

ASTROLOGY:
THE SPACE AGE SCIENCE

LESSONS
IN

WONDERS
Susy Smith

ROUGH ASTROLOGY

SYDNEY OMARR'S
ASTROLOGY
GUIDE FOR
TEEN-AGERS
YOUR COMPLETE TEEN YEARS STARGAZER FOR
LOVE...LUCK...AND SUCCESS

new wine

MAY 1972

A fascinating book that reveals just how the
cosmic power INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE
can be used today...and tomorrow...The mod-
ern approach to CHRISTIAN GROWTH

SYDNEY OMARR
ASTROLOGY
GUIDE FOR
TEEN-AGERS

JOSEPH F. GODDARD
ASTROLOGY
THE SPACE AGE SCIENCE

WHAT IS THE NEW
THERAPY BEHIND THE
"MIND-EXPANDING"
MOVEMENT?
THE
PRIVATE SEA
LSD
&
THE SEARCH FOR
GOD
BY WILLIAM BRADEN

WIDESPREAD
PSYCHIC
WONDERS

THE SATANIC BIBLE
&
THE SEARCH FOR
GOD
BY WILLIAM BRADEN

The Satanic Bible
Anton Szandor LaVey

10 There shall not be found among
you any one that maketh his son or
his daughter to pass through the fire,
or that useth divination, or an ob-
server of times, or an enchanter, or a
witch.

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with
familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a
necromancer.

—Deuteronomy 18

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MAGAZINE

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ASSISTANT EDITOR: Robert Sutton
EDITORIAL PRODUCTION: Terry Sharkey
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Janet Baum

ADMINISTRATION: Dick Key
CIRCULATION: Jack Bigger
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Material submitted for publication should be typewritten double spaced on one side of the paper and addressed to NEW WINE, 330 S.W. 27th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315. If return of manuscript is desired, a stamped addressed envelope should be included.

EDITORIAL

In this issue we found it necessary to eliminate the Letters to the Editor and the Book Review. This was due to the unusual length of some timely articles which we felt were of urgency to the Body of Christ. We will return to normal schedule in the June issue.

June is a month in which our Mailing Department makes its periodic survey of the mailing list in order to insure faithful stewardship of the monies entrusted to us.

Those regular readers who have not been in touch with us during the past twelve months, will shortly be asked to indicate whether they wish to continue receiving the magazine. During the past six months the circulation of NEW WINE has doubled, but the financial support has lagged far behind this figure and so we are being most careful in seeking to eliminate any possible wastage.

We praise God for the generous giving of those who have made it possible to continue this ministry. They have given so that others may share the riches of God's Word to His people. Nevertheless, thousands in this country, and overseas, are waiting to be included in this outreach. It is only as we receive your prayerful support and practical help that we are able to meet even a fraction of these demands.

If you have not written us this year, won't you please take a few moments of your time to tell us that you are backing us up as we seek to honor God in the faithful planning of what we believe to be a unique publication. We would appreciate hearing from you.

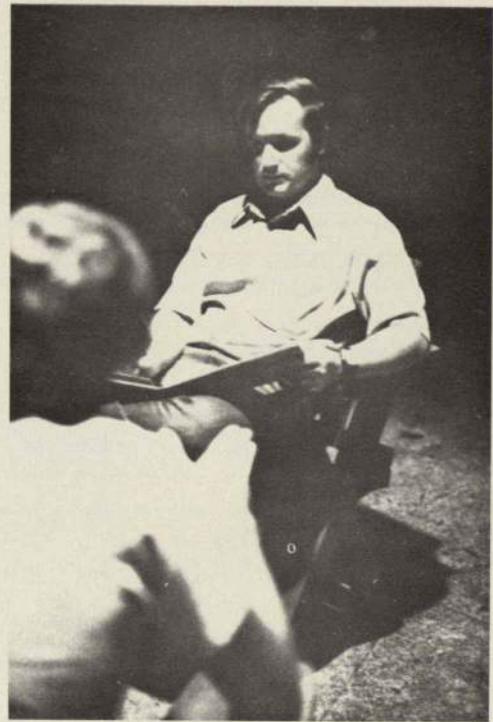
—Editor

The theological details and scriptural interpretations included in articles published in NEW WINE do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editors or Directors. However, every effort is made to include only those writings which are deemed to be essentially sound in doctrine and edifying to mature Christian believers who will judge every article carefully in the light of scripture and the contemporary move of the Holy Spirit.

NO OTHER GODS

A STORY OF OCCULT BONDAGE

New Wine staff member, Bob Sutton, interviews, a sixteen year old high school student, who found the reality of Jesus Christ after spending over four years in occult bondage.



David, what is your background in the occult? How long were you involved in it and in what areas did you concentrate?

My real involvement with occult practices began about four and one half years ago and since that time I have studied almost every area that the occult includes. My real concentration has been on witchcraft, sorcery and spiritualism; and for the last year, especially on witchcraft.

When you say, "Witchcraft, sorcery and spiritualism", what exactly do you mean, what do these practices involve?

These three practices are rather closely related to each other. Witchcraft comes from a word which means "wise men", and witchcraft is sup-

posedly the craft of the wise. So, when I got into it I assumed that I was coming into the deeper spiritual things of life. Specifically, it is a religion that deals with the concept of magic practices.

Sorcery is the direct influence of people, objects or things through supernatural means.

Spiritualism is the contact with the spirits of the dead or spirits that have departed from this earth.

How did it happen that you first got involved with the occult?

My interest in the occult began, as I said, about four and one half years ago with a curiosity about such things as E.S.P. I bought a few paperbacks on the subject, which you can find in any store you happen to walk into, and be-

gan to study subjects like hypnosis and thought projection. As my study lead me further and further I began to see instances of telepathy and mind transference take place. Of course this fascinated me greatly and urged me to go further and further in occult study.

There is a definite fascination in the field of the occult and it was this fascination that kept me going deeper. I very quickly realized that there was real power there and soon I began to desire this power that other people did not have. And it came to pass.

What is your church background? At the time you became interested in these things did you feel there was anything evil or wrong in what you were doing?

My church background is rather
(Continued on next page)



limited. My parents are Presbyterian, but we never went to church very often. I remember going to Sunday School when I was about six, but the most that ever amounted to was singing a few songs and coloring pictures of Jesus.

I had never been warned of the danger of occult practice so of course I felt that there could not possibly be anything wrong with it. Through my reading I did come to understand that there was a definite danger — mental derangement or even insanity — involved in these areas. These people, I felt, who had been hurt by it had been too hasty or careless, and I could avoid the same pitfalls by being more careful and taking my time.

At the time that I was actively involved with spiritualism, I had a concept of good and bad spirits, but even this did not bother me. If I associated only with the good spirits, I thought, there would be nothing to fear from the bad spirits. The most important thing, this was stressed in the study of sorcery, is that it is a precise art with no room for error. It must be undertaken with great care because one slip and the spirits that you are trying to control through a ritual can turn and attack. This is why so many people were harmed. All the material I studied and all the people I talked to taught me that as long as I was careful in the working of my rituals I would have no problem at all.

David, is it real? Many people want to say it's only psychological phenomenon. Is this true?

It is all very real. The people who say these things have not experienced it. It is as real as the physical bodies you and I are sitting in. It is easy to explain away someone else's experience. Too many people are not aware that beyond the physical realm that we live in everyday there is a spiritual world far greater, and in some ways, far more real.

My background from school is basically one of using the scientific method. At the time that I was involved in these things I was also doing some reading in psychology, which I eventually gave up because the truth was in the occult and not the psychology.

My deepest personal experience is in spiritualism and sorcery. When you, or one of your associates puts a spell or a hex on someone and in a very short period of time the thing which you desired comes about, someone gets sick, or has an accident, you just can not say it is a coincidence. Time after time I have seen these things work, with accuracy right before my eyes. It is as real as the breath in your mouth!

When I was first beginning to become deeply interested in sorcery, a friend of mine stole fifty dollars from me. Because of certain other involvements it was impossible for me to go to his parents or the authorities; so, I figured I would incur my own justice on him. I set up a ritual at a little altar I had in my room and said the proper incantation. When I did I actually felt something happen, it was like power was actually being manifested at that time.

The next night his parents showed up at my house with his wallet. He had lost it that day and they had found it with one hundred and fifty dollars in it and demanded to know where he had gotten it. The only excuse that he could give was that he had borrowed it and owed it to me. They asked me if he had owed me any money and I said

that he owed me fifty dollars which they gave me on the spot! I was really in a state of shock! My shock quickly turned to joy as I began to realize the discovery that I had made and the power that could be mine.

As a result of this I plunged even more deeply into my study of sorcery. I bought every book I could get my hands on. It seems that when you set yourself to really get involved with it, that certain circumstances begin to come along that simply open the doors to lead you in deeper and deeper . . . a phenomenal book buy . . . running into people who know more than you do and are willing to lead you deeper . . . or finding a group that is willing to help you. You know that forces beyond you are there.

Just to show how dangerous this really is; a friend of mine was visiting me one day and he began to fool around with one of my favorite amulets, a very powerful one which I wore almost constantly. I did not want any one fooling with it and asked him to please leave it alone. He made a joke of it and said there was really nothing to it and continued to play with it.

A few minutes later we walked up to the corner store, some other friends were with us, and as he was coming out of the store an unusual thing happened. There was an old man standing in front of the store and my friend suddenly got a strange look in his eyes, like he was totally a different person.

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NO OTHER GODS

(Continued from page 4)

He stepped toward the man like he was going to hit him. He kicked one leg up in the air and as he did his whole body became parallel to the ground about four feet above it . . . he came down hard and cracked his head open. As he was a friend I felt rather sorry about it. Needless to say my other friends were pretty alarmed, they had never seen anything like it before. I was beginning to realize more and more the powers that I was becoming involved with. I found that these powers were very co-operative; if I asked them to arrange circumstances to draw me deeper, then it would happen.

As time went on my powers increased. One time an individual whom I did not especially care for was at a friend's house acting rather obnoxiously and bothering me a great deal. Under my breath I chanted an incantation to a well known hex. When he left the yard on his motorcycle he was cutting up a little and his throttle stuck; and took a pretty bad spill and ripped up his leg. It was more than I thought would happen, but I was beginning to learn that exactly what happened was not under my control.

A close friend once asked me to put a protection spell on the VW bus . . . this power is supposed to be used for good things also. I was going to make this one a really deluxe job, I was going to give him the protection ritual against theft, damage, and anything like that.

I showed up one night with two bags of various equipment and set to work. The strange thing was that the night was clear and calm, no wind or rain or snow. I set up a very elaborate ritual and told my friends to get in the garage and not make any noise while I was performing the ritual.

The minute I started the ceremony, the wind started to gust very hard and it started to pour buckets of rain. The whole bus was shaking with the force of the wind. I had experienced things like this before, but never to the degree that it had happened that night.

My friends were scared stiff! The forces I was invoking were more powerful than any I had ever encountered. When I finished the ceremony the wind and rain stopped almost immediately. This was the night before I was saved.

I was also involved with spiritualism or direct communication with the spirits. I tried to contact the dead with automatic writing, seances and so on, but I soon found out that I could best communicate with them through the powers of telepathy.

As my power of telepathy increased I found I was becoming more and more aware of the powers that were around me. Finally, I simply asked these spirits to come to me. This to me was truth and reality, the world did not have it and I wanted it. At this time I began to communicate with a spirit I came to know as Diana. At first our communication was simple — we would greet each other — and she would tell me about the practices of the occult. She was always very calm and peaceful and reassuring, so I was confident that I had contacted a good spirit.

We communicated with telepathy, and once I became good at it, it was really not much different from carrying on a conversation.

She would guide me and give me advice in certain areas, she showed me how to do certain rituals and became what you might call my "guiding spirit" in witchcraft.

As I got to know her better, I found out that she was the supposed goddess of the religion of witchcraft. She was associated with the moon in some manner and her communication with me increased and decreased with the phases of the moon, coming to a climax with the full moon. I know now it was all a deception to get me further into witchcraft.

Since your involvement with occult was so deep, what lead to your leaving it?

Ever leaving the occult was the furthest thing from my mind. I was quite

happy and was ready to make witchcraft my life-time religion. I knew there was real power and reality there, the people I knew were sincere, and for the most part I could not find that in any of the churches.

My parents were beginning to become rather alarmed about all this as I began to openly confess my practices.

Through a series of "coincidences" that only God could arrange, my mother met a Catholic priest who had a background of understanding in the occult. He offered to have a talk with me.

Reluctantly I agreed to go see the man, but purposed in my heart not to be swayed. I had nothing against Christians, but I knew that the followers of witchcraft were often blackballed or persecuted for their beliefs.

