

Nuggets FOR THE *Needy*



*A Collection Of Spiritual
Encouragements For The
Hungry Christian*

MAVIS M. duCILLE

Nuggets

FOR THE

Needy

Mavis M. duCille

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Mavis M. duCille

Foreword

The Lord loves everyone, but delights in some. When we forsake the things that are contrary to God and righteousness, and follow Jesus Christ, who is our salvation, then we can experience the joy of full salvation.

After the Lord pardons us through His blood, there is much that is contrary to God which still remains in our souls. He deals with us in many different ways, but always in love. To purify, cleanse and conform our soul nature into Christ-likeness, He gives us the Holy Ghost. This divine operation is sometimes not joyous, but when we submit to the Lord, it always produces righteousness, peace, and joy

Over the years, the Lord has given me "nuggets" - truths and experiences that were great blessings. Many times what He has given provided much needed encouragement, or cast greater light on a situation or trial. May God bless and comfort you as you read what God has shared with this servant, as we press on in Him.

Mavis M. duCille

All scripture references are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible; paraphrase and capitals sometimes mine.

Introduction

Nuggets for the Needy is a collection of spiritual thoughts given to Mavis duCille over the years during times of meditation, prayer and seeking God in special times of need. They were first published in the *Omega Message* magazine, and by request of friends are now being made available in one bound volume, for the blessing to the body of Christ. It is an easy book to read and will delight, excite and challenge the reader. The writer is a well-rooted and grounded Christian with much experience in the gospel and in the dealings of the Lord.

For over four decades, we have ministered together, and have seen the mighty works of God in many different lands and among many different peoples: Jamaica, Africa, India, Europe, and here in the United States. As we travel through all these lands, preaching the Word of God, we encounter all kinds of opposing men and spirits. The tribulations and trials of these journeys are the fires which have honed the human spirit to overcome. Thus these writings are the product of much trial and experience in the Lord, and are now being shared with the prayer that as we have been uplifted, guided and sustained in every way, that these blessings will be multiplied to His Body

The purpose of this book, therefore, is to glorify God. May the Spirit of God richly bless you as you read, and give you the courage and fortitude to be an overcomer.

Cecil duCille

Nugget 1

Redeem the Time

April 1981

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:16.

Over the years the Lord, from time to time, drops little nuggets into my heart, which are always of great blessing as I press on in Him. Many times they throw greater light on a subject, and sometimes are just words of encouragement.

We are aware that the word of God has dimensions: Ephesians 3:18 speaks of the *"breadth and length, and depth, and height."*

The Lord spoke to my heart on *"redeeming the time"* found in Ephesians 5:16, not at all in the same sense I once understood it, but from the standpoint of reclaiming that which we have lost through decadence of the age – *"because the days are evil."*

God is calling a people who will not conform to the decay of the age and the falling away from righteousness, but will take another look at the PLUMBLINE and fall in line with Him instead of with the world style.

There is a current of passivity, laxity and sheer ennui sweeping through the halls of Christianity in this hour, which will engulf all those whose eyes are not fixed on the righteousness which Jesus established in HIS CHURCH.

"The kingdom of God is... RIGHTEOUSNESS, and PEACE, AND JOY in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17.

The world has invaded Christendom, thus the striking evidence of spiritual pollution: deceived with empty words.

May God help us to redeem the time, restoring true holiness and righteousness in our whole life. Notwithstanding the fact that there is a price to pay, God has given us grace in abundance.

The exhortation of the whole chapter is that we be imitators of Christ as beloved children: walk in love as Christ loved us, turn from immorality, impurity, etc. *"No... man... who is an idolater hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."* Ephesians 5:5.

Let us walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all those who are good and right and true. Light makes everything visible. Praise God!

In every age, God has raised up those who will hear and obey Him, thus redeeming their time. There was Noah in his time, Enoch in his, Elijah and Elisha, John the Baptist, and then Jesus came. He paid the supreme price - made such a restoration, bringing redemption - this second Adam. He had perfect command over the fish of the sea, trees of the field, sickness and diseases, and established a generation - the 42nd generation (Matthew 1:17) - making us sons of God, begotten by Jesus Christ, bringing man into union with Himself and the Father. See John 14:23, 17:21, James 1:18.

Let us, therefore, look carefully how we walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, REDEEMING THE TIME. Be not caught in the evil of our day, but draw from the Spirit that nature of God, seeking to know the will of the Father. Then out of our hearts and lives will flow the richest blessings to others. "Thou canst not then be false to any man" (Shakespeare).

The greatest weapon Satan uses against God's people is division.

We praise God, that as we submit to the working of the Spirit with us, our corruptible nature is being changed from death to life. Finally we will emerge in His likeness, that when He appears we shall be like Him.

Nugget 2

God's Dealings

June 1981

The Lord deals with us in so many different ways, yet we know for sure He always deals in love. Yes, He loves everybody, though He delights in some. Praise the Lord, the Joy of Salvation can never be experienced unless and until we forsake the things that are contrary to God and righteousness, and follow after Jesus Christ who is our Salvation. After He has pardoned us through His blood, there remains much of that contrary nature in our souls. He gives us the Holy Ghost: that purifying, cleansing portion to bring that carnal soul nature into Christ-likeness. This operation, sometimes, is not joyous, but yields righteousness, peace and joy.

In these writings I hope to share some of the experiences of God's dealings in my own life which are Nuggets.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING: Looking back a little, I can remember one day the Lord telling me to make a certain gift to someone. I realized that I had very little, but wanted to obey the Lord, so I did as He told me. In a few days, I stood in dire need of the very thing I gave. Doubt crept in with all its ugly thoughts, but the Lord intervened by saying, "This is the sacrifice of giving: the greater the sacrifice in giving, the more precious the gift." To give of your abundance is not doing much, but when giving hurts, it touches God. "I" was in the way so much that I almost lost my blessing.

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES: Let me share another experience with you. Someone had hurt us very badly by slander. Of course, I went to God weeping my heart out. The Lord said to me, so clearly, "Oh, you are so sorry for yourself, that you are not able to see the condition of that poor man. He must be in an awful state to cause him to do such a terrible thing to you." What I saw then was a poor hu-

man being taken captive by demons, and manifesting the evil nature of the demons. Surely the man we knew and loved as a Holy Spirit baptized Christian was definitely a different person from the satanic manifestation which came against us. When "I," "ME" and "MY" were out of the way, my eyes were opened and I began to see from the Mind of Christ. Then and only then I could pray for him.

There I saw myself again; self-pity blinded my eyes so that I could not see the man's great need. Whenever a person is spiritually bankrupt, God will always use another to pray and activate God's forces of deliverance. On the other hand, the enemy will do anything to prevent this intercession. Satan very often causes the person in need of prayers to strike at the person who should pray for him/her. If this praying Christian can see beyond self-pity and his own pain through God's eyes of compassion, then his/her suffering will be nothing compared to the deliverance of the soul in bondage.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him," 2 Timothy 2:12. No one can pray for his enemies unless he/she can see "the enemy" from the perspective of God. That day, as soon as my self-pity was rebuked by the Lord, my eyes were opened, and I could see the awful plight of another human being who needed deliverance.

Dear ones, we must always be watching for the big "I," "ME" and "MY" which rise up like mountains, always present to block our vision and cloud our minds from seeing and understanding the needs of those around us.

May the Lord help us to prefer one another as brethren, and have compassion on all those who are taken captive by the enemy. We are all in battle against one common foe over whom Jesus Christ has had the victory once and for all, and has lifted us up together with Him so that we too might overcome.

Oh, what a glorious day when the prince of this world will find nothing in us, because we continue to cast him out through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah.

*"Fight the good fight with all thy might
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy light.*

*Lay hold on life and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.
Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thy eyes and seek His face.
Life with its ways before us lie,
Christ is thy truth and Christ thy guide.
Faint not nor fear; His arms are near.
He changes not for thou art dear.
Only believe and thou shalt prove
That Christ is all in all to thee."*

Nugget 3

The Lie and the Liar

August 1987

The Lord has been speaking to me for awhile from Isaiah 7:15 and 22. *"Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good."* Verse 22, *"for butter and honey shall everyone eat that is left in the land."*

Ever since I first heard these words, I have been pondering them. The Lord has been faithfully bringing more and more light to my understanding.

When we read the story of the Eden incident, it becomes clearer and clearer that this serpent still carries an organized opposition to God's divine government. One of his most ingenious devices is to persuade mankind that he does not exist. His progressive rage and devastating activity, as also, thank God, his mistakes in trying to misrepresent God to man, should be enough to convince us of his existence. We should not forget that he is ever ambitious to aspire to the throne of God - man's heart.

Let us examine his presentation to Eve.

The tree was good for food (to satisfy the carnal man)

Delight to the eyes (charming the desires working in the soul)

A tree to make one wise (ambition to be as God - seeking light or wisdom without LIFE)

THE BIG LIE: YOU SHALL NOT DIE. SPIRITUAL DEATH IS DEATH.

If we compare this with the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, we will notice the same order.

"Command this stone that it be made bread" (satisfy this carnal, physical man)

Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world, saying they were given to him (Satan). (How could he forget that Jesus

knew that he beguiled Eve, and cheated them of their possession and position?) Satan wanted to stop Jesus from dealing with the sin question, and establishing righteousness in the earth, once and for all. Satan said to Jesus, *"If thou wilt worship me, all shall be thine."* A liar indeed, and the father of lies; from him comes the seed of lying and deception.

"Cast thyself down." It is one thing to exercise power and authority, but another to obey God. We cannot tempt God. Make sure who gives the order, and who will get the Glory.

Here Satan met his Waterloo. He came upon the Divine Nature, and was completely devastated by the magnitude of the power of the authority of Christ, which brought to light the fact that...

Man's life and existence is not bound to the provision of this earth, but will be someday altogether, by Divine Support.

Satan's place is behind Jesus, since God has preeminence, and He alone must be worshipped and served.

It is already written that you must not tempt the Lord your God. He had a commission from the Father and nothing could distract Him.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, was eating of the tree of life; therefore, evil had no power over Him. The difference with Adam is that he did not take the advantage of the tree of Life before the Devil took advantage of Eve (the weakness of Adam). Adam's doom was knowing good and evil without the power or the knowledge to handle evil.

Thank God, however, for the SECOND ADAM, who to the fight and to the rescue came. Jesus actually instituted for us that source of milk production, that everyone who comes into this abundance of milk might also eat butter and honey, that they might know to choose the good and refuse evil. This process is our growing into the Divine Nature, which we must progressively experience.

Let us not play with Satan and be ignorant of his subtle devices. He tried to show Eve how God wanted to keep them ignorant, not to be as wise as He, God, is - he did not tell her that God could handle the evil and keep it where it belonged. Her heart went after this knowledge; they got it, but could not handle it.

With the passage of time (thousands of years), Satan's intentions have not changed. He is much wiser and more subtle now (accumulating thousands of years of experience). He still tries to deceive and destroy; he is still a liar and the father of lies; he might not use the same words that he used to Eve and to Jesus, but in these days he is saying things like, "Jesus is not coming back," "Jesus died to save the whole world, and we are a part, don't worry," "We are all sinners, and you cannot help it," "Jesus forgives sins, so do whatever you feel like doing, and pray afterwards," "You don't need anyone to teach you, you have the Holy Ghost." Those who follow these words rebel against God's Divine Order for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. These and numerous other unscriptural words and deeds written on life's pages, that can be seen and read every day (if the eye is single and we have the mind of Christ), are subtly designed to cheat people out of the privilege of growing into the divine nature, which is the only weapon against the wiles of the devil. (Eating the tree of life)

God expects us to walk with Him (no independence, totally dependent) so closely that we express His full purpose. In this way, we will obtain power and authority with Christ, that the prince of this world, (who is under judgment), might find nothing in us to manipulate. We need to be less identified with the sinful world, which leads to evil and destruction (perversion of heart and mind, even to the extent where God's truth is twisted to be a lie).

Oh, what a glorious day, when our mind, emotions, desires and will come under the complete authority of the Spirit, completely obedient to the will of the Father as Jesus (the man who walked the streets of Galilee) was to His Father. He warred a clean warfare, according to the will and pleasure of the Father, defeated Satan, put him under foot, and lifted us up together with Himself in heavenly places. By this means, we, too, by the effectual working of the Spirit within us, will also put Satan under foot, as we keep on resisting and rejecting him, until he finds nothing in us.

BUTTER AND HONEY SHALL WE ALL EAT THAT WE
MAY LEARN TO CHOOSE GOOD AND REFUSE EVIL.
Praise the Lord, and Amen.

Nugget 4

Our Home and Environs

October 1987

One of the greatest needs in the world today is proper home life, in particular, and good human relations, in general.

Life, on a whole, (which comes from God), is taken so lightly (from conception to termination) that regard and respect are no longer qualities associated with man dealing with man.

Of course, it begins in the home (good or evil), then affects the population as a whole. No wonder the enemy seems so relentless in his effort to destroy homes by instilling conflict and rebellion in the hearts and lives of both parents and children. The destroyer is busy in the homes of both Christians and non-Christians in his effort to devour the people.

Parents, your home is your sanctuary; guard it, in the fear of the Lord and the power of His Spirit. Give no place to the devil.

