren, by the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment - sentiment." Gk. I Cor. 1:10. For all to speak harmoniously and to be mutually agreeable in mind and attitude, it takes action on the part of every individual who is positively and definitely concerned to please the heart of the Father. Every person must be desperately desirous of coming into perfect alignment with the will and purposes of the Father, just as the Pattern Son was, before there can be any flowing together.

UNION PRECEDES COMMUNION

The fall distorted man's faculties from functioning properly, besides incurring a separation between God and man. In so doing, the senses of correspondence were damaged, resulting in being out of union with God. Now, man is out of touch, out of tune, out of step and out of harmony with Him.

Back to the Father in true union and sweet communion with perfect harmony, is the call of the Spirit in this hour.

In observing the divine harmony which existed between the Father and the Son, we find that the Son was fully committed, fully submitted, fully controlled and fully in tune with the voice of the Father. He could say, "I do always those things that please Him." John 10:30.

THE SECRET OF DIVINE UNION

Jesus declared in John 8:28 that He was taught by the Father. In John 15:15, He hears the Father . . . in John 8:38 He sees the Father . . . in John 5:17, He works with the Father . . . in John 2:4, He is limited to the Father . . . in John 5:30 He wills with the Father. Perfect submission, perfect delight - all is at rest.

VERTICAL HARMONY

Vertical harmony results in horizontal harmony. The Gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of a life in full harmony and accord with the Father and the brethren. The reason that many a follower has been enfeebled in the way, is attributed to the lack of establishing a loving union with the Lord, and maintaining such, with a sweet communion daily in order that the inner man might be nourished and strengthened.

UNITY PRECEDES PRODUCTIVITY

The miracle of reaching true unity in the Spirit in purpose and in heart supercedes in its value, many things in life. It brings our eyes into focus to see as God sees; it brings our wills into alignment with God's will, and it brings our minds into subjection to His mind. In that realm of unity dwells no selfish thought nor is any evil act able to penetrate for the atmosphere is divinely electrified by His presence and is impregnated by His glory.

PAUL'S FORMULA

It is evident that, before we can truly agree in prayer, we must unite in our objectives. Therefore it behooves us to consider the formula of divine unity which the Spirit brought forth through Paul. (Eph. 4:1-3) "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye were called with all lowliness and meekness with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace".

(a) ALL NO SELF-RESERVATION
Willingness to submit our resources.

(b) LOWLINESS OF MIND . . . NO SELF-DEFENSE
Willingness to submit our opinions.

(c) MEEKNESS NO SELF-ESTEEM
Willingness to submit our respectability.

(d) LONGSUFFERING . . . NO SELF-COMPLAINT
Willingness to submit our temper.

(e) FORBEARING . . . NO SELF-CONSIDERATION
Willingness to submit our rights.

(f) ENDEAVORING NO SELF-SPARING
Willingness to submit ourselves.

Every one of these divine qualities does away with self and all its poisonous manifestations. As these become a reality in our daily life unity is on its way to being preserved.

These conditions are prerequisite, if we are to reach a place of perfect harmony in our relationship, before we approach the Throne. It is an invincible fact that unless we consider seriously reaching this goal, we cannot possibly accomplish the will of God in prayer.

Paul, in his assertion, gave us the divine prescription for maintaining true unity in the body of Christ. These are the cords that give forth the symphony of divine harping. They are the principles which can secure perfect harmony; the strings of melody; the qualifications which knit the saints together with the eternal cords of love. When we have entered together into this divinely appointed endeavor, his mind will find full expression through us. Henceforth we find it easy to agree in prayer.

UNITY OF MINORITY AND OF MAJORITY

This particular promise does not require a whole nation to be in unity and agreement - nor a city or even a whole church. Two people - agreeing in prayer are heard. The Master condescended in his proposal only to two persons? Does this move us and awaken within us the desire to respond to his challenge? Will the individualist, the isolationist and the segregationist arise from their frustration and seek the Lord afresh in this hour of crisis?

Will you seek a partner in prayer?

One who has been dealt with by the Spirit of the Lord and has been brought face to face with the challenge of unity?