The man did not accuse or pressure me but gently and quietly he began to explain how all these things I was involved with really had control over me, and that they were not under my control. He said I was being deceived, and would go so far that I would become mentally ill or insane.

For the first time I heard about the love of Jesus. He told me He was the divine Son of God and that He had the only real authority over all these forces.

Suddenly it was as if a light went on inside me. Everything this man had been saying to me for almost an hour registered inside me. What he was saying WAS TRUE! I knew it! I saw two paths in front of me, one path was very dark and I was already a long way down it. Then I realized what I was doing and where I was going! At almost the same instant, Diana, my "friendly" spirit, rose up in a way I had never known. She became very hostile. She was indignant and began to rear up and shout in my head, "Walk out of here! This man is a fool! He is telling you lies! Spit in his face! Walk away! . . . walk away! . . . this is madness!"

This scared me. I had never experienced anything quite like it before. This peaceful and good spirit had started shouting obscene phrases at the

man and it started at the instant I became aware of being on the wrong path; she had been unmasked for who she really was.

It was almost as if a battle was going on inside my body, I began to shake all over. Not just a knee-knocker, either! I shook violently all over my body. I thought for sure I was doomed.

The priest just said, "Well, let's pray."

I did not know what or how to pray. I just said, "God, help me!" The priest began praying to the Lord Jesus Christ and in a few seconds I felt the battle leave me and a wonderful calm settle around me, it was a warm glowing circle of protection all around me. It was the most wonderful and powerful thing I had ever come in contact with, and it was holding off all the things that were trying to attack me.

I had stopped shaking and the priest began to talk to me about the necessity of my accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I was a little apprehensive about what would happen if these powers tried to get back at me through my friends. He reassured me that Jesus was able to protect me in any situation and that all I had to do was put my trust in Him.

He led me in a prayer to renounce my dealings with Satan and all the occult practices I had been involved in. I stood on the name of Jesus Christ and told God I would have nothing more to do with any of these things.

To seal my decision I was baptized that night. God had released me, and I felt freer than I have ever felt in my life.

That night I gathered up all the books I had on occult, all the equipment I had used, the candles and herbs, and burned it all in the barbecue. I was ecstatic with joy. It was over a hundred dollars worth of material, but I did not care, I was really happy for the first time, because I was free from all of it.

Was it a struggle to remain free from these spirits after your conversion, or

did you have complete freedom at all times?

Occasionally one or more of these spirits would return and try to talk me out of my salvation. It has never really bothered me, because I know who they are and who their god is and that I have authority over them in the name of Jesus.

The only time I have had any real problems have been when I have not been totally obedient to the Lord. There were a few small objects that I used in my practice that I kept because of their value. A few small containers and so forth. I did not know it, but these things were oppressing me. One night while reading a book on occult bondage, I became aware of the potential danger of still keeping these objects in my possession. I began to see that they could hinder my spiritual progress and life by their very presence in my room.

The instant I realized this I was attacked spiritually. The lights began to dim in my room, not flicker like a power failure, but slowly grow dimmer and go out, just like they were controlled by a dimmer switch. As soon as the lights went out I heard a distinct breathing next to my bed, human sounding breathing. I began to pray for the protection of Jesus Christ. Then I took authority over this spirit and commanded it to leave. The breathing stopped and the lights came back on . . . I threw away the rest of my occult material.

Spirits can not bother us, unless there is legal ground in our life. People are usually attacked by depression, sickness, confusion, or disorientation when these spirits come against them. The greatest protection against these attacks is to walk in the light of Jesus, being obedient to His Word; this removes legal ground that they might have to oppress you.

What are your views of those things you have left behind, are they real, are they of Satan?

Without question. I definitely know

now that I was being deceived the entire time I was in the occult. There are no good or bad spirits, no black or white magic and there is no good healing or for that matter, anything good in the occult. It is all presented just as the scripture tells us, like an angel of light. All these things come to us masked as good, but they are really coming to kill and to destroy our spiritual life and bring us further away from the Lord. It is all under the dominion of Satan.

We can not communicate with the dead. It is a clever trick of Satan to bring us deeper into bondage. They can play on sympathy for a loved one, or on simple curiosity, but their aim is to bring us into bondage. Listen, Satan is no fool, he is extremely clever and has an intricate plan for capturing and ensnaring as many souls as he can. All this good and bad spirit stuff — they are in league together just to bring an individual into more deception. No one in his right mind would seek a bad spirit, so they come as friendly spirits, supposedly to help us or to protect us from bad spirits, and thus we come under the dominion of a "good" spirit which will lead to great deception. Satan will do anything we want, or give us any spirit we want, he will appear to heal our bodies or give us money to get us into bondage. He stops at nothing.

Most people would not go as far as you did in the occult, to take up witchcraft as a religion. But what about horoscopes, ouija boards, and fortune telling, is this not relatively harmless?

Far from it! Ouija boards are extremely dangerous. Spirits work those things, and people who say otherwise do not know what they are talking about. Listen, it is all the same thing. God FORBIDS us in His word to have anything to do with these things. Automatic writing, horoscopes, fortune telling or what have you is all in the same boat as witchcraft. The practice can still bring you into bond-

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תבנית



BIBLE STUDY

By HOWARD COFFEY

"I'm so glad I came to this Bible study," said a young man, as he picked up his Bible and writing pad, preparing to go. "You see, when I first started, I thought Dan and Beersheba were husband and wife like Sodom and Gomorrah."

We chuckle, yet when we reflect a bit we may realize that perhaps in other areas our knowledge of Holy Writ may not surpass that of our young brother. Though I am not advocating that mere knowledge of the letter is important in itself, nevertheless factual understanding is the proper foundation for spiritual understanding, personal revelation and consequent edification.

Frequently, in regards to factual study, the objection is raised that "the letter killeth". In all fairness, let us note that "the letter" does not refer to the knowledge of facts of the Word; it is referring to the letter of the law of Moses which kills, condemns, and does not save. Salvation comes by the Holy Spirit and as is emphasized in this statement, which was made by Paul in defense of his ministry: "Such qualifications as we have comes from God; it is He who has qualified us to dispense his new covenant — a covenant expressed not in a written document, but in a spiritual bond; for the WRITTEN LAW ('the letter' — King James Version) condemns to death, but the Spirit gives life." (II Corinthians 3:5b, 6. New English Bible)

On the other hand, we are told that the factual record of Scripture is for our benefit, and therefore should be received and studied as information necessary for our spiritual growth. Regarding facts of the history of his forefathers Paul wrote, "Now these things happened to them as a warning, BUT THEY WERE WRITTEN DOWN FOR

The hour in which we live calls men of God to a deeper understanding of God's Word. Are we preparing?

OUR INSTRUCTION, upon whom the end of the ages has come." (I Corinthians 10:11. Revised Standard Version)

Paul further emphasized this point to Timothy: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the SACRED WRITINGS WHICH ARE ABLE TO INSTRUCT YOU for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, and FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16. Revised Standard Version) Therefore, "watch yourself, lest you be indiscreet and betray some VITAL INFORMATION." (Proverbs 5:2. Living Bible)

Reiterating, factual instruction and information from God's Word are basic and indispensable for a proper spiritual foundation. Then let us search the Scriptures to know the facts, receive proper information and thereby be instructed. For this purpose permit me to share some simple thoughts and suggestions that may be of help in your personal or family Bible study, or that may help you to orient someone else in your own personal ministry to beginners.

RIGHT APPROACH

Above all, the right approach or at-

In the full-time ministry since he was 18, Howard has spent the last 30 years in active missionary work in Latin America and among the Spanish speaking people of the U.S. He now lives in Hollywood, Fla. with his wife, Ruth, and three of their five children.

titude toward the Word of God will bring right results, the blessings of God. (Psalm 119:1, 2; Revelation 1:3) You are taking into your hands the eternal, living Word of God, which He puts above His name. (Psalm 138:2) It is His eternal Covenant, or Testament, sealed by the blood of His Son; the Old which serves as the basis for the New; the New which fulfills and seals the Old, which is settled in Heaven forever. (Psalm 119:89) It is not an ordinary book, not even an ordinary book of antiquities, that may contain the Word of God. It IS the Word of God! If it merely contained the Word of God, how would you separate the inspired Word of God from the uninspired portions of man? It is either all His Word, or none of His Word! Paul said that "every Scripture is God-breathed — given by His inspiration." (II Timothy 3:16. Amplified)

Approach and handle the Word with respect, love, sincerity, openness, and joy; but simultaneously with reverent fear and trembling, together with faith and expectancy. This was the Psalmist's attitude: "Happy are all who perfectly follow the laws of God . . . I will meditate upon them and give them all full respect . . . Help me to love Your every wish . . . Nothing is perfect except Your Words. Oh, how I love them . . . I stand in awe of only Your Words . . ." (Psalm 119:1, 15, 80, 96,

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AN ESSENTIAL KEY TO POWER WITH GOD AND MAN IS....



the hidden

THIS IS THE FIFTH AND FINAL ARTICLE FROM A SERIES OF MESSAGES GIVEN BY THE NOTED BRITISH EVANGELIST ARTHUR WALLIS AT A CHRISTIAN GROWTH CONFERENCE IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

ARTHUR WALLIS

husband, 'Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, who is continually passing our way. Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there.' "

As we begin, let us look in John's gospel, chapter 10, and verse 9, the Lord Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd and about the sheep of His pasture. "He . . . shall go in and out and find pasture." The Christian life involves going in and going out. Please notice the order. Too many of us are so concerned with going out that we never have time to go in. Consequently, the going out is at its best less effective than it should be; and at worst, completely ineffective. We have got to learn how to go in if we are to go out. Going in is the place of fellowship and feeding. It is the hidden life of the man of God. This is the place where God can reveal things to us, disclose His secrets, give us our marching orders so that we may know what God would have us to do. We can often get the wrong idea about a ministry by simply viewing it from the external. We get a horizontal view instead of a vertical view. Looking at a situation from man's viewpoint instead of God's viewpoint, we cannot know how to go out or what to do. You will always find that behind a life that counts for God and behind a ministry that is fruitful, there is a hidden life with God. This life-style involves daily discipline in the fear of God. It means learning how to wait on God, how to feed our own souls, how to hear what God is saying to us. Whatever He is doing or has done for you, this can only be conserved as we maintain a continuation of this hidden secret life with God. There is no short-cut or easy way through. There is no royal route into blessings or continuing in blessing. Behind every outward manifestation of God's power there must be the inward life with Him. This is the aspect of Elisha's life that I want to share with you here.

Our story in II Kings introduces us to a woman described as "wealthy". Some of the older versions call her "the great woman of Shunem". Very often Hebrews and Greek words have many different meanings. This word also may mean "large". It is the word used a little later on for the great pot that the sons of the

(Continued on next page)



LIFE

For our last study in the Book of II Kings, we take the following verses as a basis for our thoughts regarding the hidden life: II Kings 4:8-10 (RSV)

"One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him (Elisha) to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. And she said to her

prophets put on the fire. "Set on the *great* pot, and boil pottage for the sons of the prophets." (vs. 38). We find the word also in Chapter 5 referring to "influential". "Naaman, commander of the army of the King of Syria, was a *great* man with his master . . ." He was influential. He had the ear of the king. At least we know the woman was wealthy, great in means and possessions. In the human realm a person with possessions is usually a person with influence. It is a wonderful thing when the Lord can safely entrust us with wealth. There are few in this position. It is so easy for wealth to get into our hearts and blood . . . for success to go to our heads.

There was an outstanding king who serves as a solemn warning in this area. In the early days of the reign of King Uzziah (otherwise Azariah), it seems that everything he touched turned to gold. He was a great and successful king. Everything to which he put his hand prospered. He was a remarkable inventor who produced engines that could fire stones from the walls of Jerusalem against the enemy. He was a mighty commander and strategist. He won many notable victories and the scriptures say, "He was marvelously helped, until he grew strong and then his heart was lifted out to his own destruction." Instead of recognizing that which he had from God was a wonderful stewardship, it all went to his head. He became proud and presumptuous, he went into the House of God, took the incense censer in his hand and took upon himself the office of a minister that God had not allocated him. God smote him there in the sanctuary, leprosy broke out on his forehead, and the priest hastened to put him out of the temple because the Lord had smitten him. This man, whose sun had risen in such splendor, sat in ignominious shame — a leper to the day of his death. Evidently he was a man that could not be entrusted with success.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

All that we receive is from God. We

are stewards and one day are going to stand before the Lord, the Judge, and give an account to Him of the deeds done in the body. We are going to be held responsible for how we handled the financial success He gave to us, and for all our material belongings. It is all His. Many Christians think that because they put their tithe in the offering box on the Lord's Day morning, they can do as they will with the balance. But the tithe is simply a token that all that we have belongs to Him. Therefore we need the mind of God in this matter of handling that which He has entrusted to our keeping and using.

