*The Heartbeat of*

# The Remnant

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## *...is Newness of Life in Christ*

*The Heartbeat of*
The Remnant

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The Blessing Corner

# FREE!

*by Janelle Sykora*

I am so blessed and so free! I would like to share what the Lord did for me this past spring. He truly liberated me! Praise God!

Ever since I was young, I have struggled with fears. Oh, how I longed for peace! I remember not sleeping well…and oh, the struggles! Often I went to my parents for help. If only I could be free to be at rest, and to rejoice in the Lord! Free to live, and enjoy each new day with the strength and peace of God!

I was saved when I was thirteen. I remember how desperate I was for relief and help. I cried out to the Lord. How I needed Him! I had always loved Him dearly and thought that I had been saved when I was nine. I realized that this was not the case, because I had no power over fear. I had no victory. Also, I listened to a tape about salvation, and felt that I was not saved. I remember wondering if even the Lord could help me…I felt like a hopeless case! But the Lord, in His mercy, came down and saved my soul on February 18th, 1996.

Slowly, after that point in my life, I began to experience victory. Praise God! Yet, it still was not always so. Fear always tried to come back, and it often did. Although I had the Lord's hope, and the Holy Spirit to encourage me, I could never seem to really cut the Giant of Fear's head off. He kept popping up to torment me…for fear hath torment! I remember wondering, "Will I ever be totally free? Is that even possible?" I thought that perhaps as I matured I would grow out of it. Maybe it was not realistic to become totally free from my fears all at once.

Time continued on. My love for our Lord was so strong. How He delighted me! Still, fears were right at my door. I was very up and down. Oh, how I longed for lasting relief.

I was married to my beloved Steve on August 31st, 2002. The Lord had so clearly led us together. I was so happy! But even in our married life together, I still struggled. Sometimes I would wake Steve up in the night to pray for me or to quote Scripture to me. He helped me many times to find peace again, yet more fears always cropped up. Would it ever end? Yes! It would and has! Oh glory! I almost cannot believe it, but I do! Oh, the wonderful freedom I now have—and always will! Praise be to God!

One Sunday morning after a hard night, Steve and I were talking. Oh, how I wanted never to fear again! I was so weary of it, and had done all I knew to free myself, but to no lasting effect. Sure, I could do well for a time, but it seemed that fear was my master! Looking back, I realized how I had lived under fear. What a tormenting master! Steve told me that morning that I really could have lasting peace. He reminded me of his own personal testimony, and how the things he once struggled with were completely gone, just as though he had never struggled! And this had been the ever brightening case since he was fifteen! I began to cry, with a little spark of unbelieving joy. My tears were tears of relief! It reminded me of a person who was drowning and who was thrown a lifeline. Could this really be for me?

We have a greenhouse and Steve had to go and care for the plants before breakfast that morning. While he was gone, I prayed! I asked the Lord to witness the truth of lasting freedom and peace to my heart through His voice and His Word. I leafed through Steve's Bible, looking here and there. The story of Jesus healing the blind man jumped out at me…I too needed my eyes opened, that I might see this truth! Then, I saw the story of when Christ raised Lazarus from the dead…His sickness was not unto death, "But for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." (John 11:4) I thought of my fears…the Lord wanted to use them to glorify Himself! They were not there to ruin me, but that Christ might be glorified! But, could I really put a stake down in these truths? I read then, "Hope maketh not ashamed." The Lord continued to confirm this truth to me. My eyes began to open to the fact that if I asked God for lasting freedom in faith, I would be able to know with surety that I was free. Faith rose up in my heart. I asked Him to free me. I told Him that I had been afraid so much of my life, and I wanted to be free! AND OH! GLORY! GLORY! I REALLY AM! Christ cut the giant's head off for good, for I could not! What a wonderful Lord!

"How great the joy that thou has brought! Oh, far exceeding hope or thought! Jesus, my Lord, I thee adore; Oh, make me love thee more and more."

Steve came home and we talked and greatly rejoiced! Praise the Lord! What joy! Steve and I rejoiced in our little kitchen together and sang, "I was in Sin's Prison." "Then the door swung open, Jesus said to me, I have signed your pardon! Now you may go FREE!"

It's so new! Oh! Everything is so bright and wonderful! "For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7) "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18)

Now I am FREE! Freer than ever! Free to be a wife…Free to enjoy every moment! Free to sleep sweetly at night! "Things that once were wild alarms, cannot now disturb my rest; closed in everlasting arms, pillowed on the loving breast!"

Words cannot say how happy I am! When I called my family and told them, Mama and Daddy were so blessed. We all greatly rejoice that the Lord has so mercifully set me FREE!

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the LORD." Luke 4:18-19*

*"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Luke 4:21*

❑

**John 8:36**

*If* **The Son** *therefore shall make you free*

# YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED!

# Jesus, Jesus, Life the Fountain

## A PRAYER AND A DEVOTION

"Jesus, Jesus, Life the Fountain…"

*Yes, that is it! Jesus, You are the Fountain that every soul thirsteth for. There is no other—it is You! It is Jesus!*

"Come, O come, with us abide;
lest we meet together in vain,
labor, serve and naught betide.
Thou hast promised those Thee trusting,
that Thou wonders wilt display;
and Thyself be manifesting;
oh, this now perform, we pray."

*Yes, Lord, yes! As Thou hast promised to those Thee trusting: manifest, illumine to us, simply and only Thyself! And in Thee alone, what wonders would be displayed, such love for Thee, such love for my neighbor. Perhaps, this world would be turned upside down.*

"Lord, we bear Thy name as Christians..."

*Oh Lord, what a beautiful privilege, what a sober responsibility. Help us dear God to pause and ponder, and to place an eternal bookmark right here, and daily return with honesty.*

"Lord we are baptized in Thee;
for Thy seed, with Thy subsistence,
purchased with Thy blood; set free!"

*Hallelujah we have found You, Whom our souls so long have craved. Yes, it is you Jesus. Through Your blood we are free! Free? Yes free! Free to love You, free to serve You, free to praise You, free to obey You! Hallelujah, free!*

"Oh, help us to fully know Thee;
come, illumine Thou Thy Word,
that we rightly Master call Thee,
and Thee ever serve as Lord."

*Yes, Lord, illumine to us Thy Holy Word, that we might fully know Thee and properly serve Thee!*

"Art Thou in their midst still staying
who for Thy salvation yearn?
With united sighings, praying?
Oh, so too, be our concern.
Teach us singing, teach us praying,
with Thy Spirit fill, control."

*Yes, fill us with Thy hallowed presence, cause us to walk in Your ways.*

"That we may the Father praising,
come and childlike Him extol!
Gather in the minds far straying;
heal the instability;
help us, light and strength conveying,
live true Christianity!"

*Lord, this true Christianity. Please Jesus, illumine it to us that we may see! Heal our blindness, our instability.*

"Oh, Thou Head of faithful members,
us receive as such we pray;
bring again the strayed offenders
to Thy joyous, heavenly way."

*We have been purchased. We are free. We have been baptized into Thee! Lord, could it be that if our heavenly way is not joyous that we are yet still "strayed offenders"? For Thy heavenly way is full of joy. Our confidence is always in Thee!*

"Grant us seeing, grant us hearing,
grant us hearts, Lord, like Thine own;
make us newborn, true, God-fearing,
for Thy kingdom, Lord, alone.
Yea, do help us to be Christians,
Christians ever this world's light;
Christians, salt in all earth's distance;
yea, Lord, pleasing in Thy sight!"

*Amen! For Jesus sake, for the Lamb's sake, Amen.*

Submitted by Brother David Markwood from Corinth, Vermont. (Based on the hymn *Jesus, Jesus, Life the Fountain*, #398 in *The Christian Hymnary*.)

# The Test of Home Life

*by F. B. Meyer*

*From F. B. Meyer's* Elijah and the Secret of His Power

Many a man might bear himself as a hero and saint in the solitudes of Cherith, or on the heights of Carmel, and yet wretchedly fail in the home life of Zarephath. It is one thing to commune with God in the solitudes of nature and perform splendid acts of devotion and zeal for Him in the presence of thousands, but it is quite another to walk with Him day by day in the midst of a home with its many calls for the constant forgetfulness of self. Blessed, indeed, is the home life on whose threshold we cast aside our reserve, our attitude of self-defense, our suspicions and our fears, and resign ourselves to the unquestioning trust of those whose love puts the tenderest construction on much that the world exaggerates and distorts!

And yet it would be idle to deny that there is much to try and test us just where the flowers bloom and the voices of hate and passion die away in distant murmurs. There is a constant need for the exercise of gentleness, patience, self-sacrifice, and self-restraint. And beneath the test of home life with its incessant duties and demands, many men break down—even men whose characters seem far above the average.

This ought not to be, nor need it be. If our religion is what it should be, it will resemble the law of gravitation, which not only controls the planets in their spheres but guides the course of each dust grain through the autumn breeze and determines the fall of a rose petal fluttering to the path. Everything will come beneath its sway—each look, each word, each trivial act. Indeed, we shall show the reality and thoroughness of our religion when it is no longer a garment to be put off and on at will, but when it pervades us as life does the organism in which it is contained. The truly religious man will be as sweet in irritating gnat stings as in crushing calamities, as self-denying for a child as for a crowd, as patient over a spoiled or late meal as over an operation which summons all his manhood to the front. "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:6) is the one answer of Jesus Christ to all inquiries, the one reply to all excuses and complaints about trying circumstances.

Your home life was chosen for you by the unerring skill of One who knows you better than you know yourself and who cannot make a mistake. It has been selected as the best school of grace for you. Its burdens were poised on the hand of infinite love, before they were placed on your shoulders. Its pressure has been carefully measured by scales more delicate than those which chemists use. And now, looking down upon you, the Master says: "There is nothing in your life that may not be lived in Me, for Me, through Me, and I am willing to enable you to be sweet, and noble, and saint-like in it all."