The seismograph in the days of the apostles will testify to the fact that has been presented. Whether unity prevails among the minority or the majority, the result is always glorious and amazing. In Acts 16:25-26 when Paul and Silas prayed an earthquake shook the foundation of the prison and its captain. In Acts 4:31 when the disciples prayed, the place was shaken. United prayer is the strongest force.

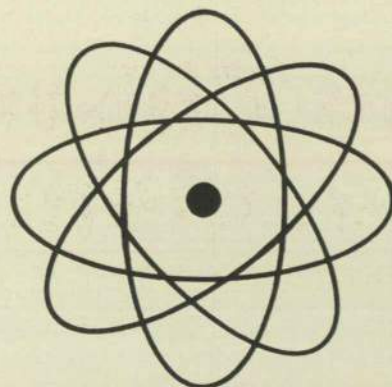
SCRIPTURAL SUMMARY

The scriptures prove the profound truth that unity among the least number, moves God to action. "One chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight" (Deut. 32:30) "If two or three gather together in my Name, there Am I in the midst." (Matt. 18:20)

Again the same truth is emphasized in Eccl.4:9-12: "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour, woe to him that is alone when he falleth. If two lie together, then they have heat; but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him and a threefold cord is not easily broken." "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

May the Spirit Himself who maketh intercession according to the will of God make this truth a reality in our lives today. . . .

Why a Scientist Believes In God



By A. CRESSY MORRISON

Former President,
New York Academy of Sciences

By A. Cressy Morrison - Former President, New York Academy of Sciences

By unwavering mathematical law we can prove that our universe was designed and executed by a great engineering intelligence.

Suppose you put ten pennies, marked from one to ten, into your pocket and give them a good shuffle. Now try to take them out in sequence from one to ten, putting back the coin each time and shaking them all again. Mathematically we know that your chance of first drawing number one is one in ten; of drawing one and two in succession, one in 100; of drawing one, two and three in succession, one in 1000, and so on; your chance of drawing them all, from number one to number ten in succession, would reach the unbelievable figure of one in ten billion.

By the same reasoning, so many exacting conditions are necessary for life on the earth that they could not possibly exist in proper relationship by chance. The earth rotates on its axis 1000 miles an hour at the equator; if it turned at 100 miles an hour, our days and nights would be ten times as long as now, and the hot sun would likely burn up our vegetation each long day while in the long night any surviving sprout might well freeze.

Again, the sun, source of our life, has a surface temperature of 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and our earth is just far enough away so that this "eternal fire" warms us just enough and not too much! If the sun gave off only one half its present radiation, we would freeze, and if it gave half as much more, we would roast.

The slant of the earth, tilted at an angle of 23 degrees, gives us our seasons! If the earth had not been so tilted, vapors from the ocean would move north and south, piling up for us continents of ice. If our moon were, say, only 50,000 miles away instead of its actual distance, our tides might be so enormous that twice a day all continents would be submerged; even the mountains could soon be eroded away. If the crust of the earth had been only ten feet thicker, there would be no oxygen, without which animal life must die. Had the ocean been a few feet deeper, carbon dioxide and oxygen would have been absorbed and no vegetable life could exist.

It is apparent from these and a host of other examples that there is not one chance in billions that life on our planet is an accident.

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Who Chose Jerusalem

.....from the "Mount Zion Reporter"

Jerusalem is now a burdensome stone and cup of trembling to all the world, just as the prophet Zechariah pre-announced it would be in the closing days of this Gentile age. Zechariah 12:2,3. All of the Arab Nations surrounding Israel and Jerusalem are grieved like Haman, the enemy of the Jews, in the days of Queen Esther and are greatly troubled because of the Jews who are sitting at the kings gate. Esther 5:9 to 13 and 6:10 to 12. Russia, India, China, and even France has now joined the Haman gang.

There is also a controversy among many sincere Christians about Jerusalem, whether it is a city really chosen by heaven. There is no one on earth, who has made a choice of Jerusalem from all the leading cities of the world. There are many scriptures, however, stating clearly that Jerusalem was chosen by the Creator. We will give a few of these scriptures-"I will not rend away all the kingdom but I will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen". 1 Kings 11:13. "But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake and for Jerusalem's sake the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel." 1 Kings 11:32. "And unto his son will I give one tribe that David my servant may have light always before me in Jerusalem the city which I have chosen me to put my name there." verse 36.

