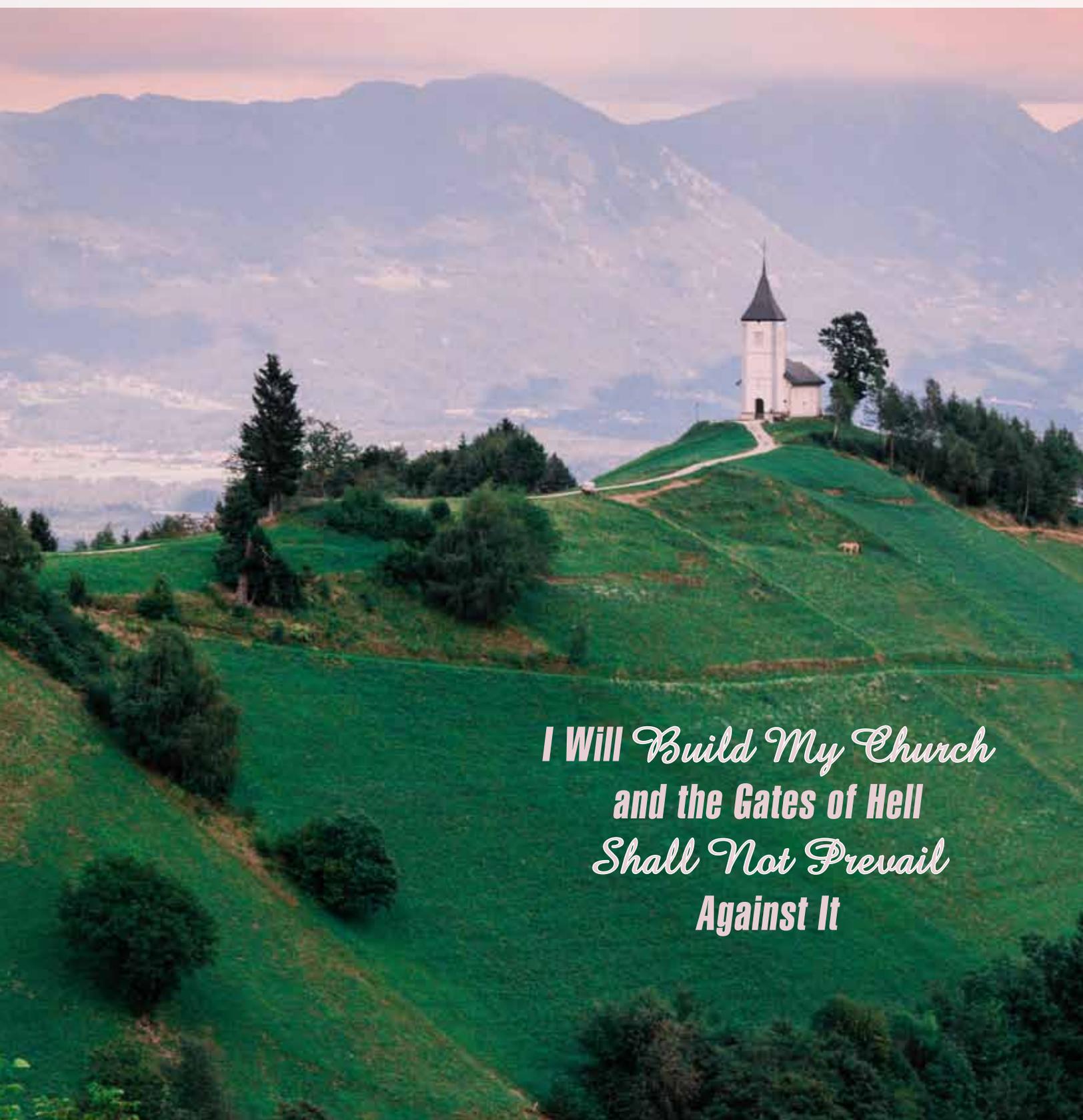


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*I Will Build My Church
and the Gates of Hell
Shall Not Prevail
Against It*