Let us look at the Word of God's command pertaining to the home and environment. Ephesians 5 gives us quite a bit to chew on.

Marriage is a unique relationship of husband and wife, which serves as a picture of God's relationship with His people (Genesis 2:23-24), and Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-26). This shows the order of the home established by God.

HUSBANDS: "*Husbands, love your wives*" - a wonderful opportunity, as well as a solemn obligation, which shows in a small degree God's righteous love, care and dedication to the church. NO MAN HAS A RIGHT TO MAKE A SLAVE OF HIS WIFE, since each is dependent upon the other. Both have different functions, therefore, each serves the other. Woman is

complement to man, thus one is incomplete without the other. It takes both working together in harmony to produce that perfect union that will be the richest blessings of that home. So many times, instead of a rule and authority in love, there is harsh dictatorial rule by the husband, disregarding totally the responsibility, calling and talents of the other member of the union. Undoubtedly, there is that place of responsibility for the wife and mother to complete that oneness, which is the basis for a well-fortified home. A dictator disarms himself of the provision provided in the union as a check and balance, if his wife is obedient to the Spirit of God. Love is living goodwill that wants to penetrate, fill and bless the other with itself. Love is more giving than taking.

WIVES: There is absolutely no doubt that the wife is a very important part of the function. It is very clear in the Word, that an unruly, self-willed, and obdurate wife is a hindrance, rather than a blessing to a man. The Word also makes clear the qualities that adorn a good wife. She should be gracious, virtuous, wise, prudent, and one that has the fear of the Lord.

"Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31:10.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22.

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30.

God's words are true and everlasting. They are our very life. We must recognize and obey the Word. Modern trends have worked havoc in the lives of many, who in search of reality and justice, embrace the rebellion of the age, instead of seeking the old path of love, respect, honour and reverence. Wives professing godliness must be sober, love their husbands and their children (Titus 2:4-5), be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.

If you are unequally yoked, seek God. He takes care of all our problems. Let us show forth Christ-likeness under all circumstances. There is always an answer to our problems. The reason we fail to find it, many times, is that we are busily

applying our own methods, or the methods of some of our friends.

May God take rebellion from our hearts and homes, and establish us in true holiness and righteousness, for the day of the Lord is at hand.

PARENTS: A most honorable position - children truly are a gift from God. It is incumbent upon parents to teach, train, provide for, nurture, control, love, correct, instruct, and above all, set good examples for their children.

The sin of the father will visit the third and fourth generation of them that hate God, or rather of them that are disobedient to God, but those who obey God give their children a chance to be delivered from these familiar spirits that go from one generation to another.

Parents who leave the training of their children completely to the sitter, school or elsewhere, are shirking their responsibility before God, and are accountable for the souls they have brought into this world.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) - and if he departs, he will not wander far. Remember, too, discipline begins PRENATALLY.

Never give up on your children; if they seem to be getting away from that path of righteousness, keep on praying and believing. Your prayers could be their only hope of deliverance.

BELIEVE GOD. HE CANNOT FAIL.

CHILDREN: Your parents have given you life; love, honor, and obey them. Show me a boy or girl who is disobedient and rebellious, and you know that one is under the power of the devil and will be destroyed if he/she is not delivered from this terrible vice.

It is said that disobedience to parents will be one of the plagues of the end time. See 2nd Timothy 3:2. Corrupt and destroy the children of today, and you are faced with a world of terror tomorrow. But may the God of peace break the power of this evil, and deliver the children. We see many an evil of yesterday coming to roost at this time.

Children, no matter how small, can show forth the love

of God in their everyday lives. This can be very beautiful; they are fresh and innocent - jewels of God's love and grace.

Children radiate the spirit of love and kindness, or hate and arrogance, depending on their environment, home and school especially.

We can all see the battle in the homes, created by the enemy, but who suffers most? The children do, of course. Beloved, the effort on our part to maintain love, joy, and peace in our homes is a precious labor to enrich the lives of our children. They are part of the Kingdom of God. Bring them to Jesus no matter how young. He will keep them in His love.

Nugget 5

Spiritual Enlightenment

December 1981

Some weeks ago I had a dream. There was a meeting in a very large hall. I could not see the preacher, but the message was on the absolute and urgent necessity of sanctification, dealing specifically with the cleansing of the inner man - the way we feel and deal about people and matters; at home, husbands to wives, children to parents, parents to children; honor and respect for our elders, not just elders ordained of God for care of the church, but older people; our downright honesty before God, His people and the world at large. (This was the end of the dream).

We are living in a time of total disrespect and disregard for honest, decent living, but God's people are called upon to redeem the time with love and purity - VIRTUE. Be of a sound mind.

"The loss of gold is much, the loss of time is more, but the loss of character is such a loss that no man can restore." (Unknown).

As I came out of this dream, I heard the words spoken so clearly, "SEE THAT YOU ARE NOT CAUGHT in the alley of fools."

I totally forgot the experience until I sat in a meeting in Dallas about two weeks later, when a brother read from 2nd Peter 3:16.

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

As he read the word "understood," I was enlightened. I saw the parable of the sower. Understanding, where God is concerned, is not mere comprehension, but Spiritual Enlight-

enment.

I can say I received understanding or spiritual enlightenment right then, and I understood Matthew 13. The sower went to sow, and as he scattered his seeds, they fell on different soils, which really represent the hearts of men. The difference, therefore, between the different groups of people is UNDERSTANDING.

I started looking into the word "understand," and discovered that it was a vital ingredient in all spiritual operations of God. Let us look at some examples from scripture.

"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment." 1st Chronicles 12:32.

"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28.

"The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens." Proverbs 3:19.

"Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Proverbs 4:5, 7.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:10.

"Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly." Proverbs 16:22.

"And I will give you shepherds according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15.

"Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." 1st Corinthians 14:19-20.

"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." 1st John 5:20.

In Matthew 13:19, the separation between the good soil and the stony, or any of the others, was UNDERSTANDING.

"When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."

Let us list the main points in this parable.

The wicked one taking away the seed, or Word planted, because of much worldliness.

Tribulation and persecution because the Word caused offense, which is the result of the Word not having been allowed to take root in the heart.

Cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches - money, money, money - choked the Word of God's dealing with the individual, resulting in fruitlessness.

But in verse 23 they brought forth fruit 30, 60, 100-fold.
HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING PRODUCED.

Let us look for a minute at Daniel 11:32-33.

"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days."

Also, Daniel 12:10:

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." There are a few words in these scriptures that stand out.

KNOW - Not just a mere knowledge of God that He is good and exists somewhere, but rather have such a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, who through His divine power has given us ALL things that pertain to life, and Godliness, because we are called to glory and virtue. See 2nd Peter 1:3. As we escape the corruption which is in the world through lust, we become partakers of the divine nature. See 2nd Peter 1:4. We are being birthed into Christ, of God.

UNDERSTAND - Enlightened of God. They that are enlightened of God will instruct many in the time of the end.

WISE - This seems to be linked with understanding.

WICKED - This is linked with the foolish and those without understanding.

PURIFIED - Cleansed of worldliness, and all things that are contrary to righteousness, that there be no place found in us for the devil and evil. Michael and his angels fought the dragon, and there was no place found for him in heaven, for he was cast out. See Revelation 12:7-10.

Now we look at Matthew 25:1-13, and see the parable of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish. It would seem as if WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING and KNOWLEDGE have a peculiar link. In verse 12, the bridegroom says, "*I know you not*" - you have not allowed me to permeate your being that you could be rid of the carnal nature and be transformed into the divine nature.

May the Lord help us, that in all our getting, we might get understanding, and be not caught in the alley of the foolish.

Nugget 6

Deception

February 1982

THE ARCH DECEIVER: In Genesis 3, we read of the account of the fall of man. In this story, the serpent is the symbol of deception. It is not, therefore, strange, that in the last book of the Bible, the drama of his last act of deception is prophesied in Revelation 12:9,14-15.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And to the woman were given the two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood."

Deception can be total or partial. Total deception is that which leaves the deceived oblivious of his or her true condition, and deprives him or her of the ability to repent, because he is not able to see his fault. Partial deception allows its victims to walk in it for awhile, but it leaves space for them to see their fault and right themselves.

Even as God goes from victory to victory with the church, so Satan goes from strength to strength with evil devices and cunning artful craftiness. He is hostile to God, and does everything in his power to overthrow the purposes of God. Satan is building a kingdom, thus we read in Revelation 2:9 and 3:9 of the "synagogue of Satan."

The Bible uses many words and phrases to describe this father of deception: serpent, dragon, deceiver, destroyer, opposer, adversary and beguiler.

Eve did not of her own free will step into sin, but when we speak of the "Fall," we are speaking of a condition where

deception overcame the human race. *"And the Lord God said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."* Genesis 3:13.

After the fact, Eve knew she was beguiled. The effects of the initial deception were lasting, and even though her whole nature was changed by the one act of disobedience, she knew she was taken; thus her deception was partial and not total.

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." 2nd Corinthians 11:3.

Paul was making a desperate appeal to the saints, reminding them of how Eve was robbed, cheated and beguiled by the cunning craftiness of the serpent; that we guard our minds from being corrupted or seduced from wholehearted, sincere and pure devotion to Christ. The area of the mind is the chief battleground. Our minds are being bombarded from every quarter. The dictionary definition of deceived is "Lead astray, i.e. (mentally) or be deceived greatly or totally, or allow anyone or anything to cause us to roam from safety, or truth, and virtue and be out of the way."

Deception goes further than even the intellect; it attacks the soul with a mesmerizing effect. The story of Genesis gives the hidden understanding, that after she was beguiled mentally, she could not help herself, but was forced by the mere spiritual power of Satan to eat the fruit.

She was overpowered spiritually.

"...and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15.

The power of deception in the last days will be so great that Jesus described it thus:

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:24.

This statement is far reaching. First of all, it says that there are some of us who will not be deceived. These are the Elect who represent the hard core of all Christians. The secondary meaning is that some Christians will be deceived. I have no doubt that is the case. There is the possibility that people can be in the church, partake of all the blessings, saved

and baptized in the Holy Ghost, then be deceived and fall back. If deception has not marred the inner man, then these will repent and be restored.

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2nd Timothy 3:13.

Deception is not an isolated incident, neither is it only confined to the church, but is universally prevalent in all nations, in every stratum of society in this world.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Ephesians 4:14.

The escape from deception is in the maturity of the believer. Those who dwell in God's divine order, and hear the Word of truth for this hour, and walk in it, will no more be children living under the threat of deception.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." 2nd John 7.

The term "is come" in the Greek is the participle "coming," which conveys the meaning of the Coming of Jesus Christ in His Body. No matter what we do or where we are, the presence and power of Jesus Christ must be seen in our lives. This verse suggests not just the possession of salvation, but the GROWING FULLNESS OF CHRIST in the believer's life. Deceivers, therefore, can say with their lips that Jesus is come in the flesh, but cannot live it.

God requires us to walk and talk holiness and cleanliness. No immorality, impurity or greed is permissible. Many are deceived by intellectual pursuit.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8.

There are many who are preaching the Deity of God, and elementary world principles, who slip off into a lot of high-faluting intellectualism, which obscures the preeminence of Christ. There is a vast difference between revelation and prophecy and also between worldly wisdom and intellect.

Deception is the oldest and most successful weapon of

Satan. After his success with Eve, the scripture records this weapon being used again and again with devastating effect, and to this day the weapon of deception is still going strong, chiefly because most people are so deceived, that they do not know they are deceived.

Satan moved David to number the people. See 1st Chronicles 21:1,14. It cost the lives of over 70,000 of his subjects.

Samson was deceived by Delilah. See Judges 16:17-18. It cost him his life.

Joshua was deceived by the Gibeonites. See Joshua 9:9-15. He failed to ask of the Lord, and thus disobeyed God through deception.

Saul was deceived, because of his lust and greed. See 1st Samuel 15:22-23. As a consequence, he was degraded to seek the advice of a witch, and then died a suicide.

Elymas, the sorcerer, who for a long time deceived Sergius Paulus, was struck with blindness at the word of the Lord from Paul, even as it set Sergius Paulus free. See Acts 13:6-12.

PURPOSE OR RESULT OF DECEPTION: There are three main purposes in Satan's plan of deception.

To alienate man from God

To gain control of mankind

To show himself as God and to be worshipped as God

THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR ADVOCATE: God gives power to overcome all the deceptive plans of Satan, because the Holy Spirit is our advocate. Here are some rules to follow:

Live and walk circumspectly

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Guard against any spirit that is consistently engaged in activities against the best interest of man's growing and developing into the Christ nature.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

This conflict is both relentless and cunning. Evil is not always obvious as evil.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And do not marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great

thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2nd Corinthians 11:13-15.

Deception is inside the religious circle. The mention of false Christs and false prophets bears this out clearly. It is with cunning craftiness that the deception is being effected. This, in itself, leads to much suspicion among brethren, but remember that God expects us to know each other BY THE SPIRIT.

There was a time when the idea of deceiving the "very elect" could not be fully understood, but today with the church flooded with false doctrines, preaching and beliefs of all sorts, one can see the spirit of deception at work, endeavoring to corrupt and captivate the mind.