Many more texts could be given, but only one is sufficient, as the Creator never changes, and the Word does not contradict. The passing events after this was spoken, prove conclusively that the Creator chose Jerusalem for His special abiding place, above every other on the face of the earth and for His special work. Why did He bring forth the Children of Israel here to this particular place? Why did He not take them to Lebanon, to Damascus, or to some city in Turkey? Why were all the ancient prophets, Elijah, Moses, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so closely associated with this place? Why did the Creator bring Abraham here from over a thousand miles to the Northeast if this land and city was not the place of His choice. No man has chosen Jerusalem. It was our blessed and all powerful Creator Who chose it. Everyone with intelligence, after knowing the records of the Holy Scriptures will have to admit the Heavenly Father chose Jerusalem and this land for the chief headquarters of His people on this earth.

There are many people scattered all over the world among all nationalities who for various reasons oppose Jerusalem as having been chosen of the Father, or of having any sacred place at this time of pre-eminence above other cities of the world. Some say He struck it off, with His chosen people, hence it has no significance today. It is quite true that because of sin, the "Chosen people Israel" were punished, and scattered over the world, with Jerusalem "Trodden down by the Gentiles UNTIL the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled" Luke 21:24. This trodding down of the Holy City, however, was limited to a certain time, but now the same race "The Chosen People" the Father had blessed (Isaiah 61:9) are here again, and the Creator *has chosen Jerusalem again, where he placed His Name.* Note carefully the following scripture "The Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem." -Zechariah 1:17. Also "The Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the Holy Land, and shall choose Jerusalem again". "Be silent, O all flesh before the Lord for He is raised up out of His holy habitation."-Zechariah 2:12,13.

Zechariah's Vision Concerning Judah A Brand Plucked Out of The Fire

"And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the angel said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke thee O' Satan, even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem, rebuke thee. Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" (Thousands of Jews are here plucked out of the gas chambers of Germany and the persecution in Arab countries).

"Now Joshua was clothed in filthy garments and stood before the angel, and he answered and spake unto those that stood before him saying, take away the filthy garments from him, and to him he said, behold I have caused thine iniquities to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with a change of raiment." Zech. 3:1-4

Here we have a wonderful revelation of our own day. Satan resisting the very work now going on here, because the *Lord has chosen Jerusalem again.* The Satanic forces are concentrated with mighty human power against Israel and against Jerusalem, but the angel said, "The Lord rebuke thee," and He is rebuking the Satanic hosts, gaining victory after victory, by the power of the angels of heaven, which have appeared here many times during the recent wars.

Israel is represented by Joshua clothed in filthy garments. This corresponds exactly with the prophet Ezekiel for this time. He says-"I will take you from among the heathen and gather you out of ALL countries, and will bring you into your own land." THEN will I sprinkle clean water upon you"- Water represents the WORD, the Bible both Old and New

Testaments. Eph. 5:26; Rev. 7:17; Rev. 22:17; John 4:10 to 14. Many more texts show that this pure water is the Holy Word. The prophet Ezekiel goes on and says "a new heart He will give them, and will take away their stony hearts of flesh, and He will put His Spirit within them." That is exactly what is going on here now.

Note that Joshua's garments were changed in spite of Satan standing at his side to resist the work of the angel. He was clothed upon with a change of garment. Then in verse 8 the Creator brings forth His servant "THE BRANCH", which is the Messiah. This event is just ahead of us now. As to the Branch, please read Isaiah 11:1; and Jer.23:5, etc. referring to the Messiah Yahshua.

The Heavenly Father has truly chosen Jerusalem again, the only city in the world where He has placed His Name. How wonderful to be living now and to see these great pre-announced events taking place, which herald with certainty the soon coming of Him Who was born to be King of the Jews. Matthew 2:1; John 19:19 to 21.



The REVOLUTION.....

There is a new sense of excitement today in Pittsburgh because the Revolution is here. The excitement mounts, as the Revolution spreads - sometimes gently, sometimes violently, always boldly and confidently, until the whole world is captured by JESUS of Nazareth. This article is an attempt to explain the origin and nature of the God-Movement, and your place in its ranks.