Looking again at the woman of Shunem, we see her as one blessed with the gracious gift of hospitality. This is another aspect of the gift of giving. Romans 12:8 states, "He who exhorts is to give himself to exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness." One thing that quite intrigues me is how the apostle catalogs spiritual gifts. I do not find the very clear distinction and demarkation in the writings of the apostle between what we usually call the charismatic gifts and other kinds of gifts. When he gives a list, he includes all kinds of gifts that we would never have thought of at all. He lumps together such things as teaching, exhortation, the gift of prophecy, the gift of contributing, giving aid, acts of mercy. And he says, "having gifts that differ . . . let us use them according to the proportion of our faith."

We see in I Peter 4:9, 10 and 11a, a further statement on hospitality. "Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace; whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God: . . ." Here, again there is linked together practicing hospitality, exercising the stewardship of gifts, speaking as the oracles of God, almost all in the same breath. Perhaps we need to get a broader idea of what the Spirit of God would teach us con-

cerning gifts. We may need to recognize that there are gifts that we may not have considered as gifts from the Lord. However, they *are* stewardships. They are power to our ministry. We need to exercise them as such unto the Lord. There is a great need for teaching among God's people concerning this important matter of giving.

Has God given you a comfortable home? Are you in a position to open the doors of your home to others — servants of the Lord, those who may be in need, or a friend with a deep problem — I believe that a tremendous ministry can go on through homes that are placed at God's disposal. This ministry of hospitality is one of God's blessed boomerangs. Blessings come back to those who exercise this gift. In my own twenty-two years of married life, my wife and I have had tremendous blessing from the Lord through those whom He has graciously brought into our home. I am sure we have received far more than we ever imparted through servants of God, missionaries, Christians in need. We have learned so much. Pray the Lord will show you His mind concerning what He would have you to do in this respect. Because of the desire of the great woman of Shunem to minister to a servant of God, great blessing came into her life. God gave her a son. Later, there was a time of great testing and trial of faith which issued in a wonderful deliverance and a mighty miracle of God. It left that woman with a faith in God that she had never known before. The realm of faith was her particular need. And God knew how to use His servant in that very realm to minister to her need. (II Kings 4:11-37).

Notice now that because this woman of Shunem had a desire in her heart to minister, and gave herself to Elisha's ministry, God enlarged her gifts. He gives her perception. "Behold now I perceive that this is a holy man of God, who is continually passing our way." Note, too, the particular thing that impressed her about Elisha . . . "This is a holy man of God." I am sure that Elisha did not

tell her that he was a great man of God. But there was something about him, there was a mark upon him. In one of the Jesus People papers I noticed a little inset which really struck out into my heart. "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would they find enough evidence to convict you?" Well, would they? How does the world view us? Do others we meet see the marks of holiness and likeness to Jesus? Elisha, with all of his mighty works, was basically and primarily a man of God. He was a man who knew God, walked with Him, and heard His voice. Nothing can be a substitute for this.

MEETING NEEDS

Moving on in her ministry, the woman conceived the idea of making a little roof chamber with walls to further meet the needs of Elisha. In this we see a sensitivity to both physical and spiritual needs. This, too, is part of the gift of hospitality. If God has given to you this gift of hospitality, ask Him to furnish the sensitivity to be aware of the need of physical and mental renewal of those who come your way. Even in the furnishing of the room we find great insight. The furniture she chose for the room is given in detail for a reason. It could have read, "We will furnish it to supply his needs." But the Word of God has said that there was a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. These four things would not only serve his material needs, but they symbolize spiritual needs in the life of the man of God. They are symbols of the spiritual needs in your life as a man of God or a woman of God. If these four things are not found in your life with God, something is missing. There will be limitation in your ministry. This will not only mean loss to you, but loss to the church, loss to the world, and most of all, loss to Jesus Christ.

A BED

First of all, there was a bed. The woman recognized the servant of God

would need rest and relaxation. This brings strength and stability. Is there a bed in your spiritual chamber — in your hidden life with God? Have you really entered into what the Word of God has so much to say about, the rest of the believer? We preach to the unconverted, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." These words of Jesus are also the gospel to the converted. It is good news that there remains a rest. Who for? To those who believe. This is one reason for many furrowed brows, prematurely gray hairs, nervous breakdowns, migraine headaches, irritability. Jesus says, "If only you would come to Me and let Me give you My rest." There has got to be a bed and we have to learn how to use that bed — how to rest.

Because I am naturally a tense and intense personality, the Lord has had to teach me to learn to relax in my preaching. One lesson came during a convention in the South of England. I had never been invited to this large a convention before. All of the speakers were experienced convention speakers

dreds of people present and I felt like the last person capable to undertake the assignment. I argued but he was rather insistent. I said I would talk to God about it. I did but got no special answer. That night the Lord woke me up in the early hours and put right in my heart what I knew was the message for the closing meeting. I had no alternative but to say yes. I was particularly reluctant to accept the Saturday engagement on a human plane, because I had to leave the convention on Friday, go all the way back — to the Southwest for a meeting in our home — and then make the return trip on Saturday. It was a very hot June day, when I arrived at the Waterloo station and I was hot and sticky and not feeling at all like addressing a great tent convention. I had shared this particular burden with a friend the night before and his advice had been, "Brother, relax in the Lord." Such a simple word of comfort. Relax in the Lord . . . Rest in the Lord. Somehow these words got right into my being and I kept saying to myself, "Arthur Wallis, there is just

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men:

For kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

I Timothy 2:1 and 2

and I felt very much like the new boy at school. However, I enjoyed the entire week. Saturday was the closing day and a big missionary meeting, the final message, and a communion service were on schedule. The chairman of the meeting came to me and said, "Arthur, it happens that all the speakers are going to leave Saturday morning. We have made arrangements for everything except the final convention address. I felt it is God's will for you go give it." Well, I just about collapsed. I knew there would be hun-

one thing you need to do. Relax in the Lord." From Waterloo Station in London to the convention site, I kept repeating those words to myself. When I arrived, the missionary meeting was in progress. However, I felt constrained to go to my room, have a cold bath and just lie on the bed. I found myself saying, "Lord, underneath are the everlasting arms. I am just relaxing in You." When it came time for the evening meeting I went down to the service completely quieted. It was a

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FORUM



The discussion this month is based on a question sent in by Mr. John Beckett of Elyria, Ohio. The panel is moderated by Mr. Steven B. Stevens, who is noted as one of the outstanding Christian men in the field of broadcasting. With fifteen years of experience in his field he is now with WLWT-TV in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Why is there such a rise in the interest in the supernatural today?

MUMFORD — I think that we are living today in what I call a "post-scientific era". For many years society felt that science, psychology, and other disciplines were going to come up with an answer for the "total man". . . physical, mental, and spiritual. Over a period of years, however, there has come a gradual disillusionment on the part of the world in general and men are now saying that there must be something more than a materialistic approach to life.

There is now a desire to know the spiritual side of a man. Science and medicine are now beginning to realize the influence that the spiritual realm has on a man. Thus we are seeing around us the occurrence of the mystical and the occult as an attempt to fulfill the supernatural and spiritual needs that a man has.

What is the "supernatural"?

PRINCE — We can categorize the supernatural into two areas. First, there are things which can not be seen, inward experiences which cannot be measured but are supernatural nevertheless. Second, there are other things which are manifested and can be seen but can not be explained by any of the laws of nature or from normal experience. It is essential to understand that Christianity as presented in the New Testament is supernatural in both realms.

In the first area, Christianity begins in a personal way with an inward supernatural experience in the form of a direct revelation of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke of this in John 3 when He said, "Unless a man is born from above he can not enter the kingdom of Heaven". There must be a spiritual impact upon a person before he can make the necessary confession.

When Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, Jesus said to him, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but it has come from God the Father." This initial experience is the new birth or entrance into the kingdom of God.

However, this is not a MANIFEST supernatural experience. It is something that takes place in a person and there are then certain changes that take place in a person's life. The wind is a type or picture of the Holy Spirit's working in a person's life. You cannot see it, but you can see the effects of it on the dust, the trees, and the clouds.

Many Christians have had this experience of the new birth and stop. Then they feel they need something to put them on a level with what is going on in the world of the occult, and nothing is taught beyond the new birth in many churches. The new birth is merely a beginning of a whole series of supernatural experiences that God has planned for His children. We can

the Christian and the supernatural

see a key in I Corinthians 12, where it says that a MANIFESTATION of the Spirit is given to each believer for a profitable purpose. This is not an inward working of the Spirit, but an outward manifestation that can be seen.

Paul says in this chapter that there are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. They can be classified as follows.

The vocal gifts: speaking in a tongue; the interpretation of what has been said in a tongue; and prophecy, which is speaking in a known language by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The three gifts of revelation: the word of wisdom, which is supernatural guidance; the word of knowledge, or knowledge given by the Holy Spirit; and the discerning of spirits or the ability to distinguish different types of spirits that we may encounter.

Finally there are the gifts of power: the gift of faith, a supernatural impartation of divine faith which lifts us above the level of human faith; the working of miracles; and healings.

book would be left intact. This is the place of the supernatural in the Church.

SIMPSON — The church by its very nature is supernatural. When we speak of Jesus coming into us, we not only speak of ourselves personally, but of ourselves corporately, as the whole body. In Mark 4:26, Jesus said that the kingdom of God is like a man that planted a seed in the ground. Jesus is the seed of the Church. In John 12:24 when Jesus says, "Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone . . ." He is speaking of Himself. If Jesus is the life of the Church and the life of Jesus is supernatural, then the same life that was manifested in Jesus must be manifested in the Church. All the ministry of Christ which was supernatural, is to be manifested in the Church. Hence, the validity of all the gifts in I Corinthians 12 operating in the Church.

Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, and the Bible contains many supernatural experiences that are from God or from Satan.

When God sent Moses to Egypt he performed miracles in the court of Pharaoh and a battle began to take place right there. God sent plagues on Egypt that were supernatural; but it is very interesting to notice that Pharaoh had men in his court that, up to a point, could do the same miracles that Moses could. The magician's miracles were, of course, by the power of Satan. (II Timothy 3:8)

This warfare is just as evident in the New Testament. I John 3:8 says that Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the Devil. Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God in the midst of a world enthralled in the kingdom of Satan.

In Jesus' temptation the Devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and offered them to Him if He would bow down and worship him.



“In the midst of this tremendous preoccupation with the occult many Christians are ignorant of the clear teachings of Scripture.”



These are the supernatural manifestations of the Spirit.

Essentially what is happening in the church today is that these gifts are being restored and are coming into open manifestation. The church is beginning to enter into its purchased inheritance in the supernatural realm.

If you removed all reference to the manifestly supernatural from the book of Acts, which is the only historical reference we have as to how the Church of Jesus Christ is intended to operate, then not one chapter of the

The Church is supernatural because of the Life that is in it — Eternal Life. Eternal life is not just longevity, it is the nature of the Life of God which is supernatural. The Church is supernatural because of the Life of God in Christ and we are an extension of the Life of God on earth.

This is God's supernatural. Does the enemy have a counterfeit?

BASHAM — The Christian life can be characterized as a warfare between the

The interesting thing is that Jesus never denied that the kingdoms were Satan's and that he had the right to do with them as he wished. The warfare, then is the establishment of the kingdom of God in the midst of the kingdom of Satan.

Just as there are supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit, there are also a number of manifestations of the supernatural works of Satan. Some of these that are quite common in the world are: spiritualism, hypnotism, as-

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FORUM

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trology, fortune telling, witchcraft, Ouija boards, palmistry, reincarnation, crystal balls, black and white magic, clairvoyancy, ESP, Yoga, meditative eastern cults, omens, Tarot cards, charms, incantations, potions, spells, seances, mediumship, and others too numerous to mention. This is a whole gamut of occult or spiritualistic phenomena that we as Christians are to have nothing to do with. We find this recorded especially in the Old Testament where God is giving instructions to the children of Israel about the land and the inheritance

have seen SOME witchcraft in Africa, but far more in America. The Africans are discarding witchcraft because they are finding that it does not produce what it promises, and the Americans are turning to what Africa has discarded.

I have encountered so much witchcraft that I sought God for a definition. I believe that God showed me that witchcraft is the attempt to control people by the means of a spirit that is not the Holy Spirit. And, if there is a spirit in a person's life which they can use, it is NOT the Holy Spirit — the Holy Spirit cannot be used. Witchcraft is extremely prevalent and

only a joke. But they are real. Now, there are phonies, but when you get right down to it, you come to the reality of the supernatural world. Science and psychology are beginning to realize the reality of these things. So, witchcraft, and Ouija boards, and fortune telling are popular again.