Deception is associated with "the man of sin," the antichrist, the serpent, the lawless one, son of perdition, the evil one, the spoiler. The development of all this evil shall manifest its true character not only in deceiving professing Christians, and persecuting true believers, but in producing the antichrist in person as its object of worship.

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2nd Thessalonians 2:4.

We are in the last days. Evil is accelerating. Many are being and shall be deceived because of not being rooted and grounded in Christ Jesus, but are carried away by every wind of doctrine. This is the time of the false Christs and false prophets. This forces us to ask how shall it be impossible to deceive the Elect? When one is grounded in Christ, then that one knows what it means to be led of the Spirit, as also to know the spirit in which others operate (discernment).

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1st John 4:1.

The Spirit of Christ fosters the cause of building up and edifying, but the spirit of the antichrist destroys, disrupts, separates and opposes the work of God in the hearts and lives of individuals.

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel

possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." Acts 16:16-18

She told the truth about Paul's ministry, but it was Paul's discernment which saw the spirit of divination and deception behind the prophecy.

Even as Satan appeared among the sons of God in Job, there is always the presence of the opposing spirit in the midst of God's awakening, to try to squelch the bringing forth of God's purpose in man.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter said, "*Let us make here three tabernacles.*" Matthew 17:4

The deceiver usually tries to find something to use as a tool to disrupt and confuse, in order to derive God's people of their blessing. In doing this, he will use a doctrine, a revelation or anything else we allow him to use. Therefore, mark the spirit with which you receive the ministry, as well as the deliverance or edification it brings, and do not allow the evil one to rob your blessing.

CONCLUSION: I trust that by now the fact has been established that deception does not carry a placard or blow a loud horn, but it is very, very subtle and divisive. It is, therefore, by absolute obedience and total submission to the Spirit, that the people of God can rise above and foil this artful, subtle serpent of a character. He caused Eve to believe his "ye shalt not surely die," when the moment she obeyed him, death entered. And death reigned from Adam to Moses, when the first sign of man's redemption was given by the BLOOD UPON THE DOOR. HALLELUJAH TO THE LAMB!

This CONQUERING LAMB - The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, who has overcome sin and death, has opened the way, bringing forth many sons who, through the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit, can and will discern between good and evil, choosing the good and refusing the evil.

THANK GOD, THEY WILL NEVER BE DECEIVED.

Nugget 7

Life or Death in the Heart

April 1982

Some weeks ago, the Lord spoke to my heart, that there is life or death in the heart - spiritual or physical life, as well as spiritual or physical death. It was made very clear that spiritual health produces physical health. This is the reason the Lord calls us to overcoming, from victory to victory, until that last enemy (death) be also put under foot.

THE HEART: The natural heart is the center or seat of the physical being. Even so, the spiritual heart is the center of the spiritual being. The heart performs a very important function in the human system, involving the blood, which is the life of the flesh. One can easily use the "heart" in reference to the entire mental and moral activity, involving intellect and emotion. Figuratively, it can be considered as a well-spring of life. The heart, therefore, can be either depraved by sin, which defiles the man, thus causing corrupt actions (Matthew 15:19), or can be the sphere of Divine influence (Romans 2:15 and Acts 15:9).

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Matthew 15:19.

"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." Romans 2:15.

"And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:9.

The heart contains the real man - his true character - expressed or unexpressed. It is really the expression of the soul.

A hard or stony heart does not submit to the will of God. The heart must be guarded.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of

life." Proverbs 4:23.

The pure in heart shall see God. Yes, there is a difference between the clean heart and the pure heart. The clean heart is one that has repented and is forgiven. A pure heart is one that has been purified by the indwelling and operation of Christ, through faith, which enables one to comprehend the love of God.

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
Matthew 5:8.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love..." Ephesians 3:17.

The Word of God, when hidden in the center of the heart, will be life, healing and health.

"Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Proverbs 4: 21-22.

The characteristics of the impure heart are:

Stubbornness: *"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."* Ecclesiastes 8:11.

Madness: *"This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead."* Ecclesiastes 9:3

Depravity: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* Jeremiah 17:9.

Wicked thoughts (producing dangerous and destructive wickedness): *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness."* Mark 7:21-22.

Sexual immorality, other forms of uncleanness, sorcery.

Stealing.

Adultery.

Murder (not only actual physical murder, but hate).

Coveting (greedy desire to have more wealth).

Deceit.

Unrestrained (indecent) conduct.

An evil eye (envy).

Slander (speaking evil, malicious misrepresentation, abusiveness).

Pride (sin of an uplifted heart against God and man).

Foolishness (Lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness).

The characteristics of the PURE HEART are found in Galatians 5:22-23.

Love (God's love).

Joy (gladness).

Peace.

Longsuffering or patience (which is an even temper, forbearance).

Gentleness.

Goodness or benevolence.

Faithfulness.

Meekness or humility.

Temperance or self-control.

"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things." Matthew 12:35a.

The secrets of every heart are known to God. He perceives every thought, He knows the intent of the heart, and this knowledge is reserved unto God alone. The devil does not have this power and authority.

A tree is identified by its fruit. No good, healthy tree bears decayed, worthless, stale fruit, nor can a decayed, worthless tree produce good fruit.

In the same manner the upright and honorable person, out of the storehouse of his heart produces upright and honorable deeds.

In Genesis 6:5, we see God looking down into the hearts of that generation. He beheld the magnitude of wickedness in the earth, *"that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* God saw hearts full of depravity, desecration, lust for power, degenerate, base, violently vicious, and corrupt humanity departed and departing from God's established principles of life. Men preferred evil to good, and had set their hearts to do evil. The implication here is that they were creating a society, where good would be exterminated; one in which the greatest sin against society would be

to be good. The redeeming factor is that Noah's heart was right before the Lord (verse 8), thus God saved him and his family. The principle is that *"righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."* Proverbs 14:34.

INTEGRITY OF THE HEART: God places a certain integrity in man's heart, which he can cultivate or destroy - he has the choice. This is the reason parents are encouraged to help their children develop a good character, or integrity, by resisting the evil or wrong suggestions that visit their young hearts (possibly from familiar weaknesses - familiar spirits). The sin of the father shall visit the third and fourth generation of them that hate (disobey) God. See Exodus 20:5. Those of us who are delivered from disobedience, through the blood of Jesus Christ and the grace of God, are able to break the power of sin and bondage, not only for themselves, but for their household. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."* Acts 16:31.

We have the responsibility to teach the children the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, at an early age. They should realize that there is a punishment for evil (disobedience, etc). This helps to give the incentive to resist the evil and do the good.

In order to partake of the tree of life, we must resist the devil, refuse evil and choose good. Lack of integrity of heart puts a very low premium on the most valuable things in life. Example: Esau sold his birthright for food (that which satisfied the flesh); Judas, for thirty pieces of silver, his bishopric was taken away; we could go on and on with examples. Who knows how many from day to day are making the same choice and selling out for NOTHING, or on the other hand selling out for THE PEARL OF GREATEST PRICE.

"FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2.

Let us lay hold of this Law of Life, and let us plant it in the center of our hearts, that we may be established in Him.

Nugget 8

Health, Healing and Happiness

June 1982

The Living reality of the above words speak of Christ and the atonement.

Recently, the Lord has been bringing to my attention the fact of how much we fall short of taking hold of and appropriating the fullness of the ATONEMENT. We lack because we ask not and discern not; yes, we fail to lay hold of so many of the promises of God. God's whole operation is based on laws and principles, thus the law of Cause and Effect, or in other words, the Law of Sowing and Reaping.

These laws and principles govern our whole life. For example, in the natural, the law of gravity holds some life forms on the surface of the earth, and others above the earth. The principle of cohesion holds matter together. One could go on and on with these laws and principles which God has established in the earth. By these, God has set boundaries which He does not allow anyone to violate. In this, He provides protection for His creation from the forces of darkness. Through these laws and principles, God is able to bring deliverance to man by the offering of the Blood of His own Son Jesus Christ, and with Him freely give us all things.

The redemption of the whole man (His purchased possession) and obtaining our inheritance is based on God's divine laws and principles. There is the need to look into some of these principles, as also the examples set in the Word, which are experiences of those who have passed on.

The Law of Sowing and Reaping affects everyone's life consciously or unconsciously. *"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting,"* Galatians 6:8. In thoughts and actions, we are always sowing - carnal sowing, carnal

reaping; spiritual sowing, spiritual harvest. Hence we are involved in the battle of the laws. The Law of Life in Christ Jesus makes us free from the Law of Sin and Death; however, we must have our daily operations under the Law of Life in Christ Jesus, in order to maintain this freedom from the Law of Sin and Death. We are in a moving battle; there is no holding of ground and relaxing in a static position. The Scripture says, *"Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound,"* Romans 5:20b. This means that we can apply His Grace to deliver us anytime and anywhere and in any circumstance.

JESUS OUR SAVIOUR: Let us take a look into what Jesus has done for us. He is our Saviour, which means our salvation basically from the power and penalty of sin, but this very fact causes two reactions in opposite directions: when sin goes, the death recedes and so does sickness, fear and a whole host of other negative things which work against the human race. On the other hand, health, healing, safety, protection, preservation, freedom and promise of perfection or wholeness are all part of the new vista opened to the believer in Christ Jesus. Whatever, therefore, is lacking in our lives is that which we fail to lay hold upon or walk in, probably sometimes, only because of lack of knowledge or lack of faith.

Let us take some time here to look into a few passages of Scripture which should throw greater light on this subject.

"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26.

This sounds as if the Lord sends evil diseases upon the people, but not so; it is the consequence of their not keeping His words and walking in the path of righteousness, which He has prepared as a way of escape and deliverance.

VINDICATION OF JUSTICE BECAUSE OF VIOLATION OF LAW: The laws of the universe seem to be designed to vindicate themselves automatically when violated. A man jumps from a cliff and automatically sets in motion the laws of gravity. He is pulled with ever-increasing speed to his doom, and if he must be saved, God will have to use other

laws to intervene to save him, but, invariably, justice is done without intervention.

So many places in the Word it is written "if thou wilt" do this or that, then this evil will not befall you. In the converse, however, if we do not do that which we are commanded, advised or entreated not to do, then we reap the consequences of our disobedience. Surely, it is God's laws that did it to us, but could we fairly say that God did it to us?

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Proverbs 4:20-22.

HEALTH: The guarantee of a sound mind and healthy body is in Christ; as we consent, submit and allow the living Word to permeate our beings, we receive of His Life through the Spirit, into the soul, to the body. For those who miss Divine Health, God gives Divine Healing.

HEALING: Healing is restoration of health and deliverance from the oppression of the enemy.

The promises of God are true and real, but must be sought after and embraced with our whole heart.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8.

Paul encouraged the Philippian brethren (who were only a few, but faithful; among them Lydia, the seller of purple, and the Philippian jailer) to be truthful, honest, just, pure and virtuous; to practice what they had learned, heard and seen for their well being.

Every action has a reaction or fruit. Galatians 5:19-26 shows the two kinds of fruits. Verses 19-21 show the product of the flesh (which is death), while verses 22-23 show the fruit of the Spirit (which is life and peace).

"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are WEAK AND SICKLY among you, and many sleep." 1st Corinthians 11:29-30.

Here, Paul clearly states that sickness and death result from not being able to see the Body of Christ. It would not be right to say that all sicknesses comes from disobedience or sin of the individual, but what we do know is that some do.

The basic principle is this: God provided for our health and healing and happiness in Christ, but there are negative agents that we sometimes allow to block the flow of life which comes from Him to us. Hate, malice, jealousy and all the works of the flesh and the devil militate against the flow of this energy from the throne of God. We pray in the Lord's Prayer "*Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.*" It would seem that my unforgiveness toward others becomes a block to my receiving the forgiveness, which rightfully is mine from the Lord.

Nugget 9

A Stranger

August 1982

Our first responsibility here is to establish what a stranger is: a stranger is essentially one who does not belong to the household or community in which he finds himself. In other words, an outsider is one who does not fit into the order of things in a particular place.

The Bible speaks much about the stranger, but though God gave commands regarding the love and care for the stranger, yet He warns against being in union or league with a stranger.

There are so many Christians today who are under a sentence of unhappiness, because of being unequally yoked in marriage; therefore it is right and reasonable to take time to look into this matter.

Looking back into the Old Testament, we see God's order from the beginning. God made a man (Adam), then He made a helpmeet for him, who he called Eve. She was helper or complement to him. Things went pretty well in the garden until the serpent tempted Eve and caused her to disobey.

It is wonderful, however, that Adam stood with his helpmeet, choosing to die with her, rather than to be separated from her. They were one. Her disobedience brought separation from God. That union could not be broken, therefore, Adam could do nothing else but cast himself upon God, in hope.

Taking a few examples might bring greater clarity to the subject.

1st Kings 11:1 - Solomon ruled very well, but he had a weakness: he loved many strange women. This clouded his glorious reign, because some of these strange women were idolatrous. It is not possible for one to be in union with an

idolater, and not be affected or infected. They were daughters of heathen priests. These were strangers to God's laws and commandments; of different culture and upbringing.

Ezra 10:2-44 - The people, mainly those among the leadership of Israel, departed from God's laws and married the strangers of the land. This was the cause of Israel's captivity and suffering. Ezra prayed, confessed and wept before God, and the people saw themselves and their apostasy. They confessed to their broken faith, their need of making a covenant with God, and then they put away their strange wives. The measures were severe but effective - their blessings returned.

