

SPECIAL OUTREACH ISSUE

WEEKLY VOICE OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel



"How tall am I, Mom?"

Read About Joey's

HERITAGE of HAPPINESS

—pages 8 and 9

A FAITH TO LIVE BY



A bit of personal philosophy

by

JOHN GARLOCK

IF SOMEONE SAID TO ME, "DO YOU HAVE A PHILOSOPHY of life?" I would be tempted to say, "Well...no...not really." But the fact is that each person has a philosophy of life just as surely as he has a personality. It may not be clear, even to himself. I may never have articulated mine, nor even thought much about it. But I have no choice as to whether or not to have such a philosophy. My only choice is what kind I shall have.

My personal philosophy is simply the total of my attitudes toward life and toward the situations it brings me. No one else has *precisely* the same balance of values, the same view of the elements which make up the great experience we call life.

How can you tell what your philosophy is? You may never have made a speech about it, but it shines through a thousand times a day in all your responses to life

situations. Your choice of job or recreation, your smile (or lack of one), the way you spend your money, the way you react to setbacks—whether a smashed car or a broken shoestring: all these spell out your philosophy of life quite vividly.

For myself, no possible combination of values seems adequate which does not take God into account. I do not see how a thinking person can find answers to the great puzzles of existence without accepting the presence of a supreme being in the universe. The origin of life, the apparent existence of Plan, the moral sense in man, the innumerable testimonies of answered prayer—these are all hopeless riddles unless there is a God.

Most people will go this far with me. Most people this side of the Iron Curtain believe there is a God. Their personal philosophies take Him into account to some extent, though often "just barely." But they vary widely as to the *kind* of God they believe in. This is not a theological treatise, and I have no intention of setting forth arguments as to the nature and attributes of God. But there are three big facts about God which have been of great help to me, over and over. They are solidly based on Scripture, and backed up by millions of man-hours of experience through the ages. They are facts which form the backbone of my own view of life.

1. GOD CARES

The fact that God loves the world and the individuals in it is the most basic message of the Bible. The extent of His love has been demonstrated in the amazing sacrifice of His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ, that human sin might be forgiven.

It is not enough to believe in God, if God is thought of merely as a Creator who has no real concern for what He has created. But the Bible teaches plainly that God loves the world (John 3:16), that He notices even when a sparrow falls (Matthew 10:29). The fact that no human being need feel alone, no matter how desperate his circumstances, has helped make men's deepest sorrows easier to bear. When I am most discouraged, lonely, at the end of my rope, ready to quit, I have found I can turn back to face life with new courage when I realize that God *cares* about me and my troubles.

2. GOD SPEAKS

The fact that God is concerned about me would be of little help if I were unaware it is so. I am made aware of God's concern by His communication with me and other human beings. Many religions consist of "searching for truth." Christianity consists more of listening to God. The Christian's Bible is not a record of man's efforts to find the truth about God, but a record of God's efforts to reveal Himself to man. The basic idea that God has made and is continually making such efforts toward each of us is one of my deepest convictions.

World evangelist and author Dr. J. Edwin Orr tells of an atheist professor under whom he once studied. The professor used to ridicule him for believing in God. One day, in front of the whole class, he said to the young Christian, "Edwin, do you know everything?"

"Why, no, sir, of course I don't know everything."

"Well, then, if what you know has limits, those limits could be represented by a circle drawn on the

blackboard. Here, Edwin, draw a circle." The teacher handed over the chalk.

Edwin drew a large circle on the board. The professor said, "Let's say that everything you know is inside that circle; what you do *not* know is outside the circle. Fair enough?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, Edwin," said the professor with a sly smile, "Show me where God is. Is God inside or outside that circle?"

Edwin knew he was cornered. If he indicated that God were inside the circle, the teacher would point out

that such a finite God could not really be God at all. Furthermore, if God were enclosed within the scope of Edwin's knowledge, Edwin should be able to answer any and every detailed question about God. On the other hand, if Edwin showed God as being outside the circle he had drawn, the situation would be even more ridiculous. His instructor would say, "How can you believe in God at all—since you admit that He is outside the limits of what you know?"

Edwin thought it over a moment, then printed the word GOD outside the circle, but with a connecting
(Continued on page fifteen)

What My Church Means to Me BY G. GAYNERD GRAHAM, D.D.S.

PAUL HARVEY, THE RADIO NEWS COMMENTATOR, MADE the statement, "All people are not created equal," and this I firmly believe. Some are born to ungodly parents and go through life knowing nothing but sin and the way of the world. They are never introduced to an altar and a new way of life.

I had a rich beginning in life by having parents who had a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, parents who were walking with Him daily. They not only prayed *for* their children but prayed *with* them. We attended church every time a service was scheduled, whether it be a midweek or Sunday services or a revival campaign.

This Christian heritage has followed me ever since I gave my heart to God at the age of eleven. Since then, I too have tried to walk with Him daily.

Since birth, my life has been centered around the church and frequently I find myself reliving in memories my early boyhood days at Bethel Assembly of God in Quincy, Illinois. It was there the foundation for my future was built. It was a foundation of a clean mind, moral character and a fear of God. This foundation was built by such people as my Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Toach. It was through her ministry that I came to know Christ as my personal Saviour. There were seven of us boys in her Junior class and we would meet with her each Sunday night and use our classroom as our own private prayer chapel. As we knelt in a circle, there were many decisions made for Christ. Her interest in our lives followed us seven days a week. She was a second mother to us all.

Another precious memory is of praying at the altar along with my older brother, Joe. The many times Dad would pray over the shoulders of us two boys, asking God to keep His guiding and protecting hand on our lives, are experiences I shall never forget. Simultaneously, at the Sunday night altar service, my mother would be praying with my two sisters. The memory of their prayers has helped us many times in our adult lives.

Our prayer life continued at home through the week around the family Bible. It was on one of these occasions that I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in our living room.

Now that I have a family of my own, my spiritual

needs are still being met through regular participation in the activities of my church. This participation has given me faith for the mission I have in life, as well as a spiritual security and a sense of belonging to the family of God. I appreciate the close association I have at church with people who have a common interest in life.