David Wise

By the Fear of the Lord

In the spring of 1992, the University of Richmond baseball team played a game against Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. The boys from Richmond won that day, but something even more memorable happened after the game. As a sophomore outfielder, I was the only professing born-again Christian on the Richmond team. One of our assistant coaches was a sincere Baptist man from rural southwest Virginia, but the rest of the boys and coaches were more or less raging pagans. At this point in my life, I cannot say I was clearly saved, but I was sincerely trying to serve the Lord to the best of my ability with the light that I had. The other boys would “get after me” at times but nothing like what would happen that day. Before the game, Dr. Jerry Falwell had made his way down to the bleachers behind home plate, and his very large frame was visible to all. The jokes and snide comments started at that point. After the game, the young men from Liberty passed out Gospel tracts to my teammates, their heathen opponents. I talked in a friendly manner with their guys and made it known that I was “on their team” in a spiritual sense. Our guys did not exactly exemplify the good ground from the Parable of the Sower. Some quietly got rid of the tracts while others became angry and some used their quick wit to mock the whole idea of salvation through Christ.

Some used their quick wit to mock the whole idea of salvation through Christ

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The roughly two hour drive back to Richmond was a milestone in my spiritual life. On an emotional high after winning the game, the boys celebrated the victory by blasting and ridiculing their opponents, their beliefs, and Jesus Christ Himself. The conversations were vile, and their manifest hatred of God shocked me greatly. I

Our hearts should certainly be overflowing with a love for lost souls

said very little, but at one point, our third baseman from Connecticut saw my grieved expression. Kevin was a nominal Irish Catholic who was witty, good looking, and athletic. Girls flocked to him and guys admired him. In a worldly sense, he had it all. He saw his chance to “preach to me” and said in a sarcastic tone, “But Dave, God is a merciful and loving God.” I didn’t know what to say, and I don’t think I had the clear-cut experience to really be of any help to that rowdy bunch. All I could mutter out was, “He certainly is, Mac. You can be grateful for that.” When I got back to my dorm room, I felt so dirty. It must have been only around 8:30 or so, but I crawled into bed. My roommate, a sincere young man named Jimmy who was in about the same spiritual condition as I was, popped in a few minutes later. He was shocked that I was in bed. He asked about the game. I told him we won, and then I began to share with him about the ride home. As we talked I made the statement, “Jim, if God didn’t have a Hell, He would have to make one just for those guys.”

Jesus Christ has promised He would build His church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it. This is a promise we can stand on. Yet, Jesus will not build His church upon the foundation of a false message. Twentieth century Evangelicalism in most cases has watered down the Gospel by eliminating the need for repentance and minimizing the fear of God. As I learned in the van thirty years ago, unchurched young men who are ruled by their fleshly drives have been taught about God’s love but not about His holiness or His fierce anger against sin. We need a generation of Christians who are not afraid to declare the whole counsel of God. Our hearts should certainly be overflowing

with a love for lost souls, and our manner in dealing with them should be tender and not harsh. Yet, the fact is, God is angry with the wicked every day, and folks need to know. They need to know that sin is a serious thing and that God hates it so much He threatens every impenitent sinner with an eternity in the lake of fire. One cannot appreciate the “Good News” until they have fully digested the “bad news” about their spiritual destiny outside of Christ. If our Lord can find sanctified souls who will also be diligent to let the rascals of this world know about fleeing from the wrath to come, He will most certainly build His church through their influence. If this begins to happen on a wider scale, we just might see a new generation of young fellows as wild as my buddy “Mac” come to Christ under the preaching of a sound Gospel. ▣



Henry Brockett's Testimony to a Clean Heart



Source: "The Riches of Holiness" by Henry Brockett

The crisis took place on October 23, 1916. On that afternoon I was resting quietly in my bunk meditating upon the subject of sanctification, when the Spirit of God dealt with me. It seemed as if the Holy Spirit, who had previously shone His light upon the person of Christ and the Cross, now turned His light into the depths of my heart, and showed me my indwelling depravity, especially unbelief, pride, and self-will. I saw and felt the inward corruption of sin. The Spirit of God revealed to me the terrible nature of my heart sin, which appeared to me vividly as an evil something deep down in the depths of my heart which had deceived and hardened me, and led me astray from God in the past. It was an inward corruption from which I longed to be cleansed, a disease of the heart which needed healing, a traitor inside which I hated and wanted destroyed. Now my whole being longed for a clean heart -- no longer did I despise the thought of a pure heart -- that blessing seemed to me to be the one thing that I needed... In view of my religious upbringing, and the fact that I had the assurance of salvation, and had therefore imagined that I knew all about holiness, and needed nothing further from God, it was a humiliating step for me to have to confess that I yet needed something further to make my spiritual condition complete, and that in order to receive this from God I had to go to this Salvation Army hut and seek out this "Holiness" brother. Yet this was God's way of dealing with me... I arrived at the hut, and my friend and I had a quiet talk together in a little room, and we knelt together in prayer ... I prayed that the Holy Spirit, as the Refining