Nehemiah 13:27 - Here again, Israel was in trouble. The leaders married strange women. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* (Proverbs 9:10a) - not to be afraid of God, but having a healthy desire to do His will. Apostasy causes complacency, and complacency, familiarity, and familiarity breeds contempt. Thus, pleasing God is no longer a joyful pleasure. Being aligned with people who walk in the ways of darkness can dim one's light and sight, because the people who abide in darkness have not allowed the light of the world, who is Jesus, to shine in their hearts and to change their lives. They delight in doing evil and delight in frowardness. Their ways are crooked; they use flattering words; they care not about the covenant of God; their path leads to destruction.

Proverbs 5:20, *"And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?"*

Apart from the deep spiritual meaning of these words, there is much truth on the surface. A child of God can be ravished by a stranger (one who cannot embrace understanding or walk in the ways of the Lord). Consequently, instead of a help meet, there is a terrible weight of discord, disharmony, etc. One cannot take coals into one's bosom and not get burnt. Strangers desire not the things of God and His kingdom.

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother." Proverbs 6:20.

There is the tendency for young people to rebel against parents, especially in the matter of marriage. Young people, beware of this, especially where parents are walking in the

fear of the Lord. I have yet to see a marriage based on such rebellion and total disregard for (the) parents' blessing, that is blessed of God and doing well. Now, do not forget that there are people of God who are not delivered from the carnal eyesight - where earthly wealth and beauty is the criteria and not the will of the Lord. Such people are in trouble with God, the Body of Christ, and their family. The carnal mind cannot please God.

YOUNG PEOPLE, AS MUCH AS LIES WITHIN YOUR POWER, LISTEN ATTENTIVELY to your parents. God will honor your love and respect for them. There are many men and women today who, looking back, will say to themselves (very rarely to those who need to hear), "If I had only listened to that parent or minister, I would not be in this mess today." Some are able to give the troubled situation to Jesus, and have Him issue forth His love and bind up their wounds, healing the union and causing it to increase in His love.

Satan enjoys joining people, because he gets not just the two, but sometimes the children to do his evil bidding. Also, when one is joined to an unbeliever, such a one has weakness and problems, instead of strength and help in the Spirit to bring up a family in the fear of the Lord. Though, sometimes, in God's mercy, the faithful believing partner becomes the Saviour of the unbelieving.

A stranger carries into the marriage all the things that pertain to this life; a way of life to which he or she is accustomed (the traits of the land from which he or she comes). You wonder why he/she cannot see, accept or appreciate the things of God; no, (it is) because he/she is a stranger, and must resist the truth as if it were an enemy.

It is so clear in the scriptures, that God uses certain types of material in building His tabernacle. In so doing, God is not partial, because He through FOREKNOWLEDGE sees that such a person will fulfill His purpose. The gopher wood was the proper type of material for the ark. It had just the right consistency. The wood did not choose itself.

Another outstanding incident is Paul speaking to Timothy, of his ability to respond to the call to the ministry, referring to Timothy's grandmother and his mother as women of

God, which was part of his qualification. This reference was basically directed towards his training and upbringing. Those devout parents diligently imparted to Timothy the things of God and of righteousness, which prepared him not only for the natural life, but for God's purpose.

God laid down commandments, laws and statutes from the creation of the world as agents of education. God is not a dictator, but He knows that man has to be brought into discipline, so that he can have authority over his own being and creation. It takes discipline born of God to be able to resist temptation. God, therefore, gives man the tools to fight against the evils that beset humanity, yet man constantly rebels against discipline. Satan knows that if he gets man to rebel against principle and order, he has won a candidate for his purpose. No wonder the adversary has been working desperately to break down and destroy discipline in the world, in homes, schools and other institutions. Just think of any place where discipline is upheld one hundred percent! Even churches are attacked in the area of discipline. This breakdown in discipline answers for the chaos in the world. Parents must never forget that discipline at home helps the children to develop good character. Respect of authority is absolutely important for the building of character. For this reason, God commanded Israel against marrying strangers. It takes both parents together, walking in the fear of the Lord, receiving from the Spirit of God the law of righteousness written on their hearts, to impart the right balance to their children. These actions awaken in the children a sense to discern sin, and prepare them for life, both morally and spiritually.

WHERE THERE IS DIVISION between father and mother, the discord affects the whole family. A child who is brought up in love by father and mother, and taught to love and care for the other members of the family, is endowed with a nature of peace and security. That child, by natural experience, can understand very easily the love, care and concern of God the Father, thus he is no stranger to the ways of God. He has walked in the basic principles.

IN MANY CASES, ONE PARENT IS LEFT WITH THE BURDEN of doing the job, through faith in God. The Lord

honors it, but God's perfect plan for man is father and mother, together in Christ, bringing up children in the nurture and admonition of God - the father maintaining his position as head of the house, and mother as his helpmeet, respecting each other's abilities in the Lord for the building of a family and the enriching of their home.

STRANGERS BREAK UP HOMES AND FAMILIES, wooing the unsuspecting victims into vanity and frowardness, because they are alien to unity and love in Christ Jesus. Instead of embracing and flowing with and becoming part of the family, the stranger becomes threatened (through jealousy) by this oneness or unity in Jesus Christ, and would do anything to separate the believer from the family.

There must have been that certain thing in Ruth that bound her to Naomi, to cleave to her; they were not strangers; they recognized that Spirit in each other. Ruth felt sure that her mother-in-law had much to offer her. God honored it and blessed her. Any person or thing that makes you less diligent for God is a stranger or strange thing - keep away from such a situation.

The Word says not to join hands with a stranger (Proverbs 6:1-2). How many times we have been cheated because of joining hands with strangers though they say they are Christians - no, they are strangers. Strangers cheat, rob, lie, deceive, hate, etc. Therefore, do not be surety for a stranger. God does not have the stranger under His complete command or control. God can speak to the conscience within him, but God will not force anyone to repent or become righteous.

The enemy uses the stranger to foil God's plan, and rob us of our joy and blessings. Let us, therefore, keep our hearts and minds centered on Christ and not on the affairs of this life.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

These produce prosperity, joy and happiness.

Nugget 10

In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him

October 1982

In seeking the Lord about certain hard, unfortunate or painful experiences we encountered over a period of time, the LORD brought vividly a sense of awareness that is indelibly impressed on my mind. A few words of Scripture, which have been read over and over, all of a sudden come forth with a great enlightenment and a new perspective, "*In all thy ways acknowledge Him.*"

God expects His creatures to love, honor, respect and recognize Him as the Creator. After all, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork,*" Psalm 19:1. These are abundant evidences of His presence, power and authority. He is infinitely greater than anything on earth, and, undoubtedly, well able to supply all man's needs, far beyond our wildest dreams. It takes, however, a knowledge of the nature of God and the revelation of the scripture, together with the supernatural working of the Spirit, to awaken, confirm and enlarge our knowledge of God's friendship and communion, seeing that our love to Him has been greatly obscured since the fall.

One of the most important points of revelation which the Lord brought to us, was that He desires that we love, honor, obey, respect, esteem and recognize Him as Creator. This is not for any benefit to Himself, but that these attributes, when given to God, create in us a VIRTUE, which we could not obtain otherwise.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." John 17:3.

Knowing God, in all His attributes furnished by nature

and scripture, will result in trust and confidence, that through love, man's free will becomes one with Him - this is the Victory.

MAN'S FREE WILL - GOD'S CHANNEL: God can accomplish His purpose on earth for man only through man's free will (the choice is ours). In so doing, God makes available to man an immense and limitless realm of power, but we limit God and retard our progress by not appropriating God's goodness. See Psalm 78:41.

God's plan is that man be the channel through which heaven is released and expressed on earth. When our will is totally submitted to the will of God, then we will be in tune with Him and whatsoever we ask will be according to His will and He will direct our path.

The saints must possess the Kingdom, but this can only be accomplished as the people of God put the world behind them, and set their faces upon the eternal values. The world, the flesh and the devil are against the reign of Christ in the earth - thus, *"the heathen rage"* to destroy God's richest graces and (the) true value of humanity. To love, to honor, to respect and obey are endowments of God which place man above the beast.

REDEEMED, BEING REDEEMED, SHALL BE REDEEMED: God is in the process of redeeming man - spirit, soul and body, through Christ, *"who is made not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life,"* Hebrews 7:16. Therefore, those who seek Him will find Him, through the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in His knowledge.

There is a place in consecration, as one progresses in God, where the unfolding of God's plan and purpose demands a further and deeper offering of one's self; the willingness to make such an offering is the law and principle by which God takes us from victory to victory. This willingness, which is the free-will offering of the soul, gives God the authority to manifest His purposes in our lives. The impartation of Christ's Spirit of obedience to the believer, which brings him in communion with this work, must be ratified in the believer's life and experience. This obedience removes fear, but

embraces trust and confidence. When exercised, these experiences become easy and joyful; thus, OBEDIENCE is God's plan to deliver man from the corruption and enslavement of the FALL.

Self-confidence and self-reliance are often used as tools of the enemy to cause us to forfeit our blessings. God-confidence and God-reliance are better. There is a subtle working of the enemy of which we must always beware. The enemy will oppress a believer to make him or her feel "I am nothing," "poor me," and surely the counselors will try to get such a one to believe in himself, only to find that he makes a 180-degree turn and is the greatest Christian in town. The enemy keeps an eye out for weaknesses, for they are dark spots, and he does everything to get us in our weak place. We are encouraged, therefore, to *"lay aside every weight and the SIN (that weakness) that doth so easily beset us,"* so he will have no power over us.

This word "SELF" seems to be the greatest mountain between us and God. So many stories in the Bible show us the danger of the lurking monster.

David numbered the people.

Saul offered his own sacrifice.

Joshua and the elders sought not of the Lord regarding the Gibeonites, etc.

It is evident that God's people must always be conscious of the fact that He is the AUTHORITY - He is in supreme control, and that is the victory. Therefore, when one fails to acknowledge Him in all things, the concealed pitfalls and the snares of the enemy (known only to him) will catch us unawares.

Sometimes, praise God, we escape the hidden dangers by divine intervention, while another time, we might experience the consequences of not seeking the mind of Christ in a matter; pain, regret, remorse, loss of goods and credibility follows.

PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD: God has assigned us to a partnership with Him through the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son. By the Spirit and the Word, He makes each part of the Contract clear; His part, as also our part. When Paul sought

the Lord regarding his thorn in the flesh, God's reply was, "My grace is sufficient." Paul had this responsibility by the grace of our Lord and Saviour, through the effectual working of the Spirit in him, to have the victory over that thorn. He must have really fought a good fight, as he said, seeing it was not the thorn in the flesh that ended his physical life, but some of the rulers of this world.

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed." Psalm 2:2. History repeats itself.

Our only hope and protection is hiding in the Rock, and dwelling in the Secret Place of the Most High. It demands a daily commitment to His PERFECT WILL for each individual. What man of war goes into battle on his own dictates? He would be a fool, and would die like Abner. Man in himself is no match for the enemy, for it is a battle against a very high intelligence: against principalities and powers, not flesh and blood. See Ephesians 6:12.

Therefore it takes "...being endued with power from on high," baptized in the Spirit of God, and complete obedience to the CAPTAIN AND SOLE COMMANDER, who is our Lord Jesus Christ (CAPTAIN OF THE HOST) and Lord of All. He sees and knows each battle from beginning to end. Yes, the infinite God knows each person's battle from beginning to end; that is why we must trust Him - He is our VICTORY. We must acknowledge God in all our ways. In nothing can we be our own MAN or WOMAN, and do our own thing whenever we feel like it. Our behavior, our speech, our attitudes can arrest the flow of God's blessings, and cause us to forfeit our heritage in Christ.

Oh, how many times we are caught in being careless or impatient, acting out of the will of God, and are caught in the snare. The price is pain, regret, remorse. "Oh, what needless pains we bear, all because WE DO NOT CARRY EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER." "Wait upon the Lord - wait, I say, upon the Lord." Good things come to those who wait.

For instance: it might be good and proper for one to buy a house, car, horse, property or anything, even choosing a partner in marriage or business, etc., but God wants us to re-

alize that there is a special one of any or all of these; that God with His love and foreknowledge would choose for you - the special individual that we are to Him. Our knowledge is limited, therefore, we must always bear in mind that our CAPTAIN who is ALL WISE, ALL KNOWING, is the perfect consultant whose ears are always open; His doors never close; He just sits waiting, looking and listening for His children to ask so *"it can be given."* Of course, we should not ask:

To heap upon our lusts

Amiss

Wavering.

Times without number, Jesus testifies of His union with the Father, showing how absolutely necessary it is for total submission to the Father's will. John 8:14-18 gives the working arrangement with Jesus and the Father. Although the Father has given to the Son ALL POWER for deliverance and judgment, yet He did nothing but the Father's will. In healing and miracles, etc. *"My Father... and I work;"* in judgment, *"I judge no man... yet my judgment is true."*

Seeing that Jesus, the Son of God, found it necessary to acknowledge the Father in all things, thus fulfilling His perfect will for Him, how about us? All power is given unto us through Jesus; as He was, so are we to be in all obedience and humility, that we might also find our place in His purpose for His creation.