While I was pastoring, a group of fundamental Bible-believing Christians called me. They had gotten involved with a Ouija board to the point where the Ouija board was teaching them Scripture. One of the group finally got up enough courage to ask what kind of spirit was operating this thing, and the spirit that was operating it said, "I am



“ Christians, even if they do not want to be, are being thrust into a spiritual warfare and they can not ignore these things or pretend they do not exist. ”



that they were about to enter. In Deuteronomy 18:9-14, God says these things are an abomination to Him; they are not to be trifled with and they are not harmless.

Our nation is on a psychic kick. The signs of the zodiac are the most popular decorating sign and the Ouija board is the most popular toy. In the midst of this tremendous preoccupation with the occult it is tragic that many Christians are ignorant of the clear cut teachings of Scripture that warn of the dangers and bondage that can result from involvement in these things — for the Christian it is forbidden!

Derek, having traveled extensively in Africa, how do you see the occurrence of something like witchcraft there as compared with America?

PRINCE — If you will forgive me, I

it is largely responsible for the tremendous and tragic breakup of American homes. Behind many divorces you can find this element of witchcraft.

There seems to be an element of deception in all this. How has this come about?

MUMFORD — I feel there are two basic reasons for deceptions in this area. First, the failure of the Church to teach and embrace the true supernatural. There is a recognition that there should be the supernatural to the point that many universities and colleges are offering courses in witchcraft and astrology. This is because the hunger is so great in this area. They have looked to the church but they do not find the answer there and as a result people are going astray. Secondly, many people think these things are

the great one in three!" And they believed it! They felt that because it was supernatural it was of God and if it was not God it would not have worked. These things are real and they do work.

BASHAM — It is tragic but we see many places that people who reject what God is doing in the realm of the Holy Spirit will very often end up in the occult. To reject the real is to leave yourself open to accept the counterfeit. This happened recently to a well-known American Churchman who rejected the move of the Holy Spirit and became very entrapped in the occult which ultimately lead to his tragic death.

Contributing to this deception has been the liberal Bible scholarship that rejects any belief in the Devil or the demonic world. It teaches that these things are not acceptable for us to be-

lieve in this day. This will lead you to the conclusion that all supernatural manifestations are from God, since there is no evil. This could not be further from the truth.

In light of all the deception, is there any way the Christian can tell the real from the counterfeit?

PRINCE — There are five simple points that can distinguish between what is of God and what is of Satan.

First, in John 10:9, Jesus says, "I am the Door." and in John 14:6, He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but

being deluded. Isaiah 8 carries a warning against consulting mediums and wizards, then goes on to say in verse 20 that if they do not speak according to Scripture there is no light in them.

Fourth, does it exalt the Lord Jesus Christ? II Peter 2:1 says that false teachers will come in among the believers, "who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them." This is the mark of a damnable heresy, to deny Jesus Christ in any way.

Jesus was divine, born of a virgin, led a sinless life, died an atoning death, arose physically from the grave, ascended physically into heaven, and

nances? All these are important questions. Again, let me emphasize, Satan is a home-breaker. If anything disturbs or upsets home-life or separates between husband and wife, that teaching is not from God.

BASHAM — I feel prompted to add an additional word of warning about this occult business. God does not warn against things that are harmless. There is a tremendous danger in this realm and we need to be cautioned.

So many Christians feel it is relatively harmless and so they are free to explore it — "just for fun".

From the clear word of God we can



●● Witchcraft is extremely prevalent and it is largely responsible for the tremendous and tragic break-up of American homes. ●●



by Me." Jesus Christ is the only door into the supernatural. All other ways are false. We must come through Jesus.

Second, in Ephesians 2:18, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." The Holy Spirit is the only Spirit that gives access to God. There are many going to other spirits, through mediums and the like, which claim that they can lead the individual to God. They can not because the Scripture teaches that it is by the Holy Spirit, He leads all to the Father who come by way of Jesus Christ and rejects all those who come by another way.

Third, the Holy Spirit is the Author of Scripture, II Timothy 3:16, and He will never contradict Himself. Therefore any spiritual experience that we have must match up with Scripture; it will never run counter to it. For this reason we must know and understand the Scripture to keep ourselves from

He is coming physically as He went. If you have any questions in your heart or mind about any of these statements, you had better examine the source of your information, because it is not from the Holy Spirit.

Finally, there is the test of fruit. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you like wolves in sheep's clothing." A wolf disguises himself as a sheep to get among the sheep. This is happening on all sides among professing Christians. Teachers of error are going among them presenting themselves as being disciples and followers of Jesus Christ. They must be tested by their fruit, not their appearance.

Jesus said that the tree is known by its fruit. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Do they lead Godly lives? What kind of home do they have? What is their relationship in matters of marriage? How do they deal with fi-

see that all these things are an abomination to the Lord. On one occasion God says that the people who do them are going whoring after other gods. In other words, this is spiritual immorality. In the mind of God, according to God's Word, it is just as bad, if not worse, and sinful for a person to indulge in this psychic investigation, a Ouija board, a horoscope or a fortune teller, as it is for him to have an adulterous affair with his neighbor's wife.

It is one of Satan's deceptions to make it sound harmless. Much of our television programing today deals with the supernatural. The danger is that they treat the supernatural in such a lighthearted way that it opens the door of people's consciousness to this reality and they think they can go tripping in there lightly and explore it

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FORUM

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with no ill effects, when actually it is a snare of Satan himself.

People who would explore these things explore them to their danger. Derek and I and others have had experience with people who have come into deep demonic bondage simply because of an unhealthy curiosity toward these things. So, for the Christian — leave it strictly alone!

Is it possible to take the attitude, "Well, I certainly do not want to get involved in any conflict that you men

Christ and Him crucified." That Scripture is in I Corinthians 1 . . . the same book that teaches us about all the gifts of the Spirit . . . about discerning of spirits . . . and about a man given over to Satan. It teaches us not only the reality of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, but what happens when we take that simplistic approach and say, "If I ignore this it will go away."

The height of ignorance is for anyone to condemn the charismatic movement, the ministry of casting out evil spirits or the coming to grips with the occult when all this conflict has come upon us at the consummation of the age

Christians, even if they do not want

Bride that was devoted to Him, from the heart and not just theologically.

We have come by the Holy Spirit to become a part of the Bride of Jesus Christ. If we can keep this in mind, I believe we can stay spiritually healthy.

We apologize for some lack of continuity and flow in this month's FORUM due to the fact that it has been transcribed from a new VIDEO MINISTRIES video-tape. Readers wishing to have this tape for their fellowship or church may do so by contacting their nearest VIDEO MINISTRIES distributor or by writing to: VIDEO MINISTRIES, P.O. Box V, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315.



“Much of our television programming today deals with the supernatural. It is one of Satan’s deceptions to make it sound harmless.”



are talking about. I am going to stay out of it”?

MUMFORD — We have been speaking in pretty strong terms because we feel as Paul felt in his own heart when he said to the Corinthians, “I fear lest you be beguiled, or seduced.” Most of us come from a background of teaching where we have practically denied the Scriptures that says, “The whole world lies in the lap of the wicked one and the Lord’s prayer that says, “Deliver us from evil.” Any Greek scholar can tell you that says, literally, “The evil ONE.” Jesus recognized that we who are here as Christians are in a foreign society. He said, “If I come casting out demons, the Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.”

I speak with an urgency in my heart, because for many years Bible believing Christians have said, “We do not want to know anything save Jesus

to be, are being thrust into a spiritual warfare and they can not ignore these things or pretend they do not exist.

SIMPSON — It is foolish to try and ignore it when you know that your children are going to go to school and someone else is going to take over. We have to acknowledge that today there are many aspects of society that have more influence over our children than we do ourselves.

In I Corinthians 11, Paul shows his concern for this New Testament church by warning them, “I do not want you to be deceived. I want you to be presented as a chaste virgin.” God looks on a false spirit as adultery, or unfaithfulness in His Bride. This is what the Holy Spirit has come for — to gather a Bride for Jesus. I got this impression once, that the Lord was not only looking for an educated Bride, but for a faithful Bride — a

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BIBLE STUDY (Continued from page 7) 97, 161b. Living Bible) With this approach, the Holy Spirit, Author of His recorded Word, will open up its life-giving message, and "precept upon precept, line upon line; here a little and there a little", He will bring you eternal truth by the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, the theme of the Book, Who said, "I am . . . the truth"; about whom it was said, ". . . now in these days He has spoken to us through His Son." (Hebrews 1:2)

Approach His Word with openness:

AN OPEN MIND: "The people of Berea were more OPEN-MINDED than those in Thessalonica, and gladly listened to the message. THEY SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAY BY DAY." (Acts 17:11. Living Bible)

A N O P E N U N D E R -
STANDING: Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you. "Then HE OPENED THEIR UNDERSTANDING, that they might understand the scriptures." (Luke 24:45. King James Version)

AN OPEN HEART: It was written of Lydia, "She was already a worshipper of God and, as she listened to us, THE LORD OPENED HER HEART and she accepted all that Paul was saying," (the message of the Word). (Acts 16:14b. Living Bible)

OPEN EYES: "OPEN MY EYES to see wonderful things in Your Word." (Psalm 119:18. Living Bible)

OPEN EARS: "So faith comes by HEARING (what is told), and WHAT

IS HEARD comes by the preaching (of the message that came from the lips) of Christ, the Messiah (Himself)", that is, the Word of God. (Romans 10:17. Amplified)

RIGHT PURPOSE

Motives should always be examined in all things, even our motives for studying the Bible. Jesus brought this accusation against His hearers on one occasion: "You study the scriptures diligently, SUPPOSING THAT IN HAVING THEM YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE; yet although their testimony points to Me, you refuse to come to Me for that life." (John 5:39, 40. New English Bible) In essence, He was saying that their motive in studying the Scriptures was misguided; they believed that in merely possessing them rested their salvation; they unwittingly became a sort of a charm to them, to reassure them in their own preconceived ways.

The Bereans in Paul's time, to the contrary, showed a right purpose in searching the Scriptures. They wanted to know the truth: "The people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and gladly listened to the message. THEY SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAY BY DAY to check up on Paul and Silas' statements TO SEE if they were really so. As a result, many of them believed." (Acts 17:11, 12. Living Bible)

A good friend of mine had a saying that often guided me in my motives for studying the Bible. "Do you study your Bible to gain knowledge or to meet the Master?" All too often we study the Word of God for any reason whatever except this one — "to know Him, Whom to know is Life Eternal." The motivation for our study should be a desire to have direct personal contact with Jesus Christ Himself and to allow Him to grow in our hearts. His primary method of revelation of Himself will be through His Word as it becomes a living part of you.

Take a few moments at this point and read over the questions that fol-

low. As you read them allow them to speak to you concerning your habits in the Word of God. If you find areas that are not pure in motivation, repent before God and He will begin to open the Scriptures in a new way.

What is my purpose in studying God's Word? It is habit? Do I wish to prove a point? Is it mere curiosity? Do I study the Bible out of rank fear that I will incur God's displeasure if I do not, a sort of appeasement complex?

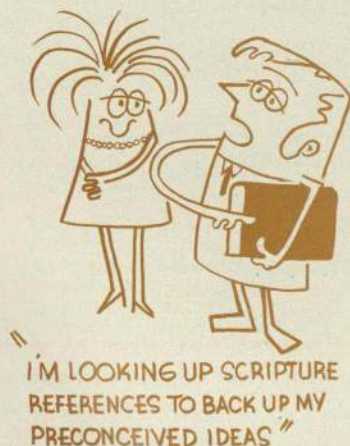
Or am I hungry for His Word? Is it food for my spirit, my life? "Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4. Amplified)

Am I seeking light, to direct my life and for the Body of Christ? "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path . . . The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." (Psalm 119:105, 130. King James Version)

Am I seeking His will in His Word in order that I may be set apart unto Him, sanctified, purified by its scrutiny? "For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power — making it active, operative, energizing and effective; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and (the immortal) spirit, and of joints and marrow (that is, of the deepest part of our nature) exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12. Amplified) "And no created thing is able to escape its scrutiny" (scrutiny of the Word of God); "but everything lies bare and completely exposed before the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13. Weymouth) Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." (John 17:17. King James Version).

Am I interested in becoming like Him, a partaker of His nature through His Word? Am I seeking LIFE, to be bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh? His Words are Words of life. ". . . He

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BIBLE STUDY

(Continued from p. 17)

has bestowed on us **HIS PRECIOUS AND EXCEEDINGLY GREAT PROMISES**, so that **THROUGH THEM** you may escape (by flight) from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and **BECOME SHARERS (PARTAKERS) OF THE DIVINE NATURE.**" (II Peter 1:4. Amplified)

Is His Word my arm of defense, by the Spirit? This is His provision: "... I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies — the evil rulers of the unseen world, and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up." And among the other parts of the armor an indispensable part is "the sword of the Spirit — which is the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:10-13, 17b. Living Bible) Jesus, our Captain and example in battle, defeated Satan with the sword of the Spirit; every temptation was answered and destroyed with, "It is written!" (Matthew 4:1-11)

Is it possible that your efforts at Bible study have been hindered by wrong motives?

