

# THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE LORD  
JUNE 1968 • TEN CENTS  
INTERNATIONAL EDITION



## A PROMISE FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38)



SPIRITUALITY  
IS NO ACCIDENT.  
THERE ARE LAWS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE  
THAT MUST BE OBEYED  
IF WE ARE TO BE SPIRITUAL PERSONS  
AND ONLY THROUGH  
OBEDIENCE TO THESE DO  
WE EXPERIENCE TRUE  
FREEDOM.

# HOW TO BE A SPIRITUAL

By JOSEPH R. FLOWER

**T**HE PURPOSE OF GOD in the whole redemptive process is to change us from a natural to a spiritual state.

Although we are not born into this world in a spiritual state, we have the capacity to become spiritual. This is made possible by the New Birth which is experienced by each person who repents of sin and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). He further said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (verse 6).

In the beginning, God made man in His own image. There was a reflection of the divine Trinity in that man was body, soul, and spirit. God breathed into the man that He created the breath of *lives* (plural, from the margin of Genesis 2:7) so that in the beginning man had physical sense life, self-conscious soul life, and spiritual life. But man fell into sin, and when he fell he lost spiritual life and fellowship with God. The purpose of God's plan of redemption is to bring man back into fellowship with Himself by restoring the spiritual life which he had lost.

God's image in man has been marred through sin. In our natural state we live on the lower plane of sensuality—solely for earthly things, and for gratifying our physical appetites. This is carnal mindedness, and "to be carnally minded is death," the Bible says (Romans 8:6). If we yield ourselves to the Spirit of the Lord, He applies the benefits of Christ's redemptive work and effects the divine purpose of restoration within us (Romans 8:2).

While the image of God is stamped indelibly upon our personality, it is not until we are quickened by the Spirit

of God that we really live in a spiritual sense and have fellowship with Him.

Paul gave the key to spirituality in Romans 8:9—"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." He further stated, "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness" (verse 10). Spirituality is synonymous with godliness. One's spirituality is measured by the degree to which he is like God.

All who are truly "born of God" have spiritual life; but there are degrees of spiritual life which are conditioned upon obedience to the laws established by God therefor. The formula is really very simple: the degree of a person's spirituality is determined by the degree to which he apprehends the Word of God and appropriates His Spirit. The Word and the Spirit work together to quicken, sustain, and motivate us.

According to 1 Peter 1:23 we are "born again... by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." If we are spiritually alive we will have a hunger for this Word, which is really Christ Himself, who is our spiritual food; and we will have a thirst for the Holy Spirit, who is our spiritual drink. The greater our degree of spirituality, the greater is our desire for the Word and for the Spirit.

It also follows that the more spiritual we become, the greater will be our interest in prayer, and in Christian witnessing, and in attending the house of God. We will have a hunger to hear the Word of God expounded and to fellowship with other believers.

Prayer is essentially the communion of man's spirit with God. It is an avenue whereby our thoughts may be brought into captivity to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5), and whereby faith may be generated, and the Spirit of God made to flow out from our innermost being.

Christian witnessing is sharing with others the truth that has become a conviction to us. In so doing we become channels for God's Spirit to flow through us.

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# PERSON

By fellowship in God's house with others of like precious faith we strengthen one another and are encouraged in spiritual life and service.

It may seem anomalous, but the same conditions that are conducive to spiritual life are also results and evidences of spiritual life. Among these evidences that mark the spiritual person are the following:

1. He will be spiritually minded (Romans 8:6) and consequently disposed toward the things of God.

2. He will have spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9) and be able to discern and discriminate between what is of God and what is not (1 Corinthians 2:15).

3. He will manifest the fruit of the Spirit—even in times of severe testing, stress, and strain (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Galatians 5:22-24).

4. He will yield himself as a channel through whom the Holy Spirit can be manifested (1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, 31; 14:1).

5. He will acknowledge that what is communicated by the inspiration of the Spirit, even when it conflicts with his own conduct, is from God (1 Corinthians 14:37).

6. He will offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God (1 Peter 2:5), and will engage in such spiritual exercises as praying and singing with the spirit for his own enrichment and edification (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18-20; 1 Corinthians 14:15).

7. He will lift up the fallen, and restore those overtaken in a fault, exhibiting a spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1).

The Church is made up of spiritual persons like this. The Scriptures refer to the Church of the living God as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5), but it is only so because it is made up of individuals who are "lively" (literally, "living") stones. Their life comes from the Spirit of God.

No mere organizational relationship can produce this

life. It does not derive from ceremony, ritual, liturgy, or external sacrament. It comes only through an inner consciousness and spiritual union with the Lord of Life Himself, through the Holy Spirit.

Do not our hearts yearn for a spiritual renewal and refreshing? It is this desire that has prompted the leaders of the Assemblies of God to begin an intensive study of our fellowship and to make a critical analysis of the Movement, leading up to the Council on Evangelism which is to convene August 26-29 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Our prayer is that as a result of this soul-searching on the part of all of us, God will pour out of His Spirit upon us, and we will dedicate ourselves anew to the task He has committed to us.

This same emphasis was at the heart of the report of our Spiritual Life Committee to the 1967 General Council. In all aspects of the work of the Assemblies of God we cry out for the touch of God's Spirit to be upon us. No doubt the concluding paragraph of that report will bear repeating:

"The Spiritual Life Committee expresses deep concern that every effort should be put forth to insure indoctrination of our oncoming generation, and we should surround them with such a spiritual atmosphere that they will perpetuate the faith revealed by God and entrusted to our care. Unless Pentecost is reborn in the hearts of every succeeding generation, it will perish. We do not want it said of us as it was said of Israel, in Judges 2:10—'And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.'"

God's desire is that we should be spiritual persons, for He longs to enjoy our fellowship and He seeks a people through whom He can accomplish His work in the world. May we be such people. Our responsibility is to declare the whole counsel of God, contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints, walk in the Spirit, and minister in His power. God grant that we shall do so. 

## The Promise Is For You

PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 2, is the anniversary of that wonderful event in Jerusalem when Christian believers first were filled with the Holy Spirit. It happened on a Jewish feast day called Pentecost.

There were 120 persons in that company of Christian believers—both men and women. We do not know the names of most of them. Some were preachers, others were laymen; but whether apostles or merchants, masters or servants, male or female, young or old, they all received the same glorious gift from heaven that day. "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

If you have not been filled with the Holy Ghost you may receive this heavenly gift of the Spirit today. As you read your Bible on this anniversary of the Day of Pentecost, notice especially the statement Peter made to the inquirers at Jerusalem. He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38, 39).

This promise is for you. If you have repented of your sins, accepted the Saviour, and been baptized in water you may be filled with God's Spirit, the Holy Ghost, without waiting another day.

The Spirit will come to you as the wind—as a divine breath from heaven. He will fill your heart, your mouth, your whole life as surely as He filled the whole house where the 120 were sitting on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2).