In the last chapter we saw something of the power and Spirit with which Elijah was filled. It was nothing less than the Holy Ghost Himself, and we learned that that same glorious gift is for each of us. Indeed, it is our bounden duty never to rest until we are filled with that same fullness and clothed in that same robe. But we are now to follow him into a home and see how he bears the test of home life, and we shall learn to admire and love him the more. He lived a truly human life. He was not too great or good for human nature's daily food.

He was the same man in the widow's house as on Carmel's heights. He is like one of those mountains to which we have referred, piercing the heavens with unscalable heights but clothed about the lower parts with woodlands, verdant fields, and smiling bowers where bees gather honey, and children play. He shows that when a man is full of the Holy Ghost, it will be evidenced by the entire tenor of his daily walk and conversation. In this he reminds us of Luther, the Elijah of modern times, who stood alone against the apostasy of the Romish church; but whose family life was a model of beauty—an oasis in the desert. Let those who only know Luther as the Reformer read his letters to his little daughter, and they will be captivated by the winsomeness and tenderness of that great and gentle soul.

## Elijah Teaches Us Contentment

The fare in the widow's home was frugal enough and there was only enough of it for their daily needs. Human nature, which was as strong in the prophet as in the rest of us, would have preferred to be able to count sacks of meal and barrels of oil. It would have been pleasant to go into some spacious storeroom and, looking around on the abundant provision, say, "I have goods enough to carry me through the years of famine. I will eat, drink, and be merry." But this is not God's way nor is it the healthiest discipline for our better life.

God's rule is, Day by day. God provides for each day as it comes. The manna fell on the desert sands each day, enough for that day. But it fell

every day without fail. God will provide us with enough strength each day to meet that day's demands: "as thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25). And they who live like this are constantly reminded of their blessed dependence on their Father's love. They are led back again to the life of the little child. They know nothing of those temptations to self-sufficiency, which work ruin in the rich as the myriads of minute insects of the southern seas silently eat away the bottoms of mighty vessels, which are able to defy the storms. If God were to give us the choice between seeing our provision and keeping it ourselves or not seeing it and leaving Him to deal it out, day by day; most of us would be almost sure to choose the former alternative. It gratifies our sense of importance to count up our stores, our barrels, and our sacks. It invests us with so much superiority to our neighbors. It gives such a sense of security. But we should be far wiser to say, "I am content to trust Thee, Father, the living God who gives us all things richly to enjoy. Keep Thou the stores under Thine own hand; they will give me less anxiety, they will not lead me into temptation, they will not expose me to be jealous of others less favored than myself."

And those who live thus are not worse off than others; nay, in the truest sense, they are better off because the responsibility of maintaining them rests wholly upon God. They are delivered from the fret of anxiety, the strain of daily care, and the temptations, which make it almost impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. If God guarantees, as He does, our support, does it much matter whether we can SEE the sources from which He will obtain it? It might gratify our curiosity, but it would not make them more sure. They are in existence and beneath His eye; and they will come safely to our hand. The main thing is to understand the precious promise, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Then let us go on doing our duty, filling our time, and working out the plan of our life. We may be as free from care as the birds that have neither storehouse nor barn. We may laugh as merrily as the child who comes in from school to eat and goes out again to play and is utterly thoughtless about his next meal. We may be entirely destitute, our pantry bare, our money exhausted, and our means of livelihood gone. But our Father has ample resources. His are the cattle on a thousand hills, and His the waving cornfields, and the myriad fish of the ocean depths. His hired servants have bread enough and to spare, He has prepared a supply for our need, and He will deliver it in time. We only need to trust Him.

It is impossible to tell whose eyes may read these words, but if they should be read by those whose aim it is to be independent, let them consider what they mean. Do they mean to be independent of God or of men? They will live to see that they can be independent of neither. And the serious question presents itself, Is this a worthy aim for those who are bought slaves of Christ? Surely we are meant to be stewards; not storing up our Lord's money for ourselves, but administering for Him all that we do not need for the maintenance of ourselves and our dear ones in the position of life in which God has placed us. And our only worldly aim should be to lay out our Lord's money to the very best advantage so that we may render Him an account with joy when He comes to reckon with us.

If, on the other hand, these words are read by those who are dependent on daily supplies—with little hope of ever owning more

than the daily handful of meal and the little oil at the bottom of the cruse—let them be comforted by the example of Elijah. "Be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). The bottom of the barrel may have been scraped today; but tomorrow there will be just enough in it for tomorrow's needs. The last drop of oil may have been drained today, but there will be enough for tomorrow. Anxiety will not do you good; but the prayer of faith will. "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of." He who lit life's flame knows how much fuel is required to keep it burning. Throw all responsibility on God. He who gave His own Son will with Him freely give all things. Do not listen to the arch-liar, who bids you distrust and despair. He has never yet been justified by the event. His prophecies have always proved false. His insinuations are simply beds of rank and poisonous stinging nettles. Do not lie down in them, but trample them beneath your feet. Oh that we might learn, though it be in the school of privation to be content in whatever state we are and to be able to cry with one of Elijah's compeers, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth" (1 Kings 17:14).

The Test of Home Life

## Elijah Also Teaches Us Gentleness Under Provocation

We do not know how long the mother hung over her dying child. He may have been struck down like the little fellow who cried, "My head! my head!" and faded in one summer's afternoon, or he may have lingered beneath the spell of a wearying illness which not only wore out his life but overtaxed his mother's nerves so that she spoke unadvisedly and cruelly to the man who had brought deliverance to her home. "Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" (1 Kings 17:18). A remark so uncalled for and unjust might well have stung the prophet to the quick or prompted a bitter reply. And it would doubtless have done so, had his goodness been anything less than inspired by the Holy Ghost. But one of the fruits of His indwelling is gentleness. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness" (Galatians 5:22). The nature breathed into the spirit by the blessed Spirit of God is identical with His own which is love: and... "Charity [love] suffereth long, and is kind...is not easily

provoked...beareth all things; believeth all things; hopeth all things; endureth all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Thus it happened that Elijah simply said, "Give me thy son" (1 Kings 17:19). If there were a momentary uprising of indignation it was immediately quelled by the Dove, which had come to brood in the nest of his heart.

We need more of this practical godliness. Many deceive themselves. They go to fervid meetings and profess that they have placed all upon the altar. They speak as if they were indeed filled with the Holy Ghost. But when they return to their homes, the least friction, or interference with their plans, or mistake on the part of others, or angry outburst arouses a sudden and violent manifestation of temper. Such people have not yet experienced His special grace. There is much more for them to learn. He who first led them to Jesus is able to make them meek with His meekness, and gentle with His gentleness. He can give them victory over their natural infirmities as well as over all conscious sin. He can work so great a transformation within them that "instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 55:13).

If the Holy Spirit is really filling the heart, there will come over the rudest, the least refined, the most selfish person a marvelous change. There will be a gentleness in speech, a softness of the voice, a tender thoughtfulness in the smallest actions, an expression of abiding peace on the face. These shall be the evident seal of the Holy Ghost, the mint-mark of heaven. Are they evident in ourselves?

Gentle Spirit, dwell with me,
I myself would gentle be;
And with words that help and heal,
Would Thy life in mine reveal.

*Author Unknown*

## Elijah Teaches Us Also The Power Of A Holy Life

Somewhere in the background of this woman's life there was a dark deed which dwarfed all other memories of wrongdoing and stood out before her mind as her sin (1 Kings 17:18). What it was we do not know. It may have been connected with the birth of that very son. It had probably been committed long years before and had then filled her with a keen agony of mind, for conscience is not inoperative even in the hearts of the children of idolatry and heathendom (Romans 2:14-15). But in later years, the keen sense of remorse had become dulled; conscience long outraged had grown benumbed. Sometimes she even lost all recollection of her sin for weeks and months together. We all have a wonderful faculty of dismissing from us an unwelcome thought, just as men try to hide from themselves the obvious symptoms of a disease which is sapping the forces of life.

Memory fixes all impressions and retains them. It never permits them to be destroyed, though it may not always be able to produce them instantly to a given call. Some memories are like well-classified libraries in which you can readily discover even the smallest pamphlet, while others are so confused that they are useless for practical purposes. Yet, even in these nothing that ever came within their range has ever been lost, and whenever the right clue is presented there is an immediate resurrection and recovery of sounds and sights and trains of thought long buried. How terrible will it be when the lost soul is met on the threshold of the dark world to which it goes, by the solemn words, "Son, Remember!" And what more fearful punishment could we imagine than being compelled to meet again and confront the hideous past, summoned by an inevitable remembrancer while conscience, no longer stupefied and drugged, is sensitive

enough to convince of the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

It is remarkable how different is the mental stimulus which is required by different castes of mind to awaken dormant memories. In the case of some, the handwriting on an old letter, a picture, a scent borne on the breeze, or a song will be enough. Their own sorrow reminded Joseph's brethren of their disgraceful behavior to their brother thirty years before. But in the case of the woman of Zarephath it was Elijah's holy life, combined with her own terrible sorrow. Beneath the spell of these two voices her memory gave up its dead, and her conscience was quickened into vigorous life. "Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance?" (1 Kings 17:18).

Oh, to live in the power of the Holy Ghost! Our looks would sometimes then convict the stoutest sinners of sin, as it is recorded of Finney whose grieved face brought conviction to a young woman and through her to a whole factory of operatives. Our holy walk would be a standing rebuke, a mirror in which the sin-pocked might see the ravages wrought by sin. Our words would then be sharp two-edged swords, piercing to the dividing of the joints and marrow, of soul and spirit.

And if any shall be conscious of some hidden but unforgiven sin, let that one know that all efforts to forget will some day be unavailing. Sickness, or bereavement, or bitter loss may come. Then that sin will spring up as if only committed yesterday, in all its horror and agony. It is said that the spirit of the victim haunts the murderer until he makes reparation by confession and surrender. There is some truth in it, for sin is only blotted out of remembrance, both of God and the soul, when it has been confessed and put beneath the blood of Jesus. Confess your sin and claim that cleansing now, and you will hear the voice of God saying, "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17).