The Spirit of God revealed to me the terrible nature of my heart sin

Fire, might come upon me, cleanse my heart from sin, and fill me, so that I might do the divine will, and glorify Christ in my life. I had come utterly to an end of myself. It was a "crucifixion." "I died." In that spiritual condition, I found that I was empowered by the Holy Spirit to believe there and then that the Father did sanctify me wholly. True sanctifying faith sprang up in my heart, and I was able to believe that God did that moment baptize me with the Holy Ghost and with fire, although I had no ecstasy, only a quiet, deep feeling of unutterable peace. I had such a confidence in the Father and His promise that I could rest unreservedly in His word. My friend asked me if I thought that God had heard my prayer and had done the work. I said, quietly, "Yes, I do." He said, "Will you thank Him for what He has done?" I did so, and thanked the Father for hearing and answering my prayer for entire sanctification... For a day or two after passing through the spiritual crisis of October 23, 1916, I held on in faith without experiencing any special emotion. It was not long, however, before God gave me the conscious witness that my prayer for entire sanctification had been heard and answered. One morning, soon after rising, I opened my Bible, and my eyes alighted upon a verse which spoke to me as a glowing message direct from God to my heart. The verse was as follows: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:13). ...The holy inward joy which accompanied the powerful application by the Spirit of God to my heart of Romans 15:13, was to me the spiritual equivalent of the falling of the fire of God upon the ancient sacrifices... ❏

The Power of Unified Concentration

by W G Bennett; Adapted from "Pentecost: Its Scope, Power, and Perpetuation"

The secret of all true greatness in spiritual things is to be filled with the Spirit, but there are many things in spiritual warfare that are only acquired by close and careful concentration. The spiritual giants of all ages whose faith subdued kingdoms have fought battles in loneliness and seclusion where they developed that kingdom-subduing faith. Remember now, that Jesus taught that the man who went to his friend at the midnight hour to get bread for a friend who had come to him in a journey, prevailed, by his determined, bulldog tenacity that Jesus called importunity, and the woman who came to the unjust Judge prevailed, because she determinedly refused to be put off. Abraham, driving the birds from his sacrifice, persisted on through the night until his tired body swooned. Jacob at Jabbok, wrestling all night, weary and tired, his hip out of joint, his strength almost gone, finally prevailed. God not only delivered him from the wrath of his brother, but

changed his name and he became a prince and prevailer having power with God, and also with men. It was not a multitude of things that he was after, it was this thing that he was after, and as he went on his way, the Angels of God met him. Samuel crying all night unto God; Elijah telling King Ahab that he would handle the rain business for the next three and a half years, and then going into quiet seclusion; Elisha leading the Assyrian army into Samaria and then telling the King to feed them and let them return to their master; Isaiah and Hezekiah praying until God sent forth an Angel to smite the Assyrian host. All these are examples of the mighty truth of how God takes the weak things to confound the things that are mighty, and also that the weak become strong, and the feeble mighty, when men learn the secret of concentration in prayer, as the great masters of this world have learned the secret of concentrating on their objective. ▣

**DON'T
GIVE UP**



Answered Prayer

by E M Bounds

taken from "The Possibilities of Prayer"

it sounded forth in the days of Malachi: "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts." God is waiting to be put to the test by His people in prayer. He delights in being put to the test on His promises. It is His highest pleasure to answer prayer to prove the reliability of His promises. Nothing worthy of God nor of great value to men will be accomplished till this is done. Our gospel belongs to the miraculous. It was projected on the miraculous plane. It cannot be maintained but by the supernatural. Take the supernatural out of our holy religion, and its life and power are gone, and it degenerates into a mere mode of morals. The miraculous is divine power. Prayer has in it this same power. Prayer brings this divine power into the ranks of men and puts it to work. Prayer brings into the affairs of earth a supernatural element. Our gospel when truly presented is the power of God. Never was the church more in need of those who can and will test Almighty God. Never did the church need more than now those who can raise up everywhere memorials of God's supernatural power; memorials of answers to prayer, memorials of promises fulfilled. These would do more to silence the

enemy of souls, the foe of God and the adversary of the church than any modern scheme or present-day plan for the success of the gospel. Such memorials reared by praying people would dumbfound God's foes, strengthen weak saints, and would fill strong saints with triumphant rapture. The most prolific

source of infidelity, and that which maligns and hinders praying, and that which obscures the being and glory of God most effectually, is unanswered prayer. Better not to pray at all than to go through a dead form, which secures no answer, brings no glory to God, and supplies no good to man. Nothing so hardens the heart and nothing so blinds us to the unseen and the eternal, as this kind of prayerless praying. ▣