In order to walk safely and securely, (to) be blessed in Him and be a blessing, there is the need to be found in Him; not having our own righteousness, but the righteousness which is of the Father. This righteousness will desire, seek after, long for and be satisfied with nothing but the Father's perfect will.

Each new day brings its new demands of new experiences in our Christian walk. Our Heavenly Father has given the Holy Spirit with the necessary tools to fight our battles, but although He knows the order of the battle completely, He cannot breach our free will. He tells us in His Word to trust Him each day that He might be in control through the Spirit. *"IN ALL THY WAYS (and through all thy day) ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY*

PATHS." Proverbs 3:6. The power and glory of heaven is made available to us through Jesus Christ, but if the whole world of wealth is made available to one man, woman or child, and he or she does not choose to affect that claim, it becomes useless to such a one.

We are encouraged to appreciate and appropriate that which was lost in the first Adam, but restored in the Second Adam, Jesus Christ, to bring us into eternal victory. God uses every method to awaken us to the consciousness of who we are, where we are and what we ought to be. He allows us to go ahead and do things we desire so badly - which are not His perfect will - knowing that the circumstances will teach us the bitter lessons of what it means to move out of the will of God. Happy are we if we learn the lessons through one or two experiences. It is very sad when our own attitudes rob us of being able to glean from our experiences the lessons God intends that we embrace, seeing that the sole purpose and intention of His dealing with us is to bring us into union and communion with Him, that we might walk as wise men.

Nugget 11

A Look at Jesus

December 1982

"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6.

Recent thoughts and observations of the Christian walk beget questions, demanding answers which throw some light on Paul's statement that *"some walk as enemies of the cross of Christ."* As truth avails itself, there is an unveiling of the confused state of the Christian world today.

Certain facts are indisputable: The Father and the Son existed before the beginning, then God said, *"Let us make man in our image and likeness..."* Man was made in God's image, but before he could take on His likeness, the serpent came into the picture and beguiled Eve, causing her to disobey. They did not partake of the TREE OF LIFE, and consequently were driven from the garden.

God has never fallen short in His plan for man's redemption, and neither has Satan ceased in his endeavor to rob man of this glory.

It is abundantly clear in the scripture that when God unveils Himself dispensationally to different generations, some recognize, honor and glorify Him as God, giving thanks, while some reasoned (applied vain imaginations and foolish and irrational speculations), getting their minds darkened, thus missing the glory, majesty and excellency of the eternal God.

When Adam and Eve left the garden, they lost the ability to communicate with the Creator on a certain level - to enjoy good exclusively. They gave up obedience, and lost the mandate to have dominion over every living thing and to subdue the earth. The image of Satan, who hates God and man alike,

was superimposed upon man, causing him to know good and evil without the power to do good, hence the perversity of the human heart. It then became absolutely necessary for man to totally embrace God's provision for deliverance from this bondage - which is Jesus Christ and all His attributes manifested through all the ages and through the whole universe.

The man who recognizes and loves God will recognize and love his fellow man. Even as the fall overthrew the true dignity of man, so shall the other crucial event, which is the coming of Jesus Christ, redeem and save all those who love and obey Him.

God has made provision for every man in every dispensation. Some recognize and accept with joy, while others reject, though they prove His power and might. When man submits to God, then good is brought forth - mercy for judgment, compassion for condemnation, joy for sorrow, love for hate, happiness for misery, life for death, peace in the midst of the storm, strength for weakness and on and on.

JUST A LOOK AT JESUS TURNS NIGHT TO DAY,
DARKNESS TO LIGHT.

This paradox is at the core of the Christian experience. It is invariably manifested in the course of personal trials. Just think how many times the impossible is all that is seen: a great mountain in the path - when one cries out in distress or despair, then the Captain of our soul, instead of removing the mountain, simply lifts us above the situation. Oh! Never a mountain too high or valley too deep, or any situation one can think of that is impossible for Him. He specializes in things seemed impossible. The Christian walk is not for God to be continuously removing our problems, as much as to teach us how to rise above them, where we can SEE JESUS who gives the victory.

It is the cross of Christ that teaches the children of God to turn the other cheek when smitten, smite not again. Love them that hate you. Do good to them that spitefully use you and persecute you, forgive seventy times seven, and all the other seemingly impossible things - ah yes, Paul said, "*...not I, but Christ,*" (Galatians 2:20) - a look at Jesus.

To be reckoned righteous is to touch God when our

hearts SEE JESUS. It is not so much the idea that we have been brought into a salvation experience by asking Jesus into our hearts. It is by far greater; it is that our hearts SEE HIM; that we can make that adequate presentation of ourselves to Him, to meet Him and make personal contact. This gives inner strength, fortitude, confidence and power over the power of the enemy.

When we really see Jesus - Head of the Body - we can humbly take our place in submission; to receive as well as to contribute, that we might save and bless one another.

It is unfortunate that many hear of Him but not many SEE HIM. When one sees Him, the inner man is illuminated with His glory, and a transformation process takes place.

Where there is space for hate and strife, etc., it is a manifestation that the believer has not seen Jesus. When we see Him, we can find our place in His Body, since there is no member of the Body that is against the other. In the physical body, all the members work in harmony, because they are under the command of the head. Even so it is in the spiritual.

"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." James 3:16.

When one sees Jesus he is able to apply Christ-likeness to a situation, rather than soulishness, as the scripture says:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1st John 1:7.

If we do not see Jesus as He is, we frustrate God's plan of redemption in bringing man back to the God-consciousness which Adam lost. SEEING JESUS IS A CONSCIOUSNESS and awareness of God's glory and righteousness in all things, and there is no space left in one's life for part-time Christianity.

Paul saw Jesus and he said, *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,"* not that Christ had taken him prisoner, but that he wanted nothing else in life, but to be a prisoner of Christ. It is finding the pearl of greatest price, and you sell all to obtain it. It is more than just salvation. Salvation is the beginning, but this is the ultimate. The sole purpose for which Jesus came is that we might be transformed into His likeness; be made into

His likeness. The only way we can be made into His likeness is when we are able to see Jesus.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2nd Corinthians 3:18.

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Philippians 3:21.

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." Colossians 3:10.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2nd Peter 1:4.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1st John 3:2.

This is final. If we do not begin to see Him now, we will not be able to see Him at all. Seeing Him in His righteousness, in His love and in all His attributes, not just looking physically at the Word, but the seeing of the heart. When the heart sees Christ, then the life begins to manifest. If you think that you are seeing Him or say that you are seeing Him, and your life does not manifest His glory, His righteousness, then you are being deceived.

No form, no creed, no regimentation, no discipling will cause you to manifest His glory. It is basically a heart condition, a heart going after that which it has seen in Christ, determined to bring forth that Christ in the earth.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1st John 3:3.

A very important thought is in the 6th verse.

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not SEEN HIM, neither known Him." 1st John 3:6.

Nugget 12

*An Immutable God and
Eternal Contract*

February 1983

*When the storms of life are raging
Tempest wild on sea and land
I will seek a place of refuge
In the hollow of God's hand.*

*Chorus:
He will hide me safely hide me
Where no harm can e'er betide me
He will hide me safely hide me
In the hollow of His hand.*

*Enemies may strive to injure
Satan all his arts employ
He will turn what seems to harm me
Into everlasting joy.*

*So while here the cross I'm bearing
Meeting storms and billows wild
Jesus for my soul is caring
Naught can harm His Father's child.*

The words of this old song remind us of the contract we have with Our God who never changes.

It is absolutely difficult, at times, for the human mind to accept the Word of the Lord for what it is, and really apply it to each and every situation. For instance, "*Glory in (our) tribulations,*" Romans 5:3. Just think of the instances when being compassed by circumstances that seem unto death. It appears

virtually impossible to rejoice at times; oh, sure, but the key to the whole concept is the preceding phrase: *"Rejoice in hope of the glory,"* which in plain words means to REJOICE IN THE LORD, WHO IS OUR ONLY HOPE AND DELIVERANCE. Nothing that we can muster will bring deliverance out of trouble, because HE is our joy, strength and help. Therefore, we must live in this joy, this strength, in order to overcome discouragement and despair.

HE WHO IS OUR SAVIOUR, OUR STRENGTH, WILL RENEW. LOOK EVER TO JESUS, HE WILL CARRY YOU THROUGH.

God has given, through Jesus, every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.

"...Shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

Be not cast down. He is our refuge and our fortress - our hiding place. Can you imagine Him sitting in despair or discouragement? Oh no! He is COURAGE, LIFE, JOY and STRENGTH. How wonderful to know He came to give us HIS LIFE. How many Christians forfeit their blessings when they fail to live in His Joy, His Peace, His strength, etc? Only then can we rejoice in tribulation, because it is *"not I, BUT CHRIST."*

PRAISE GOD FOR SUCH DIVINE FAVOR.

Never forfeit this for anything. No persecution, no peril, no tribulation, nor the sword nor anything. Though the enemy tries to get one to be offended at God's dealings in one's life, the thought of God's everlasting covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ His Son gives inner peace - that peace that enabled Jesus to sleep through the storm, caused His enemies to fall backwards at His word, and caused Him to disappear out of their midst when they contemplated evil towards Him. Such inner fortitude, courage, strength (and) complete trust in the Father's will comes through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

This is the peace and strength HE gives. Though the waves beat high and the tempest sweeps over the soul, let this inner PEACE AND STRENGTH be our fortification. Surely, in the world there is tribulation and trouble of great mag-

nitude, but He has overcome the world, made peace through the cross (the troubles and trials), that all who trust Him might find PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORMS, AND JOY IN THE MIDST OF SORROW.

Never lose sight of the fact that this everlasting Covenant of the Sovereign God dispenses Grace and brings security. How wonderful a thought that man does not have to contribute to the agency by which God's promises are fulfilled.

By FAITH, Abraham (according to God's promises) sought a city. His hope and confidence in an everlasting, prayer-hearing, and covenant-keeping God never wavered a bit. BY FAITH, they all struggled down the corridors of time, fulfilling their different roles in God's operation. Then Jesus came: opened wide the veil, ushering in that New Covenant in His Blood - His life for our lives - Praise God - joint heirs with Him in this world and in the world to come. According to this covenant, His overcoming has opened wide the way for us to overcome by faith. This knowledge of God, and the assurance of this contract (what He has done) is separate and apart from us or anything that can be achieved or acquired by any human effort or good will - i.e., Abraham - Hebrews 6:13. A KNOWLEDGE BY FAITH.

In spite of the circumstances, there is the knowledge that HE IS. The knowledge and assurance must be so settled, (anchored in the soul, hidden in the heart) that when troubles arise, out of this stored treasure, one can draw strength. Job said: "*I know that my Redeemer liveth. Though he slay me*" - he was not just then receiving that knowledge; no - he reached deep down into his soul and brought forth that living, hidden treasure of assurance. That assurance undoubtedly was his anchor through that stormy period of his life. He had been receiving a lot of discouraging words from his friends, and even his wife had no comfort for him. It seemed like heaven was shut to him; everything was against him; worms were eating away his flesh. He did not rush to the doctors and the pharmacists (sorcerers) of his day for help, but out of a knowledge born of God, he cried "*I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH.*" This was not an utterance born out of mental calculations, neither of the seeing of the eyes nor the

hearing of the ears, but from the deep-rooted, grounded, and settled fact of the IMMUTABILITY OF GOD - the knowledge of His unchangeableness.

All the promises culminate in Jesus, and our salvation is secured in HIS BLOOD. Thus, we experience a transformation by which we are conformed to His image. This is God's highest level of achievement - I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

Nugget 13

In His Name

April 1983

In these days, there is so much strife and division among people that there has been the need to cry out, "Lord, how can these things be?"

The natural, physical body functions beautifully and perfectly, without any single part being against the other. This physical body is a type of the Spiritual Body, therefore, there must be a perfect function of the Body of Christ.

God divides and separates through the working of the Spirit - good from evil, light from darkness, righteousness from unrighteousness - so that His people can be free from all the works of the enemy, and be separated unto Him in Holiness and Righteousness - PRAISE GOD.

God, the giver of understanding, has been unveiling the mystery.

Deliverance from every situation is in HIS NAME - not name as label on someone or something, but HIS NAME which is HIS NATURE. That nature is love, peace, submission, etc. Whatsoever we ask in His Name.

So many times, believers come together and leave undelivered and unblessed - frustrated and discouraged, not having received from the Lord that which has been promised. The reason is that something is wrong with the gathering or the gathered; it was not in HIS NATURE. There may be unforgiveness, hatred, bitterness, malice, strife, guile, cunning craftiness, and such things that are contrary to the NATURE of Christ. It is like having flies in the ointment. Clean hands and a pure heart is that acceptable offering before God. Remember, God looks at the inner being. He sees light or darkness. Forgiveness and cleansing through the atonement sanctifies the vessel, making way for the greatest blessings.

God cannot bless while the contrary nature is encouraged in the soul. All the sacrifices and necessary preparations were made in the Outer Court so the services of the tabernacle would not be hindered in any way, hence the needs of the people were met. When Israel made the perfect sacrifice, God was pleased and they were blessed to the fullest. Their enemies could not stand before them; they had complete victory in all areas. When they transgressed, they fell prey to their enemies, even to the bondage of slavery.