RIGHT HANDLING

The Apostle Peter spoke of those who pervert or twist the Word: "Our wise and beloved Paul has talked about these same things in many of his letters (the coming of the Lord). Some of his comments are not easy to understand, and there are people who are deliberately stupid, and always demand some unusual interpretation — they have twisted his letters to mean something quite different from what he meant, just as they do

other parts of the Scriptures — and the result is disaster for them. I am warning you ahead of time, dear brothers, so that you can watch out and not be carried away by the mistakes of these wicked men, lest you yourselves become mixed up too." (II Peter 3:15-17. Living Bible)

The Apostle Paul's example in handling the Word of God is the antidote to shameless twisting of the Scriptures; he said: "We do not try to trick people into believing — we are not interested in fooling anyone. We never try to get anyone to believe that the Bible teaches what it doesn't. All such shameful methods we forego. We stand in the presence of God as we speak and so we tell the truth, as all who know us will agree." (II Corinthians 4:2. Living Bible)

With this reverential fear for God and His Word, we can then easily understand Paul's exhortation to Timothy: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH.**" (II Timothy 2:15. Revised Standard Version)

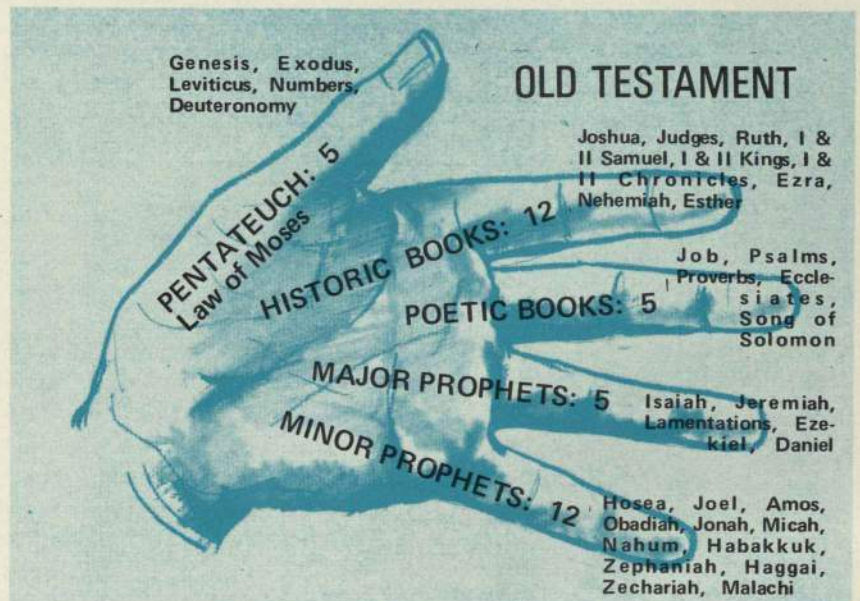
The Bible is the sword of the Spirit

Right handling of the Word of God, among other things, entails a knowledge of facts and information that comes through systematic, applied searching; contexts must be studied as well as texts; the literal must be known and understood, as well as the spiritual significance, and the two must not be confused to the elimination of one or the other.

Let us begin by finding our way around.

DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

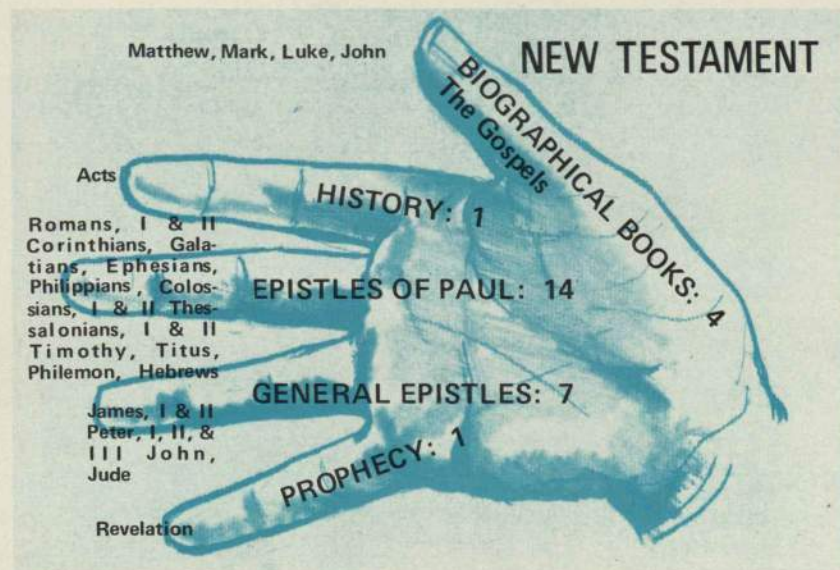
As a foundation, become acquainted with the books of the Bible, and the divisions or sections of which each is a part. The Bible is composed of sixty-six books, in two principle divisions, the Old and New Testaments. Each, the Old and the New Testaments, can be divided into five divisions. To aid your memory and to facilitate finding the books, learn the divisions, and then the books that belong to each division in the following manner. Draw your left hand on a sheet of paper, and let it represent the Old Testament, with each finger representing one of its divisions, as follows:



and **NOT** the sword of the Christian! We should use the Word of God to bring men to Christ, not to promote our own ideas.

Note that the number of books by divisions is 5, 12, 5, 5, 12. A total of thirty-nine books in the Old Testament.

Now make an outline of your right hand on another sheet of paper, to represent the New Testament, each finger representing a division, as follows:



Note that the number of books by divisions is 4, 1, 14, 7, 1. A total of twenty-seven books in the New Testament. With thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament we have a total of sixty-six books in the Bible.

STUDY METHODS

A natural question may have already occurred to you. "Where do I start?" Many would-be Bible students have started with great determination to read the Bible "from cover to cover" and given up someplace in the middle of the Book of Numbers. If you are young as a Christian and in the Word of God, may I offer this suggestion as a good way to start. First, read the four gospels and the Book of Acts. Then read, from Romans to Jude, all the epistles, four times, and then Revelation. By the time you have finished this you will find yourself beginning to feel your way around the New Testament. Each time you read through the epistles many of the things that you did not understand will begin to become clearer to you. This will begin to lay a foundation not

only to your knowledge of the Word, but to your faith in Jesus Christ.

Reading and rereading the Bible, especially the New Testament for the beginners, is one of the best ways to be-

gin to feel really at home with the Scriptures. But do not make the mistake of thinking that a few minutes of reading each day can take the place of diligent study of the Word of God.

Studying the Bible means just that. Dig into one, or several, of the following methods. Any one of them, if followed through, will greatly enrich your understanding of the Scriptures.

TOPICAL STUDY: Begin by choosing a subject, and with a concordance, study all of the portions, texts and contexts, you can find on that subject. Some suggested subjects or topics are: God, the Father; Jesus Christ; the Holy Spirit; prophecies related to the first and second coming of Jesus; salvation; healing; love; forgiveness; the blood; and many more that will come to your heart and mind. Many of your questions can be answered in this manner, by finding out all that the Word of God has to say about a given subject.

CROSS REFERENCE: This is one of the easiest, and at the same time, one of the most revealing ways to study the Word. Obtain a Bible with a good list of cross references. The New American Standard is excellent. Read

entire chapters or books taking time to look at ALL the references listed. You will be surprised at how fast your knowledge of God's Word will grow.

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY: Much of God's Word is made up of the stories of men's lives. He has used their faults and their virtues, their defeats and their victories to teach us, and has divinely inspired their record for our benefit. Study all references to such men as: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah, Elisha, and others in the Old Testament; then in the New Testament, in the four biographical books, the Gospels, the life of Jesus, our Lord; then there are Peter, James, John, Paul and others.

BOOK BY BOOK: Choose a book of the Bible and examine it thoroughly. Find its authorship, the definition of its title, the principle theme or themes, the purposes for which it was written, to whom it was written, and all of the other interesting details. Many books of the Bible can be divided into helpful outlines that will aid in remembering their contents.

GREAT CHAPTERS: Read often and digest the great chapters of the Bible, such as Genesis 1 through 3; Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 28; Psalms 1, 23, 119 and 150; Isaiah 1 and 53; Matthew 5, 6 and 7; Mark 16; Luke 1, 2 and 24; John 1, 3, 5, 10 and 13-17; Acts 2; Romans 6, 7 and 8; Galatians 5; Ephesians 5 and 6; I John 1; Revelation 2, 3 and 19; and many others that will become favorite portions of your daily bread, treasures that will bless and sustain you many times in the days ahead.

GREAT TEXTS: Memorize Bible verses, hiding God's Word in your heart. (Psalm 119:11) Start with John 3:16, and seek out verses that have blessed your life. Underline them in your Bible, and commit them to memory. When needed, the Holy Spirit will bring them to your heart and mind, to bless you, to reassure you, to guide you, and to keep your feet from the snare of the enemy.

TYPES AND SHADOWS: Seek the
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NEW GROWTH IN A LIFE OF PRAISE

FOLLOWING GOD



E. JUDSON CORNWALL

**THE SECOND IN A SERIES
OF MESSAGES ON PRAISE
BY THIS NOTED PASTOR
AND TEACHER GIVEN AT
THE FALL CHRISTIAN
GROWTH CONFERENCE IN
MIAMI, FLORIDA.**

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let them also that hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

"But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice before God: Yea, let them exceedingly rejoice. Sing unto God, Sing praises to His name: extol Him that rideth upon the heavens by His name JAH, and rejoice before Him. Psalm 68:1-4 (KJV)

Last month we considered the first two verses of Psalm 68 and we built upon the words, "Let God Arise!" This is a simple statement but it holds an important key to freeing the flow of the Spirit in the Church. Preaching from the pulpit and power in individual ministry take on new dimension when we "Let God Arise!" We noted that God will deal with either the enmity or the enemies, hate in individual hearts or haters in the pews, and as smog is driven away by the wind and wax is melted by the fire, so will He cause wickedness to perish. These three hindrances will be removed from our midst only as we let God have preeminence, as we magnify

His Name, and as we alert ourselves to His movings and commands.

We noted, too, that David in Psalm 68 was quoting from Numbers 10:32-35. Here we find the Israelites in the wilderness moving from camp to camp at God's command. As the cloud, provided by God and representative of His presence, began to move, the trumpeter sounded the alarm; the people hurried to break camp and move on with Moses. It was then, and still is, God's desire that we move on. There is no end of moving on with God. If we do not move with Him, we lose His holy presence, His provisions and His protection.

Now, what is going to be our response, our attitude, when we prepare to move on and follow God to new conquests? It is not enough to obey God. God has determined the attitude in which we come to acknowledge His directives. It does not satisfy God just to have His people move from one camp on to the next merely because the cloud is moving, but He desires an expression of attitude that states, "I delight to do Thy will, O God." Consider that verse 3 opens with the connective *but* and this always denotes a contrast. God is going to arise and you are to follow. "*BUT let the righteous . . .*" and there follows seven different expressions of that which God desires. "Be glad, rejoice, exceedingly rejoice, sing unto God, extol His name; extol Him that rideth upon the heavens, and rejoice before Him."

On the surface, it may seem the expressions are repetitious but in translating the Hebrew into English these words have lost much of the diversity of meaning presented in the original writings. They bring to us a great significance of what God is asking from us. Let us study closely what each of these seven thoughts encompass and how they can lead us into a deeper ministry of praise.

BE GLAD

The Hebrew used here is *Sawmayakh* and it means to be joyful or make merry. Let the righteous be joy-

ful and make merry. This is not our normal attitude when God says, "Move on. You have been in this camp long enough. Now, prepare to move on." We are much more apt to respond with, "Oh, God, not again! I have just begun to get comfortable here where I am. Have I not been obedient and faithful? What will this do to my present security?" No, that is not the response He wants. At His, "Son, it is time to move on", He desires anticipation at the thought of moving on into something new with Him. Think of the excitement of a little child who has been told he is going to the circus! God wants a joyful response from His children. I want you to observe that it is not necessarily a **HAPPY** response that He wants, but a **JOYFUL** response. There is quite a difference. Happiness depends on happenings. Very often we ask, "Is everybody happy?" Nowhere in the Bible does it say that happiness is God's goal for His people. It does repeatedly say, however, that joy is His goal.