The Spirit will come as a fire. This is God's promise to you. The Bible says, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). The thought here, as shown by the context, is that God wants to purge His people from all that is worthless in their lives. As a farmer at harvesttime threshes the grain and throws the straw into the fire, so the Holy Ghost will rid you of the debris of selfishness, pride, sin, and cause your life to produce good grain for God's granary.

The Spirit will come to you as oil. In Bible times this was the chief means of illumination at night. The foolish young women in the story of the ten virgins ran out of oil and their lamps went out, with the result that they were not admitted to the wedding (Matthew 25:10). If you are filled with the Holy Ghost your lamp will be filled with heavenly oil and your life will be a shining light, even in the world's darkest hour.

The Spirit will come to you as a dove. This beautiful symbol of the Holy Ghost was seen when Jesus was baptized at the Jordan. John said, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him" (John 1:32). The dove speaks of the purity, sweetness, and peaceableness there will be in your life when you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

The fifth symbol of the Spirit portrayed by the artist on the cover page is water. The Spirit will come to you as the pure water of life. Water sustains life. It satisfies thirst. So does the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...)" (John 7:37-39). The Spirit is available in plentiful supply. All you need do it drink. Go to Jesus for this living water that will satisfy your thirst, and He will fill you with His Spirit until the blessing overflows.

—R.C.C.

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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.



# WHO CAN DENY AN EXPERIENCE!

By RUSSELL R. WISEHART

**O**NE OF THE STRONGEST, yet simplest, proofs for the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues is the experience itself.

Many have tried to explain away this Pentecostal phenomenon. Libraries could be filled with the writings of those who have gone around in theological circles demonstrating what Pentecost was not, is not, and could not be.

But of the countless attempts by armchair theologians and others to explain away the Promise of the Father, not one, to my knowledge, has ever been able to attack it successfully from the standpoint of the actual experience. And yet, that the experience does exist is an undeniable and, to some, an uncomfortable fact. Like the rulers and elders in Jerusalem, who were embarrassed and amazed at Peter's anointed preaching (Acts 4), the opponents of the Pentecostal experience have often been grieved at *this* teaching. In many cases they have opposed the proponents of *this* doctrine because of its utter unacceptability in their religious circles.

They attempt to explain away the fulfillment of Joel's prophecies concerning the Pentecostal outpouring. They charge these unlearned and ignorant men to cease their babblings and act like sober, mature, intelligent men. Yet as they confer together concerning what they consider this distasteful conduct, they are increasingly aware of a nagging certainty. They cannot evade it. They close their eyes and stop their ears, but it is still there. It keeps returning until they must face the facts.

Despite their excellent sermonizing and their neat theological interpretations, despite their logical and reasonable explanations and their fine exegesis, here before them stands a man who has had a real experience with God—and they cannot deny it.

What to do? Like the man born blind (John 9), the Spirit-baptized believer may be brought again and again before the religious leaders and asked to renounce his position. They should remember the former blind man's simple question, "How can one deny the Healer when the healing is definite and real?"

One outstanding, unquestionable fact had been established, even to the fear and chagrin of his own parents. This man had been totally blind; now he could see.

We paraphrase the words of the once-blind man to say to those who would doubt the reality of the Pentecostal experience: "Why, herein is a marvelous thing. You say God does not fill individuals with the Holy Spirit today, and yet He has done it." Over and over again He has

performed this miracle. He has included not only the unlearned and ignorant, but businessmen, professional men, persons in high places, college graduates, seminary students, and others whose hearts are open. Men of all walks of life and many denominations are experiencing the in-filling of the Holy Spirit in these days. They testify, "We may not understand completely; we cannot explain it fully; but this one thing we know, that whereas once we were thirsty and hungry, now we are filled."

Hunger and thirst are important prerequisites for receiving the fullness of the Spirit. A hunger and a thirst for a deeper, fuller experience with God brings a spiritual reality into our lives we never knew existed—a new dimension we had never penetrated. "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink," Jesus said, speaking of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39).

The baptism of the Spirit cannot be explained. The experience cannot be coldly analyzed. It cannot be compressed into neat outline form. But for those who, with David, desire to fix their hearts upon the Lord, for those who desire to be "filled with all the fullness of God," to know the length and breadth and height of His love—for such "there is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad" the hungering, thirsting people of God.

The river of salvation flows from the very heart of God. The river of the Holy Spirit flows from the throne room of the Father. Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7). Perhaps one reason no one has ever been able to eradicate this precious experience from the Church is that they have been unable to reach the heavenly source.

And so it shall always be. Men will continue to attack and to deemphasize. They will attempt to damage and destroy this doctrine. However, as Pentecostal believers continue to live in the Spirit, giving their lives for the cause of the gospel, those who oppose it will still have to ask themselves, in words not too far removed from those of the elders of Israel so long ago, "What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all . . . and we cannot deny it" (Acts 4:16).

How can anyone deny the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues when millions testify it is a real experience!



# Week of PENTECOST

in Monrovia, Liberia

By HERRIS HEIDENREICH / *Paul Olson Evangelistic Party*

**T**O COMMEMORATE the Day of Pentecost last year, the Assemblies of God churches and other Pentecostal groups in Liberia, West Africa, sponsored a special week of services highlighting the exciting story of Pentecost.

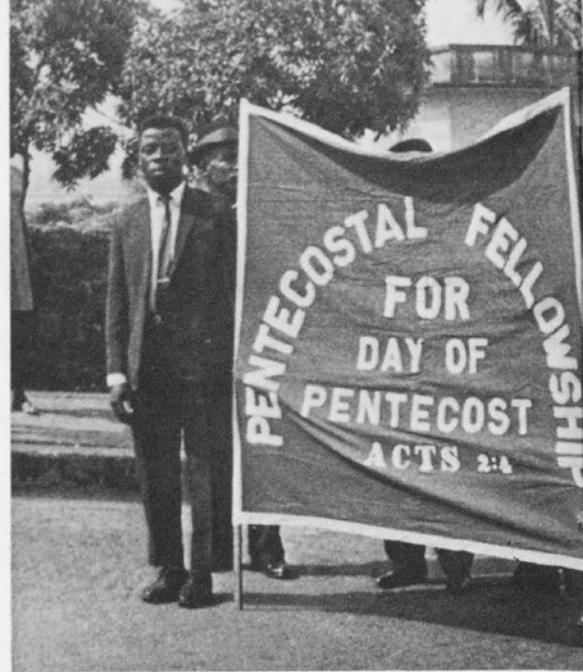
Leading this special week of Pentecostal emphasis was the Paul Olson Evangelistic Party which had recently concluded a nationwide GOOD NEWS CRUSADE in the national sports stadium.