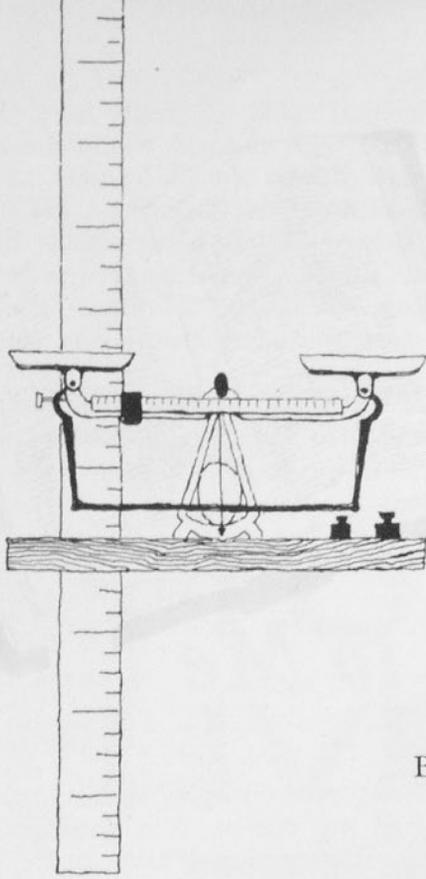
This feeling of security is initiated by a pastor who is able to sense the personal needs of his congregation. In the sermons that he delivers, there is always something that fits my particular needs. Our pastor is a man whom I hold in the highest esteem and the utmost confidence. I have conferred with him on many occasions without feeling that I am imposing. I may be partial to my own pastor, but I think most pastors have the same feeling as he in wanting to share the personal burdens of his congregation.

I am grateful for a church where the Bible is taught and God's presence is felt. I am grateful for a haven of rest when weary—a tower of strength when discouraged—a beacon of Truth when the way seems dark. My church means much to me and my wife. I know that as my children grow older they too will find Christ and His Church a foundation on which to build a happy, worthwhile life.

★
Dr. Gaynerd
Graham practicing
his dental
profession at his
office in
Springfield, Mo.

★





DO WE MEASURE UP?

By ROBERT C. CUNNINGHAM

IN EVERY PHASE OF LIFE THERE ARE CERTAIN STANDARDS to which all must conform. Much as we love our individual liberties, there are certain common standards to which we are bound to adhere if we would have harmony and understanding in our human relationships.

For example, there are standard weights and measures which are indispensable to proper business operations. The scales your butcher uses to weigh your meat are carefully checked by local authorities, who compare them with accurate weights which, in turn, are compared at intervals with the official weight standards as adopted by the U.S. Government.

Before there was any official standard of measurement, men measured distance by the foot—that is, the human foot. If a real estate man were selling a piece of land he would simply pace off the length and breadth, and that would be the measurement. If his feet were small, it was the buyer's misfortune. If they were king-size, the buyer got a bargain.

Men grew weary of such haphazard methods of measurement. They decided an official standard would save a lot of argument, so each nation adopted its own standard of measurement. Finally the various nations met in conference and decided upon an international standard, which the U.S. adopted officially in 1893. This international standard of measurement is kept at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Sevres, France.

The U.S. National Bureau of Standards has a prototype of the international standard—a platinum-iridium bar known as the National Standard of Length. The distance between two parallel lines engraved on this bar is the primary standard meter (39.37 inches) for all measurements of length in the United States.

In the spiritual life, too, there is an "official standard." We find it in the Bible. God did not want us to measure our character by our own "feet," as it were. He did not want us to compare ourselves with other people, or to think that if we measured up to worldly

standards we would be safe. The apostle Paul wrote of people who "measure themselves by themselves" and "compare themselves among themselves," but he said they "are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12).

We needed a higher standard than men can produce—a standard that is dependable, constant, and acceptable to God. Therefore He gave us just such a standard in the Holy Scriptures. Whether our problem be one of church doctrine, personal conduct, or moral principle we will find the answer in the Bible, for it is the official measuring stick by which God deals with man.

An open enemy of the famous London preacher, C. H. Spurgeon, once made a remark which he intended as a slur, but Spurgeon considered it to be the highest compliment ever paid him. The enemy said: "Here is a man who has not moved an inch forward in all his ministry, and at the close of the nineteenth century is teaching the theology of the first century, and is proclaiming the doctrine of Nazareth and Jerusalem current eighteen hundred years ago." Why should he wish to change it? How can the so-called "progressives" who liberalize the teachings of the Bible sleep at night if their conscience is still functioning?

We all have sinned and come short of God's standard of righteousness. Therefore all must come to Christ for pardon, cleansing, and regeneration—and then, having obtained mercy, we must endeavor to live up to God's standard for the common good. This we cannot do by self-effort, but we can do it through Christ who strengthens us.

We must trust His grace. Christ will live out His life of righteousness through us if we will yield ourselves fully to Him from day to day. ◀◀

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Teen-agers Testify to God's Healing Power

THE BIBLE TEACHES VERY CLEARLY THAT GOD WANTS us to bring our problems to Him in prayer—including our physical problems. In Exodus 15:26 we find His words, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." The Psalmist rejoiced over this great blessing, saying, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; *who healeth all thy diseases*" (Psalm 103:2, 3).

The New Testament also contains many promises and instructions concerning God's willingness to heal those who will pray for healing and who will obey His Word on the subject. The day of miracles is *not* past; the stories of Brenda Halbert and Abe Evans corroborate this fact. Both Brenda, who lives at Washington, Indiana, and Abe, who lives at Petersburg, West Virginia, were healed a number of year ago. They are now in their teens and enjoying good health, thanks to the mercy of the Lord.

Brenda was afflicted with repeated attacks of appendicitis. The doctors said she would have to undergo surgery to overcome this chronic ailment. One day she attended a meeting in Vincennes, Indiana, where the preacher presented Bible teaching on the subject of Divine Healing. Brenda, who was twelve years old at the time, decided she would ask God to heal her.