Saints are needed whose faith is bold enough and sufficiently far-reaching to put God to the test

The great gap between Bible promises to prayer and the income from praying is almost unspeakably great, so much so that it is a prolific source of infidelity. It breeds unbelief in prayer as a great moral force, and begets doubt as to the power of prayer. Christianity needs today, above all things else, men and women who can in prayer put God to the test and who can prove His promises. When this happy day for the world begins, it will be earth's brightest day, and will be heaven's dawning day on earth. These are the sort of men and women needed in this modern day in the church.

It is not educated men who are needed for the times. It is not more money that is required. It is not more machinery, more organization, more ecclesiastical laws, but it is men and women who know how to pray, who can in prayer lay hold upon God and bring Him down to earth, and move Him to take hold of earth's affairs mightily and put life and power into the church and into all of its machinery. The church and the world greatly need saints who can bridge this wide gap between the praying done and the small number of answers received. Saints are needed whose faith is bold enough and sufficiently far-reaching to put God to the test. The cry comes even now out of heaven to the people of the present-day church, as

A “Spitfire” Becomes a Saint



In one of his sermons, A. W. Tozer told the story of the conversion of his sister Mildred. She was four years younger than her brother and he described her as a spitfire that would speak her mind and back down to no one when confronted. After Bro. Tozer’s conversion at age 17, she showed no interest in the things of the Lord for awhile. He continued to pray for her and the rest of his unsaved family and the Lord Jesus began to break into the Tozer clan by dealing with Mildred in a very powerful way. One night she dreamed that the end of the world had come and Jesus appeared in the sky. She could see people whom she knew as earnest Christians rising into the air to meet the Savior. Then she saw her mother who was unsaved at the time. Her mother had her hands in the air but it was clear that she was not “going

up” and was rejected by the Lord. Mildred woke from her dream and was overwhelmed with grief and the fear of God. She immediately knelt by her bedside and prayed through to a genuine experience of salvation. Forty years after this incident, Tozer told his audience that Mildred was still going strong with the Lord and that her pastor told him recently that she was his “right hand man” and that their church was greatly dependent upon her prayers and wisdom. Apparently, her strong personality, though sanctified, was still intact. Her preacher brother concluded his testimony about his sister by saying he would talk to her frequently and that she would “preach” to him about not getting “puffed up” and staying humble. A. W. Tozer made it clear he was very glad for his bold but saintly sister. ■

*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,
when ye pray, believe that ye receive them,
and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24*



“Why should a person come to the cross? Why should a person embrace death with Christ?”

Taken from “Ten Shekels and a Shirt” sermon preached by Paris Reidhead in 1965

What about you? Why did you repent? I'd like to see some people repent on Biblical terms again. George Whitefield knew it. He stood on Boston Commons speaking to twenty thousand people, and he said, "Listen, sinners, you're monsters, monsters of iniquity! You deserve Hell! And the worst of your crimes is that criminals though you've been, you haven't had the good grace to see it!" He said, "If you will not weep for your sins and your crimes against a Holy God, George Whitefield will weep for you!" That man would put his head back and he would sob like a baby. Why? Because they were in danger of Hell? No! But because they were monsters of iniquity who didn't even see their sin or care about their crimes. You see the difference? You see the difference? The difference is, here's somebody trembling because he is going to be hurt in Hell. And he has no sense of the enormity of his guilt!!! And no sense of the enormity of his crime!!! And no sense of his insult against Deity!!!

He's only trembling because his skin is about to be singed. He's afraid, and I submit to you that whereas fear is good office work in preparing us for grace, it's no place to stop. And the Holy Ghost doesn't stop there. That's the reason why no one can savingly receive Christ until they've repented. And no one can repent until they've been convicted. And conviction

is the work of the Holy Ghost that helps a sinner to see...that he is a criminal before God and deserves all of God's wrath. And if God were to send him to the lowest corner of a devil's Hell forever and ten eternities, that he deserved it all! And a hundred fold more. Because he's seen his crimes. He's not been convinced he's caught, but he's seen his crimes!