The president of Liberia, Dr. William V. S. Tubman, granted the Pen-

tecostals the use of the Centennial Pavilion—a beautiful, air-conditioned, government building seating 2,000 people. Each night the pavilion was full and on the weekend it was packed to capacity.

In his messages Evangelist Paul Olson pointed out the two revolutions taking place in the Church today—creeping modernism and the explosive Pentecostal revival. He challenged the believers by saying, “If ever there was a time for Pentecostal people to stand up and speak out, it is now! This is our day!”

**Evangelist Paul Olson (left) discusses the Week of Pentecost with Missionary Paul Davis (center) and Dr. J. Bolton Williams, a Methodist pastor who received the Holy Spirit.**



One of the big moments of this week of services was the testimony of Dr. J. Bolton Williams, pastor of the Mt. Scott Methodist Church of Cape Palmas, Liberia, the church the president attends. Pastor Williams told the audience, “There was a day when I used to make jokes about these tongues-speaking people, but now I am one of them.” Pastor Williams received the baptism in the Holy Spirit during our Cape Palmas GOOD NEWS CRUSADE. He said, “I am not ashamed to stand with you Pentecostal people tonight. I assure you that the Holy Spirit has revolutionized my life and ministry.”

Climaxing the evening services in the Week of Pentecost, Evangelist Olson, the missionaries, and the national pastors laid hands on and prayed for the many seekers. There is no way to tell how many received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but it would be quite reasonable to say that multiplied scores received this experience.

The majority of those who came to seek for the baptism in the Holy Spirit were young people. For that matter we recall that during the great crusade in the stadium the major part of the audience was made up of young people, for Monrovia could well be called a young people’s city. This is because of the several hundred mission schools scattered throughout the country that conduct classes through the 6th or 9th grades. The students who wish to finish high school must come to Monrovia. Literally thousands of young people from every tribe and country converge upon this city to continue their schooling.

You can well imagine the joy of



On Pentecost Sunday 2,000 Pentecostal believers marched through Monrovia.

our missionaries in watching hundreds of these young people receiving the Holy Spirit and dedicating their lives to God during the Week of Pentecost.

One of our new Assemblies of God missionaries to Liberia, Billy Burr, quickly sensed the need among the youth of this country and has started Bible classes for them. Missionary Burr and these newly Spirit-filled young people are now going into the streets to pass out Light-for-the-Lost literature and to witness to the young people of the city.\*

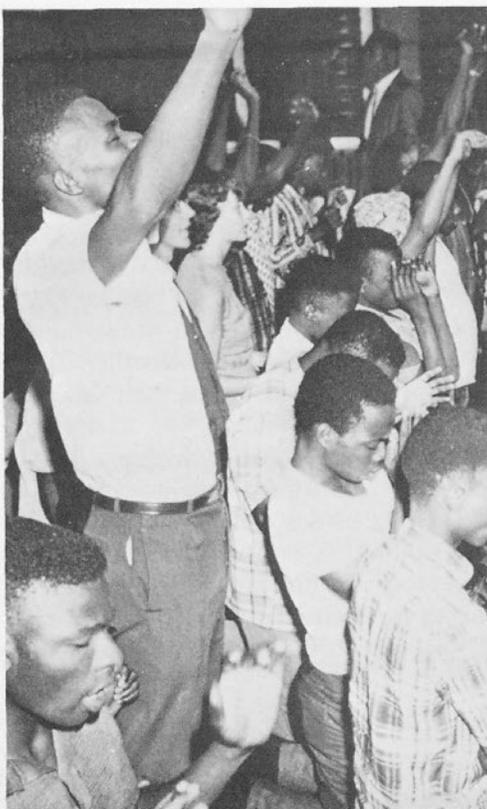
During the afternoon sessions of the Week of Pentecost, Evangelist Olson conducted a seminar on the Holy Spirit to teach our pastors and

Christian workers about the ministry and administration of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. An average of 125 attended this seminar. Climaxing the seminar Brother Olson conducted an old-fashioned, bread-breaking service. What a beautiful sight!

Among the many thrilling testimonies was that of Dr. Payne, national superintendent of the Lutheran Church of Liberia. He firmly asserted his belief in the necessity of the working of the Holy Spirit in the Church today.

Bringing the Week of Pentecost to a conclusion, all the Pentecostal congregations of the city paraded through the streets of Monrovia in an impressive display of strength and unity. As they walked through the city—2,000 strong, singing the familiar gospel choruses in their tribal dialects—one could not help but deeply feel that this is truly "that which was spoken by the prophet Joel," that "in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh." This is Pentecost in Liberia.

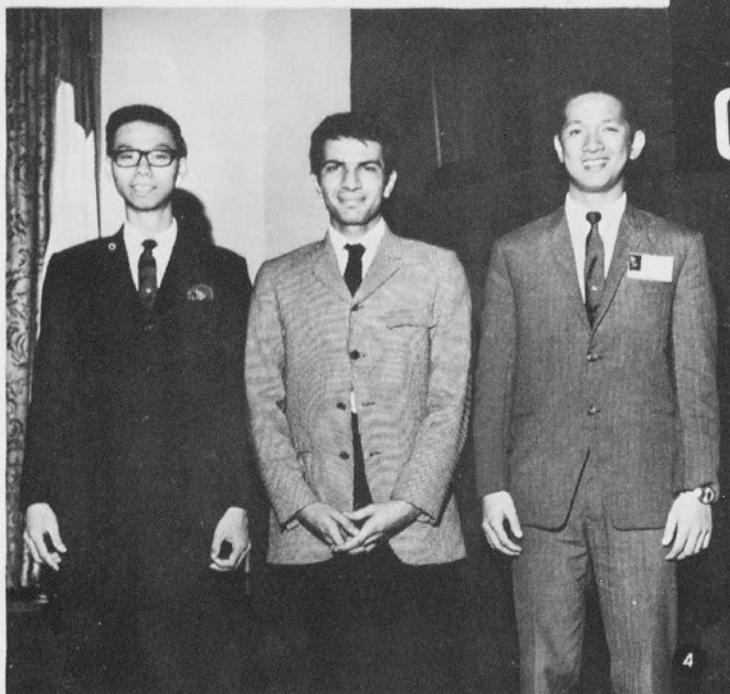
\*An article, *Liberia's Action Night*, by Missionary Billy Burr appears in the May-June issue of *Good News Crusades* magazine, a free bimonthly publication of the Foreign Missions Department.



ABOVE: Delegates pray for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. FAR LEFT: The majority of those who came forward were young people eager to find spiritual reality. LEFT: Dr. Payne, a Lutheran minister, gives his testimony. Seated with him are Mrs. Payne and Brother Sampson, pastor of Monrovia's Assembly of God.



## THE BIENNIAL DEAF CONVENTION PHOTORAMA



WEST INDIES LISTENER WRITES

### REVIVALTIME SAVED MY BROTHER

DEAR *Revivaltime*:

My name is Sherif Ali. My home is in Trinidad, West Indies. I have a very special prayer request to share with you, but first I want to tell you about a miracle.