Brenda Halbert

"I don't remember who the speaker was, but I remember what a wonderful Presence of God I felt in that service," she says. "When the minister invited people to come forward for prayer, I stood in line and they prayed that God would heal me of this chronic ailment. I went forward believing God would completely heal me. Praise God, He did. From that day to this I have never had another attack of appendicitis."

Brenda is now seventeen years of age and her physical strength has been put to some good tests while playing in a marching band at high school. For four

years she has carried a baritone horn in the band. Sometimes the band has marched several miles, and not once has Brenda felt any of the old pain in her side.

Her pastor, R. L. Covington, says Brenda has a very convincing testimony. She is the church pianist and attends the youth meetings, as well as church services, very faithfully.

Abraham John Evans, the young West Virginian, was only seven years old when the Lord healed him. He had been a very sick boy. At the age of five he became so ill he could not walk. X rays showed there was a growth (thought to be a watery cyst) in his upper-right hipbone.

Abe underwent surgery for the removal of the cyst. He was in a cast for several weeks, after which he was able to get around on crutches. But he was not strong. When he started to school two years later he tired very easily.

The parents decided Abe's tonsils needed to be removed, and they asked the doctor to make another X ray examination of his leg at the same time. The X-ray pictures revealed that the condition of his leg was bad. The doctors told his mother it was not a watery cyst but a giant-cell tumor that they had removed!

The little boy was kept in the hospital and underwent twenty-one deep therapy treatments. He grew very weak. His parents were alarmed because he looked so pale. They requested prayer for Abe and, many people joined in asking God to heal the boy.

An aunt said there was a minister in Petersburg at this time, named Evangelist Harold May, who was praying for the sick, and she arranged for him to come to Abe's home. Abe remembers his visit very clearly.

"He came and he asked everyone to leave the room," Abe says. "Just he and I were there when he prayed and anointed me with oil according to the instructions in the Bible (James 5:14).

"He said to my parents, 'Abe is going to be healed; I've never seen a child with greater faith.'

"But I told my Aunt Susie that Brother May had anointed the wrong place. 'He put the oil on my head, instead of my hip,' I said. So immediately Brother May came back to my home and anointed me again. This time he put the oil on my leg."

The parents had been told that if Abe recovered he probably would be crippled. They were told his bad leg might not grow to be as long as the other. But today both legs are the same length. His right foot is a half shoe size smaller than the left but of course this is not unusual.

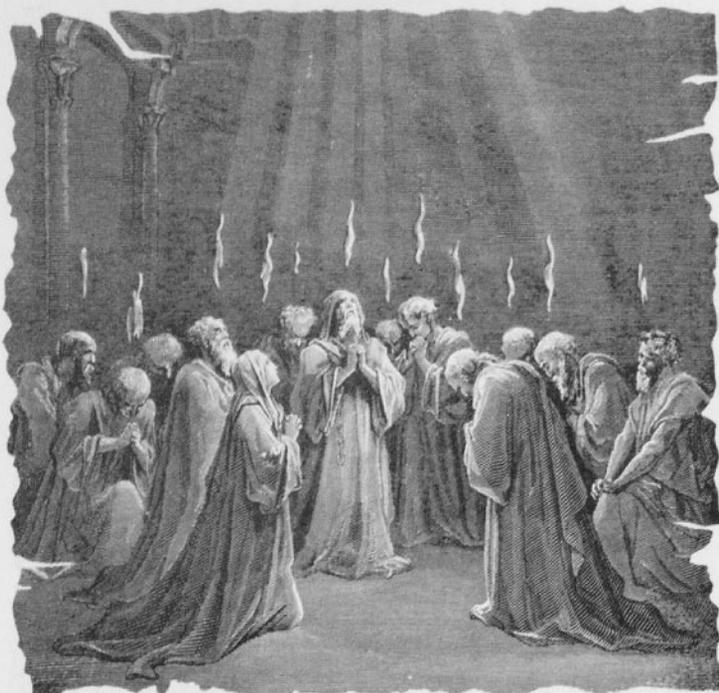
Abe is now a husky sixteen-year-old. His healing took place nine years ago. In 1957, three years after his healing, an X-ray examination of the right hip showed the cystic area was healed completely with good callus demonstrated.

His pastor, R. D. Smith, says this healing is clearly attributable to prayer.

"I want to give thanks to God for my healing," says
(Continued on page thirteen)



Abe Evans (right)



THE DAY OF PENTECOST (OLD WOODCUT BY PAUL GUSTAVE DORE)

How to be Filled With the Spirit

by Robert L. Brandt

ONE OF THE MOST NEGLECTED VERSES IN THE BIBLE is fast becoming one of the most talked-about scriptures. I refer to Ephesians 5:18 which says, "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

Perhaps the reason people neglected it for so long was that they did not entirely understand it. They understood the first half about intoxicating wine, all right, but they were puzzled by the latter part. They wondered what "filled with the Spirit" means. They did not know *how* to be filled with the Spirit. In fact, some people hardly knew who the Spirit is!

But the situation has changed in the past few years. There has been a resurgence of interest in the Holy Spirit, with the result that hundreds of members of Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and other churches have discovered the truth about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and have experienced for themselves the blessedness of being "filled with the Spirit."

The New Testament teaches that the normal Christian life is the Spirit-filled life. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples they should not leave Jerusalem on their world-evangelizing mission until they had been endued with the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). The disciples obediently remained in Jerusalem and prayed day after day that God would send the Spirit upon them. Their prayer was answered on the Day of Pentecost.

Describing that great event, the Bible says, "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). When, as a result of the apostles' Spirit-filled preaching, three thousand were converted, the apostles told the converts that if they would repent and be baptized they too would "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). From that time on, the Holy Spirit had great prominence among the Christian believers. (See Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7, etc.)

THE PURPOSE OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

The initial experience of being filled with the Spirit is called "The baptism with the Spirit." This is the term used by John the Baptist when he foretold the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:11). The Lord Jesus also used this term Himself in Acts 1:5 when He said to the disciples, "John truly baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." The disciples received this Baptism a few days later (on the Day of Pentecost) just as Jesus had promised.