"These things have I spoken unto you that your **JOY** may be full." (John 15:11)

"Ask and ye shall receive, that your **JOY** may be full." (John 16:24)

"Whom having not seen, ye love, in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **JOY** unspeakable and full of glory." (I Peter 1:8)

"But rejoice in that ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings that when His glory shall be revealed ye may be glad with exceeding **JOY** . . ." (I Peter 4:13)

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding **JOY** . . ." (Jude 24)

"For the kingdom of God is not meat or drink, but righteousness, peace and **JOY**, in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17)

These verses should help us realize that a relationship is the producer of the joy. Joy is integrally connected with Jesus. When we are rightly related

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to Him, there is divine joy. We may not be happy but there is joy. Paul and Silas were not so happy in the Philippian jail that they decided to sing. I think Paul was made of the same kind of flesh I am. If I were beaten illegally and had feet in stocks, hands tied behind my back and put into a dungeon where rats ran over me, I would not be happy. But if, as with Paul and Silas, there is a sense of the presence of Jesus Christ, I may very well be joyful. The whole of His guidance is in His presence. As the Israelites related to the cloud, so must we be attuned to His movement. Their communication came from the cloud and they were to be joyful as they broke camp and together moved closer to their promised land in Canaan. There was to be no room for gloom. Those who walk with the Lord are to be joyful!

REJOICE BEFORE GOD

This second statement may sound like a retread, be joyful all over again. However, the Hebrew word is different here and is certainly not just saying be joyful in the same sense as the first statement. The word used as *Aw'lats*, which means "jump for joy". Not only were the people to be joyful or joy-filled but they were to release that joy. It never hurts to let your body know what your spirit feels. It is a good thing to get your body involved in worship.

In II Samuel 6:14, we find David bringing the ark of the covenant into the city of David in God's prescribed way and being so filled with joy that he had to give expression to his feelings. He just had to release that joy and "he danced before the Lord". Michal, Saul's daughter, did not think David's actions were suited to his kingly position and told him so. David's reply was, "It was before the Lord." As an outward expression of his inward joy in the presence of the Lord, David released that joy in dancing, and probably did cartwheels and

handsprings before the Lord. He even stripped himself of his kingly garments in an act of humility and praise. You are probably aware that the dancing that was done in the Old Testament was not the type of rhythmic dancing of today, but was an actually leaping or jumping. It is seen in many African tribes today. I do not think the form is important; I am sure God accepts the form of any culture. It is the willingness to express physically, to release the total being in an expression of its joy. Psalm 149:3 and Psalm 150:4 both tell us "to praise Him in the dance", a releasing of ourselves before the Lord. You may say, "This would absolutely devastate my church." You may be right. But there are other places of worship. Let the Spirit direct your responses. What about home group meetings? What about the privacy of your own personal place of worship? We can utilize this expression of joy in many situations. There is no necessity to have an audience. I think David mentally was unaware of surroundings, of everyone in Israel. He was dancing before the Lord and the fact that others saw him was their fault.

Throughout the Psalms it speaks of the use of your body in worshipping the Lord. It speaks of clapping the hands, of raising the hands, bowing the knee, of dancing. Only through the physical can there really be an expressed release of both spiritual and soulish. You can never really worship the Lord in any one segment of your body. Our spirit, soul and body work together in our offering of praise.

EXCEEDINGLY REJOICE

Notice: not just rejoice, but exceedingly rejoice! This Hebrew word is *Soos*, and it means to be bright and cheerful, to make mirth or be merry. There is also a kindred Hebrew word, *Sawmak*, which is used in the Psalms. This simply means "to brighten up". It would prove a wonderful blessing if we could learn to brighten up in our attitudes.

Not long ago I read an article in a

magazine which set me to thinking along this matter of praise. The story was told of a survey-taker who was given the assignment of making a traffic census. This assignment was in one of our Southern cities, on a Sunday morning, and at an intersection where a church was located. What he observed brought him back on his own a second and a third Sunday. He was so amazed at what he saw that he wrote that article asking the question, "What is wrong with the American churches?"

Standing on the corner he watched people approach the downtown church. They were laughing, gay and merry, holding hands until they crossed the street onto church property. Then all talking ceased, smiles were gone, they let go of hands and walked into the church as if they were going to a funeral. He went on to say, "I remained until the service was over and watched the people come out. They bowed and shook hands with the preacher, and with the same walk of stiffness and quietness, admonishing the children to follow their pattern, they came across the street. The moment they got off the church property, they relaxed, smiled, went back to their happy conversations, let go the children's hands and returned to "normal".

A second illustration of our thought of "brightening up" comes from what might be a routine happening in some of our homes. Suppose you are a professional or working wife. This particular morning turns out to be that kind you wish you never had. The toast burns, the children have difficulty getting dressed for school, you get a run in your last pair of hose, and the car has a flat tire. Just minutes before the store opens, you rush in and punch the time clock. Do you go right out to face the public? No, you go into the powder room, take off your glasses, put some cold water on your eyes, fix up your face, put on your glasses, then stand in front of the mirror and practice saying, "Good morning!" The first time you have to say this to a customer, it is anything

but easy. When they answer, "Lovely morning, isn't it?", you swallow and agree, even though it has been the worst morning you have had in months. Why are you saying it is a good morning? Because if you inflict the public with your problems, you may not have your job very long. So you brighten up, by an act of your will. Amazingly, about the fifth or sixth time you say, "Good morning", you start to feel a little bit of that good morning. Before you know it, you are making it through the day.

How about this same situation happening on a Sunday morning? On Sunday we break every pattern of the week. There seems to be more than the usual bedlam in getting breakfast, clearing the dishes, getting dressed in clothes other than those we have been wearing during the week; it may even be necessary to start some preparations on the dinner. Eventually everybody gets in the car in anything but an atmosphere of worship. What is the answer if you must get up and face a class or undertake some other position of responsibility? Before you try to minister, brighten up a little bit. Slip into the prayer room. Wipe your eyes in His presence. Put on a smile. Get your spirit brightened up. You have had a bad morning but it does not have to stay that way. All too often we bring our tensions into our worship and wonder why the service does not meet our needs. You may say, "This is being hypocritical. I do not feel like praising or praying." It is not what we feel that counts. If we are controlled by feelings we are going to live in the emotional soulish realm all of our lives! God redeemed you so that you will not be controlled by the soul or the body, but that the soul and body may be controlled by the spirit. Even though things have gone wrong and we are emotionally distraught or even physically distressed, we can brighten up because God is here, and God is leading, and we are responding to Him, not to the adverse circumstances of the day. It is not fair to inflict upon God the problems of our relationships to other people when we

come into His presence to worship. Brighten up and find that by just being in His presence the problems will become inconsequential and soon vanish.

SING UNTO GOD

The Hebrew word in this instance is *Shawr*. It means vocal song, literally, sing unto God. Singing is a part of our ordered worship, but how much of it is "singing unto God"? Singing is a

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are; for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and at the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Verily I say, They have their reward.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy room, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father, who is in secret; and thy Father, who seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:5 and 6

beautiful expression of you to God and while it is extremely valuable to you, it is also wonderfully acceptable unto Him. He delights in the singing of His people.

Turn to I Chronicles 6:31 and see David providing for the service of song in the house of the Lord. The ark had been brought to rest in the tabernacle where it remained until Solomon was to build the temple in Jerusalem. It is interesting to me to see that song was so important to David. Look at I Chronicles 9:33: "And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night." David chose the chief of the fathers, the people of a high spiritual level, to be the singers. He set them free from any other service. This was their ministry, day and night. Going further into I Chronicles, (Chapter 15:16) we read, "And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren

to be singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy." He chose men of spiritual quality and character, as well as with musical ability. He trained them to sing and appointed them into groups. They sang around the clock, twenty-four hours a day. Elsewhere in the scripture we are told there were about 1200 of these singers. They were divided up so that there would always be a song being sung unto the Lord. You may say it is a waste, who is going to hear them at two in the morning? The One they are singing to is going to hear them. They did not need a crowd before they could sing. They sang unto the Lord. They had developed a ministry of music.

God delights in the singing of His people. Scripture says that heaven bends low to hear the song of the redeemed. Let us cultivate releasing joy to the Lord in song. It is one of the ways in which God wants His people to follow him. Picture the 4,500,000 people as they break camp, ready to move ahead with God, joyful, leaping with that joy, brightening and merry, breaking into song. Very often we begin our services with singing and by the time we get around to the rejoicing, there is no more time to sing. It is important to God to have His creation sing to Him, to have redeemed man extolling the beauties, the virtues, the glory of Jesus Christ in song.

SING PRAISES TO HIS NAME

The word here in Hebrew is *Zamar* and means, literally, "to touch the string" — instrumental singing unto the Lord. Not only vocal singing but the singing of the fingers is an expression of our praise. Continuing in I Chronicles 25:1, we read, "Moreover, David and the captains of the host separated to the service the sons of Asaph . . . who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals . . ." Further on in verse 7, we

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find "So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the Lord, even that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight." Here we have an orchestra of two hundred and eighty-eight people, playing while others were singing, releasing themselves in instrumentation unto the Lord.

Going into II Chronicles 5:12, 13 and 14, we note that as the singers and the instrumentalists were "as one" in making praise and thanksgiving to God, that "the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God." The people were so involved in praising with music that the glory of God came down. We are told that, "He inhabits the praises of His people." In melodious praise there is that glorious reaching Godward and the resultant glorious reaching manward. And when God and man get together His glory fills the house. Please notice that when the glory came upon the house, the singing did not stop, just the ritual of the priests came to an end.

Moving over into the New Testament, Ephesians 5:19, Paul suggests, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." They do go together — the Presence of God evokes the singing of the people and the praise of the people brings the Presence of God.

EXTOL HIM

The Hebrew word for extol is *Saw'lal* and it means to cast up, to raise up, or to exalt. In all of our worship we should do this; cast up the Lord, lift up the Lord, raise up the Lord. I have been asked by many pastors, "How do you bring a church into praise? How do you bring the people into worship?" First, you must lift up the Lord. As long as you lift up people, there may be boasting but there will be no praise. Do not magnify yourself, or even what you receive from Him, or the fact that you are receiving. Just lift up Jesus, extol Him,

magnify Him!

Let me illustrate by taking us all on a drive through a beautiful countryside. I see a view over the hillside that excites me, so we pull off to the side of the road, get out of the car and look down. Here is a tremendous drop-off leading down to a little lake. Behind the lake is a massive view of mountains and woods. The scene is breathtaking and I stand in awe. Then one of the group says, "What is that on the lake down there?" I strain my eyes but cannot see clearly enough to identify the object. Returning to the car, I get the binoculars, adjust them, again look down to the lake. All of a sudden, I can see nothing but a boat. I see nothing of the foreground. I see nothing of the background. I am magnifying that one little speck to such proportions that I see not only a boat but that it is a sailboat and there are a few people on it. What have I done? I have done just what this Hebrew word is suggesting. "*Saw'lal*" — I have cast it up, exalted it, raised it up. In the process of magnifying it, I have reduced every other thing from my vision. All that I can see is the boat.

What would happen if we would put on some spiritual binoculars and cut off the vision of everything but Jesus? As wonderful as the view of all of the promises and all of the blessings and provisions is, why not occasionally just bring Jesus into full focus in order to see Him in His beauty and excellencies? It is good to sing, "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow . . ." but too often we get caught up into thinking of all of the blessings and fail to see our Divine Benefactor.

It is interesting that we are told to "extol Him Who rideth upon the heavens." What can this mean? I believe there is something here for us in this Hebrew word, *A'rabah*. It is variously translated, but Harrison understands the phrase "rideth upon the heavens" to mean a desert cloud of sand and dust. Going back to our source in Numbers 10 from which David was quoting in the opening verses of Psalm 68, we find the Israelites three days on the road

moving from one camp to the next. Imagine, if you will, the dust that was stirred up by the tramping of 9,000,000 feet. The desert air must have had a dust cloud that arose high into the sky as a testimony to the movement of the people of God. But God was riding on top of that cloud of dust. The vision of the travelers may have been somewhat obscured but God was viewing the entire scene from His vantage point and guiding even when and where they could not clearly see ahead.