This is the difference between twentieth century preaching and the preaching of John Wesley. Wesley was a preacher of righteousness that exalted the holiness of God. When he would stand there with the two to three hour sermons that he was accustomed to deliver in the open air, he would exalt the holiness of God, and the law of God, and the righteousness of God, and the justice of God, and the wisdom of His requirements! And the justice of His wrath and His anger! Then he would turn to sinners and tell them of the enormity of their crimes and their open rebellion and their treason and their anarchy, and the power of God would so descend upon the company that on one occasion it is reliably reported that when the people dispersed, there were 1800 people lying on the ground, utterly unconscious! Because they had a revelation of the holiness of God, and in the light of that they had seen the enormity of their sins, and God had so penetrated their minds and hearts that they had fallen to the ground!

It wasn't only in Wesley's day. It was also in America, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale. A man by the name of John Wesley Redfield had continuous ministry for three years in and around New Haven, culminating in the great meetings in the Yale Ball, the first of the Yale Balls back in the 19th century.

The policemen were accustomed during those days, if they saw someone lying on the ground, to go up and smell his breath. Because if he had alcohol on his breath they'd lock him up, but if he didn't, he had Redfield's disease. And all you needed to do if anyone had Redfield's disease was just take him into a quiet place and leave him until he came to. Because if they were drunkards, they'd stop drinking, and if they were cruel, they'd stop being cruel, and if they were immoral, they'd give up their immorality. If they were thieves, they'd return what they had stolen. For as they had seen the holiness of God and seen the enormity of their sin, the Spirit of God had driven them down into unconsciousness because of the weight of their guilt! And somehow in the overspreading of the power of God, sinners repented of their sin and came savingly to Christ.

But there was a difference! It wasn't trying to convince a GOOD MAN that he was in trouble with a BAD GOD! But it was to convince BAD MEN that they had deserved the wrath and anger of a GOOD GOD! And the consequence was repentance, that leads to faith, that leads life. Dear friends, there's only one reason, one reason for a sinner to repent, and that's because Jesus Christ deserves the worship and adoration and the love and the obedience of his heart. Not because he'll go to Heaven. If the only reason you repented, dear friend, was to keep out of Hell, all you are is just a Levite serving for ten shekels and a shirt! That's all! You're trying to serve God because He'll do you good! But a repentant heart is a heart that has seen something of the enormity of the crime of playing God and denying the just and righteous God the worship and obedience that He deserves! Why should a sinner repent? Because God deserves the obedience and love that he's refused to give Him! Not so that he'll go to Heaven. If the only reason he repents is so that he'll go to Heaven, it's nothing but trying to make a deal or a bargain with God.

**A repentant heart
sees the crime
of denying God
the worship and
obedience that He
deserves**

Why should a sinner give up all his sins? Why should he be challenged to do it? Why should he make restitution when he's coming to Christ? Because God deserves the obedience that He demands!!!

I have talked with people that have no assurance that sins are forgiven. They want to feel safe before they're willing to commit themselves to Christ. But I believe that the only ones to whom God actually witnesses by His Spirit that they are born of Him, are the people, whether they say it or not, that come to Jesus Christ and say something like this, "Lord Jesus, I'm going to obey you, and love you, and serve you, and do what you want me to do, as long as I live, even if I go to Hell at the end of the road, simply because you are worthy to be loved, and obeyed, and served, and I'm not trying to make a deal with you!" Do you see the difference? Do you see the difference? Between a Levite serving for ten shekels and a shirt or a Micah building a chapel because God will do you good and someone that repents for the glory of God.

Why should a person come to the cross? Why should a person embrace death with Christ? Why should a person be willing to go, in identification, down to the cross and into the tomb and up again? I'll tell you why! Because it's the only way that God can get glory out of a human being!!! If you say it's because he'll get joy or peace or blessing or success or fame, then it's nothing but a Levite serving for ten shekels and a shirt. There is only one reason for you to go to the cross, dear young person. And that's because, until you come to the place of union with Christ in death, you are defrauding the Son of God of the glory that He could get out of your life. "For no flesh shall glory in His sight." (I Cor. 1:29) And until you've understood the sanctifying work of God by the Holy Ghost, taking you into union with Christ in death and burial and resurrection, you have to serve in what you have and all you have which is under the sentence of death: human personality, and human nature, and human strength, and human energy. And God will get no glory out of that!