The fruits of the flesh (anger, wrath, malice, strife, envy, bitterness, etc.) are all works of the evil one, works of darkness - where Satan presides as lord. When we therefore entertain these, we fall into the realm of darkness where Satan has power over us. We only have power in Christ; we have no power in darkness.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with ALL malice: And be ye Kind one to another, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath FORGIVEN YOU."
Ephesians 4:31-32.

There should be no place given to the devil, or he will take advantage of every opportunity to rob and destroy.

PRAISE GOD. WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS, because God made available to us, His People, every necessary piece of armament to insure us the victory.

His active presence can be experienced in the fullness of His revealed character. His NAME is linked with His righteousness, faithfulness, holiness, goodness, mercy, love, truth, etc. - that is His NAME. Since the assembling of believers forms the basis for spiritual unity with Christ, for participation of His bounties and viewing of His Sovereignty, believers must, through the divine power, rise from the lower realm (which is the opposite and contrary nature) to partake of that DIVINE NATURE.

God will not share His Glory. There must be a rejecting of one nature in order to receive the other nature. Self takes the place of Christ in the soul - the more self is rejected and cast out, the more of Christ we can have.

Times without number in the scriptures, this principle is

seen in operation of someone calling on the name of the Lord:
"I WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD." 1st Kings 18:24.

Elijah had faith in God; he knew God's divine purpose. It was a time when Israel should halt no longer between two opinions: they had to make a decision between God and Baal. Though there were four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, Elijah knew His God whom he served. Baal was stilled before the Almighty. God answered not only by consuming Elijah's sacrifice with fire, but licked up all the water that was poured onto the sacrifice and the very stones also. PRAISE GOD.

There is record of priests going to offer sacrifice in disobedience and rebellion - they were consumed.

Some went to cast out devils - instead the devils turned on them and tore them.

The spirits of darkness will only recognize the power and authority (which is the nature) that accompanies the NAME OF JESUS. This NAME is not enshrined in a system, doctrine, external influences, church organization or men's ideas, but in righteousness, truth and holiness, because He is Saviour - the giver of inspiration. This living stone rejected of men, but to God's elect, precious. See 1 Peter 2:4-5. All who are enjoined to this LIFE become lively stones, building up the spiritual house, each stone maintaining its proper relationship to the other, permanently connected with Christ, furnishing a habitation for God. Great and wonderful mystery - Praise God. A branch connected to the vine will bring forth fruit of its kind (of the vine).

Where two or three are gathered together in His name (NATURE), He is there in the MIDST to bless and to do THEM GOOD. Praise God it is TWO OR THREE - it does not have to be a large congregation with all the trappings of organization, just two and three gathered IN HIS NATURE. The grounds for the blessing therefore is basically:

"GATHERING IN HIS NAME (NATURE)."

Christ is identified with the Church - HE IS HEAD, and must be recognized as such. He is the vine; we are the branches. See John 15:1.

This dynamic power, working through submitted ves-

sels, produces the impossible: revealing to us and renewing in us the lost image and likeness of God, being in us that all-sufficient source of PURITY AND POWER.

Christ is not content to be represented by His people in words; He wants to reign in and be Himself in His people. God has given man the capacity to rise far beyond the limits of his own individuality.

When we gather together in HIS NATURE, He is in the midst to BLESS AND DO US GOOD. He expresses Himself when there is submission to His Nature.

Nugget 14

The Power of an Endless Life

August 1983

"For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, who is made not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life." Hebrews 7:14-16.

Some weeks ago, the Lord brought to my attention the fact of the absolute necessity of overcoming.

The way out of the bondage of sin and self and humanness into the Divine nature is through the *"flaming sword."* Since this sword turned every direction, there is no way of escaping the fire of purification.

It certainly is not enough to say, "I have accepted Jesus as my Saviour," or to relax and feel OK, waiting for Him to come and take us away to heaven. The forgiveness of sins brings one into the experience of knowing Jesus as Saviour, but after this experience, one should willingly and deliberately desire to know Him as Lord, which means giving Him perfect control over one's life. There would be no place therefore for cheating, lying, drinking, swearing, malice, strife, bitterness, wrath, cunning craftiness and all unrighteousness. This can only be done by the regenerating, sanctifying work of Christ, which is the purpose for the indwelling Holy Spirit. God wants to destroy sin, and the Holy Ghost brings to us the Life of Christ Jesus, which does just that.

Adam and Eve were tested and tempted in the garden: if Eve would have resisted, they would have overcome the enemy then and there. Temptation does not necessitate a fall, but resisting builds strength and virtue.

The tree of life is made available to man through Jesus

Christ. He is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE. Unless we eat Him day and night, we have no life in us - thus no over-coming.

Love, mercy and truth are conditioned by holiness; therefore, when God establishes His law in man's heart, it constitutes a revelation of holiness - thus through GRACE, man finds a true revelation of LOVE.

Blessed are the people who have been brought into a relationship with Jesus Christ through His blood, and have been established in His grace to embrace that LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST - when man ceases to be an outsider of the Kingdom, and realizes the liberty of the SONS OF GOD.

Overcoming daily establishes holiness as a permanent state of the soul. One writer said, "Our conscience and power of self-control act as a sort of watchdog over our worst selves during the day, but when the watchdog is off duty, the primitive or natural man is at liberty to act as he pleases, and our soul has left us at the mercy of our own evil nature."

God's divine power, however, greatly counteracts the forces of evil. This power and anointing is Christ, which can only be experienced as the believer gives way to the Holy Spirit. In this way, man is brought to the place where total redemption overcomes total depravity, and God's redemptive power shines forth in spite of ourselves. It is the Spirit that brings redemption; human nature can take no credit; the flesh is weak, but the indwelling Christ has power over all THINGS.

When the believer comprehends Christ's relationship to man as a whole, and to the Christian in particular, then he is enabled to declare as never before the saving, keeping, resurrection POWER OF JESUS CHRIST - LORD, MASTER, KING. Giving way to the persuading influence of the Holy Spirit empowers believers to bring under subjection the dreadful and evil soul nature, which hampers and resists the power of the LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS. Yes, the Holy Spirit is always revealing US to US, but He does so that man, by this power of "*an endless life,*" might be lifted out of this carnal, natural state to the spiritual, heavenly realm. We have been raised together with Him, Jesus Christ, and the vital union causes us to sit in

heavenly places with Him. As we have borne the image of the earthly in Adam, so through Christ Jesus, we will bear the image of the heavenly - a place not only over sin and human weaknesses, but a place of authority and glory.

PROPHET, PRIEST, and KING.

PROPHET - Reveals or declares God's will

PRIEST - To take away the guilt of sin

KING - Having authority and dominion

Union with Christ and participation in His Spirit exalts us to the state with Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King.

"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." Hebrews 7:24-26.

Down through the ages, God used a nation, a family or an individual to establish the type of the Great High Priest - Jesus Christ, after the order of Melchisedec, greater than the Levitical Priesthood or even Abraham himself. He holds His priesthood unchangeably - HE LIVES FOREVERMORE; therefore, He saves to the uttermost: COMPLETELY, PERFECTLY, FINALLY AND FOR ALL TIME AND ETERNITY.

Through the power of the Life of Christ, there is overcoming of sin, oppression, depression and every attack of the enemy. Daily drawing from the source of spiritual life will emancipate the believer from the depravity of fallen man, and establish a disposition of holiness within the soul.

The many and varied conflicts are to bring us nearer to Christ, that the soul may be generated by the Spirit - immersed into His love, fellowship and His LIFE to become that NEW CREATURE. The Creator must be allowed to do the creative work on the soul to make it eternal as the spirit, so that His LIFE dominates and manifests itself within all of our being.

Christ therefore is the source of PURITY and POWER, through which the believer finds healing and purification for the inner man.

Nugget 15

Divine Providence

October 1983

Some weeks ago, I awoke in the wee hours of the morning with a verse of scripture in my heart - Philippians 4:19.

"But my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory..."

On receiving this scripture, the first thought that came to my mind was in the natural. "Oh yes," I thought, "God is going to supply physical and financial needs." Soon, however, the Lord opened my understanding to realize that the greatest need today is that we may KNOW HIM, in His acts and ways. Yes, we stumble and falter and are discouraged, because we are not acquainted with His ways and His dealings with His creatures.

Surely, He provides for our physical needs, but sometimes He uses methods that cause us to be built up in faith and virtue. When these dealings are set in motion, the flesh or carnal nature (because of lack of knowledge) rises up and rebels and then breaks. Divine Providence is that which slays the MAN, so that the CHRIST might live and be exalted in our lives. He knows the ingredients and proportions necessary to do the job, but also, how we scream and squirm when the knife of circumstances begins to cut away the flesh. Sometimes we are unaware of the fact that *"...it works the peaceable fruit of righteousness."*

God's Providence proclaims His wisdom - beyond man's knowledge and experience. No other could form the correct plan for man to gain the desired results.

HIS POWER: God alone has the ability to exercise authority impartially - He sustains the world.

On many occasions, Divine Intervention shows His power in miraculous deeds of deliverance. His mighty hand and

outstretched arm, by which He brought His people out of Egypt, is still mighty and outstretched in our time. He showed His power over the power of Pharaoh, and now He has given us POWER OVER THE POWER OF THE ENEMY. No matter what your battle might be at this time, God has given you power through Divine Providence over that strong thing which oppresses you. REACH OUT AND LAY HOLD OF THAT POWER RIGHT NOW, AND THE GOD OF PROVIDENCE SHALL SET YOU FREE.

HIS GLORY: His wealth, splendor and honor - we are His product in righteousness through grace - we are His Glory, being His workmanship.

HIS PRESENTATION: Divine Providence presents God's nature to mankind, that His Glory may fill THE TEMPLE. The temple must be emptied of all ugliness, that it might be filled with His Glory, which sometimes is like taking the bitter herbs, which the Israelites had to eat with the roasted lamb.

HIS GOODNESS: He is honorable, admirable and worthy. Oh, the beneficence of God extending far beyond what we ask or think. One writer says "God is morally perfect and gloriously generous." This is a very apt description of His goodness. Maintaining the thought that GOD IS GOOD is a sustaining factor throughout our walk and experience with God. What God does, creates, commands, gives and allows is done through His goodness, always mindful of Creation and His creatures. Thus, all things can work together for good - seeing, He through Divine Providence can cause what was intended for evil to work good, though sometimes after much cutting of the flesh. Total trust and total obedience is absolutely necessary as God deals with us, seeing His ways are past finding out, BUT one thing is sure, it works for our good to them that love Him. "If you love me, keep my commandments." LOVE therefore is fulfilled in trust and obedience.

Should God withdraw outward prosperity from His people, and hardships are experienced, there is still a sense in which He is doing good.

Divine Providence is always working THAT WHICH IS GOOD. Being afflicted yields correction for subsequent benefit, and is an exercise in strength, faith, patience, obedience

and endurance. Anything that drives man closer to God is for good, therefore, temporary distresses work for the Christian an eternal weight of glory. The ungratifying circumstances can be numbered among God's good gifts, and the expression of His beneficence if rightly used to lasting profit.

Jacob's divisive thinking was changed from vanity to profit, through Divine Providence. He is a God of present help, present power, present refuge. Jacob or no other could have thought out that plan for present help - Divine Providence took care of it all, and Jacob must have rejoiced in such a deliverance from a plotting, scheming mind, into the mind of one who could rightly be called Prince of God (Israel). This brought him into the place of a more personal experience with God, thus the expression - THE GOD OF JACOB (the God that Jacob experienced - the God of power and might).

Jesus Christ, our Providence, does not only see ahead, but watches over His people. He has a concentrated attention that extends to every place and circumstance, seeing into the minutest as also the largest situations, caring for the smallest as well as the greatest, watching over the affairs of men (their success and failure, even the most insignificant things), protecting and caring in every way.

Divine Providence has a restricting and preventing hand. Though man may be allowed to cherish and manifest his evil desires, it causes him to either hate and despise the evil, or through God's providence, submit his will to be united with God's will in the operation of righteousness, or love and embrace evil to his own destruction.

God is in perfect control of good and evil, yet every man is free, but justice must be meted out to the rebellious and mercy for all who seek mercy.

Divine Providence secures moral order in the world, a power to discourage vice and encourage virtue. The circumstances that govern man from birth (environmental, etc.) are not humanly controlled, and man, being a creature of choice, is able through Divine Providence (God's intervention) to escape destruction or whatever is determined against him. God is directly involved with His creation, and will always allow particular events to work His perfect will - whether it be in

working virtue in, or evil out of us.

Rejoice therefore, and let the circumstances work in us that which nothing else could do. Circumstances change things for good or evil, but God's intervention will always cause that change to be FOR GOOD.

Nugget 16

The Spirit Indeed is Willing

January 1984

"THE SPIRIT INDEED IS WILLING but the flesh is weak."
Matthew 26:41b.

Some weeks ago, during prayer for some dear brethren, the word came, *"the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* - with this came also a much deeper understanding of these words.

Flesh is not only man's body, but man's whole being, including sense and reason when it is destitute of God, because the seat of sin is in the soul.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of HIS OWN lust, and enticed." James 1:13-14.