It is highly important that every Christian learn about and receive this baptism with the Holy Spirit and understand the purpose for this blessed experience in his life. God does not bestow this Gift merely to make us ecstatically happy, or to give us an emotional uplift. He gives us the Spirit to equip us for gospel service, as indicated in our Lord's words to His disciples: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8). At the same time, while the way-out-in-front purpose is enablement for service, there are several delightful effects of this Baptism in one's personal life.

1. *The Holy Spirit Enriches the Study Life.* "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13).

2. *The Holy Spirit Enriches the Prayer Life.* "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26).

3. *The Holy Spirit Enriches the Emotional Life.* "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

4. *The Holy Spirit Enriches the Physical Life.* "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11).

THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING BAPTIZED WITH THE SPIRIT

In Acts 8:17 we read, "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." The reference here is to the Samaritans. These people had already embraced the gospel of Christ. They had believed on Christ through Philip's preaching, and had been baptized in water, and they had great joy but they had not yet received the baptism with the Spirit. That is why



The Assemblies of God International Headquarters, Springfield, Mo.

Peter and John came: to lead these new converts one step further in their newly found Christian life. Peter and John "prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:15) and the Samaritans received the Baptism.

You may ask, Can just anyone receive this Baptism, or are there some conditions to be met? The Scriptures mention a number of conditions, none of which is hard to meet.

1. *The Spirit Is Given to Those Who Ask.* "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). God will not force a gift upon anyone; for to do so would violate man's free moral agency. God simply announces the availability of the "gift" and says that all who ask may have it.

2. *The Spirit Is Given to Those Who Repent and Are Baptized.* The apostle Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). Notice that the gift is not bestowed automatically upon those who repent and are baptized. The Samaritan converts mentioned above had met both these conditions, and yet He, the Holy Spirit, "was fallen upon none of them" (Acts 8:16).

3. *The Spirit Is Given to Those Who Obey God.* God does not bestow His gifts upon the disobedient. He expects us to obey Him. In Acts 5:32 we read, "We are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32).

So much for the conditions. You may wonder about the experience itself.

The act of receiving the Spirit may occur in a variety of circumstances. The 120 believers in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost received while they were sitting, after they had been praying together for several days (Acts 2:2). The Samaritans received after Peter and John laid their hands on them (Acts 8:15-17). Cornelius and his household received while listening to Peter preach (Acts 10:44). The Ephesians received only after Paul had enlightened them, baptized them in water, and placed his hands upon them (Acts 19:1-6). This variety in the Biblical examples indicates there is no set pattern for receiving the Spirit, and this is well supported by present-day experience. Some receive when alone in prayer, some in the midst of a crowd at a prayer meeting, some when hands are laid upon them, while others receive while sitting in a pew. The circumstances are of little consequence. The receiving of the Spirit is the important thing.

THE EVIDENCE OF BEING BAPTIZED WITH THE SPIRIT

Two kinds of evidence relate to the baptism in the Spirit: the initial evidence and the continuing evidence. Initial evidence is related to receiving the Spirit. Continuing evidence is associated with the Spirit-filled life subsequent to receiving.

Our concern at this point is with the initial evidence. Has God given some discernible sign by which the believer may know with certainty that he has been filled with the Spirit, or does he receive the Spirit simply by faith with no outward sign? The Scriptures indicate

(Continued on page thirteen)

This We Believe

The Assemblies of God is a fellowship of born-again Christian believers endeavoring, to the best of their ability, to conform to the original teachings and practices of the Church as described in the New Testament.

This fellowship is growing every year. It now includes 514,532 members, 8,320 congregations, and 9,872 ordained ministers in the U. S. Enrollment in its Sunday schools has reached 996,660. Strongly evangelistic and missionary in character, it has 947,455 adherents in foreign lands.

Members of the Assemblies of God subscribe to the following statement of faith:

"We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. *We believe* that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. *We believe* in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. *We believe* in the blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming. *We believe* that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. *We believe* that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. *We believe* that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. *We believe* that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. *We believe* in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. *We believe* in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation."

THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65802

Please send me the information that is checked below.

- Instructions to help me know how to be saved.
- Address of Assemblies of God church near my home.
- Literature explaining about a victorious Christian life.
- A free copy of the magazine, "The Pentecostal Evangel."

My name is

Address

City State

Heritage of Happiness

We found them a happy family, one that enjoys doing things together. This heritage of happiness is not the result of things or surroundings. It is born out of the security of being loved, the sense of family togetherness.

For the past year the Sam Beckdahls have lived in Springfield, Mo. Within a few days they will leave for Tanganyika. Before this, they had served in India. But it matters not whether their abode is a rented cottage in the Ozarks or a compound on foreign soil—home is something the Beckdahls carry with them.



The unity of this Christian home is strengthened daily during Bible reading and prayer at the family altar.



Bedtime prayers are another opportunity of Christian training. Mother has a personal prayer nightly with each of the four children. Here she kneels with ten-year-old Beth.



Mealtime is an occasion of closeness and fellowship. A custom in the Beckdahl home is to join hands in an unbroken circle while asking God's blessing on the food.



It's not uncommon for Joey to share his electric train.



As partner with the church, the Beckdahls' interests for Pastor McQuinn appreciate the reflection of their faith.

In the whirl of modern living, these parents take time out to share with their children in work and play. Such homey situations as doing dishes can be the occasion for mother-daughter chats that help answer some questions that face teenagers like Esther.



Love of the outdoors has given sixteen-year-old Danny a keen interest in Scouting. Recently he received the coveted God and Country Award.



Playing together is an important part of their balanced family life. All of them especially enjoy outdoor activities such as camp-outs and picnics.

to see Dad on the prized possession, an



In the Sunday school they receive graded instruction—Beth as a junior . . . Joey in the primary department . . . while Dad is stimulated by the open discussion which is a feature of the King's Men's Class. One of Esther's favorite activities is the choir which provides a channel of Christian service.



with the home in Christian education provides activities and every member of the family. Queen of Central Assembly of God the faithfulness of the Beckdahls—of their home loyalty.