# Elijah Teaches Us The Secret Of A Giving Life

It is a characteristic of those who are filled with the Holy Ghost, that they carry with them everywhere the spirit of life, even resurrection life. We shall not only convince men of sin, but we shall become channels through which the divine life may enter them. Thus was it with the prophet. But mark the conditions under which alone we shall be able to fulfill this glorious function.

**1. Lonely Wrestlings**

"He took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD" (1 Kings 17:19-20). We are not specific enough in prayer, and we do not spend enough time in intercession, dwelling with holy ardor on each beloved name and on each heartrending case. What wonder that we achieve so little!

**2. Humility**

"He stretched himself upon the child three times" (1 Kings 17:21). How wonderful that so great a man should spend so much time and thought on that slender frame and be content to bring himself into direct contact with that which might be thought to defile! It is a touching spectacle, but we must imitate it in some measure. We must seek the conversion of children, winning them before Satan or the world attach them. But to do so, we must stoop to them; becoming as little children to win little children for Jesus.

**3. Perseverance**

"He stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD" (1 Kings 17:21). He was not soon daunted. It is thus that God tests the genuineness of our

*continued on page 27*

# My Hands

My hands were all torn
The blood flowed from them
They had woven the crown
For the One we called "Him".

Did you see "Him"
As He walked through the street?
Did you see "Him" touch
The crippled man's feet?

Yes, this Man had such power
And Spirit—I'd ne'er before seen.
Some folks seemed to love Him
And others were mean.

My job as a soldier
Was tested today
I beat Him, I hit Him,
Ugly words I did say

I spit on Him—I mocked Him
Yet, my cold darkened heart
Was not easily stirred.
I'd sure do my part!

He didn't fight back
He only groaned from within
And once I thought I heard…
"Father, forgive him."

When the beating was done,
Someone cried out
"Every king needs a crown
Let's all hail & bow down!"

I took thorny branches
And a circle I wove
These thorns seemed to be sharper
Than what I'd been told

"A crown for my lord!"
I mocked in loud voice
"Here is the great crown
He's the king of our choice!"

"Let's place a reed in His hand
Every king needs a staff!"
The purple robe was pulled down
"There's the crown!"—we all laughed.

With this, the crowd cheered
And with fun, they bowed down.
They made so much noise
And from Him, not one sound.

I looked down at my hands
They had so much pain
They were covered in blood
No relief I could gain.

Was this blood mine?
Was this all from the thorns?
Or was this His blood?
As His back was all torn?

Deep inside I could feel
A bleeding rush from within
I felt so much anguish
And grief for my sin.

I looked up at the cross
And again saw His blood
I saw His meek Spirit
And His eyes filled with love

He looked down at me
With eyes full of kindness
Even through His deep pain
He was forgiving and gracious.

Again, I looked down
To the Blood on my hands
Fell down on my knees
He'd changed all my plans.

A desperate cry, I cried out
And had such great awe
For this Man on the Cross
There was not yet one flaw.

This time, I cried "Jesus,
You indeed are the King!
Your blood is on my hands
I've committed such sin!"

"Please forgive me for weaving
The thorns in your crown
Take the blood from my hands."
Throngs of people still 'round.

As I watched Him suffer
As He took my sin
His love and compassion
Flowed deep from within.

I then looked back down—to my hands
No more blood!
They were completely washed clean
By His unselfish love.

I then joined the seekers
Who were following Him
My friends turned and said
"Now, what's wrong with him?"

If you too have hands
That are stained with His blood
Call now on this Jesus
He'll cause a deep flood

Of grace and of mercy
Deep down in your soul.
Look to the cross!
And make heaven your goal!

Cry out for His mercy
He'll hear your heart's cry
Bend your knees and bow down
To the King up on high.

He'll take all your pain
And the blood from your hands
He'll cleanse your heart
And give you new plans.

His Spirit is waiting
They'll be no more strife
In Jesus, there's power
In His blood there is Life!

Let Him be the choice
Let Him be the King
From your sins He will wash you
Great joy He will bring.

Let Him wash your hands, friend.
Let Him take your stain
Your hands can be clean
New life you can gain!

"Thank You, Jesus!"
Evangeline Anderson, ©2004

*(This poem was inspired by the back cover of the January/February 2004 Remnant.)*

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him." *Matthew 27:27-31*

# Women of Influence

*by Peggy Hostetler*

## Influence . . .

What is a "woman of influence"? Who is she? Where is she? Just what does her life "look" like? You are either a woman of godly influence or a woman of ungodly influence. Is there a woman near you that is in need of a godly influence upon her life? Maybe she is someone that needs help with her children, to catch up her housekeeping, who longs for a submitted heart. Our walk and salvation is connected in a beautiful working pattern as we carry on every day of our lives. Our relationship with our husbands, the way we raise our children, the way we keep our homes, our dress, our speech, our actions, our deeds are just some of the many examples to a world full of women who are hungry for godly influence.

Oh! What a blessing this was to write, as when researching for this study I found beautiful meaning to the word *influence*. Meanings like, "to cast shade upon, to envelop in a haze of brilliancy, to overshadow." I thought these to be such very lovely words, words that fully show the meaning of influence. This speaks loudly to me of what MY influence does to and for other women. My influence can overshadow, it can cast shade upon and it can envelop in a haze of brilliancy. To "envelop in a haze of brilliancy"—my life can surround another's in a shadow or haze of light, OR my life can surround another's with a shadow and can cast shade, or in reality,

darkness upon another's life. Wow! That speaks volumes to me and convicts the very soul of the "woman" in me. My God-given instinct is quickened, is made aware, is brought out to a fuller and deeper meaning of what my influence can do. Oh, praise the Lord for the light of His influence and for His words of light spoken to me about influence as I write.

I also found some words in that meaning that were distressing. Influence in the Greek means, "a token of control, authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength." Let us look at these for a moment and see where they fit in with our influence.

"Token of control" is that little piece of us that we use to wield in our daily lives. In relationships women often use this token of influence to undermine their husbands or to navigate around his will in their marriage. They can use it as a "quiet" authority, where it will erode and rot the marriage core. Our liberty, power, rights and strengths are found within submission to our husbands. It is God-given and can be a blessing when it is within the perimeters of the marriage fiber.

We also use this influence in our relationships with other sisters and daughters. I think of those little day-to-day things. They may seem small, but reflect a heart that is satisfied in living a simple life for Christ. I think of a few of those times when I may have been an influence—a smile to a grocery clerk who is frazzled by the lines of people yet to come after me, an encouraging word of hope to a tired mother working long hours with children in daycare, searching and grieving for a better way, or crying with a sister over tea who just needs a hug and an ear to listen. There have been many, many times when I have been both a good influence and sadly, times when I have not.

I pray that this writing on "Women of Influence" will bring you to a deeper place in understanding YOUR influence and what the lasting effects of it can be. I have wept at times as I studied for this writing and what the Lord has shown me with one tiny word that he so gently placed upon my heart: the word *influence*.

The following is an on-going study of women of the Bible and that of their influence. The influence they had on their husbands, their children, their sisters around them and the wide, far reaching influence they have on us even today. Generations will be touched by influence.

May we press forward to the prize and the high calling that we have in the ultimate influence, that of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*My Lord and Savior, O that we might bow to You and worship You. Help us as women who are called by Your name, to begin today to implement a NEW influence, that our light may shine and illuminate Your word, and not cause a shadow to pass or shade to be placed upon it by our words or actions. Praise Your name!*

## Eve

### *A Failed Helpmeet*

Just imagine a beautiful garden home, a beautiful new body with fresh skin and a strong, intelligent, spiritual head of the home who adores you. Sound familiar? It should, this was Eve's world. A world God created for Eve, placing her in a beautiful garden, with a beautiful new life and a wonderful husband, Adam.

I love the account of how God took a part of Adam to create Eve, a part of his very own

body. How close and intimate is that picture in trying to show you how God created the woman for the man, not the man for the woman. Eve was not made from Adam's heel, nor was she made from his head. She was made from his side, not to be above him and not to be below him, but certainly to be right beside him and to become part of him for her entire life. She was created beside him to be closer in love with him—being eye to eye, cheek to cheek, breath to breath and heart to heart! What a beautiful image this brings to my mind.

Eve was to be all these things. It was the duty and honorship she was to bestow upon her mate, Adam. She was to complete him as a helper, suitable and fit. God created the perfect example of a woman who was to become a great woman of influence, but sadly, Eve will be remembered as one of the worst role models for Christian women, ever. But we can learn much from her. We can watch as she makes grave mistakes. She can influence our lives to the highest point and help us not to go down the same dark path.

We find in Proverbs 12:4 that, "A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay or rot to his bones." Eve was to be a crown, a sparking jewel of fine and precious stones to Adam, to bring him to his finest, thus bringing herself to her shining place of respect and duty. I have always likened the submitted life of a Christian wife to her husband as an example of a submitted life to Christ Jesus. When we come in humility to the Lord, we submit to Him and His authority. We are now lost to him, only to be completely now found. So it is with a Christian wife. The nation's feminist society would tell us to go out and find ourselves, but little do they know (for they are deceived) that when we submit ourselves to our husbands, to his love and authority, we are already found, beautifully and wonderfully found. We then enter into our place, a sacred sphere of promise, provision and blessing. Blessings rain down from heaven when we are in the place that God has purposed for us. Eve got out of her place, her place of promise, and lost her blessings. She got out from under God's perfect will and purpose for her life, straying from Adam's leadership and safety and bringing herself into deception.

Blessings rain down from heaven when we are in the place that God has purposed for us. Eve got out of her place, her place of promise, and lost her blessings.