My brother, Jaural Ali, never really stayed by us. He used to go to school from my grandmother's house and come home on weekends. He was ready to take his graduate examinations when sickness struck him one afternoon. He started to bring up blood from his mouth.

When they took him to the hospital, the doctors discovered two holes in his heart. But through a miracle of heaven, Jaural found salvation; and through that miracle I too met Christ.

Let me use his exact words to tell you the story.

"After knowing about my sickness, which only through a heart operation I may have a chance to live, I decided to kill myself.

"One Saturday evening I bought some poisonous liquid and hid it under the house. It was my custom to listen to the church services on radio on Sunday mornings, so I decided I would listen one more time, then drink the poison.

"Sunday morning, after breakfast, I sat by the radio. At 8:30 *Revivaltime* came on, and at three minutes to nine, something wonderful happened. Brother Ward had just finished praying for all who gave their hearts to the Lord when suddenly he said:

"'Right now I'm going to pause where I had no intention of pausing. I feel someone who is near enough to hear my voice. He is so despondent that this person, to whom I am now talking, is ready to take his life. Don't do it! Don't hurl yourself into eternity unprepared. The Holy Spirit is using me to invite you to Jesus Christ.

"'Lord, stay the hand of the suicide. Clear away the



*Photo 1.* About 310 persons attended the 1968 National Deaf Convention in Springfield, Missouri, April 3-7. This year the convention was divided into two units for day sessions—a missionaries retreat held at the Assemblies of God Headquarters and a laymen's conference at Central Bible College. Both groups combined for evening sessions. The theme was "Chosen."

Convention activities included workshops, films of the deaf in the U.S., and group dynamics sessions. Harry Brotzman, Jr., coordinator for the deaf and blind ministries of the Home Missions Department, was in charge.

*Photo 2.* Mrs. Lillian Beltsendler of New York City, a deaf-blind Jewess, received "communication through feeling" demonstrated by Hedy Miller, appointed missionary to the deaf in Beloit, Wisconsin.

*Photo 3.* Mrs. Grace H. Ketterman, a Christian medical doctor of Kansas City, Missouri, was a featured speaker of the convention. She shared her valuable experience in a daytime workshop message entitled "Pastor and People."

*Photo 4.* These young men gave an international touch to the National Deaf Convention. They represent: Malaysia, Iran, and the Philippines. Two not present for the picture represented France and Taiwan.

*Photo 5.* Foo Wan Kee, a deaf student at Central Bible College—School for the Deaf, plays the part of "the master" in a dramatization in the language of signs, "The Parable of the Great Supper," presented by deaf students of the school and by the language of signs students of CBC.

*Photo 6.* At the deaf convention banquet, Curtis W. Ringness, national secretary of Home Missions, watches as Mrs. Rachel Gilroy of Corona, Calif., presents the first Elsie R. Peters Memorial Scholarship of \$250 to Arsenio Villaneuva of the Philippine Islands to further his education at CBC—School for the Deaf. The late Mrs. Peters was a pioneer in Assemblies of God deaf evangelism. Mrs. Gilroy is her daughter.



## FROM SUICIDE

maddened moment. Reach through the haze. Save a life that seems to be totally wrecked. Redeem it, and make it one of the greatest ministries Your Church has ever known. Amen.'

"There I was, kneeling in front of the radio with tears in my eyes and an open heart before God, asking Him to cleanse me and make me whole."

That's the story my brother told me, and believe me, every hair on my head was raised after he finished speaking. It was not long after that I got saved at the Saugre Grande Pentecostal church.

Although my brother was saved, every month he would still bring up blood from his mouth, until he was prayed for by certain pastors here in Trinidad. It is going on one year now, and he hasn't bled. He is in America now, and in the last letter he wrote to us he said that the doctors over there told him that their diagnosis is one hole be-

tween both chambers of the upper part of the heart. Now if he doesn't take an operation to patch the hole, his heart will start to fail him.

When my brother was over here, if he just only got a cold, my mother would be so worried over him because of his heart trouble. But now, hearing that he has to take a heart operation, you can picture my mother after she had finished reading that letter with tears coming down her face.

So I said to myself, the best thing is to pray and ask *Revivaltime* to pray for his healing. I firmly believe, and my mother the same, that God can heal him if we all pray, for there is a verse of Scripture in the Book of Isaiah which says, "By His stripes we are healed."

So I am sharing this burden with everyone who listens to *Revivaltime*. Please, won't you pray with me for my brother?

TRUE  
PROTESTANTISM  
WILL NOT PERMIT ANYTHING  
TO ROB CHRIST  
OF OUR WORSHIP NOR  
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HOLY SPIRIT OF HIS  
SOVEREIGNTY.



# PENTECOSTAL PROTESTANTISM

By WESLEY GILPIN

**T**HE MOST EFFECTIVE ANSWER TO RITUALISM and sacerdotalism is a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit.

When fires have burned low on the altar of Christian hearts and there has been lacking that heaven-controlled manifestation of divine power, man has sought to fill the vacuum by an excess of forms and ritualistic practices. Simplicity of worship and heaven-sent manifestations of divine power have always gone together.

One of the greatest hindrances to revival is the insistence on forms of service and ritualistic practices that leave no room for the sovereign intervention of the Holy Spirit. God waits to break through into the realm of the natural and commonplace with a demonstration of His power and presence that transcends both.

The word *Protestant* rose out of a minor incident in the Reformation struggle, when a minority of princes and free towns in Germany protested against the Diet of Speyer in 1529, rescinding by a majority a decision unanimately passed at a former meeting in 1526. The particular issue was the right of German princes to determine religious practices within their own territory. The Roman Catholic majority was determined to revoke this dangerous concession. Against them the Protestants appealed to the emperor or to a general council, taking the positive ground of religion. "We protest that in matters which concern the glory of God and the salvation of the soul of each of us, it is our bounden duty, according to God's command and for the sake of our own consciences, before all things to have respect to the Lord our God. In matters which relate to the glory of God and to the salvation of our souls, we must all stand before God and give account of ourselves."

*Protestantism means not only a mere negative opposition to the encroachments of the Papacy, but a solemn sense of the responsibility and freedom which are vital to the Christian faith.*

This is the very spirit and *raison d'être* of the Pentecostal testimony. It will be recalled that when the religious hierarchy forbade the apostles to preach or teach any more in the name of Jesus, they resorted to prayer and waiting upon God. This resulted in such a fresh showing forth of divine power that their witness was unanswerable (Acts 4). So it was with Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost. They could not resist the spirit and wisdom by which he spoke (Acts 6:10).