"How tall am I Mom?" No, Joey hasn't caught up with older brother Danny yet, but he's growing fast. Most of all, these young people, through the security and nurture of a Christian home, are acquiring spiritual stature to match their physical growth. Theirs is a rich heritage indeed—a HERITAGE OF HAPPINESS!



How a Lifer Received Eternal Life



A story by Daisy K. Robinson, well-known Prison Evangelist (now retired)

IT HAPPENED ON ONE OF MY MONTHLY VISITS TO Jefferson City, Missouri. The scene was the long and narrow visiting room at the State Penitentiary. I was looking into the face of a "lifer" whom I had been asked to help.

He sat on the bench opposite me. The face was that of a man about forty-five years of age and it bore unmistakable marks of intelligence and good breeding.

A row of steel bars separated us as we faced each other and talked.

"Are you saved?" I asked.

"No," he replied, "but that is what I want to talk to you about. I am here for life, and already I have served eighteen years. All of that time I have been trying to learn how to get saved. I have talked to many people, some of them ministers. I have read the Bible much. I have begged God to save me but I am still an unsaved man. I would *know* if I were saved, wouldn't I?"

"Oh, yes," I responded, "you will know. God says in His Word: *'The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.'*"

"Now that is what I want. You can help me, can't you?"

"Surely I can. Salvation is a simple thing in some ways, though it is not cheap. It cost God the life of His Son—the most precious thing in heaven—so you see it is not cheap. Yes, you can have salvation if you will just come to God in His way."

"How am I to do?"

"As a sinner, you are *away* from Jesus. You need to come to Him. There are three steps to take: repentance, confession, and surrender.

"Repentance is being sorry enough for your sins to quiet them. It is not being sorry that you are caught, or even because you are doomed to hell. You are to be sorry because you realize how your sins are defiling *you*, and grieving the heart of God. When you truly repent, you hate your sins, you are sick of them, and you turn your back on them. Now have you done that? Have you repented?"

"Yes, I am doing that all the time."

"The next step, then, is *confession*. God says, *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.'* It doesn't mean necessarily that we must confess to people, though that is good and often necessary. It means to confess our sins to God, and God will make you to know what you should confess to men. It is not so much to confess every separate sin—yet it will help you to mention each in prayer to God—but you must admit that you are a sinner. You are not to make any excuse. You have *sinned*. No matter how you were tempted to sin, you didn't *have* to. You *chose* to sin.

"Now, Boy, how about it?" (I call all the prisoners *boys*.) "Do you sense that filthy *nature of sin* within you? Are you ashamed of it, and do you want to tell it all to God?"

With tears in his eyes, he said, "O Mother Robinson, I *am* ashamed. I have told God so many, many times. I have done awful things. I have begged and begged God to forgive me but it just seems I can't get saved. Can I?"

"Oh yes, bless your heart! You have come all the way to God except for one step. Take that step and

you will be a child of God and *know* it. Dear Boy, Jesus wants to save you more than you want Him to. His arm is outstretched, waiting, *longing* to slip it around you. It is He Who has led you this far. And He is here to finish the work. Now just one more step—*surrender*. Just recognize Him as your Saviour and Lord. Receive Him."

I read from the Bible at Revelation 3:20. "*Behold, I stand at the door [the door of your heart] and knock. [Christ's knocking is what has caused the movings in your heart.] If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him.*"

"Now just invite Him in. He comes in as your Friend, it is true, and as your Lord and Master as well. So He is not coming in to visit but to *rule*. You are to surrender to Him *today*, and for good. '*As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.*'

"Now, dear Boy, just talk to Him out of your heart. Use your lips. It helps. You need not try to speak for me to hear, but use your voice. Tell Him again that you are sorry for your sins. Confess to Him that you must have help. Ask Him to take out of you that sinful nature which enjoys bad things, and to put in its place a new heart that will enjoy good things. Then open the door of your being. Ask Him to come in *now* and take full control. Give yourself to Him. It isn't a loan, but a gift of yourself. Pray now, Boy."

He dropped his head on his crossed arms. Then with sobs and murmured words of confession and surrender he talked to the Saviour. I prayed. As I felt led by the Spirit, I repeated verses of Scripture. When I had the witness in my heart that he had touched God, I asked him if he had prayed as I had told him.

"Yes," with broken sobs.

"Have you given yourself to Him?"

"Yes, yes."

"Do you feel that He has forgiven you?"

"No, but I feel better, lighter."

"You are being honest with Him, aren't you?"

"Oh yes. I mean every word. I *must* be saved."

"Then the Lord is hearing you. Tell Him that you receive Him just now as your Saviour and Lord. Then tell Him that you love Him. Thank Him for drawing you to Him as He has been doing."

After a few minutes more of talking to God, he began telling Him, with deep sobbing, of his love and thankfulness. Soon I heard a note of wonder and joy. He raised his tear-stained face. With the light of God shining in his eyes, in a voice of breathless wonder that I have seldom heard in a new convert, he exclaimed,

"He has saved me! He has saved me! *Oh, He has saved me! Glory!*"

Although there were several others on the bench waiting for individual help, I felt I must spend a little time showing the newly born-again man how to worship his wonderful Saviour and Lord.

A month later when I called to see him, he came with his face shining, though the tears were very near the surface. He told me of the marvelous companionship he had experienced with Jesus. He said that he wanted to follow the Lord in waters of baptism.

"Mother Robinson," he declared, "this has been the most wonderful and the happiest month of my entire life."



Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

What is meant by the expression, "The blood cleanseth"?

This means that as we trust in the merit of the Atonement of our Lord Jesus, all our sinful past is blotted out, or cleansed away. His blood atoned for our sins. Because of Christ's atonement, God is willing to forgive our sins.

I have been saved recently, but have not been baptized in water. Is this really important?

After accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour, you ought to be baptized in water as soon as possible, in obedience to the commandment of Jesus (Matthew 28:19). As you live the Christian life you will learn that the all-important secret of success is in being able to say, as Jesus did, "Not my will, but thine be done." In baptism you acknowledge that you are not your own, but that you belong wholly to the Lord and wish to be His love servant, to go where He wants you to go, to serve in any way that He might direct, and, if need be, to suffer for His sake.