God does not tempt man. Romans 8 speaks in absolutely plain language of the MIND OF THE FLESH; how it works contrary to the will of God. Man's only hope of overcoming the flesh is through the Spirit, by which security is provided by God's love. The Spirit gives life in place of death. The Old Testament brethren could not have the magnitude of OVERCOMING grace which we have received, because a set of laws or legal codes could not bring righteousness; only a life controlled by the Spirit, on the basis of THAT NEW LAW WRITTEN NOT ON TABLES OF STONE, but ON THE HEART, could produce such qualities in us as peace, joy, hope and love.

The flesh is constantly at war with the Spirit. The desires of the flesh are ever present, but the provision for overcoming is through the Spirit, therefore, the following seven steps are absolutely necessary to the overcomer.

The believer should, at some time after accepting Jesus as

Saviour, receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The believer should be aware of the Holy Spirit as being a part of the Godhead.

The believer should want to be no longer in charge of his own life, but desire the Life of Christ to be lived out in him.

Be sensitive to the voice of the Spirit. (He is always speaking, but we are not always listening.)

Be exercised in the operations of the Spirit through obedience.

Most important - be willing and ready to submit to the chastening and cleansing of the Spirit as He makes known deep-hidden or simple-surface weaknesses - because *"He will not always chide."*

Bear in mind, that when we come together in worship, the move of the Spirit in the midst is different than in any other place - prophecies and all the gifts of the Spirit can be practiced, and the believer has the type of growth that is necessary to his overall spiritual advancement.

THE CARNAL MIND: The carnal mind is that which is not under the control of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, it can conceive and bring forth evil, since Satan is the prince of evil.

There are some innocent desires (might not be evil) which can eventually become the occasion of sin. The CARNAL MIND cannot please God.

Scripture states:

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." Colossians 3:5.

We should see to it that these members of ours do not resist the restraint of Divine Law. Human life, therefore, would be brought under subjection to the purpose for which it was ordained.

God made man to live in beauty and strength according to His Divine laws. Sin made an inroad and left a roadway. Man was defiled. God in His plan of restoration has to redeem man spirit, soul and body, but this cannot be achieved without the willingness and total submission to God's Divine plan. As the Spirit is allowed to work in the inward parts, He is able to turn bitterness to sweetness, rage to peace, hate and

animosity to love, rough to smooth, sorrow to joy and heaviness to praise, delivering the soul from envy, jealousy, malice (and) pride, causing a true spirit to pervade which can stand the LIGHT OF HIS COUNTENANCE.

So many times, it seems easier to give way to the flesh in anger, malice, strife, hatred, (and) mistrust of the brethren, or on the other hand deceiving the brethren, giving false witness, using a false balance and others too many to mention (whatsoever does not edify the individual or the Body of Christ, or glorify Jesus is not of God). Some things are seen out in the open - others are not very obvious; then some left only to the honesty of one's conscience before God; "To thine own self be true." (Shakespeare). Trust and be trusted.

Taking a look at the Old Testament, there appears much evidence of the weakness of the flesh, like...

DAVID - chosen of God, courageous, a champion, a good soldier, but was led by passion to violate the law; (to) yield to gross sin. When the Spirit of the Lord anointed him, he did mightily; outside of that, he was an ordinary man subject to the weaknesses of the flesh.

MOSES - leader and law-giver of Israel; was as God to the people; spoke with God's personality; moved mightily under the anointing, but manifested as an ordinary man when provoked.

SAMSON - Showed such supernatural power and might, yet there was the expression of the carnal appetites; weak in resisting temptations.

The plotting, planning, cunning, scheming JACOB (could have been a familiar spirit; mother deceived Isaac, Laban her brother deceived Jacob) had a bout with the angel all night, but thank God he had the tenacity to hang on for the blessing or measure of deliverance which he received towards morning. The Jacob nature must be dealt with by the Spirit before any possession of the Land. No one is going to conquer those giants in the land, but the one who owns the land. The Land is OURSELVES. Each individual is well acquainted with the giants that rise up in his or her own soul to challenge the Spirit. Some have been there so long, that they appear to be part of the person. The individual may even be afraid to lose that

spirit which might well be a controlling spirit. Anything that cannot be identified with the gift of the Holy Spirit and righteousness (Christ's nature) is of the carnal, evil spirit, and must be driven out of the land.

There are so many examples in the Old Testament proving the weakness of man, that it is virtually impossible to deny the fact that *"in man dwells no good thing."* Without the Spirit there is bound to be failure.

Take Peter as an example. In the New Testament, Peter had been with Jesus for three and a half years, and seen and shared in all that Jesus manifested; yet, in his humanness, he denied Him before the people, and returned to fishing after Jesus left. No wonder Jesus said to him, *"Peter, lovest thou me?"* - asking the same question three times and receiving the same answer from Peter, even with a little disgust at the last. Then Jesus said, *"Feed my lambs."* At one time, Jesus told Peter, *"Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for thee."*

Peter, as well as all of us, have to be fortified by the Holy Spirit's indwelling, or there is no overcoming of the flesh (the world, the flesh, and the devil). Peter's impulsiveness and all other weaknesses of the flesh, as well as all of us, have to come under the effectual working of the Spirit if we are to be transformed to HIS IMAGE.

It is not because these characters mentioned in the Bible were bad or evil that they fell short of the expressed image of God, but because in the Old Testament, (or in other words under the old covenant), the Spirit of God was not yet come to indwell the believer (John 7:39), and in (the) three and a half years that Jesus was on the earth with His disciples, the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore, Peter was without strength. Jesus said, *"when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."* When the Spirit fell at Pentecost, Peter rose up in the midst and proclaimed the wonders of salvation.

The willingness to the Spirit anointing was not enough for the Old Testament believers. Some did mightily in spite of their limitations, yet they were judged.

God expects greater overcoming from those to whom He

has given not an overshadowing of the Spirit only, but an indwelling portion to all who will receive.

To this FORTY-SECOND GENERATION, therefore, He says, "*Thou art inexcusable, O man,*" (Romans 2:1), in that God has, through Jesus, laid the way wide open to redeem man from the bondage of corruption (bondage of human nature), and raised us through the Spirit to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh.

"...*Not by might, nor by power (in the natural), but by my SPIRIT, saith the Lord of hosts.*" Zechariah 4:6.

There is no sin nor weakness that the blood of Jesus, the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit cannot overcome.

Walking in the Spirit destroys or retards the weaknesses of the flesh, (and) builds spiritual character, thus the true nature of Christ is formed in the believer.

The Holy Ghost is given and is always willing and ready to purge the dross, that the gold (which is the nature of God) may come forth; that the world may see Christ Jesus living in His temple. As the temple of God, we should allow the Spirit to deal with the weaknesses of the flesh, so that the Divine Nature might destroy the evil nature, and take full control of the man for Christ's sake. Amen.

Nugget 17

The Dealings of God

April 1984

Some weeks ago, travelling on a plane, being led of the Spirit into prayer, the Lord spoke to my heart on His dealings with man.

This experience cast a completely new light on the subject of "trials and testings."

It became very clear that Adam, though he was made perfect, was not complete. God gave him charge over every plant and every living creature. He was given strict orders to eat of every tree, save the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He could have eaten of the Tree of Life.

Neither Adam nor Eve was aware of the consequences of disobedience. We know the story full well of the circumstances of the fall through temptation, but one interesting point is that somewhere in their hearts, they knew they were to be like Him, and Satan used "this truth" to overthrow them. They were put out of the Garden, and an angel sat at the four corners to guard against their re-entry. No wonder Satan is described as subtle. Sin entered the human race through one man's disobedience, and death reigned from Adam to Moses, who stopped death by his obedience to God (in putting the blood of the lamb on the door posts and lintels), thus turning back the angels of death in Egypt on that memorable night when Israel was delivered from the hands of Pharaoh. This, of course, was a type of the Blood of Jesus Christ, who is the SECOND ADAM. The song writer puts it thus "The second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came."

By union with Christ, man comes into possession of righteousness, justification and life through the superabundance of grace.

Here, then, we see the first dealing of God to bring forth

a man, after His own image and likeness was thwarted through disobedience.

It is important to mention here that Satan has challenged God that he will destroy man and take the Kingdom (Zion).

After the fall, man was put in a position of a more intense warfare against evil than that which they faced initially. Think of Cain and Abel - with their offerings to the Lord - Abel's accepted and Cain's rejected. His offering was not acceptable before God, because it did not meet God's requirements. We must remember that God looks at the heart, which is a conclusion of motives, desires and will. 1st John 3:12 tells the importance of loving one another, *"Not as Cain who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother... Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."* This does not mean that Cain was the serpent's child in a natural sense as many think, but that the evil seed found its way into the human race, and Cain submitted through jealousy (cruel as the grave) to that evil one; to the killing of his brother. Satan loves blood; he hates anyone who shows any desire after God. Jude 11 explains it beautifully.

"Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

Note "have gone in the way." This is a deliberate action; every man has a free will. God is always dealing with man from Adam to this day to bring him to a place of overcoming.

After the incident of Cain and Abel, there is record in the Scripture of God's dealing with His people and their overcoming and their failures through disobedience; but God has never left Himself without a witness. In his dispensation, Enoch walked with God. God dealt with him and he obeyed God until he was translated.

Consider Abraham - He had a word from God regarding a son and a certain land. Abraham's faith had to be tested - he lost faith for a while and submitted to Sarah's wishes to bring forth a son by her servant. The greatest test or dealing of the Lord with Abraham, however, came when God told him to sacrifice Isaac. He obeyed and God intervened; thus Abraham was called "Father of the Faithful." God dealt with him and

BROUGHT FORTH faith as no man had expressed before.

Time and space does not afford our going into the lives of many of the patriarchs; how God dealt with them and how they overcame, while others turned away from the dealing hand of God and went the way of the evil one. Those who submitted to the hand of God were blessed and became a blessing; those who did not were condemned.

God dealt with Jacob. He could not be used of God or have complete victory over JACOB until the angel prevailed and his nature was changed. Note that Jacob had to get to the place where he realized that the man Jacob with all his cunning craftiness could not face Esau, so he sought the Lord. The approach of Esau helped him to feel the need for Divine protection - God intervened. God is glorified when man reaches the end of HIMSELF - his own thoughts and will. *"My thoughts are higher than your thoughts."* Human thinking cannot stand in Spiritual warfare. This is the reason the people of God are encouraged to have the MIND OF CHRIST.

The dealings OF THE LORD, therefore, are exercises of the Spirit to bring the individual to the awareness of qualities in our own nature, which prevent the qualities of Christ from being manifested. As long as the Prince of this world has things in us, our overcoming is limited. This is the reason that in Revelation 12:7-8, the Archangel Michael and his angels fought against the dragon until there was no more place found for him and he was cast out. Before the enemy can be cast out, there has to be an awareness of His presence. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed nor discouraged at the dealings of the Lord, whether through adversities, trials, testings, chastisings or by prosperity, as they will always work toward His purposes for individuals. If pride is in the heart, then humiliating circumstances might be used to deal with the pride. Whatever the problem is, the opposite factor is usually used to deal with the particular problem. Remember, *"Tribulation worketh patience."* Rebellion and rejection of God's dealings will cause one to turn ANOTHER WAY. Man is never deprived of his own free will, but the soul will remain unfruitful while the enemy continues to have power in certain areas, for there will be no strength to resist or to overcome in those are-

as. A giant in preaching and a babe in overcoming speaks of a condition of leanness in the soul.

Looking back at Adam in the Garden and all that transpired, we can clearly see that although man was driven out after his fall, he was not destined to remain OUTSIDE THE GARDEN, but he has to return through the flaming sword of the angel that guards it (which is the fires of purification). So many scriptures bear this out.

Matthew 3:11-12, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and WITH FIRE: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

Malachi 3:3, *"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."*

1 Peter 4:12-13, *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."*

It is an extension of His grace and mercy that we should be restored to Him, complete.

There is a popular saying that the road to success is through adversities. This may not apply perfectly here, but there is a measure of truth that is fitting to some degree.

Have you been dealt with or are you being dealt with? Submit willingly to the dealing hand of God, which is a hand of pure love. God's dealings sometimes bring out the worst of our nature, causing us to see our faults and weaknesses that we might submit them to His mercy, be cleansed and delivered, but if we make excuses for our attitudes and let them remain, they will canker our souls and hinder our development in Christ. On the other hand, His dealings are intended to bring us to that place of submission to His cleansing power, so that the prince of this world will have nothing in us through which he can tempt or accuse us; that we might be

vessels unto His praise and glory.

BREAD CORN IS BRUISED that it might be made into bread to feed the hungry.

Do not run from the dealings, the adversities, testings and trials; let them, through the grace of God, be used as the cleansing fire.

Nugget 18

Grace and Stature

June 1984

Not very long ago, a situation arose in which a child of God behaved very unseemly. On seeking the Lord about the matter, and with much grief of heart, the words came strongly to me, "Grace and Stature." This was followed by greater clarification of the word, "GRACE." Though GRACE in one sense means unmerited favor, which is from God to man, yet it involves a work in man's soul in its more extreme application.

AMAZING GRACE: " 'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me on."