The Pentecostal movement is an integral part of effective Protestantism. It contends for:

1. *An emphasis on the personality of Christ.*

Church historians have said that the Reformation failed to have the enduring impact upon the Western world that it should have had. Why? Because its fanatical emphasis upon rigid forms of religious dogma left no room for the sweet and real manifestation of the living Christ. The historic Jesus was excluded by the protecting "fences" of Protestant doctrinal decrees.

In real revival men, methods, and ministry have been eclipsed by the ready and self-evident power and presence of the risen Christ. The Pentecostal Church (with its emphasis on salvation by acknowledging His Lordship, healing by contact with Him in His ascended power, and witness and ministry through the Gift of the Holy Spirit which He Himself bestows) must never exclude or replace "the Christ walking among the candlesticks."

2. *A Spirit-controlled order of service.*

There are no prearranged forms of service through

which the Holy Spirit commits Himself to work. For this reason, simplicity and sincerity are essentials to worship in which the Holy Spirit, as a sovereign Person, will be free to take of the things of God and make them known to man, and to speak as the Director of the Church and the Representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are essentials in the approach of men to God: these are reverence, godly fear, holiness of life, and a recognition that the Spirit in His sovereignty may lead one way or another in the exercises of worship. There is an equal danger in Pentecostal circles of abandoning ourselves to "bodily exercise [which] profiteth little" in our enthusiasm for liberty and our reaction against the Pharisaical practice of highly organized worship. "God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth." True Protestantism will not permit anything that would rob Him of that sovereignty.

3. *A firm faith in the indispensable ministry and intervention of the Holy Spirit today.*

Samuel Chadwick once pointed out that there is only one reference to the Holy Spirit in the Apostles' Creed. This, said he, just about represents the importance the Church attaches to His ministry.

Pentecostalism, with the place it gives to the Holy Spirit, is an essential element of true Protestantism. False fire upon the altar can take the form of ritual and formal practices that are as empty and unscriptural as they are unsatisfying to the hungry seeker after reality. The only scriptural and effective answer is ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit by men chosen by divine call, together with the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12. This, and this alone, will convince men that God is in the Church of a truth.

A real danger in the opposite direction is the idea that a revival can be "put on." Surely a study of the history of revivals reveals that the Church's duty is to prepare the way for revival by seeking to bring about an adjustment of lives, a humble confession of sin, and a righting of wrongs in the camp of believers themselves.

Further, the Church has engaged in intercessory prayer for revival—prayer that has burdened and gripped her soul until she literally "travailed in birth," until a spiritual awakening was born. Let no one be misled by any supposed ready-made pathway to revival or be beguiled by seemingly phenomenal results that have followed some high-pressure evangelistic efforts of a questionable nature. The duty of the Church remains unaltered. The Holy Spirit is still the divinely ordained means in evangelism; it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

If ever the Christian church should forget or replace the ministry of the Holy Spirit by any superficial or humanly organized media, she will fail utterly in fulfilling her mission. So it is that Pentecostals with their emphasis on the ministry of the Holy Spirit must solemnly protest anything that replaces or overshadows that blessed and divinely appointed representative of the Trinity in this age. There must be a call back to a recognition of, and a firm faith in, the agency of the Holy Spirit as the only successful means to real revival.

Thus it is the duty of the Pentecostal church to protest any excess that threatens the liberty born of and maintained by acknowledging the sovereign rule of the Holy Spirit in the Church's worship and ministry.

—Elim Evangel, London

# YOUR QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS



*I hear it said that Jesus fell beneath the cross, but I have searched and can find no record of this incident (Matthew 27: 32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26).*

Since, according to the references you give, the soldiers pressed Simon into carrying the cross, many conclude that Jesus had suffered so much during His trials and scourging that He had become faint.

*The Bible says, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). How can we do this? I have to think of making bread when I am putting the ingredients together. A salesman has to think about making change and taking care of other things. It would be hard to be praying all the time.*

Prayer without ceasing is a matter of the heart rather than of the head. The mind may have to consider many things while the heart is, oftentimes, in communion with God. It is the spirit of worship and prayer of the inner man, often spoken of as the unconscious mind, that ascends to God in the midst of daily activities. It is the "communion of the Holy Ghost" which constantly rises from the depth of a Christian's being. All of us should cultivate this inner, spiritual communion with our Heavenly Father.

*What Scripture do we have to support the idea that Christians are now sending up the material out of which their eternal mansions will be made? Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you," not that we should send Him the material.*

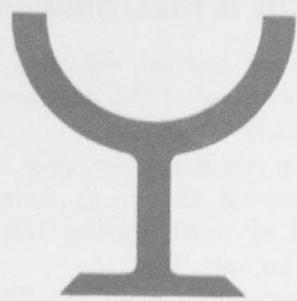
I think the idea of sending the material ahead of us is only one way of saying that God "shall reward every man according to his works" (Matthew 16:27). We are exhorted to build with "gold, silver, precious stones," rather than "wood, hay, stubble" (1 Corinthians 3:12). See also Romans 2:6, 7; Matthew 6:20.

*Jesus taught that to be Christlike we ought to love, not to hate anyone, yet the Bible says of God, "Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated" (Malachi 1:2, 3; Romans 9:13). If God is love, how can He hate?*

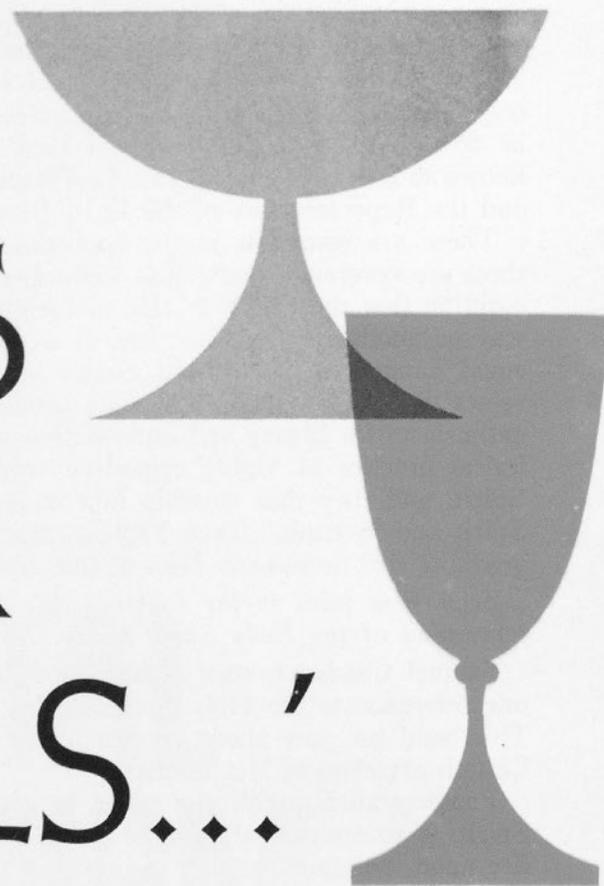
The meaning, more correctly, is, "Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I loved less." Because Jacob appreciated the birthright and blessing while Esau despised it, God made Jacob heir to the Abrahamic covenant, but Esau was not left without any blessing (Genesis 25:33, 34). For the blessing of Jacob, see Genesis 27:26-29; 28:3. Isaac's blessing to Esau is found in Genesis 27:36, 37, 39, 40.