So the reason for you to go to the cross isn't that you're going to get victory; you will get victory. It isn't that you're going to have joy; you will have joy. But the reason for you to embrace the cross and press through until you know that you can testify with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ," isn't what you're going to get out of it, but what He'll get out of it, for the glory of God. ■

Early Holiness Movement in Louisiana

Adapted from "Pioneer Days of the Holiness Movement in the Southwest"
by C. B. Jernigan – Allegheny Publications

On Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1885, J. S. Sanders, then a young man and member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was in a spirit of prayer for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon himself, as he felt his deep need of such a baptism. He had been converted and joined the church, but now felt his need of a deeper work being wrought in his heart as a power for service for the Master, when suddenly the heavens opened and a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost fell on him, and surging billows of Pentecostal glory swept through his soul until he felt that he would die if the Lord did not stay His hand. This mighty baptism with the Spirit came in direct answer to his prayer, which so completely changed him that he has not been the same man since that day. With this baptism came a definite call to preach, and he, like Paul, "was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

Up to this time he had never seen a person that claimed to be sanctified, nor heard the doctrine of holiness preached, nor did he know that there was a holiness movement, but he was in it good and plenty now, and began to preach this glorious gospel of full salvation. December 2nd of the same year he was licensed to preach by his quarterly conference, and on the 14th day of the same month was assigned the Mooringsport circuit, Shreveport district, Louisiana conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, where he was an itinerant preacher for many years, never missing a roll call at his conference.

His preaching was so different from the Methodist preachers who had preceded him that his people were astonished at his doctrine and the marvelous power that God gave him in the pulpit, while tidal waves of salvation swept over his entire charge, and scores of people were swept into the kingdom. He never tired of preaching repentance to sinners and urging church members to pray for a mighty outpouring of the Spirit, and yet he had not seen a holiness person until he met Rev. L. L. Pickett, that mighty exponent of the doctrine of entire sanctification, early in the year 1887. There he for the first time heard a sermon on holiness, and you can imagine how his very soul leaped for joy while this mighty man of God poured out the gospel truth, which so bountifully fed his soul. . . In 1894 Rev. J. S. Sanders was sent to the Opelousa country, populated with French, who have been there since the country was settled by the French before it became a part of the United States. He was sent there by his conference to cool his ardor as a holiness preacher. This was the way they had of starving holiness preachers out or effecting a compromise. But this would not work on Rev. J. S. Sanders, although he preached a whole year before he saw his first soul saved, but he was rewarded by a veritable landslide of salvation before the four years that he stayed was out, and hundreds were converted and many sanctified. People who could not speak one word of English nor understand a sentence that the holiness preacher said would run to the altar and pray through in French and then get up and testify in the same language while their own people would break down and rush to the altar. They would clap their hands and shout just like all the rest, and the work abides there today. ▣



Travel notes from the president



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March 09-13: Pillow. God gave us a good revival meeting. God's Spirit was encouraging and refreshing His people.

March 14: Home Mission board meeting, then a GMYC board meeting in the evening. The kingdom of God is being expanded by the work of these boards.

March 15-16: Recovering from the flu.

March 17- 22: Administrative work. I called a lot of ministers to set up a preaching schedule at our Shamokin church. Rhoda's father passed away. I was involved in a conference call board meeting with the Crusader's board. God is helping Rev. Christian Claycomb and the board to develop some profitable and exciting ministry opportunities.

March 23-26: Family was in for Dad Caster's viewing and funeral. My father-in-law, Bill Caster, was a great example to all of us for being faithful to God and His work. He fixed parsonages and worked at churches at home and on mission fields. He loved to give to Bible schools, missions, camps, and to local church projects. Most of the time he gave anonymously.

March 28-31: Administrative work, Traveling with the President Notes, and attended the revival at Sunbury where Rev. Mike Avery was the evangelist (Deeper Life series) and Durkees were the singers.

April 02: I went trout fishing, caught 8, and brought home my limit, which was 5. I filleted them and gave them to our son Chad who likes to grill them.

April 03-09: Sermon prep and scheduling of services for Camp Hill and Shamokin. I made a trip to Ohio to go to the viewing and funeral of my cousin, Benita Peters, who died unexpectedly at age 48. She loved God and served Him and others faithfully.

April 10: I preached twice on Palm Sunday at Shamokin.