What happened to Eve? Could it be that she became increasingly bored and discontent with her role as "just" a wife? Maybe she strayed too far from home; maybe "things" became important and things she wanted and desired became so very important. Did she linger and stare too long? Perhaps the longer she looked the better the forbidden areas looked to her. Did she stop listening to God, the Father? Could it be she did not talk with her mate as often as she once had? Maybe she just needed to "get away" alone, and away she did, once too often. Do any of these thoughts sound familiar to YOU? Have you ever reaped dire consequences in your marriage? Have you "created" sin in your home-life, and has it caused your husband to stumble over it and fall? Is he bruised or just bleeding a little from time to time, due to hurt that you have inflicted? Is your influence on your husband a positive one? Do you make an impact on his growth in the Lord, or are you a hindrance? Do you have a serpent's tongue, lashing to and fro with no consideration of having a meek and quiet spirit? Maybe now would be a good time to evaluate your heart, a good time to take inventory of your influence and how your husband sees you. Dear sisters, the potential is always there in the next breath for an apology and for healing. Our knees sometimes get stiff from not being bent by our bedsides. Today is the day to set yourself free from the forbidden fruit! It will leave a bitter aftertaste in your mouth, but with humility it can also leave you more sensitive to the "sweet" on the end of your tongue!

Let's stop eating from the apple and throw away what is left on the core. It has become brown with rot. Let's set our sights on becoming a woman of Godly influence and let it begin in our own homes, modeling the attributes of a wife set on the rock, Christ Jesus! Hallelujah!

# Mary

## *A Woman Who Found Favor*

As I ponder Mary, the mother of Jesus, I think of a maiden—sweet, fresh, pure and simple. I see her small stature busily going about her daily tasks with no thoughts as to what her future will hold. Oh, I am sure her dearest Joseph crossed her mind, though, from time to time. Her impending betrothal must have given her great joy indeed.

The Bible tells us in Luke, Chapter 1 that God found favor with Mary. The angel that visited Mary said, "Hail! Thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." I would like to look at those precious words, "You have found favor."

She was beloved of God. He saw in Mary a woman who was after His own heart. God wasn't a stranger to Mary. She knew of the promised Messiah and no doubt longed for this "promised one."

Do you have that same longing; are you looking for His return? Does God find favor in you? Do you become one with Him in sweet, intimate fellowship? Just imagine the encounter Mary had with the angel ringing out his salutation, "Hail, Mary!" She must have been caught off guard with surprise—or was she? Certainly she must have experienced a lot of mixed emotions, but could it be she was in communion with God in prayer at the entrance of the angel appearing in her room?

What has your response been to the Lord when He has found favor with you—when He has given you a higher calling? Did you follow through with the directions the Lord gave to you? Or did you plod, question and muck your way through? Maybe you are following through, but you have done so begrudgingly.

Mary's heart must have been full at the undertaking of carrying and birthing the Messiah, Jesus. It was no mistake that God gave Elizabeth to Mary as a special, confident sister. Elizabeth was past child bearing years and Mary was a virgin. Only our Lord could use these two examples of impossibility to show us that absolutely nothing is impossible with God! Dear, sweet Mary's response, "Behold the maid servant of the Lord! Let it be unto me according to Your word." This is so precious to me. Oh, sisters, her response should rock the very foundation of our souls! She was saying, "I am here Lord, I am Your servant, humble, and willing to be used in any way and for any purpose, according to Your will!"

She was saying, "I am here Lord, I am Your servant, humble, and willing to be used in any way and for any purpose, according to Your will!"

Do we "allow" God to use us? Do we give ourselves to Him, wholly and completely with no hold, fully trusting and fully laying ourselves down at his feet? When was the last time you entered your prayer closet and said, "Behold, the maid servant of the Lord! Let it be unto me according to Your word?" Do we surrender our will so that God's will and purpose can be fulfilled?

He has a will and purpose for each of us if we would only surrender to Him. Mary was a woman who found favor with God. Indeed, she was a woman of influence to all of us living today. Are you a woman who has found favor? Are you a woman of influence?

# Hannah

## *A Woman of Sacrifice*

When was the last time you sacrificed? Sacrifice means to devote or bestow a present or gift, to slay. As Christian wives and mothers, we know what it means to sacrifice. Most of us give of ourselves, daily devoting and bestowing our gifts of time and self. When we peek in on the life of Hannah we see an example of great sacrifice—that of "losing" a child and of "slaying" ones own desires to give to another. Hannah was a woman with a great emptiness in her heart. That emptiness could only be filled by a child, a son for whom Hannah had longed. Hannah's husband, Elkanah, was a godly man. The Bible tells us in 1st Samuel that, "Year after year he went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord at Shiloh." During this time of sacrifice, Elkanah gave portions of meat to his wife, Peninnah, and to all her sons and daughters. These were sons and daughters she bore to Elkanah. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her. Could it be that Hannah held a "special" place in his heart? Could it be that they grieved together at not creating children from that love. It tells us in the Word that, "the Lord had closed her womb." Here we see God's plan as it unfolds and how he had a very specific purpose in not willing blessings to Hannah and Elkanah until the precise time, His time.

Peninnah had used Hannah's barrenness against her and wielded her influence purposefully in badgering and hurting Hannah. This thorny pain went on year after year. I believe that Peninnah did this behind her husband's back. Hannah, being of a meek and quiet spirit did not want to gossip or display the same hatred toward Peninnah. So, she did not convey to here husband what had transpired and the situation continued unchecked. Elkanah would say to Hannah, "Why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted?" It was clear that Elkanah had no awareness of the torment Peninnah was wielding at Hannah. Holding onto this torment and not sharing it with her husband was another way in which she gave sacrificially. She did not want to show any disrespect to the other woman because of her love for Elkanah. Surely he was quite aware of the grief of carrying an empty womb as he said to her, "Don't I mean more to you that ten sons?" Oh! I am sure that this question was one of bitter sweetness. I can feel the torn heart Hannah must have felt at that moment—bitter that she had never suckled a child at her breast, bitter at the pure emptiness of being barren. On the other hand, sweetness, in that her husband had wanted her to adore only him, to see him as fulfilling her needs, and in the deep love the two of them shared. Hannah remained steadfast through her trials, but things came to a head during one particular time while they were in Shiloh. It was there that Hannah let the dam burst and the river began to flow. Eli, a priest at the temple door, saw Hannah weeping bitterly and praying out to the Lord. At this point she made a vow saying, "O, Lord Almighty, if You will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant, but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head. As she prayed silently only moving her lips, Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine!" Hannah replied that she was not drunk, but a woman of a sorrowful spirit. I believe that dear Hannah was consumed before the pouring out of her spirit that day, and that it was in the very act of

Hannah is a lovely woman of influence. In her we see a determined woman who believed in a God that was bigger than a barren womb. She was a woman who knew to pour and empty herself out to the Lord and to leave burdens with him. She knew where to go and where to find peace. She was a woman who gave of her first fruits—the child of her womb.

"pouring out" and fully emptying, that Hannah found relief. Eli answered and told her to go in peace and blessed her petition. It was then that Hannah left with a renewed joy in her heart. She was able to eat and had a smile upon her face. It was the act of "giving it" to the Lord that brought renewal.

The next morning they rose early and worshipped the Lord and returned to their house in Ramah and the Bible says that, "Elkanah knew his wife". I love the use of the word "knew" here, as it shows the beauty of the intimacy that they shared together. Imagine the release that Hannah could now have in her marriage bed with her precious husband without the joy stealing the worry of not bearing a child. The influence of worry no longer overshadowed the love she shared with him. She had given it to the Lord and placed it in His will in fully capable hands.

In due time the Lord blessed Hannah with a son and she named him Samuel. Samuel's name means, most fittingly, "For this child I prayed." The time had come once again that Elkanah took his whole house to offer his yearly sacrifice and his vow. Hannah stayed behind, for she said unto her husband, "I will not go up until the child is weaned and then I will bring him that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever." Elkanah told her to do what she thought was right and keep Samuel until he was weaned. So Hannah continued suckling her babe until the time came. Hannah kept her promise to the Lord and gave Samuel back as a sacrifice of her obedience. Hannah took Samuel to the house of the Lord in Shiloh and the Word says that Samuel grew and worshiped the Lord there.

In Samuel, Chapter 2 you can read Hannah's beautiful prayer of praise. Hannah is a lovely woman of influence. In her we see a determined woman who believed in a God that was bigger than a barren womb. She was a woman who knew to pour and empty herself out to the Lord and to leave burdens with him. She knew where to go and where to find peace. She was a woman who gave of her first fruits—the child of her womb.

Can we not learn from Hannah's example? Most of us have given sacrificially for our children at one point or another. It does not matter whether our sacrifice is big or small, our God sees. He is still a God that answers prayers and will bless that sacrifice. He will use those sacrifices to influence others as we live out our lives in front of others. Are you a woman of sacrifice? Are you a woman of influence? ❑

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# New Tapes!

My mind reflects with awe and gratitude, as I remember the sweet silence of God's presence during the Leadership Seminar February 9 thru 13. Six hundred fifty serious minded men gathered to seek God, examine their hearts, and break their hearts before God. They were days of heaven on earth to say the least. Several new tape sets were recorded during these sessions. Allow me to give a brief overview of each one for your information.

## A Declaration of "The Faith"

This series by Brother Denny Kenaston is a much-needed definition of the true faith in the midst of a very grey "Christianity." Brother Denny gives us a 28-point definition filled with practical application for us American Christians. There are six tapes in this set, that move along progressively from the foundation stones of our faith, to many of the details of our faith. This series was developed with three purposes in mind.

1. To clarify "the faith" now in 2004 and challenge our present reality.
2. To give to seeking souls who are searching for truth, and for a solid church.
3. To be used by church leaders, as a tool for new members seeking orientation, and for new people who want to know for what the church stands.