A better understanding of the word *hate* as used in reference to Esau may be found in Luke 14:26: "If any man come unto me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children . . . he cannot be my disciple." Husbands are to love their wives, and parents their children, but they must put Christ first. Here, as in Esau's case, it is a matter of priority.

*If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible you are invited to write to "Your Questions" The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.*



# 'BRING YOUR VESSELS...'



By D. V. HURST / President, Northwest College of the Assemblies of God, Kirkland, Washington

OF ALL THE VERSES OF SONGS I RECALL from services I attended as a lad, few ring in my memory more than the Pentecostal invitation—

*Bring your empty earthen vessels,  
Clean through Jesus' precious blood,  
Come, ye needy one and all;  
And in human consecration  
Wait before the throne of God,  
Till the Holy Ghost shall fall.*

*He will fill your heart today to overflowing.  
As the Lord commandeth you,  
"Bring your vessels, not a few";  
He will fill your heart today to overflowing  
With the Holy Ghost and power.\**

The Scriptures contain many invitations to come and be filled. Isaiah said, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters . . ." (Isaiah 55:1). To the woman at the well Jesus said, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst . . ." (John 4:14). And on the great day of the feast Jesus "stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me . . . out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37, 38). It is significant that the apostle John, writing years after Pentecost with full understanding, explained that Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit as the Living Water!

So it is of the Holy Spirit believers are called to drink! He is the Living Water that fills! He is the Living Water that becomes the fountain, yea the river, from within!

Living Water does for the spiritual man what physical

water does for the natural man . . . and more—much more!

#### LIVING WATER BRINGS LIFE

Since creation the Spirit and the water have been associated in bringing life. Without water there would have been no life. The absence of water means barrenness, desert, death.

Jesus told Nicodemus he must be "born of water and of the Spirit." He made it clear that the agent of the new birth was the Holy Spirit. Without Him there can be no spiritual life. So it is not strange that to turn away from Him invites spiritual barrenness and death.

#### LIVING WATER SUSTAINS LIFE

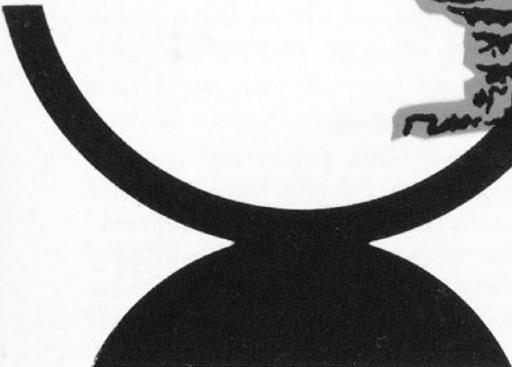
Two-thirds of the world is said to be covered with water, and there are "fountains in the deep." Seventy percent of the human body is water. The balance set between water and other physical elements in the earth and in the preservation and sustenance of life is one of the great mysteries. In Job the "balancings of the clouds" are attributed to God who is "perfect in knowledge" (Job 37:16).

Living Water is needed to sustain spiritual life, too. Jesus implied a constant, abundant supply would be needed and would be available. The believer *need never thirst again*, for his supply is from the Source within him. Having "begun in the Spirit" one must continue therein; he will be perfected in no other way. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

Today man is worried about the world running out of water. A fresh water crisis threatens! In 1962 the United States was told it had eight years before a critical period would come. Converting salt water to fresh is pushed into being a major industry.

But the Bible indicates no impending shortage of Living Water. The supply is exhaustless; its lifegiving suste-

\* By Mrs. C. H. Morris. © by Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.



the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant" (Job 14:7-9).

The Scriptures often liken believers to trees. Isaiah calls them "trees of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:3). The Psalmist said the godly man is "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

Even as the tree absorbs life-giving water from the moist bank of the river, the believer can enjoy perpetual reviving as he drinks freely of the Living Water.

**LIVING WATER SATISFIES LIFE'S THIRST**

Just as the trees and shrubs were made to absorb water, the spirit of man was made to thirst. Deep within he reaches after communion with God. The Psalmist said, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1). And again, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is" (Psalm 63:1).

The writer of Proverbs said there are four things that never say, "It is enough," and one is "the earth that is not filled with water" (Proverbs 30:16).

And so it is with man. He does not rest content until he is filled with the Living Water he was meant to receive. Something within cries, "Not enough!" He knows only restlessness and seeking, wanting and craving, emptiness and unfulfillment until he drinks to satisfaction of Living Water.

Once he has drunk, he knows nothing else will satisfy. As Jesus said, he need "never thirst again"! He knows where and how to drink. The Psalmist said, "O taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). And again, he is "satisfied with . . . goodness" (Psalm 65:4).

Blessed are they who have found the source of new life and its sustenance—who have drunk deeply of Living Water and known abundance, fullness, and satisfaction. May these people never turn toward sour and dry cisterns or wander in barren and unfruitful places. Let them bring their empty vessels once again. Let them drink and keep on drinking, be filled and keep on being filled (Ephesians 5:18). For then they will be fruitful and multiply. 

nance will not cease. Our God is a God of abundance! "The river of God . . . is full of water" (Psalm 65:9).

**LIVING WATER REVIVES LIFE**

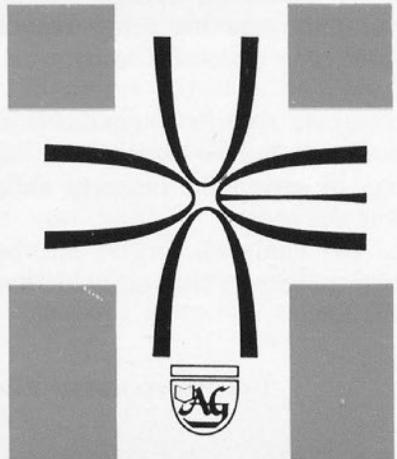
How quickly shrubs and trees that were dry and wilting revive when given water. Their foliage becomes lush and green and their fruit juicy and tasty.

The giant sequoia, hardiest of trees, even when cut to the ground can reach toward the sky again. Small burls of the tree, if placed in water, will send forth their own shoots. Job said, "There is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch will not cease. Though the roots thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; yet through

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*an empty vessel turned upward...an openness for a new infilling*

In the Council on Evangelism, sponsored by the Assemblies of God, our Fellowship will gather to search its own heart before the Word and to make new commitments to the will of God. Your presence—your voice raised in questioning, in counseling, in seeking, in commitment—will make this Council unique, for you are a vital part of this Movement. Set aside other matters. Plan now to attend.