From air travel we can get a comparison for this scene. It is possible to be flying to an airport, radio in for clearance to land and be told that the airport is closed. Visibility is less than a mile. Because you are on top of the dust and the light is with you, you can see through it. It seems almost as though it were not there. A pilot going into an airport which does not have ground control may look down and everything looks fine from where he is. He maneuvers into position to land and suddenly finds himself lost in a blanket of dust or smog. This can prove a disaster. When you are above the cloud obstruction and look down with the light above, vision is not obscured. It is not until you get down into the cloud itself that light is refracted and you lose all vision. The same is true from a spiritual viewpoint. The swirling desert dust may have cut off the vision of the mass of people but riding high above that gathering of dust God was looking down with perfect vision. He could see the way ahead and every need of His children below. He was guiding every footstep with the most precise instruments. Scripture tells us "He knoweth the way that I take." He will bring us forth into His own perfect victory. Do not be disturbed by the dust kicked up from moving with God. Just look to Jesus riding on the perimeter on high. We can praise Him for His provision and protection. We can extol Him "that rideth upon the heavens by His name Jah". This "Jah" is only a con-

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HIDDEN LIFE

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wonderful experience. As I stood on the platform, it seemed as though I was just standing back and watching myself give a message. I was a participator and a spectator at the same time. I was conscious of the Spirit of God flowing through me in power and blessing. Oh, the power in a life that has learned to relax in the Lord. It is easy when God does it. What is the definition of a spirit-filled life if it is not to be found in John 7:38? "Out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." What a lovely picture . . . so effortless, spontaneous, fresh and powerful. It will go on flowing day after day, week after week, and month after month. These rivers will never suffer nervous breakdowns. Often our activity is the human dynamo which is keeping the wheels turning for God. Oh, yes, I must maintain my service and my ministry for God, that is the human dynamo. That is not God's way. His way is for us to just be His channel and let His Spirit flow through us. Not my words, but His. Not my power, but His. Not my flow, but His. I am the channel for the grace of God. This is the Spirit-filled life. But it can only be known in its full release as I enter into rest. When we enter into rest, our output is not curtailed. God will maintain the output and usually increase it.

There are many people who in their zeal to serve God have not entered into this rest. Consequently there is instability. Because of instability there is inadequate function. There must be zeal according to knowledge. The writer of Hebrews speaks in chapters 3 and 4 of the rest that remains for the people of God who cease from their own works, as God did from His. We are to let God do His work through us in the power of the Spirit. So there was a bed for rest and relaxation in Elisha's retreat.

A TABLE

Next in our list of furnishings, we have a table. Throughout the Word of

God the table speaks of two things . . . food and fellowship. In the sanctuary of God there was a table of shewbread. This emphasized to the ministering priest that he needed food and fellowship. This is why we invite people to "come and have a meal". It is not just to fill up a little void in their schedule three or four times a day, but because we want to have fellowship. Over the table we share the things of God. This is where the inner

O My child, I have chosen thee unto Myself, that I may make of thee an instrument of praise in My hand. I shall bring forth from thee a melody of praise and rejoicing, and cause the harp strings of thy soul to vibrate with a joyful song.

Bless Me with thy lips, and whisper My Name in adoration. I will free thee from the prison house, and thou shalt exalt thy God in liberty of spirit.

—COME AWAY MY BELOVED

man is fed. If you are not feeding at the table, when you go out there will be nothing to supply the needs of others. There will be no word in season for him that is weary. You will not be prepared to give an answer to the man that asks you the reason for the hope that is in you. Hungry souls will pass your way and pass on hungry . . . because you have nothing from God. You must feed your inner man. For every hour that we stand on the platform to minister God's word, many hours must be spent in the presence of God, studying His word and feeding our souls. You who would aspire to a public ministry, remember it is not all glamour and being in the limelight. If you do not have a hidden life with God, you may have a busy life but you will have a barren life. There are many busy servants of God that are barren. There is no lasting fruit in their ministry. This is so for every ministry we have. There must be feeding at the table. Fellowship is shar-

ing . . . sharing all the experiences of life. Why are we not translated into the presence of the Lord the moment He saves us? There are many reasons. But one of them is that there are many rough corners that He needs to smooth off. That is why He puts you with that awkward brother. That is why you have to fellowship with that difficult sister who rubs you the wrong way. One little boy's definition of fellowship was "two fellows in one ship". We have to learn to live together. It is not accidental that you are in a particular assembly or group or church, and with that particular sister or brother. The Lord has designed that. Submit, accept, let God show you what He is trying to do with you. It is not the action of another person but your reaction that matters. The Lord wants to deepen His life within you. Fellowship is so important. Food and fellowship.

A CHAIR

Our third piece of furniture in that prophet's chamber is a chair. Get out of your mind your Western idea of a chair drawn up to a table. Chairs were not drawn up to a table in Shunem. Carpets or couches were used for reclining. The word in the Hebrew is a little word, "kisse". This word is translated in the King James Version only once as "stool"; 7 times as "seat"; 124 times as "throne". This is the usual Hebrew word for throne. So there in that prophet's room there was a throne. We are reminded that we are called on to be kings and priests unto God and His Father. And a king usually sits on a throne. Wait a moment. When a man is brought to the throne, does that make him a king? No. He is brought to the throne because he is a king. The Lord Jesus is King and we are to recognize His Kingship by enthroning Him. We are to put Him in His rightful place. The same truth applies to you and to me. We, too, have a throne and a throne speaks of authority . . . authority in the realm of ruling. God created man that he might have authority over all the

works of His hands. God's original plan has never changed. The man of God, if his ministry is to count, is to have authority. We need to have a throne and to me this throne speaks of prayer and proclamation. Let us add another word here . . . authoritative prayer and proclamation. Whether I am speaking to God for the people or the the people for God, it matters not, there is to be this mark of authority. I take my seat upon the throne and as one seated with Christ in heavenly places, the place of authority, I move in and start wrestling with those principalities and powers in heavenly places of which Paul speaks. We can never understand the teachings of Ephesians 6 if we have not understood the basic teachings of Ephesians 1 and 2. We are united with the Christ who went down into death, was raised again by the power of God, and is now seated in heavenly places far above all principalities, powers, might, dominion and every name that is named. That is where He is and that is where we are. If I am united with this Christ who is up there, then His authority is my authority . . . His position is my position. That is why Paul goes on to say in Ephesians 2, "And you has He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin, raised up with Him and made to sit with Him in heavenly places." That is the throne of the believer, and it is from there that we exercise our authority. There are many Christians who are battling for victory and trying to get through to a place with God. How different it is when we see that by the same power that worked in Christ and raised Him from the dead, we, too, have been raised by that power and made to sit with Him in the heavenly places. What does this mean? Simply, we are not fighting FOR a position of victory but FROM a position of victory. That makes all the difference to the battle. That is why all the weapons of Ephesians 6, including the sword, are defensive weapons. All that we have to do to be in continuous victory is to stand. Where are we to stand? In the position of victory that He won for us. That is the reason Paul

says, "Stand, having done all to stand; stand therefore . . . be able to withstand." Four times he says stand or withstand. Maintain that position into which He has brought you by faith. The devil's devices, attacks and subtle ways are aimed to drive us off the position of victory that is ours in Christ. The devil would make us believe that victory really is not ours at all. We may not feel victorious, but God does not ask us how we feel. He wants us to

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it, and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:1-4

believe His inscrutable, eternal unchangeable facts. He has put us in this position of victory and when you start believing it, you will start experiencing it. From God's viewpoint the enemy is conquered and beneath your feet in Him. This is part of the throne ministry of the believer.

Not only is this true in prayer but also in proclamation. The man who has learned to sit upon the throne when he goes to God for men will also know how to sit upon the throne when he goes to men for God. When a man comes in with his problem to that man of God, Elisha, he says, "Thus saith the Lord!" He is speaking from the throne. Often we do not need a lot of words when we are speaking from the throne. Just one word may solve the problem. One word and the perplexity vanishes. One word and light shines on a darkened situation. One word and the chains snap and fall away because that word is from the throne. Authority in proclamation!

A LAMPSTAND

Finally, in that room we find a lamp, or lampstand. This is the same word that we have concerning the lampstand in the sanctuary . . . the *menorah*. Here we have represented two things: illumination and revelation. We are called upon to testify, to bear witness, to be a light shining in a dark place for God. The lampstand was supplied by the oil. Some of the older versions have the word "candlestick" but this gives the wrong idea. A candlestick supports candles and as candles burn they are consumed. However, a lamp is supplied by oil and is a picture of the testimony of God's people, which is furnished by the oil of the Holy Spirit. The man of God must live in the realm of divine illumination and revelation. He must know what God is saying. He must have the message for the hour. It is not enough to stand up on a platform and simply be content to speak the truth. Dr. A.W. Tozier has said, "The mark of the prophet is not that he speaks the truth; but that he speaks the truth that is relevant to the situation." A man may stand up Sunday morning and say to his congregation that twice two is four. Very interesting and perfectly true, but very irrelevant. One can range over the Word of God and bring many messages that are absolutely true. But, is this what God is saying right now to this people in this situation? If not, then it is not the word of God. It is time we stopped telling God, "Lord, you said that Your Word would not return unto you void, that it would accomplish that which You please and prosper in the thing where You sent it. So as Your word goes out tonight, we are expecting a blessing." God never said that. You cannot find anywhere in His Word that says His Word would not return unto Him void. What did He say? "My Word that proceeds out of My mouth shall not return unto Me void." We miss the most important thing . . . the fact that the Word is coming from the mouth of God. That applies, first of

(Continued on page 27)

BIBLE STUDY

(Continued from page 19)

types found in the Word of God, such as in Noah's Ark and the Tabernacle; and those things that foreshadow coming events and even your own day-by-day personal experiences, such as can be found in the lives and experiences of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Children of Israel, Saul, David, and other great events and personalities. The Holy Spirit will teach you and enrich you with spiritual strength for your own battles and struggles, and spur you on to your own victories and conquests.

In each of the foregoing methods, right handling of the Scriptures will come when the following exhortation is heeded: "Know what the Word says and means." (II Timothy 2:15b. Living Bible) A friend of mine says that he always asks himself three questions when he is studying the Bible: (1) What does it say? (2) What does it mean? (3) What does it mean to me? To better answer these questions, and

to make the most of the methods suggested, or any others that you may devise, do these things:

(1) Become intimately acquainted with Him Who is the Theme of the Bible, from beginning to end, Jesus Christ, the "author and finisher of our faith". I have assumed until now that you have become acquainted with Him as your Savior. If you have not, receive Him now. He stands ready to pardon and save. If you have known Him in the forgiveness of your sins, press on to know Him in a new way, and your heart will be prepared for the revelation of Him through His Word.

(2) Pray much. In the place of prayer He will give light in His light, His Word.

(3) Obtain a good concordance, and learn to use it well. Also, a good Bible dictionary will be of tremendous help. There are many good versions of the Bible; compare them, and you will find new depths and heights and breadths that will enrich your spiritual knowledge and life.

(4) Remember that the Word inter-

prets the Word, and it never contradicts itself.

(5) Remember, too, that the Lord has placed in the Body, in a last day ministry, able teachers that are anointed to interpret the Word. To these men of God you can always go to add to your personal search of the Scriptures, or in times when clarity is needed and does not seem to come.

These observations are not meant to be exhaustive, but rather it is hoped that they will be provocative to the extent of inspiring you to begin or renew a search of the Scriptures. For there shall come a famine "of hearing the words of the Lord," and "they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." (Amos 8:11, 12. King James Version)

"Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word: how I need a map — and your commands are my chart and guide. I long for your instructions more than I can tell." (Psalm 119:18-20. Living Bible)

God has provided you with a map — His Word! Begin studying it now!

NO OTHER GODS

(Continued from page 6)

age and that is what the enemy wants.

You have experienced more in the last few years than most of us will ever experience in a life time. Can you give any advice or warning concerning these things?

I have known people and have read of so many people who have been placed in mental institutions just because they have allowed these spirits to take control of their lives. It can result not only in depression and confusion, but it can lead to insanity.

So many people are walking into the occult today, because they do not see the answers in the churches and they are going elsewhere. It is alarming that today everyone is either reading his horoscope or dabbling in magic. Unless they are told of the danger involved and the Scriptural taboos put on these things by God they are going

to be sucked into a trap and put under a bondage.

What is the way out of bondage?

"Come out from among them and be ye separate," says the Lord. Renounce these practices and be done with them. Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and repent of your sins. The only way to stay free is to walk in the light and be obedient to the Word of God. Everyone should be baptized in the Holy Spirit, too. He is where we get the power to discern and understand the forces of evil. You can not fight a spiritual battle with physical weapons. We need not only to be clean in the realm of the enemy, but also to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is much less easy for the enemy to deceive you if you are filled with the Spirit and walking in it.

This is no game. The enemy would make us try and take the path of least resistance, but we are in a battle and I

think God wants us to do more than sit inside our spiritual armor. These are the end times and the forces of Satan are growing; by the grace of God I am learning to know the voice of God and follow His leading. I want to be ready.