## Revival and Leadership

This is a four-tape set by Gerhard Du Toit, from Canada. Brother Gerhard addresses the men at the Leadership Seminar in the evenings on the subject of Revival. He relates to several practical issues that hinder us and our churches from experiencing the presence of God, which is what true Revival is.

## Tools for Discernment

This series by Brother Mose Stoltzfus is an expose of many false doctrines and false practices plaguing the church today. Brother Mose admonishes us to go back to the Bible for discernment, in a day when new doctrines are on the rise. Brother Mose gives us many shocking extremes that are taking the so-called church unawares, when she should know that something is wrong. He admonishes us to check the fruit in the live of those who preach and teach.

## The Leader and His Relationships

This series was given by several different speakers throughout the week. It focuses much in the area of our homes. This is where true leadership begins. We men were deeply challenged by the practical helpful advice given by each message. Please note the titles.

- The Leader and His Youth.
- The Leader and His Home.
- The Leader and His Wife.
- The Leader and His Walk with God.
- The Leader and His Church.

# How Far Is It To Hell?

Author unknown (1890's)

Strangers, when they visit the "coal-fields" are often desirous of seeing how the mining operations are carried on, and for this purpose they go down with some of the miners into the coal pits.

One day a gentleman was going down, accompanied by a miner, who was to show him through the mine, and to explain the working of the different parts of it. This miner was a simple-hearted and earnest Christian, and as they were let down into the darkness, he was shocked at the language of the gentleman, who added an oath, or some blasphemous expression, to almost every sentence he uttered. Down and down they went, when the gentleman said, "Do you think it is as far to hell as it is to the bottom of this mine shaft?"

"I don't know, Sir," replied the miner, "I am not sure how far it is to hell. But, judging from your language, if the rope were to break, you'd be there in less than a minute."

# The Fool

A certain king kept a fool in his house, as some rich men did in olden times for their amusement. This king gave a staff to his fool and charged him to keep it until he met with a greater fool than himself, and if he met with such a one to deliver it over to him.

Not many years later, the king fell sick. His fool came to see him and was told of his master's fatal illness. "And where shall you go?" asked the fool. "On a long journey," answered the king. "And when will you come back, within a month?" "No." "In a year?" Again the king replied, "No." "When then—never?" And the king replied, "Never."

"And what provision have you made for the place you are going?" asked the fool. "None at all." answered the king. "So, you are going away forever and have made no provisions for your departure? Here, take my staff," said the fool, "for I am not guilty of any such folly as that."

# What is *Your* Ishmael?

by Dean Taylor

"The Ishmael of carnality in our souls will always persecute the Isaac of our Promise. There can be no compromise—they must go! Cast out the bondwoman of doubt, the bondslave of guilty fears, the Ishmael of manipulation and self-assertiveness. And don't settle for a legal deliverance, drive them completely out. This is the only way we can have true spiritual victory."

## The Promise

Before there were Bible schools, seminaries or colleges…before denominations, creeds, councils or even churches, there was only a *Promise*. While still in the pagan city of Haran, Abraham heard that promise and responded:

*"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, 'Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him…"* (Gen. 12:1-4)

That was all Abraham needed to hear—it was as simple as that. Abraham responded promptly to God's calling. To see Abraham respond so quickly is inspiring. It is obvious that something had immediately taken hold in his heart. What happened? Was it a vision, a visitation, or a revival? Whatever happened, it is clear that God stepped down, and a new awareness of God so gripped Abraham that he responded at once. Following his lead, his entire family responded with him. Once again, as it had been centuries before, communication with God was reopened and *men began to call upon the name of the Lord.* (Gen. 4:26) Being

led through mountains and deserts, *not knowing whither he went*; he learned to follow God by faith, trusting in Him, as the living God who had promised. As he went forth he actively trusted in this promise, earning him the coveted name, "*Friend of God.*"

Woven like a golden strand throughout the pages of the New Testament, we find many inspiring references to the eternal testimony of Abraham's life and faith. Paul was quoting from the Genesis account when he said, *"What saith the scripture? Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness."* (Rom. 4:3) The message that Paul brings out of Abraham's testimony is that before the compulsion of a law, ceremony or obligation, Abraham simply heard the voice of God, left his old way of life behind and followed Him. Paul argued that the benefit of Abraham's testimony was that his promise *was not written for his sake alone…but for us also.* (Rom. 4:23-24) Like Abraham, without the law and apart from our own strength, confidence, or sense of ability, we too can have fellowship with God, through faith.

## Beyond Justification

Scripture tells us that *without faith it is impossible to please God.* (Heb. 11:6) Recognition of our own *absolute inability,* and our desperate need to be fully reliant upon God's *absolute ability* is vital to a clear conversion. As we move beyond our conversion, this same awareness must prevail if we ever hope to make progress in our walk with Him. Paul told the church at Colasse, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."* (Col. 2:6) The years we spent in self-reliance have fortified our flesh, making it all the more difficult to throw off its binding limitations and cast our entire trust upon God. The new call to trust God for everything goes against our old nature. As we desire to grow in holiness and sanctification this principle too often gets overlooked. It must always be resolute within us that *without Him we can do nothing*. (John 15:5)

Compounding our difficulty with the concept of holiness by faith is the sad reality that Christendom today is full of people (and entire churches for that matter) who claim all the promises of God without any real change in their lives. Remaining full residents of Babylon and embracing the world, they profess to be citizens of the Kingdom of God. Scripture teaches that this form of mental consent is powerless and is not the faith of Abraham. It would seem that they have forgotten that the faith which Abraham possessed was identified by the works that God did in his life. *"Seest thou how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect?"* (James 2:22)

As many of us come out of this deception, we remember the sin and hypocrisy that we came from and we endeavor that our life will be different. Out of our desire to please the Lord and to see His fruit in our lives we become earnest to *make our election sure* and to *work out our salvation with fear and trembling*. These are good and inspired desires, but how quickly we can become blinded and meagerly sustained if we forget that the same God that *worketh in us to will* these things also said that *He will do* them according to *His good pleasure*. (Phil. 2:12-13)

Likewise, those converted from conservative religious backgrounds also struggle with the idea of sanctification by faith. Heritage, training, good manners and ethics are all fine Christian attributes, but putting our trust in these works is like trusting that filthy rags could wash us clean. Furthermore, when we rely upon ourselves we forfeit all the blessings that come when we *allow the very God of peace to sanctify* us *wholly.* (I Thess. 5:23) Brother Mose Stoltzfus, in a recent hard-hitting sermon on Phil. 3 said, "*I do not believe that every thing that we ever learned needs to be discarded…but when we put a sort of pride in it and think that we are a bit above another man who is 'just a sinner saved by grace,' then we come to dangerous ground and trouble will come into our lives…Looking at the situation here in Lancaster County and other places, I know that this is a problem for many. They see themselves a mite superior because of their long standing heritage or background and some put a little, some put a little*

*more, and some put way too much confidence in the flesh."*

There have always been Pharisees, false-professors, and fakers in the Church. This need not trouble us. It will always be true that a real conversion will produce a changed life. If a person claims to be saved by faith then his faith should be saving him. "*He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked."* (I Jn. 2:6) Like the conversions of Simon the magician in Acts 8, and like that of the believing Pharisees from Acts 15, the true church of Jesus Christ has always had to deal with those who come to God with insincere hearts and ulterior motives. Turning to carnal methods to spite a worldly church will prove futile.

## It's Not Your Turn

Whether we are from a worldly background or religious, as we rise from the altar of regeneration and press toward the mark of holiness, there is a tendency to feel that the Lord has done His part in justification so now it is our turn to do the part of sanctification. This is the very fallacy that we find Paul rebuking the Galatian church for when he cried out, "*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?"* In this third chapter he appeals to them asking them to call to mind their conversion, challenging them with the leading question, *"…did ye receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"* In pursuing his rhetorical question he admonishes them with a rebuke that still sends me searching into my own heart and motives every time I read it, "*Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"* To illustrate this, Paul is asking how it could be possible that while you were an enemy of God, totally lost and on the road to hell, God's grace picked you up and was able to save you; but now that you are a child of God, you think that God expects you to travel the Christian walk as a vagrant by your own strength.

His interrogating indignation is a good lesson to us. His question challenges the reality of our salvation. When we fall into this way of thinking his strong words—foolish, bewitched and disobedient should come as a fitting reprimand to us. Throughout this book he argues that salvation is real, and it changes our life by the infusion of God's grace. It benefits us nothing to strive by fleshly means without a consecrated life, infused by the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. All else is vain striving. Our fruits will show in due time whether we walk in Him or of ourselves.

In simplicity, Paul teaches about the Promise that was given to Abraham and how his *belief in God was counted to him for righteousness.* However, in comparing the Genesis account to the Galatian error, Paul points out the near fatal act of unbelief by Abraham that has caused centuries of consequential heartache and trials.

## Abraham's Ishmael

One of the central points of God's call to Abraham was that God was going to provide Abraham with an heir. But when the fulfillment of the promise tarried, Abraham was tempted to lose heart. Coming back from the battle after rescuing his brother Lot, Abraham met with Melchizedek. Shortly after this meeting God came to Abraham and renewed his vision telling him, "*…fear not, Abram; I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."* Encouraged by his renewed communication he cried out to God with the burden of his heart. Being now 86, he had begun to grow discouraged that the promise of an heir was not fulfilled. So he reasoned with God that what God must have meant by an heir was not a real son, but by means of a custom, whereby a servant born in his house could become his legal heir, thus fulfilling the promise in principle. Abraham did not feel he directly denied the promise by compromising in this way, but in effect, he diminished its efficacy and power by leaning on his own human reasoning.

Like Abraham, we are tempted to redefine God's promises. When we read in scripture, *"…now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless…"* (Jude 24) it is easy for us to turn it into some kind of legal or pretended holiness

Still today, 4000 years later, the conflict between the descendants of Sarah and the descendants of Hagar wages on, making international news as they continue to fight. O what damage results when human means are used to accomplish spiritual matters.

instead of an actual reality in our life. But God assured Abraham, *"…this shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir."* God's promise was fulfilled in reality, not by a legal aberration.