According to Acts 10:38, Jesus "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." Does this imply that all sickness is the work of the devil?

No. Much sickness is the result of natural causes. We are yet mortal, subject to sickness and death. While satanic oppression is evident in some forms of sickness, we must not conclude that all sickness is the work of the devil.

I hate someone and I would like to get this hatred out of my heart. How can I get rid of it?

The Lord Jesus gave the answer when he said, "Do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you..." It is very difficult, if not impossible, to hate a person if you are praying for him. At first you may find it very hard to be kind to that person. In most cases, hatred is caused by misunderstandings. When you pray about it God will help you to get a new view of the situation.

If you are a Christian you must realize that God has forgiven you. By remembering the great mercy God has shown in forgiving all your sins you will find it easier to forgive those who have offended you.

What is the sinner's prayer?

The sinner's prayer is not made of words only. It is the cry of the soul seeking peace with God. The publican prayed it in the words, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Zacchaeus demonstrated in action when he confessed his willingness to make restitution: "If I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." When the repentant sinner prays in faith, God will answer through our Lord Jesus Christ.



JEREMIAH— an Obedient Servant

Next Week's Sunday School Lesson

JEREMIAH 1:1-10; 2 TIMOTHY 1:12, 13

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

Among the uncrowned heroes in the Old Testament Jeremiah is foremost. His life—in its loneliness, its holiness, its compassion over sinners, and in its suffering at the hands of those it existed to serve—was strikingly Christlike. As G. Campbell Morgan has said: “No prophet of the long and illustrious line had a more thankless task than he, and none was more magnificently and heroically true to his sacred ministry.”

Jeremiah's Call. “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...I sanctified thee...I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” One of the most strengthening forces in the life of a Christian is a sense of divine destiny! (See Romans 8:29, 30; Ephesians 1:4; 2:10.) The important thing is to cooperate with God as He seeks to fulfill this destiny!

Jeremiah's Character. “Then said I, Ah, Lord God! I cannot speak: for I am a child.” Jeremiah shrank from the appointed task. His call was remarkable in

that he seemed by nature and temperament to be wholly unfitted for it. The observant reader of the book of Jeremiah cannot help noticing that this was a sensitive soul—a sentimental, sympathetic, retiring, and unobtrusive person. He probably would have been an ideal husband and father, yet he was forbidden of God to marry and enjoy the comforts of companionship and home (Jeremiah 16:2).

(1) *He was youthful.* He said, “I am a child [that is, about twenty at the time of his call].” Because of his youth he felt unqualified to assume the responsibility of such a ministry as God intended. Consecrated youth, however, can accomplish a great deal if surrendered to God. “Let no man despise thy youth,” said Paul to another hesitant young man (1 Timothy 4:12).

(2) *He was conscious of human weakness.* “I cannot speak.” Such consciousness may be a blessing and not a curse. Christ said, “My strength is made perfect in weakness.” And for this reason, one who would ordinarily say, “I can't,” when faced with great responsibility, may say instead, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

(3) *He was fearful.* “Be not afraid of their faces.” Jeremiah was afflicted with common ailments—self-consciousness and stage fright. Many a Christian knows how painful these afflictions can be—the palpitation of heart, the weakness of the knees, and dryness of the throat. “The fear of man bringeth a snare.” True enough, but how to overcome it? God gave Jeremiah—and us!—the answer.

Jeremiah's Assurance.

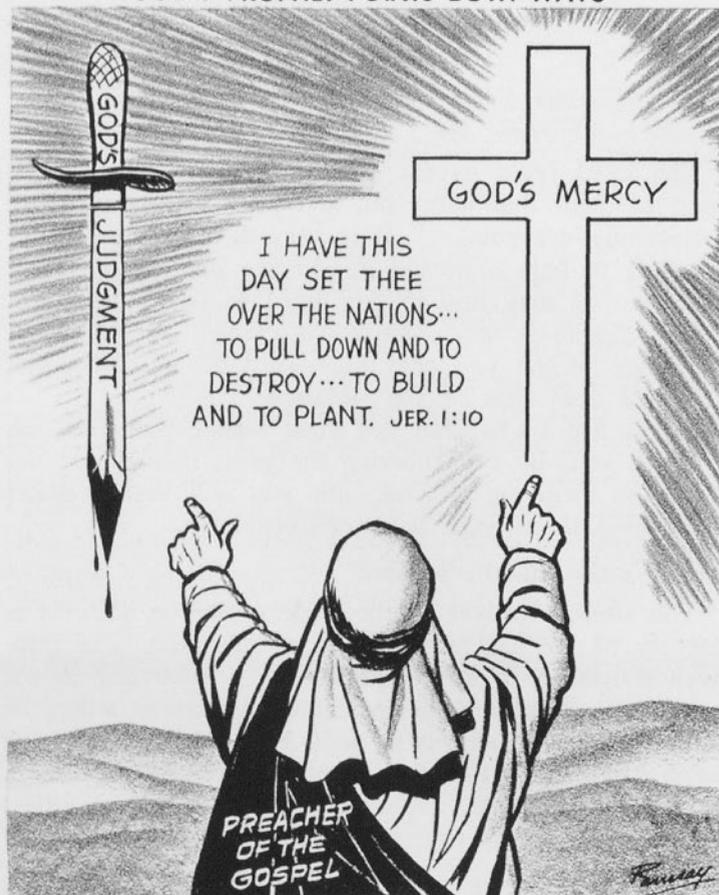
(1) *Consciousness of the Divine Call and of Divine Authorization.* “Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee.” A police officer does not hesitate to perform his duties and to arrest the speeder: he knows he has authority and power to do so. Whether we are preaching at home, ministering on foreign soil, teaching in Sunday school, or performing other helpful tasks—if we know we are doing what God has bidden us to do, then we have nothing to fear.

(2) *Consciousness of the Divine Presence.* “I am with thee to deliver thee” was God's promise. God-consciousness will cure self-consciousness! Counting on His presence will help one to overcome fear, or to proceed in spite of it!