**COUNCIL ON EVANGELISM**

**ST. LOUIS · AUGUST 26--29**

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOICE

Sunday School Lesson for June 9, 1968

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

2 SAMUEL 24:10-17

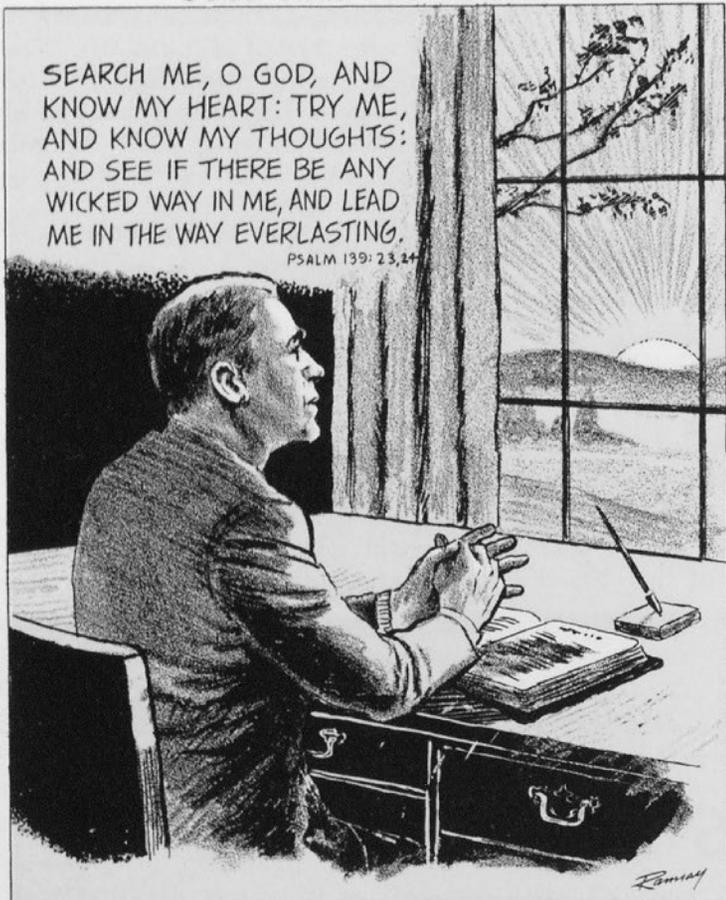
IN VIEW OF THE SUPERFICIAL AND SENTIMENTAL VIEWS currently held concerning sin and forgiveness, our lesson today is timely. We need to be reminded that "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). And we need equally as much to be reminded that although sin surely may be forgiven, its consequences may be far-reaching and irremediable!

## DAVID'S SIN (2 Samuel 24:1, 2; 1 Chronicles 21:1)

What was so wrong with taking a census of the people? Had not God commanded Moses to number Israel? (See Exodus 30:12.) Yet David sinned in numbering the people.

*Sin has to do with motives as much as with actions!* David's purpose in commanding that the men be numbered was to arrange them into an army organized with companies and divisions. Carnal pride lay at the bottom of all this. Elated over his military conquests, David evidently

### GOOD START FOR THE DAY



entertained the idea of further victories and aggressive warfare. With that in mind, he wished to determine his strength.

It would be well for us to remember that many actions, apparently harmless and even good, may become sinful if we have improper motives! Even Sunday school records, which may inspire one to soul-winning efforts when motivated by the love of Christ, may also produce carnal pride and become a false god!

## DAVID'S OBSTINACY (2 Samuel 24:3, 4)

Joab, although an unspiritual and unscrupulous man, saw the folly of David's plan and sought to deter him. Not only Joab, but the other army officers also were reluctant to carry out the king's order.

How sad when our spiritual decline is noticeable to others yet we do not detect it. David refused to listen to his officers and thus heightened his own responsibility for wrongdoing.

## DAVID'S REPENTANCE (2 Samuel 24:10)

If God's Spirit had not dealt with David and checked his intentions, David undoubtedly would have involved his nation in an aggressive war with all its attendant suffering—suffering by people whose welfare he should have considered. It is to his credit, however, that once again he proved to be a "good repentant" and was frank in confessing his sin.

*Sin and wisdom are incompatible.* "I have sinned . . . I have done very foolishly." The man of the world says, "It is foolish to be a Christian," and considers the Christian a bit "off." But the reverse is true. Sin is not merely a foolish thing; it is an *insane* thing! The truth that "the wages of sin is death" is written not only in the Bible but also in man's being and in the universe itself!

## DAVID'S PUNISHMENT (2 Samuel 24:11-17)

David was given the choice of three years of famine, three months of war, or three days of pestilence. He wisely chose to fall into the hands of God rather than into the hands of men. He knew he and his people would fare better at the hands of a merciful God than at the hands of a cruel and vindictive army. As a result of the plague, 70,000 men of Israel died.

A number of practical lessons are implied in these verses:

1. *The wrong conduct of a leader may reflect the wrong conduct of the people whose sin he shares.* "The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel" (Numbers 25:3). In what way were the people responsible? Evidently the answer is that there were many among them who shared David's pride and lust for war and conquest.

2. *The punishment of sin is well suited to the sin.* Famine, war, or pestilence—whichever David chose as punishment—would strike a blow at the thing in which David prided himself—his numerical strength and his desire for conquest. Not only was his army reduced by 70,000, but the desire of the rest of the army was effectively squelched!

3. *The consequences of sin may be irremediable.* David was freely and fully forgiven, but he experienced "a good man's hell"—the agony of seeing the innocent suffer for the sin of which he was the cause.

What a warning to us! God will forgive sin, but we may be faced with consequences of that sin which will be with us throughout this life.



# THIS PRESENT WORLD

## Religious Activities Eliminated in Red China

The testimony of 57 Australian students recently returned from a three-week tour of mainland China confirms reports that the cultural revolution has in two decades succeeded in eliminating all surface evidence of religious activities.

A foreign resident in Peking told the students that an estimated 200,000 Muslims throughout the country have been killed and that the fanatically antireligious revolution has dealt Christianity crippling blows.

With equal zeal, Chairman Mao Tse-tung is being hailed as deity and worshiped by increasing numbers of Chinese. All objects bearing the image of Mao are reportedly treated with reverence.

Michael Browne, a Hong Kong newsman, says the canonization of this latter-day Marxist "saint" has been inspired mostly by Red Guards and other "proletarian revolutionaries." Chinese young people have enshrined Mao in their hearts and taken his materialistic ideology as their highest rule of life.

Thus, says Browne, "in 20th-century world history, the spirit and bile of anti-Christ is daringly seen in a flesh-and-blood man who heads an anti-God movement already dripping with martyr blood."