The Revolution not only began with JESUS, but it IS JESUS. He is its author, finisher, and essence. We are privileged to play a part - to throw our whole lives into the battle, in fact because JESUS is taking over our lives and filling them completely with His Spirit. What is the impact of His Spirit in us and through us in the world? As JESUS himself said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:16-19)

In a word, the impact of the Spirit is: LIBERATION. This is the theme that spans the Bible - a yearning in the Old Testament, a reality in the New Testament. Freedom from physical and spiritual poverty, blindness, and oppression. Freedom to be accepted by God and to become His slave. This is what we are talking about. This is the Revolution in our lives that we are spreading over the whole city, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom." This is what we are saying and living: the Spirit is here.

The Spirit is not something we have invented, but something we have discovered. It is not a concept to blow minds by, but a power to change lives and cities. There is nothing about your life or your circumstances that can not be made new. We are new men making Pittsburgh new. Not a political program, not a student protest, not a business proposition, but CHRIST, the power of GOD.

Let us repeat the story simply. CHRIST JESUS, the Son of God, was born among men. By living among us for approximately 33 years, He showed us how to be free from the hang-ups of this life: materialism, booze, sex, drugs, the rat-race. He lived without doubt or fear, perfectly obedient to the will of the Heavenly Father. His radical way of Life upset the "status quo".

Those who maintained the "status quo" in those days - the political and religious establishment - crucified Him because He was a threat to their world view. But JESUS was raised up by the Heavenly Father, ascended to live forever with Him, and sent to His disciples the Holy Spirit, the power to follow in His way. The early Christians were called the "Followers of the Way". They were an extension into the world of the crucified Body of Christ. The establishment treated them as it had treated their Lord. But they joyfully proclaimed the Gospel of Christ. They carried on all that Jesus had begun to do and teach (Acts 1:1). Their lives brought forth, naturally, the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22): love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The followers of Christ, today, walk in the same Spirit. We invite you to examine our lives and your own. We are speaking the truth to you in Love. Christ can set you free.

Today, the Gospel has been compromised so that the world can ignore it rather than confront it. The Church, by and large, has diluted the message so that men can adjust themselves to it. There is little room in "established Christianity" for the new birth of the violent entry into the kingdom that Jesus spoke about. By means of our ignorance of, or rejection of the truth of GOD IN CHRIST, we have all participated in His crucifixion. By means of His forgiveness, we may all enter His Kingdom; and as citizens of His Kingdom, we must join the revolution to establish that Kingdom here in our lives, families and schools. Will you accept His forgiveness and enter the ranks of His liberation force here in Pittsburgh, throughout our nation and the world? We come in His Name to redeem and make new. We do not seek to destroy. Those to whom we speak and act the Truth in love will either accept the ONE who sends us or crucify Him again. We joyfully share His afflictions without fear and with the complete assurance that we will be victorious with Him, even over death, to establish His Kingdom.

Open your life to GOD. If you do not know that He exists, ask Him to make Himself real to you. We are not talking about imagining something that you want to be there, but accepting what really is there. If you truly seek Him, you will surely find Him. The story of God's life on earth is concisely recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Acts in the New Testament. This now becomes your life, in all its beauty and power. The continuing story is lived and told throughout the world by our indomitable lives, filled with the SPIRIT. We invite you to read these documents. Dare to give CHRIST a chance with your life. Join our family and the GOD-force that is "making all things new".

THE REVOLUTION

Reprinted from "LIBERATION", a paper from the young church in Pittsburgh to the world, 1309 Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, Penna. 15221.

conversation of the brush

Uncle Sid Purse

You do not know how shy I feel, as you are looking at my nice blue overcoat, you think I am so lovely and so wonderful; but you do not realize how helpless and useless I am if left on my own. Why, I cannot even stand upright; just let me go and you will find I am soon down on the floor with the dirt, my outward show and all. To be of any use I need to be in the strong hand of another, and see then how useful I am. I become of value in being still in the hand of my master. You see, I was bought to be obedient, I cannot please myself; I just let my master do what He wants to with me.