The theological revelation and reassurance he received about his promise gave him clarity and renewed his faith. But as the years continued to pass, the possibility of a real fulfillment began to grow more and more unrealistic. Frustration surfaced and Sarah offered her bond slave, Hagar, to Abraham as a carnal means to fulfill the promise. This time the mistake did not just stop with mental temptations. As it says in James 1:14-15, "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* The fruit of Abraham's sin was Ishmael. After Hagar conceived she immediately felt superior to Sarah and started to despise her. Later, when Isaac was born by the miraculous fulfillment of God's promise, the contention and jealousy proliferated. Ishmael grew in jealousy and persisted to persecute Isaac incessantly. There was no way for them to live together peaceably so eventually Ishmael and Hagar were driven out.

In time Ishmael's descendents moved to the east and south of the Promise Land, and came to be known collectively as the Arabs. Still today, 4000 years later, the conflict between the descendants of Sarah and the descendants of Hagar wages on, making international news as they continue to fight. O what damage results when human means are used to accomplish spiritual matters.

## The Allegory

In a merely humanitarian assessment it would seem that the Galatians should at least get credit for having good intentions as they strive in the flesh to please God. But alas, the full weight of Paul's rebuke clearly denounces such thinking. Beseeching them to recognize their faithless bondage he cries, *"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh, but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."*

Can we see, therefore, that trusting in carnal methods to achieve holiness is likened to Mount Sinai and its futile ability to make us holy? Furthermore, Paul says that the law by its very nature *gendereth* or rather, causes to be born in us, a spiritual bondage. He concludes that even a partial reliance upon the law is cursed and will endanger our souls... "*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."* (Gal. 3:10)

## Rejoice

Contrasting this principle, Paul encourages us to rejoice in what God will do in us as we walk by faith, even before we see the fruit in our life. He wrote, "*For it is written, rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband."* (Gal. 4:27) This passage is not addressing our physiological barrenness, but is referring to our spiritual progress in the

Faith. How can this be? How can a barren woman rejoice over the children that she does not have? Or in this Galatian passage, as it refers to our spiritual growth in holiness, how can we rejoice over spiritual victories that are not yet experienced in our lives? Only one way—by living in the substantial reality that the things we have hoped for, we believe will be accomplished in us, by God.

As Paul said of Abraham in Romans, "…*he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able to perform*." (Rom 4:20)

Incidentally, this settled joy does not imply passivity. We are commanded to *fight the good fight*, to *press toward the mark*, to *contend*, and to *battle*, but we fight this war in Christ, by faith. As one Keswick writer, Steven Barabas put it, "…*the believer must by faith plant his feet on the victorious position which Christ has obtained for him…this at once shows the nature of the fight, he fights not in order to reach the place of victory but, occupying the position already obtained for him by Christ, he fights from it.*" By *faith* we fight triumphantly. If we wish to truly abide in Him, then we must first believe that the Promise is true—that we are, indeed, *more than conquerors through Him that loved us*. (Rom. 8:37) This is victorious spiritual battle. Just as in the Old Testament when Abraham was returning from the battle of Hobah. He had fought hard, but in truth it was God who won the battle. Coming back from the battle Melchizedek said to him, *"…blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand."* Abraham fought and was victorious by the grace and strength of God.

By *faith* we fight triumphantly. If we wish to truly abide in Him, then we must first believe that the Promise is true—that we are, indeed, *more than conquerors through Him that loved us*. (Rom. 8:37) This is victorious spiritual battle.

Emanuel Esh, at a recent prayer and fasting meeting, likened our unused potential of God's grace to a valuable tool that remains unused as we labor to work without using it to its full potential. He said, "…*there are many areas of our life where we have not appropriated the grace of God, or we have not made full use of the finished work of Christ; for we have not taken to ourselves and used to the fullest degree what God had meant it to be when He raised Jesus from the dead, victor over the devil, sin, and death.*"

## What Is Your Ishmael?

The Galatian rebuke has been the text of countless sermons throughout the centuries. This question has no doubt been bellowed across the pulpits of such prophets as Wesley, Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon, Tozer, and Redpath—namely, what's your Ishmael?

Have you avowed yourself to the deceptively self-gratuitous snare of Hagar, and now suffer from the torment of a persecuting Ishmael that destroys your peace with God? As you face frustrations in your own walk of holiness, as you become grieved by the progress of your children, worried over the spiritual maturity of your spouse, wearied over your church, your ministry, your job—in what ways have you turned to carnal methods to accomplish God's will?

## Cast Out The Bondwoman And Her Son

Scripture allows only one solution for dealing with Ishmael, "*Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.*" (Gal. 4:30) The efforts of our flesh and the working of God poise irreconcilably inverse to one another. The Ishmael of carnality in our souls will always persecute

*continued on page 35*

# In a Ring of Fire

*Author unknown (1890s)*

An ungodly European was once trying to convince a convert in India that his religion was of no use, and that he never would be any the better for it. "After all," said the scoffer, "what has your Jesus ever done for you?"

"He has saved me!" said the Indian convert, with great animation, "He has saved me!" "And what does that mean?" said the European. "Step with me to the door," was the reply, "and I will show you." So saying this, he took him outside of the house, picked up a quantity of dry leaves and straw (of which there were plenty close at hand), and made a large circle of them. He then sought for a worm; and, having found one, he placed it in the centre of the ring. After that he applied a lighted match to the material that surrounded it, the scoffer looking on all the time with no little astonishment. As the heat of the fire approached the poor worm, it began to writhe and to show symptoms of distress, but could not get out of the burning ring. The man darted his hand through the smoke, plucked the worm out of its dangerous position, and placed it on the green grass, out of reach of all danger. "There," said he, "that is what the blessed Jesus has done for me: I was exposed to the flames of hell—there was no possibility of escape; I was condemned and ready to perish, and He rescued me by dying for my sins, thus snatching me as a brand from the burning; and He has given me, a poor dying worm, a place near His heart."

Can you today speak of yourself as *saved* by the death of Jesus? Are you able to say, like the poor native, *"He has saved me"*? If not, we entreat you to come now, as a sinner, to Jesus, who is at the right hand of the Majesty on high, and He will give you rest. Take shelter in His blood and you will be cleansed from sin, and delivered from the wrath to come." "When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Rom 5:6) "Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom." (Job 33:24) "Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back." (Isa. 38:17)

**continued from page 11, The Test of Home Life by F. B. Meyers**

> desire. These deferred answers lead us to lengths of holy boldness and pertinacity of which we should not otherwise have dreamed, but from which we shall never go back. "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint! (Luke 18:1).

And his supplication met with the favor of God. "The LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived" (1 Kings 17:22). And as the prophet presented him to the grateful and rejoicing mother, he must have been beyond all things gratified with her simple testimony to the reality and power of the life which the Holy Ghost had begotten within him: "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth" (1 Kings 17:24). And what was the result of all? Her work was small, her conceptions obscure, her home Gentile and heathen. Yet, because her motives were noble and her spirit in sympathy with Elijah's, it was announced by Him, at whose throne we must all stand for our reward, that she had done what she could, and her crown should shine as brightly as that placed on the brow of the prophet of God. We are rewarded, not according to our sphere or the results of our work, but according to the sincerity and beauty of our motives. These may be as lofty in an obscure widow as in Elijah himself. ❑

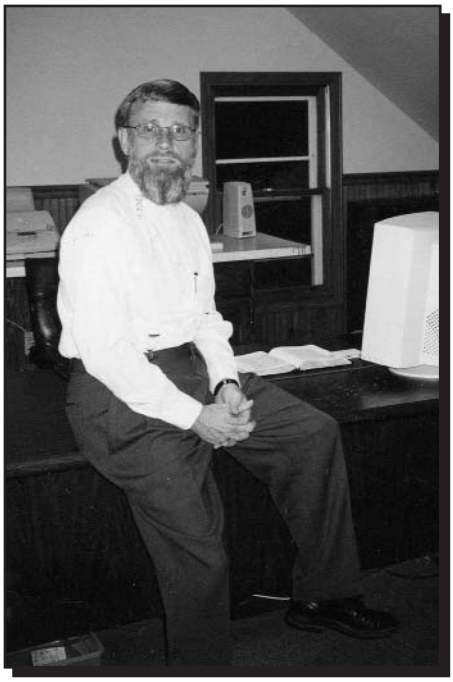
**Book Review**

*by Dean Taylor*

# The Pursuit of Godly Seed

*by Denny Kenaston*

It has been over fifteen yeas since Denny Kenaston first preached the series of messages known as "The Godly Home." Since then, tens of thousands of copies of this message have been sent out across the country and around the world. Through the years, countless testimonies of changed lives and new beginnings have flooded the tape ministry, giving glory to God. These testimonies bear record that God is still fulfilling the promise that was given in the very last words of the Old Testament: *"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."* (Mal 4:6)



More than just a seminar on child training and home life, these messages have awakened homes to many of the inroads of worldliness and compromise that plague the church today. They also have helped countless families bring back into balance the biblical family patterns set forth by the Word of God. Once godly priorities have been established, reports of personal revival, renewed interest in evangelism and hearts turned toward missions have flown naturally. As many of these awakened fathers and mothers have sought to bring their homes under biblical subjection, many have grown hungry for more practical advice and answers to numerous questions.

Through the years, this cry for help has continued to grow. Feeling a burden to respond to the growing need, Brother Denny has found himself traveling extensively, speaking at seminars, Bible schools, revivals and one-on-one with numerous seeking families. Feeling stretched to answer the many questions and to give the necessary practical applications, Brother Denny searched and prayed for ways to multiply himself to meet this ever growing need. It was from this burden that the book, *The Pursuit of Godly Seed*, was written.