## Evangelical Witness in Colombian Prison

Music lessons opened a Colombian jail to an evangelistic witness, according to *The Wesleyan Missionary*.

The evangelical pastor of Rionegro, barred from preaching to the prisoners, asked permission to give violin and guitar lessons to them. Soon he had 30 students, all learning hymns together.

As time went by, the pastor gave gospel tracts to the jail officials. Soon they agreed to allow him to give them to prisoners also. More recently Bible classes have been permitted and Sunday school is now being planned.

## Science Films Witnessing to Millions

The ministry of "Sermons from Science," so effective at Expo '67 last year and at the New York World's Fair before that, is continuing this year at HemisFair '68 in San Antonio, Texas. The award-winning films, produced by Moody Institute of Science, demonstrate that science and the Bible are compatible. They are presented both in English and in Spanish.

The films and live demonstrations, sponsored by evangelical Christian groups of many denominations, attract large crowds and witness effectively to Christ's saving power. Many are converted as a result.

*Time* magazine selected "Sermons from Science" as one of the top 10 exhibits at the New York World's Fair two years ago.

Last year nearly a million persons attended the programs at Expo '67. More than one-third of these tarried for further spiritual counseling, and many hundreds accepted the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

The Expo at Montreal is being continued in '68 highlighting the theme, "Man and His World." It is anticipated that 20 million visitors will make their way to Montreal this summer to view the exhibits and it is hoped that a large portion of these will visit the "Sermons from Science" pavilion to be confronted with the facts of the gospel.

## Americans Unhappy Even in "Good Times"

Although Americans seem to be "sittin' on top of the world" enjoying the "good life," a sense of insecurity seems to pervade U.S. society today, according to a national survey conducted by the weekly magazine *U.S. News and World Report*.

It states that war in Vietnam and anti-war demonstrations at home "have the American people on edge." There is also uneasiness about rising prices, taxes, federal spending, and especially crime.

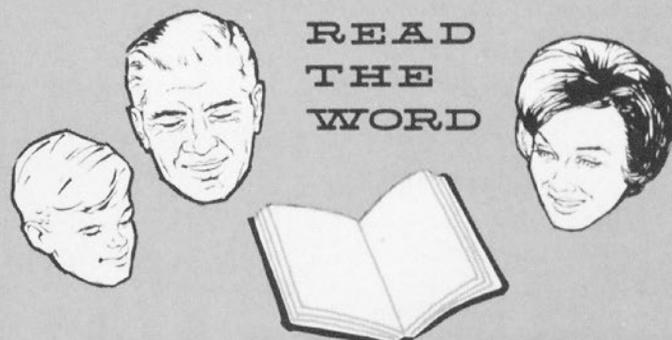
"There's a creeping illness in this country—a sort of moral suicide—a sense of worthlessness of the individual," was the view of a San Francisco rabbi.

Jesus Christ speaks to Americans today. "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:6,7).

## Radio Transmitter Has "High" Range!

The Canadian Press reports that radio station CHTK is wondering about the range of its transmitter.

A discussion on the "God is dead" theory was held on an open telephone line program. A short time later the transmitter was hit by lightning, knocking the station off the air for almost 12 hours.



### CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 2-9

Sunday .....	Isaiah 21, 22	Thursday .....	Isaiah 29, 30
Monday .....	Isaiah 23, 24	Friday .....	Isaiah 31, 32
Tuesday .....	Isaiah 25, 26	Saturday .....	Isaiah 33, 34
Wednesday ..	Isaiah 27, 28	Sunday .....	Isaiah 35, 36

"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our King; he will save us" (Isaiah 33:22).

KARL GROANED.  
"WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT THE  
RICH LANDOWNER?"

# THIS NIGHT...

A story from the Danish publication, "Korsets Evangelium," translated by ESTHER TAHMAZIAN

THEY WERE TWIN BROTHERS—practically inseparable. Where one was, the other was almost sure to be. Their home was neither rich nor poor. The family had all they needed, and there were no dark clouds.

The boys went to Sunday school together until they were about 10. Then the picture changed. Per continued to go faithfully Sunday after Sunday, but Karl would just go now and then. He found all kinds of excuses for not going. During the summer he would go fishing with his father and in winter he would go skiing. Per found it hard to go without Karl but found it even harder to stay away from church.

One Sunday night when the boys were about 15 they both went to church to hear a famous singer. Karl went out of curiosity, for he loved music. Per went because he couldn't stay away from God's house.

This night turned out to be a point of separation for the twins. It was a solemn service. There was mighty conviction when the altar call was given. Karl felt it, but he shook his head when the evangelist asked him to give his heart to the Lord.

It was different with Per. His heart was ready. It wasn't necessary to urge him. He was gloriously saved that night. Per later went to Bible school, became a missionary, and was away from home for many years.

Karl continued his education. He went into business and everything he did seemed to prosper. He married and had several children. He had all his heart could wish for. The conviction he had felt in his youth was forgotten.

Per came home one day. Karl took him out and showed him all his possessions. He looked triumphant and condescending as he placed himself in front of his brother. He thrust out his hands and said, "With my own hands and head have I obtained all this."

Per thought it sounded like blasphemy. He felt a twinge of concern over his brother's boasting attitude. But Karl stood there laughing, waiting for an answer.

Per looked up at his brother and said quietly, "Don't forget the fate of the rich landowner."

Karl laughed again and said, "Are you bringing up that Sunday school talk?"

Per didn't feel like discussing it further. He stood back as his brother got into his fine car.

"I'm busy," said Karl; "be seeing you." Karl had a long way to go and was planning to drive all night.

Per watched his brother drive off. A strange, sickening feeling came over him—a heavy, depressed feeling.

Per slept in his parents' home. About midnight the phone rang. Karl was in a serious accident and was in the hospital.

Per awoke his parents and Karl's wife, and they hurried to the hospital. When they entered, the physician told them, "Only one of you can go in to see him."

"Why don't you go, Per?" said Karl's wife.

Per followed the physician. When they were alone, the doctor said, "There is no hope. He is hopelessly burned, but he is still alive and at times he is conscious."

Per approached the bed. He was aware of an awful odor. All he could see was a mass of bandages and two black spots where the eyes were. Karl moaned occasionally.

Per bent down and whispered, "Karl, this is your brother Per. Can you hear me?"

At first there was no answer, but then suddenly a groan and Karl asked, "What was that about the rich landowner?"

At first Per didn't want to answer. He was searching for a more comforting word. But he could see those two black eyes staring at him, waiting.

"God said to him, 'This night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?'"

Everything was quiet. Then Karl finally said, "Per, you made the right choice."

Per looked down on his brother who was groaning with pain. He bent down low, close to his twin brother and whispered over and over, "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

He received no answer. His brother's groaning became weaker and weaker. Finally all was quiet.

At that moment the church bell struck.

"This night..." whispered Per as he fell on his knees at his brother's bedside.