Without my Master I cannot even sweep a floor, and He cannot get it swept without me. You see, we are workers together; we need each other, without Him, I can do nothing. If left in the cupboard . . . well, I would just be stood upright and the old spider would just build his web around me and be covered with dust. But that's not my calling. I love to go head first into my job; I really enjoy it. Sometimes I get my head banged against the wall, but I do not complain. I get pushed and shoved about, and still not murmur. Perhaps you do not realize that I am dead, my life is hid in my Master and all my ability is

in Him. It is when He takes hold of me, that I can do the work; no, it's not I but both of us together, and everyone can see where we have been. I need not boast of what I have done; everyone knows who has done it.

And when my job is done, just put me with my brother in the cupboard, and see that my head is up enabling me to keep my eye on my Co-worker. Take care of me, now. I will not be needed in Heaven; there is no dust up there.

Don't criticize, and then you won't be criticized! For others will treat you just as you treat them. And why worry about a speck in the eye of a brother, when you have a board in your own? Should you say, "Friend, let me help you get that speck out of your eye", when you can't even see, with a board in your own? Hypocrite! Get rid of the board first! Then you can see to help your brother!

Matthew 7:1-5 (Living Bible)

Uncle Sid

A Word of Warning

WILL YOU BUY?

OCCULT AGE IN TOYS FOR SMALL FRY

This is the dawning of the age of the occult for small fry.

The 850 manufacturers participating in the 67th annual American Toy Fair offered games and other playthings covering every possible aspect of witchcraft, the Zodiac, astrology and the supernatural. The fair officially opened here Sunday, although some manufacturers displayed their wares for newsmen and buyers last week.

There also were indications at the fair of a coming trend in environmental games stressing various kinds of pollution cleanups. One game, already on the market, encourages youngsters to clean up litter.

Growing Interest

Most of the new toys, however, capitalized on the growing interest in astrology and magic.

"Made in Witch City, U.S.A.," reads the package for one game, manufactured in Salem, Mass., site of colonial witchcraft trials.

The game, Witch Pitch, requires players to toss discs into a revolving cupola on top of a witch's house.

From the same company comes Prediction Rod, which features a magnetic pointer that helps players tell their own fortunes.

"Test your powers of clairvoyancy, telepathy and precognition," says the package.

A similar game, the Mystery Zodiac, from another company, has a plastic wizard with magnetic wand to aid the fortunetelling process. Players spin a disc, starting from a point determined by their birthdates.

Most of these games will retail for about 5 dollars, spokesmen for the companies said.

vice president of Parker Bros. Inc., predicted at a press preview of the toy fair that the 1970s would see a growing number of games about pollution, land conservation and beautification of the cities.

"These are all causes that are being taken up with a vengeance by the young", said Barton, "and the game publishers will begin to see submissions from inventors on these very subjects."

On the market this year is Tricky Trash Truck. The game is designed for four players, each of whom is assigned a house and yard on the playing board and is given a load of plastic trash - including broken bottles, tin cans, broken toys and bones.

A wind-up dump truck travels the streets of the board, with players dumping their trash in the bin as it comes down their street. When the truck stops in front of a house, the occupant gets all the trash. First player to get rid of all his litter wins.

Press Review

Randolph P. Barton, executive

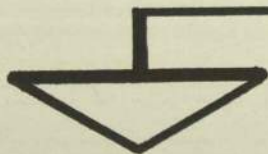
This is an article from the
Los Angeles Times -

the HOLY SPIRIT in AFRICA



SILAS OWITI

SILAS OWITI, a LUO tribesman and CHRISTIAN leader among his people, relates his personal experience with the HOLY SPIRIT.



HOW GOD SUPERNATURALLY BAPTIZED ME WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT

I had sang severally about the Holy Spirit, but I knew nothing what it meant to be baptized with the Holy Spirit as recorded in the scriptures.

The First Pentecostal Meeting in My House

A group of people that were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit made arrangement and invited themselves to come and hold a meeting in my house. They came and started a very strange meeting. They sang a chorus many times. They sang standing looking up, sometimes with eyes closed and clapping their hands. It was too noisy for me. They were the most peculiar people I saw. I never saw such a people before in my life. I did not understand them. This was way back in 1954. They left for their homes; but they left the Holy Spirit working in our house!