In addition to a thorough review of the material covered by the tapes, this comprehensive 424-page manual goes into many helpful details and illustrations that were not possible to address during the seminars. As the back cover states: "The Pursuit of Godly Seed *is an inspiring manual filled with old-fashioned bible principles of child training and home life 'that work.' This book contains a wealth of instruction for your home. It is an A to Z child training manual with clear answers for many a puzzled parent. It is 'radical'. You may never be the same. It is 'inspirational'. Your heart will flame with renewed vision. It is 'practical'. You will be guided in how to make it all happen.*

*Brother Denny says, 'Children who grow up in an atmosphere of revival, with parents who love the Lord extravagantly and obey His word joyfully, will be a mighty influence upon this earth. This is a promise. Generations of godly children come from this kind of home.' With a clear prophetic voice, Brother Denny calls the reader back to the old paths that work."* In some ways this book is like having several personal counseling sessions with Brother Denny, explaining many details of home life and child training.

"It is 'radical'. You may never be the same. It is 'inspirational'. Your heart will flame with renewed vision. It is 'practical'. You will be guided in how to make it all happen."

Even though this book is full of various helpful techniques, antidotes and strategies, Brother Denny emphasizes that there is one crucial prerequisite that must be in place before any of his recommendations may be employed successfully, and that is a clear conversion. He stresses repeatedly that none of these methods will be useful without the life changing power of God's grace. His book starts with the clear message that without a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ, a godly home will be impossible. He says, "*To set out on a journey to raise our children for the Lord Jesus Christ without knowing Him, without having a vital relationship with Him, is to place the cart ahead of the horse. We won't get very far. Many parents are in this very frustrating position, wondering why they are having so many problems getting it all together."*

After laying this foundational stone, Brother Denny then dedicates several chapters to establishing a vision for a godly home. I loved this part! As I read this portion I felt an eye-salve applied to my eyes. I was able to see many areas in my home that needed work. These chapters rekindled a passion in me, personally, for my home. I have found that embracing a clear vision of what God wants to do in my home has helped me to persevere when pressures come or doubts threaten to discourage me. Truly, my heart flamed with renewed hope and promise that I was not doing this alone; I was working with God for His desire to seek a godly seed in me! These chapters do much to inspire feeble hearts and hands, inspiring faith, courage and responsibility to rise up to the challenge and meet the task before us. Brother Denny said, *"Let us ponder some of the inner dynamics of a God-breathed vision. God moves and motivates His people by giving them a vision. The Bible is filled with examples of this inner working of God's Spirit. When God is about to do something, He begins with a vision in the heart of a man or a people."*

The book then moves on to some chapters on practical lessons. My favorite chapter was the one entitled, *"Blessings: the Key to Obedience."* One of Brother Denny's greatest burdens for writing this book can be found in the pages of this chapter. I believe the vision set forth in this chapter comprises some of the key ingredients that many of us are miserably lacking in our homes today. This chapter could stand alone as a helpful resource guide for parents. Brother Denny says that, *"The title of this chapter holds the most profound wisdom you will ever glean for child training. In a sense, this is the fountain from which everything else flows."* He goes on to discuss the importance of love, encouragement, relationship and time with our children, noting that parents are in danger of *"quickly passing over the aspects of love, blessings, and relationships, and quickly going on to corrections, spanking, and standards of holiness."* Brother Denny goes on to share about how the topic of this chapter was wrought in the first place, *"Years ago, when my tapes on the home started to circulate among God's people, I received many troubling phone calls. Parents called me to tell me that my teachings did not work. They were referring to the tape on discipline, and many times they were one of those parents who listened to that tape first. They said to me, 'My child doesn't respond the way you said he would on your tape. We are not friends when I am done spanking.' At first, I wasn't sure where the problem was. I spent much time in prayer and personal meditation, with a question mark*

*before the Lord. One day the answer came to me. The difference is love. That is the key."*

In these chapters he speaks of the irreplaceable discipline of T-I-M-E. He gives a personal testimony and writes that there was a time when he noticed a discipline problem in one of his daughters. He mentioned that his first instinct was to increase his discipline and *"bring her will into subjection."* But then he said that the Lord revealed to his heart that perhaps what his daughter needed was more love and attention. He then dedicated a special effort to set out to work on their relationship in many small ways. For about three weeks he turned more of his attention to her—talking to her, going places with her, etc. He writes, *"The discipline problem disappeared in about two weeks. I noticed a new light in her eyes when she saw me come into the house."*

I feel that my children have really responded well to my efforts to implement this teaching in our home. When I finished reading this chapter and set out with a determined effort to make this time with my children, it really was as if a light came on in their eyes! And they were so excited about spending more time with daddy. It made me wonder just how much I have deprived them from this time that they deserve.

Undoubtedly, many are wondering, "Does Brother Denny address the topic of the rod?" Yes, building upon the precepts of a right relationship with the Lord and a loving relationship with our children, Brother Denny does give insight to this sensitive yet important area of child training. He balances the seemingly paradoxical concepts of love and correction with exceptional justice. He states, *"We are dealing with some balancing principles that are powerful if kept together, but devastating if you let either stand alone. If you heed the message of the previous chapters [love], yet neglect those to follow [discipline], you will raise a silly, uncontrolled child who will not serve God and will bring you to shame. However, as already stated, if you neglect a relationship of love and pick up the rod, you will produce children who despise you and obey out of fear and law (somewhat like robots)."*

The overwhelming point that comes out of these chapters is that, if used correctly, the use of the rod is a wonderful act of love to our children. He states, *"The Devil has lied to us, and we have swallowed his subtle lie. We have believed the lie that spanking is a negative form of discipline, when in fact, it is one of the most positive forms you can use."*

Brother Denny devotes two entire chapters on the topic of how to give a *"godly spanking."* He calls it a *"sacred exercise."* I think one of the most notable things that he discusses on this topic is the problem of anger. He states, *"NEVER spank the children in anger, NEVER…. If you have a problem with anger, you need deliverance from that anger through repentance. If that doesn't help you, then get some personal counseling. Do whatever you must do, but get free of that anger…. Many parents are missing the whole concept of chastisement. Chastisement is not judgment meted out for wrongdoing. It is correction for wrongdoing with future conduct in mind."*

Brother Denny devotes two entire chapters on the topic of how to give a *"godly spanking."* He calls it a *"sacred exercise...NEVER spank the children in anger, NEVER.... Many parents are missing the whole concept of chastisement. Chastisement is not judgment meted out for wrongdoing. It is correction for wrongdoing with future conduct in mind."*

In the next couple of chapters he discusses training the will of our children and then he goes on to address the *"bondage of foolishness."* Later, he discusses what "training" really means by presenting a positive, proactive approach. Brother Denny then begins to address the roles of father and mother and the atmosphere of a godly home. For Christian mothers he discusses such topics as attitude,

submission, dealing with non-Christian husbands, etc. The messages presented in these chapters are far from the modern, contemporary voice of feminism today. However, the testimonies of families that have been turned completely around after hearing these messages are overwhelming. Ironically, it has been the women who have raved over this section. He goes on to discuss the role of the women at home. He does it with such a positive spirit that I think it would make any corporate professional woman jealous.

Following suit, he spends several chapters dedicated to the role of Christian men, leading it with his pointed title, "*Where are the Men?*" Brother Denny doesn't spare any punches as he discusses our role as spiritual leader, financial manager, protector and teacher, highlighting the powerful influence of love and how essential it is to our calling as men. He states, *"Many of us men are missing a wonderful crown upon our life because we neglect to give the proper care to our wives."* I have been very blessed by his teaching. I was particularly moved by the concept that "*a spiritual man will have a radiant wife."* He writes, *"A shining, happy wife provides the same crown for us men, and we are the ones responsible for this glow. Our wives should have the 'glow-ry' shine on their faces."*

There is so much more than time or space will permit me to share here. In short, this book changed my life. I greatly appreciated having the book so that I could read, re-read, make notes and let the message sink deep into my heart. After reading the book and hearing so many wonderful testimonies of other families responding to these messages, I honestly believe that the back cover is true, and any family with an open and willing heart can:

- Learn how to restore wounded relationships with your children.
- Learn how to spank your child in such a way that he will thank you for loving him.
- Find key answers to deal with a strong willed child.
- Bring your home from chaos to a place of peace and rest; God's Word has the answers.
- Learn the most powerful secret on how to bring children to a state of joyful obedience.
- Fathers, you are a teacher. Find out how to make it reality in your home.
- Learn about three mysterious influences that will affect your children for eternity.

Following are some testimonials from others who have read the book:

*"I am a pastor of a growing church. I read Brother Denny's book and wept. God has opened my eyes to my responsibilities and I am leaving the ministry so I can set my house in order."* Oklahoma

*"I listened to the sermons on the Godly Home a few years ago and received much help. However, reading his book has been much more helpful. I learn more by reading than listening. My home will never be the same."* North Carolina

*"This book reads like the Bible, I must stop and meditate on each page. God is stirring my heart and changing my vision."* Pennsylvania

*"Just finished your book. It is a spiritual hydrogen bomb (to God be the glory!). I know it will go exactly to the people that the LORD intends it, though they may be few."*

❑

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# Obedience to Christ's Words and Commands

## *A Condition of Being Filled with the Holy Spirit*

by J.T. Butlin (1800's)

The Lord has given many promises to His people, but He generally attaches some condition to their reception. We often go without the realization of the promises because we do not seek to fulfill the conditions. He has said in Phil 4:6-7, *"Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Scores of Christians never know the peace of God, because they carry their anxieties and worries instead of taking them to Christ in prayer, joined with thanksgiving.

In no case is this truth of a conditional promise more important to notice than in regard to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In John 14:15-16 our Lord said, "If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter." Few people notice the condition of keeping Christ's commandments when they seek the promise of the Comforter.

In this case, however, the condition is insisted on with more than ordinary emphasis; for in verse 21 our Lord says, "He that hath My commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me, and he that loveth Me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself unto him." And again in verse 23, "If a man love Me he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode a with him." How strongly the Lord speaks of the necessity of keeping His commandments, and yet how little that is thought of in seeking the fullness of the Holy Ghost.