(3) *Consciousness of Divine Inspiration.* “Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said...I have put my words in thy mouth.” Jeremiah had an anointing and a message from God Himself. Such consciousness is a great antidote to fear.

Jeremiah's Commission. “I have this day set thee over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy...to build, and to plant.” Jeremiah's ministry was to be *worldwide*—not merely confined to Judah. It was to be *destructive*. Sin was to be rooted out; false ideals were to be pulled down. (Preaching must—at times—be negative before positive results may be accomplished.) It would be *difficult*. No man ever had a more difficult ministry. Jeremiah's ministry was destined to go unheeded. Statistically, Jeremiah would be counted a failure. He would not get a line in the news media, yet no preacher ever excelled him for faithfulness and dedication to God!

GOD'S PROPHET POINTS BOTH WAYS



HOW TO BE FILLED

(Continued from page seven)

God has given a sign. This is made clear in Acts 2:4, as already quoted: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." This was the first time believers received the Spirit. On this occasion (the Day of Pentecost) something happened which could be seen and heard, for Peter said, "He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:33). In every account thereafter in Acts where an explanation is given relating to receiving the Spirit, there is positive evidence of accompanying supernatural manifestations. (See Acts 8:17, 18; Acts 10:46, Acts 19:6.)

In three of the five accounts of receiving the Spirit given in Acts, it is recorded that the recipients spoke in tongues (see Acts 2:4; Acts 10:46; Acts 19:6). In the other two instances, it is not stated that they spoke with tongues, but there is sufficient evidence to believe they did (see Acts 8:18 and 1 Corinthians 14:18). Since this is the case, it is safe to conclude that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism in the Spirit. By this sign Peter and his associates knew the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:45, 46), and by this sign we know when it happens today.

Not only is it entirely scriptural to believe that tongues is the initial physical evidence; it is entirely reasonable also. The Bible teaches that the tongue is the most unruly member of the body (James 3:2-8). None will

MUSEMENTS FOR MINORS . . . DICK CHAMPION

SCRAMBLED VERSE

In the puzzle below is a part of a Bible verse which tells what true religion really is. Can you find the answer?

Start with the letter at the upper left-hand corner. Move one letter at a time, either up or down, or right or left. Do not move diagonally. A gray square indicates the end of a word.

If you need help, look up James 1:27.

START	T	O	S	S	A	N	M	T	H	E
	I	V	E	L	W	D	O	R	F	W
	S	I	E	R	I	D	T	E	D	O
	T	T	H	T	W	O	T	O	P	R
	H	E	F	A	S	F	U	N	S	L
	E	H	T	N	I	L	E	S	J	D.
	I	L	I	N	A	H	I	M	A	M
	R	F	C	O	N	P	E	E	S	E
	A	F	T	I	D	T	O	K	1:	27.
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deny this! What then could God have chosen better than the tongue to indicate that the Spirit had taken full control of the individual and all his faculties?

HOW TO KEEP FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Space will not permit a full discussion of the *continuing* evidence, or how to keep filled with the Spirit, but God expects every Christian to keep filled. In fact, the Greek verb in Ephesians 5:18 is in the present imperative and means, "Be constantly being filled with the Spirit." The writings of the apostle Paul contain numerous instructions for maintaining the Spirit-filled life.

"Walk in the Spirit," he wrote (Galatians 5:16). "Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). "Grieve not the holy Spirit" (Ephesians 4:30). "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:18). "Quench not the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

But you must receive the initial infilling before you can experience this Spirit-filled life. Have you received this Baptism? ◀◀

Teen-agers Testify to Healing

(Continued from page five)

Abe. "I am grateful for the prayers of my friends and relatives. God's healing power saved my life, and spared me from being a cripple."

If you are sick, you too can be healed by putting your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Is He your Saviour? Then He wants to be your Healer also. It is written in the Bible that "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquity: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24).

Jesus healed the sick when He was on the earth. Just before He left the earth He told His followers that this healing work would continue even after He had returned to heaven. He said, "These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17, 18). Sickness and disease disappear when we take the Bible way and trust in God for healing. ◀◀

How Near Is the End?

*A Plain Talk
by Oswald J. Smith*

ARE WE EXPERIENCING TODAY THE BIRTH OF A NEW age? Is this the last generation, or will there be another?

"This generation shall not pass," said Jesus, "till all these things be fulfilled" (Matthew 24:34). What generation? The one to which He was speaking or the one *about* which He was speaking? Obviously the one *about* which He spoke, for He was describing end-time events. And so quickly would things happen, He pointed out, that those who saw the beginning would see the end. Wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes—all these, He said, were to be but "the beginning of sorrows."

The world today is in chaos. Sin abounds on every side. Sometimes we wonder if "our way of life," with its drunkenness and sensuality, is worth saving. Certainly things cannot continue long as they are. Sin must be punished. The awful wrath of God will be poured out on an unbelieving and Christ-rejecting world. The Devil, the god of this age, must be judged. How weary we are of man's rule! What a mess he has made of things! We long for the coming of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth! It will be the age of righteousness, justice and peace, when there will be no more war!

The conviction of men everywhere is that a change is at hand. Something, they say, is about to happen. Will it be the passing out of this age and the ushering in of the next?

But what if this age should end and find you unprepared? Have you no sense of fear? Will you go on sinning in the face of all these warnings? Do you think you can hide from God? Or are you finding satisfaction in a life of transgression? "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:21). The Bible says, "The way of transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:15). "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

My unbelieving friend, you are doomed. You have sinned and you know it. Even now memories of a wasted, sin-cursed life come up before you. Scenes you would



Do you want your child to kiss you goodbye forever?

Better go with her to Sunday school, or one day the Saviour's words will be true of **your** family: "The one shall be taken, and the other left."

(Matthew 24:40, 41; Luke 17:34-36)

give anything to forget torment you. You are lost and bound for hell. You will never enter heaven unless you repent of your sin and accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

Is this the end? It may be for this age, but not for you. There is a judgment to face. Today you may know Christ as your Saviour: in that day He will be your Judge. What is it to be? It is for you to decide.