The First Miracle - When God Spoke in my House

I went to my reserve home one evening. We had dinner and our first born daughter Eddy went asleep. Both my wife and myself were taking some tea, while holding discussions before retiring. Suddenly a miraculous voice appeared in our house. We only had a two-roomed house, the bed and sitting rooms. In the sitting room I HEARD a man praying there. I took a little blowing lamp to check what was going on as there was no person in that sitting room. As I walked into that room the miraculous voice continued but the nearer I should get to it, the further it went from me - until I found myself outside the house in the dark as the voice was now coming from the outside. If you heard this voice as I did, it would obviously remain a lasting miracle to you as it is to me.

When an Illiterate Brother Spoke in Grammartical English Language

As I stood outside there in the dark, listening to the voice, the language came in a pure English language and added much excitement to me! It was coming from that illiterate man's house about half a mile. I heard the words clearly. Filled with excitement, I called my wife and said loudly, "Fanny, why should these educated so called saved people speak in English when they come near my house? Did I not hear that those saved people are never proud, but these are proud". Fanny answered gently and said that those saved people also believe in the Holy Spirit with which when they are baptized, that Holy Spirit can enable them to speak in any language.

Although I had resisted my wife from giving her life to God remarking that it would definitely result in divorce, yet as we stood out there I told her to be saved - and that it was the type of GOD I would SERVE. "As for me, I said, I will check this further". I left in the morning for my work which was eighteen miles away and circled back again. I went to the illiterate man who spoke in English and led him to the back of the shop and there I asked him. I inquisitively enquired from him to tell me of how many educated people were there present in the last evening meeting. He said there was none. It was only himself, his wife and about four or six children. I asked: "What language did you pray in?" He answered that he began praying in the Luo (his language) and in the course of prayer the Holy Spirit took over and he prayed as the Holy Spirit gave him utterance. "Do you remember the language and the words?" I asked him. He said he could not. I insisted with questions for him to pray again in my presence and use the exact words he used last night. He softly answered and said that it was impossible for him to do that except if the Holy Spirit did it. I asked him: "Don't you have the Holy Spirit, now?" He answered: "Yes" I then said: "Pray". He said it is the Holy Spirit to dictate him what to do.

Finally I found out that they would have a meeting that evening again. I made up my mind to attend personally.

The First English Song I Heard Sang in the Spirit

I got there punctually with my wife. The man preached perspiring all over. I cared less for this. I was only interested to hear them praying in English. As they started praying giving a command for everyone to kneel, I refused to kneel. I sat still on the chair watching to see who speaks in English. To my further perplexity, his wife who was twice as illiterate sang a song in English which we do not have in the Luo hymn books. This stirred my heart more.

I left that meeting convinced and convicted. I began to sing their choruses from my house up to my office. My collaborators in the office, wondered of what was happening to me. With this heavy conviction I was led to accept the Lord which is another testimony.

The First Time I Spoke in Tongues!

It took about seven days after my conversion for me to be baptized with the Holy Spirit according to scriptures. Those who were saved before me told me nothing about the Holy Spirit baptism. There was an evening meeting and as all knelt to pray - I suddenly found my tongue expanding larger and larger as a piece of a bladder, at the same time getting colder and colder, and heavier and heavier - making my tongue just to roll like heavily as if it was not my tongue at all. I stopped three times while wondering if I was losing the sense of prayer. At last I let loose my tongue and I began to pray. My tongue loosened and went as fast as if there was an electrical force driving it to such a vast velocity. I spoke a language I did not understand. Those who were converted before me patted on my back saying that, "Brother Silas, today you are filled with the Holy Spirit". They praised the Lord. I rejoiced greatly.

How I rejoiced to read from the Scriptures texts like these:

"And they were all FILLED with the HOLY GHOST and began to speak with other TONGUES" (Acts 2:1-4)

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost, fell on all of them which heard the word and they of the circumcision which believed were astonished as many came with Peter, because of that on the Gentiles, also were poured the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they HEARD them speak with TONGUES. (Acts 10:44-46) He that speaketh in

UNKNOWN TONGUES edifieth himself. (I Cor. 14:4). "I thank God that I speak in TONGUES more than you all." (I Cor. 14:18).