The spirit which is here inculcated is not one of legal observance, it is not, "Do this and thou shalt live," but it is rather the natural outcome of strong affection. The man that loves Jesus will keep His commandments. Now, no man loves the Lord until he has experienced the Lord's love to him. The disciples to whom Jesus spoke were men who had had that blessed experience; they had been convicted (Luke 8), they had left all and followed Him; they had had the truth revealed to them by the Holy Ghost (Matt. 16:17); their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20); their sins were forgiven and they knew it (John 13:10,11); they had learned to love the Christ with a deep, strong emotion; and they were now looking forward to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It was, therefore, to such men as these that Jesus spoke these beautiful words of promise, and attached this condition of loving obedience. Dear reader, are you in the condition these disciples were? Have you been brought to Jesus, and have you learned to love Him? But to the present time do you feel you have never received the promise of the Comforter to be the power of your spiritual life?

Every child of God should seek out the commands of the Lord Jesus, and constantly pray that he may have grace to love them and keep them. But in the 23rd verse quoted above, the Lord speaks of His words. There are many words of Christ which are not definite commands, but they express

the will of the Lord for His people. A friend of mine once said, "When I come home at night after a late meeting, I have no need to wait long at the door; the housemaid, who was brought to Jesus in my family, is sure to be on the look-out to let me in quickly. And when I get to my study I find the fire burning brightly, and my slippers put to warm. I never gave her a command about these things, but she knows my wish, and understands what would be pleasant to me." Our dear Lord has expressed many wishes that are not in the form of commands, and a loving heart will seek to fulfill them. He does not command us to be poor in spirit, to mourn, to be meek, or to hunger and thirst after righteousness; but He shows how He loves this condition of mind, by giving special blessing to those who are such. And anyone trying to keep His words will seek this spirit, because the Master loves it so.

It would be well if children of God were to search out the commands of Jesus, that they might meditate on them, and pray over them, and see what bearing they have upon daily life. Such a method would certainly put them in the way of receiving the promised blessing. The man that would receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, must seek the loving spirit inculcated in the words, "Resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." He must carry out the Lord's command to "give to him that asketh," to love his enemies," to "bless those that curse him," etc. He must be a man who loves secret almsgiving, secret prayer, secret fasting. He must remember that our Lord has said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth," and he will see that a covetous or stingy man can never have the fullness of the Spirit. He will find further that too great attention to his dinner, or too much thought about his dress, are hindrances that will prevent the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. Again, a spirit of judging or criticism of his brother is against the direct command of the Lord Jesus, and must be put away, and he will come to the Lord with the strong faith taught in the command, "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

There is no more certain way of preventing the baptism of the Holy Ghost, than by permitting jealousy, envy, strife, bigotry, or sectarian spirit to arise.

Or again, if anyone would have the power of the Holy Ghost, he must remember how the Lord has said, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart." To take Christ's yoke, is to accept His will in everything; and to be meek and lowly in heart, is to place oneself in the background, and to take the lowest position. These things are not easy, but they are so like the Master, that he who loves Jesus will desire to be of this spirit; knowing that as Jesus came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others; so His disciples must take this position.

There is only one other passage to which I will refer, and that is the new commandment which Jesus gave His disciples, "That ye love one another, as I have loved you; that ye also love one another." There is no more certain way of preventing the baptism of the Holy Ghost, than by permitting jealousy, envy, strife, bigotry, or sectarian spirit to arise. Love must reach across every barrier and kindle with strong affection towards every brother who believes in Jesus.

Now, dear reader, are you seeking to have this priceless treasure in your earthen vessel? See that you endeavor with all your heart to do His bidding. Do you love Him? Love is obedient, love is active. If you have not love enough to keep His commandments, is it because you have forgotten the love He bare to you, the pierced hands, the wounded side, the weight of sin, the hiding of the Father's face, the descent into the grave? See in these things the heart of Jesus wounded for you, and then remember how He has said, "If a man love Me he will keep My words, and My Father will love him, and We will come unto Him, and make Our abode with Him." ❑

# *Precious Letters from Our Readers*

We thank God for the many letters of counsel and encouragement we have been receiving. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration and burden from us to you, and you to us. This way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. We would love to hear from you in any of the following ways:

- A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- A testimony for "The Blessing Corner" of God's blessing in some area of obedience.
- A question that can be answered to the edification of all.
- An area of spiritual growth, obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- A word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant*, or any section of it.

*Waiting to hear… --The Editors*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We're unable to express to you how much your publications mean to us in rich blessings. Of course we enjoyed the articles on China and can tell you that we hold "Heavenly Man" in highest esteem. It has been several years since we've heard him preach, yet his messages remain fresh, through the work of the Spirit.

We realize God is anointing your ministry, as well, for one article after another speaks so exactly to our deep needs, giving light for our way. May the Lord encourage you that your labor is not in vain in the Lord and grant "a jubilant pining and longing for God…that brings spiritual torrents and whirlwinds of seeking and self-denial."

"Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." II Cor. 9:10, 11

*China*

Dear Remnant,

I am a young lady turning 18 on the 29th of this month. I am writing to thank you so much for *The Heartbeat of the Remnant* and Charity Christian Missions magazines and your Tape Ministry. My family and I really enjoy them. We are a homeschooling Christian family who love God dearly. I thoroughly enjoyed Denny Kenaston's articles and interviews with the Chinese brothers. (Radical Chinese House Churches, Pt. 1 & 2, issues Jan-Feb 2003 & March-April 2003) I have felt a huge burden for the Chinese brethren's lack of Bibles. I am considering studying to be a missionary to China. Right now, I don't really know what God will lead me to do. I will be trying to get my GED started soon. Anyway, thank you again for your ministries. May God richly bless you!

Dear Brethren,

Just writing a note to ask you to continue sending the magazine to us. It is indeed such a blessing. My husband often photocopies key articles and hands them out to men at work and those God has put in our path to disciple. A few weeks ago I read "The Sacrifice," (a prayer—anonymous author) to the ladies in our county jail. You could hear a pin drop. *The Remnant* does reach beyond the mailing list to be sure.

God bless you in all you do that brings glory to His Name. The time is soon coming that we will see Him face

to face, and these articles indeed are so helpful in preparing His bride.

*Maryland*

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Charity Ministry,

My wife and I have been led down a road quite unexpected. We were not raised in an atmosphere like that Brother Denny teaches. The kind of faith we grew up around was quite weak. We thank God that He has put in our hearts a vision that is parallel with His will. We have chosen to home school our children and allow the Lord to set the size of our family. We strongly desire to raise up a godly seed. God is showing me the purpose of Christian families. I am amazed how far we as a Christian nation have fallen. My goal as a pastor is to show and teach families the holy standard of God. It is truly beautiful. I praise God for having mercy on me by letting me see these wonderful views. However, I feel I fall drastically short and feel way behind. At this time, I am unsure where God will lead from here. I would love to live for a while in an atmosphere of like-minded brethren. I would also like for God to transform us right here where we are that we might manifest His sweet will in front of the congregation we presently serve.

All of this said, I wanted this ministry to know that it has a like-minded pastor in Oklahoma strongly desiring the Lord to raise up the remnant for His glory in this nation. I long for my family to be heavily involved in being used by God to proclaim the truth in word and deed. I also covet your prayers. I feel somewhat alone in this area, and do not want to fall short in my calling.

*Oklahoma*

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**continued from page 26, What is Your Ishmael? by Dean Taylor**

the Isaac of our Promise. There can be no compromise—they must go! Cast out the bondwoman of doubt, the bondslave of guilty fears, the Ishmael of manipulation and self-assertiveness. And don't settle for a legal deliverance, drive them completely out. This is the only way we can have true spiritual victory. Only by walking in the sustaining power of God's grace will we make it to the end.

Let us seize hold of that which is free, that grace which *will* enable us to live godly in this present age! And let us not fail to bring to remembrance that *we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* To settle for anything less than this risks frightful consequences. Let us not call Him a liar by our reluctance to recognize His workmanship in us all. Paul concludes the Galatian rebuke with, "*Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain."* (Gal 3:4) Or, as the writer of Hebrews put it, *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation…"* (Heb 2:3)

Our perseverance in the faith is a direct reflection of our confidence in Christ. God has required that our confidence be placed only in Him. *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God…. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."* (Heb 3:12, 14) In Him there is confidence, hope, and *joy unspeakable and full of Glory!* (1 Pet. 1:8) Embrace Christ's full salvation today. Come *boldly to the throne of grace,* walking confidently in His promised holiness. From the secured citadel of Christ's atoning blood, allow your heart to be *sprinkled from an evil conscience* and *hold fast the profession of your faith without wavering—for He is faithful that promised!* (Hebrews 10:22-24) ❑

Our perseverance in the faith is a direct reflection of our confidence in Christ.

# A Warrior's Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Your warrior prepares for battle.
Today I claim victory over Satan by putting on
The whole armor of God!

I put on the girdle of truth!
May I stand firm in the truth of your Word
So I will not be a victim of Satan's lies.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness!
May it guard my heart from evil
So I will remain pure and holy,
Protected under the blood of Jesus Christ.

I put on the shoes of peace!
May I stand firm in the good news of the gospel
So your peace will shine through me
and be a light to all I encounter.

I take the shield of faith!
May I be ready for Satan's fiery darts
Of doubt, denial and deceit
So I will not be vulnerable to spiritual defeat.

I put on the helmet of salvation!
May I keep my mind focused on You
So Satan will not have a stronghold on
my thoughts.

I take the sword of the Spirit!
May the two-edged sword of your Word
Be ready in my hands
So I can expose the tempting words of Satan.

By faith your warrior has put on
The whole armor of God!

I am prepared to live this day
in spiritual victory!

Amen.

*The Heartbeat of*
The Remnant

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