Let me urge you, before it is forever too late, turn to Jesus now and be saved. He is your only hope. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The age from Adam to the Flood was about 2,000 years. From the Flood to Christ was another 2,000 years. And from Christ to the end of this third age will probably be about 2,000 years. After that will come the Sabbath Age of 1,000 years, the Millennium, making some 7,000 years altogether. We may, therefore, be near the end of the present age.

If this *is* the generation of which Jesus spoke, then, having seen "the beginning of sorrows," we will also see the end. All the end-time prophecies may take place before the present generation passes away. Darker and darker will grow the night, until at last the Church will be gone and, in the midst of judgments indescribable, this old age will pass and a new be born. ◀◀◀

Mother Thanks God for Little Girl's Healing

KIM, MY DAUGHTER, WAS BORN WITH A MENINGOCLE on her back. This is a tumor on the spine, and only one child out of a thousand afflicted with it ever lives. Even then, various defects set in.

When eighteen days old, she underwent surgery at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. The doctors gave me no hope, but we asked special prayer for her and stood on the promises of God through faith.

The doctors said that while she was on the operating table, her heart stopped beating. They said that if she did live probably she would never walk, and she would have an infection until she was thirteen years of age.

But God answered prayer for our little girl. In May 1963, when thirteen months old, she went for her check-up, and the doctors found to their amazement that she had no infection. She also walks and talks wonderfully well!

They said that really she should not be alive today and that truly this is a miracle of God! I am so grateful for His great mercy.—Mrs. James Welsh, Gap, Pennsylvania.

(Endorsed by Pastor Herbert L. Jones, *Glad Tidings Temple, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.*)

A FAITH TO LIVE BY

(Continued from page three)

arrow reaching far inside. The professor frowned and asked, "What's the arrow for?"

"Well, you see, sir," said Edwin, "God is quite outside the realm of what I know—or even *could* know. But there is nothing to prevent God from revealing Himself to me."

The story of the Bible is the story of God's revealing Himself. That revelation is progressive and continuous. It culminates in the living picture of Himself which God gave to us in Jesus Christ.

3. GOD HELPS

At an important crisis the Prophet Daniel said, "... but there is a God in heaven..." He was pointing out the fact that God not only cares what happens on earth, not only speaks to men to express His care, but specifically intervenes in history to help those who trust Him. I do not believe in God as a kind of miracle-factory which will automatically dispense supernatural aid if I happen to push the right button by prayer. But the record of the Bible and the witness of godly men through the centuries leave me in no doubt that God can and does give a helping hand to those who let Him.

When Charles E. Wilson was president of General Motors he once said, "Success is a matter of discovering the laws of nature and cooperating with them." This is true not only of hard steel things and psychological principles, but also of an individual's happiness. A satisfactory philosophy of life will be one which has recognized God and His laws and received His revelation. A person living by such a philosophy can expect God's

help, for all the immutable laws of the universe are on his side.

I must not renounce my responsibilities; I must not look to God to do it all. But in my own life I have experienced God's help in all kinds of situations. He has comforted me when there was no other comfort. He has healed me beyond medical explanations. He has guided me to see the right people and say the right things when to do otherwise would have been easy—and disastrous. He has helped me through financial crises that I thought were hopeless.

To me, such experiences are far too many and too real to be coincidences. And, though I am no mystic, I have a strong sense of God's living presence with me, repeatedly.

The things about which a man can be positive are few. But three of the strongest facts of my life are these: God cares, God speaks, God helps. ◀◀◀

PUT DOWN THE LOAD

A woman carrying a suitcase ran to catch a bus. She barely made it, and even after she was seated she still clutched the suitcase unconsciously. Finally a man sitting nearby said kindly, "You can put the suitcase down now, lady; the bus will carry it for you."

Is not this a picture of what so often happens? In the stress and strain of daily living we carry burdens to the place of prayer, then leave still carrying them. How much easier life would be if we would cast our burdens upon the Lord, remembering that "underneath are the everlasting arms." —Adapted



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Beyond *the* Sunset

THE THOUGHT OF A HEAVENLY HOME MAY DRAW A sneer from some non-Christians. "Escapism," they brand it. "Unreality," they call it—"wishful thinking," "pie in the sky." They say this because they never have felt the warmth of God's love in their hearts. They never have tasted the sweetness of His mercy. They never have known the marvelous peace our Saviour gives, nor the radiant hope that is born in a redeemed soul.

But the Bible says we have a home in heaven, and when the sun of earthly life slips over the western horizon we need not despair. It tells us we have a dwelling place in the land of eternal sunshine that is finer far than any mansion in this world. For Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3).

What a lift it gives the tired spirit just to think about that heavenly home. Sometimes the way seems long and we grow weary of this vale of tears. We long for that place where there shall be no more pain, nor death, nor crying. We falter for a moment, then we remember that just beyond the sunset the Saviour waits to receive us, and our heart begins to sing. The hope of salvation helps us to lift our eyes above our troubles.

A few years ago a radio preacher announced he would speak the following Sunday on "Heaven." During the week he received a beautiful letter from an old man who was very ill. This is what it said:

"Next Sunday you are to talk about heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over fifty-five years. I

did not buy it; it was given to me without money and without price, but the Donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice.

"It is not a vacant lot. For more than half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest Architect and Builder of the universe has been preparing a Home for me. Termites can never undermine its foundations, for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that Land where my dwelling stands.

"There is a valley of deep shadows between the place where I live here in California and that to which I shall journey. I cannot reach that City of Gold without passing through the dark valley—but I am not afraid, because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long ago and drove away all its gloom. He has stood by me through thick and thin these fifty-five years, and I hold His promise in printed form that He will never leave me. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way.

"I hope to hear your sermon on heaven but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket has no date marked for the journey—and no return coupon—and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am all ready to go, and I may not be here when you are talking next Sunday, but I shall meet you there some day."

WILL YOU BE THERE TOO? Christ has gone to prepare a place for you in heaven. It will be ready for you—but will you be ready for it? —R.C.C.