I cannot remember a day that passed by in my life without speaking in TONGUES - mostly quietly - Hallelujah!

May this testimony be of a deeper blessing to those who read it; In Jesus Name. Amen

Silas Owiti

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OPPRESSED OF the DEVIL

by H.A. Maxwell Whyte

The plain statements of scripture need to be believed, however usually they are not believed. The whole problem of sickness, whether mental or physical, is summed up in Acts 10:38. It does not need interpreting to an unbelieving church; it needs to be believed and put into practice to help the church to believe.

So often we are asked the question. "What do you mean, sickness is caused by the devil?" It seems to be a closed revelation to most Christians that God's will is our health and Satan's is our sickness. So many Christians have had a minimal Gospel preached to them so that they are totally unaware of the cause of sickness. Of course the medical profession knows nothing of the primary cause of sickness - they do not deal with the spirit of man; at best they treat the body, or probe the mind.

If asked the oft repeated question, "What is the cause of sickness?" I reply that in Acts 10:38, it is recorded that "Jesus healed ALL that were oppressed of the devil." It is that simple. All those who needed any kind of healing; spiritual, mental or physical, were healed by Jesus, and the cause of their sicknesses were ascribed to Satan. In other words, Jesus removed what Satan had planted into the lives of people. This reminds us of the story told to us by Jesus, that before the STRONGER MAN can invade the palace of the strong man, He must first bind him, then rob him of all his possessions. Jesus shows us that if we will approach the primary spiritual cause of sickness, then bind it, we can go into the life or house of the person, and rob the strong man of all that he ever established in the life of the poor oppressed person. We are told to go in and heal the sick and cast out devils. (Matt. 10:8)

The word oppressed as used in this scripture is 'katadunasteuo' which simply means 'to be overpowered'. Thus sickness in any form is caused by Satan overpowering us in some area of our triune life. This is why we feel weak with sickness and in emotional disturbances a familiar symptom is great weariness. Now we are not at a loss to understand that when God in heaven blesses us, He does so by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is sent into the world to reveal Jesus as Healer and Deliverer. This is good theology and few would dare to deny this truth, but when it comes to the opposite; that Satan oppresses the individual, then we run into considerable trouble. It seems repugnant to many Christians even to consider the existence of Satan, but that he oppresses them must not be considered. When it is further explained that Satan uses his unholy spirits as the agents of his oppressions, we are considered far out and to be avoided. However, it is when we use the Anglicised Greek word 'demon' (Greek - daimon) that fear and incredulity grips the minds of people. That they should be overpowered by a demon is horrifying, and that one should endeavour to exorcise that demon, as Jesus

did when He rebuked the spirit of infirmity or fever in Peter's wife's mother, is heresy! Obviously, a sickness cannot hear and obey unless it is animate and has an evil entity behind it.

This scripture in Acts 10:38 may be paraphrased thus, 'Jesus went about doing good, healing all that were overpowered in sickness by demons'. Jesus is the Healer, we in the middle are the sufferers, and Satan - the Destroyer - is attacking us, and he will attack us as long as we permit him to do so, and Jesus will not stop him, because the Bible tells us both to resist the devil and to give no place in our lives to him. This is our responsibility - not the responsibility of Jesus Who purchased our health on Calvary.

The moment we start to take offensive action against the strong man Satan, and command him in the Name of the STRONGER MAN Jesus, he begins to give way, to uncoil, to be cast out of the sufferer, but not without a fight. If we storm a palace (Luke 11:21) it is not going to fall after one shot is fired, or one command given 'come out in Jesus Name'. It will be necessary to press the battle in faith until all traces of the spiritual cause of the sickness is removed by violent command in Jesus Name. This may take anything from five minutes to an hour, depending on the depth of oppression and the faith of the one being prayed for. Usually it only requires a few minutes. Manifestations may be varied, but deliverance is sure.

Never ask Jesus to heal a person if he is in your presence! Lay hands on him and roundly command the sickness to leave in Jesus Name, and watch it go! Hallelujah!

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"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:2,3,4,

"He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Psalm 24:5

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God." Romans 8:14

"For all things are yours." I Corinthians 3:21