April 11-18: PVBI board meeting. President Durkee has done a great job at the school. He was voted in for another three-year call. I tried to visit Rev. Tillis in the hospital, but he was still in a procedure. So glad he made it through and is doing well. I was privileged to preach Easter weekend revival services at our Lancaster church. God is working through the Hartman family and their new assistant, Pastor Darren Fisher.

April 19-21: PVBI Missionary Convention - Compelled by Love. Rev. Don Rains was greatly used by God to challenge all of us to love people. His fishing illustrations were powerful in their applications. I was privileged to go to three services and watch two live-streamed. I also had a General Board meeting to open ballots and other business. I called the pastors with the election results.

April 22-24: Lebanon, GMC Youth Revival. Rev. Joel Sickler and all involved did a great job running the services, meals, and activities.

April 25 - May 01: Administrative work, PVBI auction. President Dur-

kee and I got sad news that Sis. Denise Shaffer, one of our pastor's wives, had passed away unexpectedly. We went together to Rev. Solomon Shaffer's house to talk and have prayer. We then went to see her husband, Bro. Nathan Shaffer, in York. I preached at our York Church on Sunday. God helped Pastor Nathan as he greeted his people and led the service. God dispensed His grace in a special way.

May 02-08: Pension Board, preached twice at Shamokin. Vice



JACOB MARTIN

President Rev. Jeremy Fuller and I met with leaders of the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection to discuss God's work. I also participated in a prayer walk at our headquarters building. It was National Day of Prayer. Thanks to Sis Denise Fisher for leading the way. We went to the viewing and funeral of Sis Denise Shaffer. She was a Proverbs 31 Lady! A great friend, mother, grandmother, wife, and pastor's wife. Thanks to all who showed up from her

church and the conference. A great crowd came to support the family. We will miss her!

May 09-14: Home Mission and Penns Creek Camp board meeting. I preached at Camp Hill and met with the church people to discuss pastor possibilities. Rev. Hunter Anderson and I went fishing together for crappies. Great evening with him catching over 50 and me over 90. We also talked to him about the possibilities of his pastoring in his senior year. I went to Sis Dicken's funeral, Rev. Rob Dicken's mother. She was a tremendous saint of God who loved and witnessed to everyone.

May 15: Shamokin (AM) & Rebersburg in the afternoon. The highlight was the dedication service with 240 in attendance. Unbelievable transformation of the church and fellowship hall. They are debt free! Well done, Rev. John Zechman and church family!

May 16-21: Administrative work, sermon preparation. I took Rev. Will Black, a Beavertown internship pastor, out to eat and to talk of God's work. God is using him. I also went to Lisa Brink's funeral. She used to be one of our pastor's wives. It was great to talk to her son, Tom. Rhoda and I went to our granddaughter's (Lily) 5th grade graduation at PVBI. The next day Rev. John Peabody did a great job speaking to the H.S. & college graduates. Well done, students and staff!

May 22-29: I will speak 5 times at Shamokin during this time. Thanks to 9 other preachers for helping to fill the pulpit at Shamokin. They have a couple trial sermons coming up. Thanks for your prayers for them and us. Please be praying for our churches that are open for pastors.



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It is stated of General Stonewall Jackson, the great Confederate leader, that he was a man of unusual faith. He was constantly in prayer and believed not only that his troops would be successful in the field but that the cause of the Confederacy was destined to win. He would often ride into battle with his arm extended high in solemn supplication for God's blessing on the men he commanded. It is a historical fact that he was never seriously defeated in battle. He believed for victory, and God had to give it to him or break His word! So full of faith was he that the Confederate states must win their freedom – so frequent and impassioned were his petitions for this, that there is ground for believing that God removed him from the scene of action in order that He might adjust national matters according to His own wisdom. This is the view of one of the Confederate chaplains, who was asked to offer the dedicatory prayer at the unveiling of a monument to General Jackson's honor, when he prayed: "And when Thou didst decree, in Thy almighty wisdom, that the Southern Confederacy should fail, Thou hadst first to take out of the world the soul of thy servant, General Stonewall Jackson." Jackson was offering such a perfect faith channel to God for the establishment of the Confederacy that he was about to compel God to do a thing that He was unwilling to do. Consequently He removed the channel. It is also a notorious fact that He did not even allow Jackson's enemies the privilege of slaying him, but ordained that his own troops should fire upon him by mistake. ❏

Taken from "Achieving Faith" by J. G. Morrison