* * *

HIDDEN LIFE

(Continued from page 26)

all, to the inspired scripture. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." If we are going to spiritualize and apply this to the ministry of the Word today, then it has to be a protraction, a continuation of that same principle. There must be God's Word coming fresh out of God's mouth. Is this what God is saying *now*? If so, God's Word is coming forth out of God's mouth and we may have the assurance that it shall not return unto Him void. That is why the lampstand must have a place in my life. I must learn to wait before God;

(Continued on page 31)

VIDEOTAPE BREAKTHROUGH



IN KENTUCKY...

Bob Ansett of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, reports of a growing ministry

Jim Stone, founder of Gospel Graphics, prepares to record a service at the United Methodist Church in Wilmore.



"The Holy Spirit is speaking to someone here, right now." Rev. David Seamands could not have known who it was when he made that statement during a sermon in February of 1971 at the United Methodist Church, Wilmore, Kentucky. But the message came through loud and clear for Jim Stone. God's time had come for an electronic-evangelistic thrust and the Spirit's hand was on the 41-year-old engineer.

Almost as a foreshadowing of what God was to do in Jim's life, he had come to know the Lord in a real way through the television ministry of Rex Humbard in late 1970.

A former school supply salesman and a member of Christ The King Catholic Church, Jim was associated with Security Systems, Inc., in Lexington. When he told his employer, W.R. Sutherland, that God wanted him to begin a video ministry, he was given permission to use company equipment.

Using a borrowed camera and video recorder, Jim began taping Sunday evening services at the Wilmore church and replaying them at Extendicare, a rest home in Lexington. Mrs. Betty Conor, secretary for Security Systems, Inc., assisted by helping patients and looking after a great many details and is now one of the pillars of Gospel Graphics, Inc.

In early August of 1971 Jim, along with his wife, Alma, and daughter, Angela, went to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to

attend a Holy Spirit Teaching Mission conference where they met Roy Dyer, general manager of Video Ministries, Inc. Arrangements were worked out and by the end of August the first Bible teaching tape was shown at Christ's Church Episcopal in Lexington.

Changed outlooks and a growing inner strength, as well as an ever increasing attendance, serve as evidence of what God's Holy Spirit has been doing in the Wednesday night showings. From many varied backgrounds Christians are coming together for a common purpose, to hear the Word of God; then meeting afterwards in small groups for discussion and further study. Denominational lines pose no barrier to the gospel via closed circuit television.

The first of many back-up teams now being formed is led by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rice in Lexington. In Louisville a similar effort is being headed by Clarence Evans where Bible teaching tapes are sponsored by the New Covenant Church group.

A third avenue has opened to the gospel on local cablevision. Harrodsburg and Frankfort stations began showing recorded video programs for Gospel Graphics on a regular weekly basis. Additional opportunities were made available and the only major limitation was the time Jim Stone and his co-workers could devote to the effort.

Without constant backing of faithful supporters, Gospel Graphics would not have been possible. Alma Stone has given full backing to her husband's ministry. Bill Wesner,

Derek Prince opens a Bible study with prayer via video tape at Christ's Church Episcopal in Lexington. The ministry now reaches a potential 35,000 viewers each week.





Dr. David Seamands, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Wilmore, Kentucky.

comptroller for Asbury Theological Seminary, became cameraman for the regular Sunday night services at Wilmore while Jim was busy looking after related details. Working side by side with Jim since the early stages of Gospel Graphics has been Harry and Betty Stuart who more than once have worked sacrificially to keep things going on time.

Charles Jones, a gifted singer and the music director of the United Methodist Church, along with Rev. Seamands became familiar personalities on the closed circuit screens as the Gospel Graphic ministry reached a potential of 35,000 viewers weekly.

Other outstanding teachers and preachers began to reach more viewers as Gospel Graphics extended the range of their ministries. As the ministry grew Rev. Moultri McIntosh of Christ's Church Episcopal became a regular video tape speaker.

"Gospel Graphics is simply the means of extending the ministry of others" Jim is quick to point out. "All I have done is pack the equipment. The Holy Spirit does the rest."

On one occasion as Jim was driving along in his auto talking to the Lord about equipment for the ever-expanding outreach he heard a song by

Johnny Cash on the radio. The words struck home; "If you take one step, God will take two." Jim turned the car around and went straight to his supplier where he made a deal for a color Video Tape Recorder with a small amount down and "the rest as the Lord provides". The money is there each month as the payments come due.

Gospel Graphics is a non-profit corporation with a board of directors composed of David Seamands, Moultri McIntosh, W.R. Sutherland, Charles Jones, Richard Vimont (an attorney), and Elmer Moore, a Catholic priest. Jack Harris, a Nazarene minister, resigned when he moved recently to Ohio.

As the Kentucky distributor for Video Ministries, Inc., Gospel Graphics is finding the Bible teaching in ever increasing demand and is extending an invitation to other Christians to become involved in the various aspects of video evangelism. Additional rest homes are being serviced and negotiations are underway with new cable systems. An audio tape ministry is even being planned for public libraries.

Gospel Graphics is an example of what God can do through the electronic media, if a few men and women will be faithful in their service to Him.



Charles Jones, music director is "on camera" for the Sunday worship service.

The teachers and staff at Video Ministries continue to praise and thank God for the opportunity to provide sound Bible teaching to the ever expanding Body of Christ. There are presently 38 distributors operating in the United States and three in Canada with a total of 70 video tape playback units in use. Reports indicate that the combined viewing audience during the month of April exceeded 10,000 persons.

VIDEO MINISTRIES ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEW DISTRIBUTORS

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Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37103

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EPIPHANY MINISTRIES

West One Regina

Spokane, Washington 99218

Erwin C. Sprengeler (509) 483-1298

KANSAS

INTER-CHURCH MINISTRIES

1321 Lawrence

Emporia, Kansas 66801

Donald J. Smith (316) 342-0767

VIRGINIA

INTER-FAITH MINISTRIES

2909 Morrison St. S.E.

Roanoke, Virginia 24014

John Kepley (903) 343-6096

NORTH CAROLINA

LIVING WORD, INC.

1212 Pecan Ave.

Charlotte, N.C. 28205

Randall O. Krueger (704) 333-3318

NEW MEXICO

PHIL SCHLICHTING

1504 Taylor

Roswell, N.M. 88201

(505) 622-5350

NEW YORK

SCRIPTURE TEACHING MISSION

8 Bonnie Dr. (Albany area)

Guilderland, New York 12084

Edgar N. Howell (518) 438-1275

CALIFORNIA

VIDEO TEACHING MINISTRY

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Diamond Bar, California 91765

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Omaha, Nebraska 68132

(402) 551-2566

COLORADO

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Denver, Colorado 80215

Ed Verbal (303) 237-7181

HIDDEN LIFE

(Continued from page 27)

to open my mind, my memory, my mental powers and faculties to the light that shines from heaven by the illumination of God's Spirit. If not, my ministry is going to fail. It does not mean to say that I will not have opportunities or be presented with open doors, but my ministry will be a failure. That will be heaven's verdict of it. God has so much to show us. We know nothing yet as we ought to know. We must stop thinking that we have arrived because some new aspects of truth have been revealed to us. The Lord has very much more light to break forth from His Word. Let us keep our hearts open and judge everything by what the scriptures say. Illumination and revelation — here is the hidden life of the man of God.

Do you know the first mark of a prophet? You say that he speaks the Word of God. No. That he brings the Word of God to the situation? No. These may be some marks, but the first and foremost mark is that he is a man of a secret place. Who was the first prophet in scripture? Enoch. Jude tells us he prophesied. We do not think of him as a prophet, but as the man who walked with God. How long did he walk with God; 300 years! The second prophet is Abraham. God said to Abimelech, "The man is a prophet and he will pray for you." What? A prophet pray? Yes! This is the first mark of a prophet. He is a man of prayer. He is a man who stands in the presence of God. Elijah stood before the sojourners of Gilead and said, "The God of Israel lives, before Whom I stand." He will not have the prophetic ministry coming forth unless we are willing to spend time with God. This is the hidden life. They come forth in the presence of God to sit upon the throne, to speak with authority, to act with authority, to move into situations, to heal waters, to raise the dead, to rebuke kings, to be God's representatives in a decadent and disobedient nation. This was the ministry of Elisha. He was not popular. This is not a ministry to search after because

we want to be in the public eye. But if we want a ministry from the Lord, we must learn the lesson from the prophet's chamber. There must be a bed for rest and relaxation. There must be the table for food and fellowship. There must be the chair, the throne, for authority in prayer and proclamation. There must be the lampstand for illumination and revelation of the mind of God. □

FOLLOWING GOD

(Continued from page 24)

traction of Jehovah. Call Him by His name and extol it above every name.

REJOICE BEFORE HIM

All of the other directives seem to be gathered up into this final injunction to rejoice in His Presence. We might liken it to the crescendo of a great Hallelujah Hymn of Praise. God speaks to us as we move together, both through corporate praise and also in the quiet of private worship.

When I get opportunity to visit back in my own congregation, people often ask me, "What is it like in Indonesia?" Or it may be, Japan, Taiwan or Australia. The language is different, the customs are different, and some situations are different. However, it does not threaten you because God is there and God's people are there.

The first time God sent me to for-

eign soil in Mayo, I went with great fear and trembling. In the midst of one of the early ministries, I was waiting for my interpreter to tell them what I had said and the Lord began talking with me.

"What do you see out there?" He asked.

"I see a people with very dark skin," was my answer.

"What do you see out there?" He asked again.

"I see a people with a very different culture," I replied.

"What do you see out there?" came for the third time.

"Obviously I am not seeing what you are seeing, Lord. What am I supposed to see out there?" I queried.

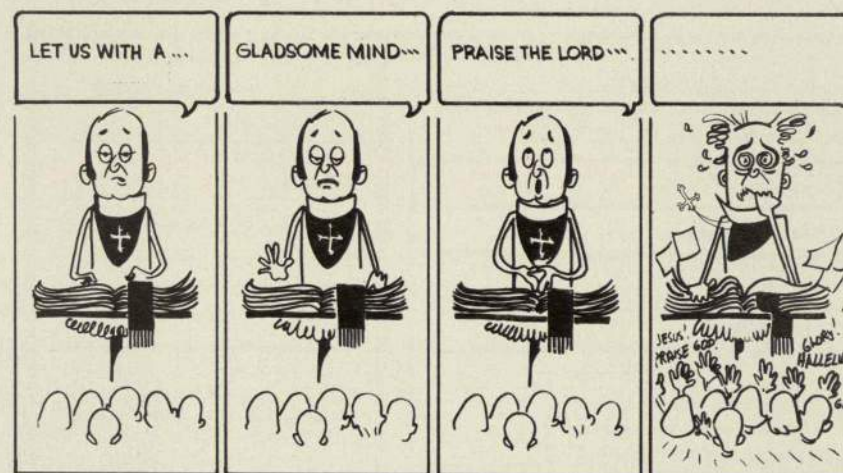
Then the Lord opened my eyes and I saw for the first time my brothers and sisters of an entirely different culture, background and language. Since then no matter where I travel I always find that I am with my brothers and sisters. We are all bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. We are His people. We are moving together and we are praising Him in unison. "Heaven bends low to hear the song of the redeemed!"

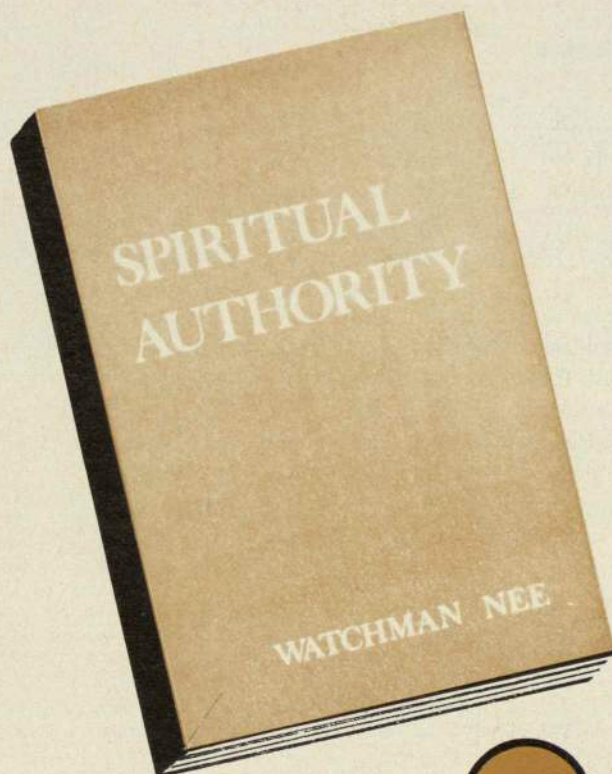
Sing unto the Lord, play instruments, magnify and extol His name. Let God arise and let the people be joyful! □

* *

*Sing unto him a new song;
play skillfully with a loud noise.*

WHAT IF





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A MOST TIMELY BOOK

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