This song speaks of grace as a beginning work, a work of continuation and a work to the end. Through grace comes Salvation, but it also takes grace to love, to forgive, to be patient, to be kind and gentle, to endure all things, to be loyal, etc. It is, therefore, the continuing in the grace of God that leads one into that final bliss, which is the heart's cry of every true believer. There is a standard of inexhaustible fullness set by God for man. For this reason, the true and noble child of God will not rest or be satisfied with his or her own soul attainment until this fullness is achieved, which is divine perfection. The presence and power in the human soul enables man to be delivered from the human nature (earth bound) to the divine (heavenly).

Christ must reign through grace in the hearts of believers until all enemies (all the contrary and unsubdued nature) are put under foot. Believers who resist this operation in their daily lives frustrate God's plan for their soul's salvation, and fall terribly short of the glory of God. For this glory, the whole creation is waiting.

It is therefore possible to receive forgiveness of sins ini-

tially, and not grow IN GRACE; then the ugly attitude of the human soul will manifest very unseemly.

Through God's grace, the believer can say the right words and not offend, but rather love, respect and regard one to another, have proper control over the members of the body, thereby bringing the mind in harmony with the Spirit; then there will be no place for the Devil.

STATURE - Webster's Dictionary: time of life, age or one's height to stand, growth, maturity, development.

There is natural or physical, political, and Spiritual stature.

Luke 2:52, *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."*

Ephesians 4:13, *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST."*

Stature depicts a standing and a height in Christ that would put one in a position, not above his brother, but risen above the flesh or carnal nature; standing firmly in the Divine nature; refusing, through His grace, virtues and excellence to return to the weak and beggarly elements. There is a place of integrity in Christ to be attained, maintained and sustained above the rudiments of this world, where the believer will no longer be a tool or an instrument of the enemy in any way. We have been raised up with HIM FAR ABOVE PRINCIPALITY AND POWER, and made to sit in HEAVENLY PLACES. Believers are His workmanship created unto GOOD WORKS. Although stature means time of life, age and maturity - one can be many years a believer or Christian, and experience very little spiritual growth or maturity. Year after year finds him or her going around the same mountain, having the same weaknesses and behaving the same old way; not experiencing much change in character. On the other hand, some show such growth and maturity in a few months that the difference is apparent. Growth and experience should be most important in one's spiritual life. Anything that hinders one's growth and progress should be dealt with before it is too late, when it would become so much a part of that person's nature that separation becomes absolutely difficult or almost impos-

sible.

Spiritual growth is not flourishing in the gifts, or being an outstanding ministry. Paul said he had to be careful, lest after placing many into the Kingdom, he would himself be a castaway. The gifts and ministries and every blessing of the Spirit is to bring the believer into union and harmony with God. The tendency is to glory in the gift and not the Giver.

It takes GRACE to deny the man and let the CHRIST come forth. It takes abiding, not in and out, hot and cold, here and there, back and forth, sometimes up and sometimes down. "Who shall abide?" He that hath clean hands and a pure heart. God will give grace to the humble and succor the weak, that he/she may be able to stand under all circumstances and conditions and glorify his Heavenly Father.

One might not be aware of one's own spiritual growth, (which is good, no space for being puffed up), but others with whom you come in contact will surely witness that you have been with the Lord. This is one's testimony.

Each day should bring us closer to that mark of the high calling. The Divine Nature must be engraved deep in our souls, that as the months and years go by, we mellow, not in churchianity or in church politics, but in CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

Nugget 19

God of the Ages

August 1984

When we think of GOD, we think of Strength, Power, Love, Kingship, Kindness, Peace, Longsuffering, Patience, Justice, Judgment, Mercy and all that He reveals Himself to be. Try as we may to fathom all this, it is beyond our comprehension to fathom His scope. He is without bounds or limit. He pervades everything, producing cause and effect from beginning to end.

ADAM: He knew some of the magnificence of God as he walked and talked with Him in the cool of the day. He knew God in a special way and for how long this relationship continued, we do not really know. One thing we are sure of is that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was translated by faith, and that this knowledge did not come just from his own experience, but must have come from his fathers.

ENOCH: *"And Enoch walked with God, and Enoch was not; for God took him."* Genesis 5:24. Just think of a man who walked so close to God that he was translated into the heavenlies without death. This must have been his desire, and I expect one of these days, many of us will come to that point of time and place, where we will be translated without seeing death.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1st Corinthians 15:51-52.

NOAH: Noah knew God as one who cared for and delivered His people, even under the most trying and humanly impossible circumstances.

Here was the only survivor of a whole nation of people. During a period of almost two thousand years, the righteous

people, (beginning with Seth, who was a replacement for Abel who was slain by Cain), were gradually being destroyed by violence and defection. *"Sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men.. .of renown."* Noah's family of eight persons were left, and daily their lives were threatened. God told him to build an ark. For one hundred and twenty years, Noah believed God while he warned the people and built his ark. Sometimes, we feel badly when we discover that a few people are against us, BUT THIS MAN had all the people in the rest of the world against him. He was mocked, derided and counted as nothing - totally rejected. It would appear that rain had not fallen on the earth before, and people did not even think it was a possibility that this could happen. NOAH PREACHED that it would rain. One man against the world. He WON.

SHEM: Shem lived in the time of Nimrod, when man first set up his kingdom against the kingdom of heaven; when a man dared to declare himself as God. This was the period in which Babylon was built, and when Ishtar, the "queen of heaven," reigned (the Ishtar gate still stands in Baghdad, Iraq). Shem overcame all this and lived to the time of Abraham.

ABRAHAM: When Abraham met Melchisedec (Jesus), Abraham referred to God as the MOST HIGH GOD, POSSESSOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, and gave to Melchisedec a tenth of all he had. He refused to take any gift from the King of Sodom, because his gift would not glorify God.

God honored Abraham's faith and confidence, who at seventy five years of age left all for God, and *"went out knowing not whither he went."* Through much hardship and trials, God brought him to the land of promise, and because he believed God, he bought a field to bury his wife in Jerusalem. Today the Dome of the Rock shrouds the stone where he offered Isaac to God, but for the intervention of an angel, he would have sacrificed him. In spite of all this, at the end Abraham did not look for an earthly Jerusalem, but a heavenly:

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And truly, if they had been mindful of that coun-

try from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:10, 15, 16.

MOSES: This is the man who had the testimony of God, that of all the men on the earth, he was the humblest. Among men, he must have been one of the greatest God made. His heart was set on doing the will of God with all his strength. He had seen the mighty works of God in the wilderness of Sinai, and he had seen the finger of God write the ten commandments on stone. He seemed to have understood God so well, that when God said to him *"tomorrow you shall die,"* he did not see it as defeat, but VICTORY. No pleading, no begging; the divine will was his will. And he snatched victory out of the hand of Satan by making offering for his sins before dying, thus appearing sinless before God. Satan could not have his body; angels took him away.

THIS MAN KNEW THE AWESOME POWER OF GOD, BUT HE ALSO KNEW HIS LOVE AND KINDNESS. He never misconstrued a word of God, and the only time that he ever failed was when his emotions got the better of him.

Moses was a trained warrior of Egypt, a fit man to be groomed as the successor to the throne. He was trained in all the arts of Egypt by Jannes and Jambres, the sorcerers of that time, YET when God called him, he rejected it all. Like Paul who *"count them but dung, that I may win Christ."*

DAVID: We are told David was a man after God's own heart. A lion in battle, a leader of the leaders, King of Israel, YET obedient to God. He knew God as Saviour of his life on many occasions. Sometimes, God would come into the battle line and work miracles for His people.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Psalm 27:1 & 5

He lived constantly with death, thus he knew the power of God to save. He knew what it meant to be hidden under the shadow of the Almighty. David was King and knew GOD

AS LORD AND SAVIOUR.

HOW DO WE SEE GOD? Is God any less today than He was in the time of the Great Patriarchs? Or does He care less for us today than He did for those people in the past? The answer to both questions is obviously No. "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*" Hebrews 13:8. Yes, God is the same; the problem is with us.

Because of the fallen state of the church, we tend to look to the high mountains of God and say they seem to be so unattainable, but the faith of Enoch and the faith of Abraham is still part of our inheritance in Jesus Christ.

When we come to see God through the eyes of Jesus Christ, then we will begin to have a glimpse of not only the God of Adam and the God of the Patriarchs, but THE GOD OF ALL AGES.

Each of the men mentioned was a mighty pillar in the foundations which God has built in the earth over the ages, but they each saw only a part of God. God is yet to be revealed in us and to us. This is why the last book in the Bible is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." The deeper we go into the Holy Ghost, and the deeper the Holy Ghost is allowed to penetrate our beings, the greater will be the revelation of God.

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished..." Revelation 10:7.

The promise, therefore, is that one day we shall see Him face to face. THANK GOD, THE DAY APPROACHES.

Nugget 20

Tending the Garden

October & December 1984

In the story of the Garden of Eden in the Bible, one cannot but discern that there must have been a garden within, as well as a garden without. God Himself was the first architect of the garden. The Scripture records that He planted a garden "...eastward in Eden and there He put the man whom He had formed." The garden within was formed first, then the garden without, and the man was given the freedom to tend and create the beauty in the outward garden which was within.

When Adam fell, the manifestation immediately began to show itself in the outward garden. Animals were killed, and their skins used to cover Mr. and Mrs. Adam; leaves were cut off and used for clothing (which represents man's temporary and futile measures of covering himself). Suddenly, all nature was out of control. The controller had lost his status, and ugly things began to appear: poisonous plants, thorns and thistles, and if this would be any comfort to you, this is where we got marijuana, opium, etc.

Genesis 3:24, "So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

The garden was planted "east of Eden," and the Cherubims were placed east of the Garden. We can clearly see, then, that the entrance to the garden is at the east side. If we look at this spiritually, we will then see, that since east is the place of the sun rising and the sun represents Christ, that the entrance back into that place in the garden where Adam was is for us through Christ. This entrance, however, is guarded by messengers with the flaming sword. Matthew 3:11 declares that Jesus Christ will baptize us with "fire." Since the sword in scripture spiritually means the Word of God, we must then

understand that it is by submitting to the Word of God that we receive not only the Baptism of the Spirit, but every bounty which God offers.

All through the ages, God has been showing man that he can reach up into God and reclaim that which he has lost, by submitting to the right thoughts: Noah was righteous in all his ways before God; Enoch walked with God, and Enoch was not, because God took him; Job kept his integrity before God; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, David and all the mighty men of God, (some of whom we have never heard). God's chronology of these men recorded in the scriptures all through the ages shows God wooing man back into that place which he had lost through the infiltration of evil into the world.

Ecclesiastes 3:11, *"He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."*

"He hath set the world in their heart." No wonder our thoughts are not like His thoughts; no wonder we are so humanistic in our spiritual thinking. Some of us think that hell is in the middle of the earth, and others think that we will be flying away to some other planet, and that in heaven there are streets of gold. (The scripture speaks of *"a street of gold"* - which street is Jesus Christ).

Romans 8:20 states, *"For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope."*

"Subject to vanity" is the same as saying that God placed an angel in the garden with a flaming sword to keep the way of the tree of life. Man cannot re-enter the spiritual garden without going through the fire. Jesus Christ baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with FIRE. Fire is the agent of change, and without this change of nature, the garden cannot be reentered; man cannot overcome.

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water..." Psalm 1:3. This speaks of the planting within, and not of that without. The greater garden is the one which God sees in the Spirit, and not that which we behold in the natural world as God's garden. The soul of man is God's eternal garden. The

daily exercises in the soul are the plantings of the Lord. The testings and the trials which beset us daily are the fertilizers which God gives to strengthen the tender plants. The Word of God as the main plant food must be daily given, with added water of the Word and the sunlight of His presence; all working together to bring forth fruit unto righteousness, which is Godly character. The result of this proper application brings forth eternal life in the soul, and this soul shall not see death as Adam did. The daily exercise in the Spirit are the plantings of the Lord in the soul, that will guard the soul against the bombardment of the evil, so that we, instead of feeding on the world's knowledge of good and evil, will feed on the tree of life, which will bring forth resurrection in the soul. Because man has fallen so far from God's standard, there are a lot of things, which seem to be life, that work death. The Word says, *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is death."* There are certain things - thoughts, desires, emotions and will - that are from the MIND OF CHRIST; that are available to those who come to Jesus, because it is a coming not just to be forgiven of sins, but a coming and appropriating of that which is available to make us sons of God, to bring us into that inheritance that we lost in Adam, reclaiming all that we lost of the power and the glory that Adam enjoyed in the garden before the fall.

The responsibility is on us to tend the garden, because He said, *"But as many as RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM gave He power to become the sons of God..."* (John 1:12), and, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* (Romans 8:14). To receive the power or the authority is one thing, but to exercise your franchise TO BE is our responsibility. You can be brought into a relationship, but if you do not exercise your authority or franchise you cannot receive.

Isaiah 61:3, *"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE PLANTING OF THE LORD, THAT HE MIGHT BE GLORIFIED."*

Through faith in God and submission to the Holy Spirit, man will come into the divine nature. We can see this down

through the ages. After the fall, as God dealt with man, evil tried to destroy good, even as Cain killed his brother Abel, because Abel's offering was acceptable before God and Cain's was not. Cain brought forth of the natural, and Abel brought a different offering entirely; therefore, man's attitude and man's soul's expressions are the things that really count before God. It is not even the quantity of things that you do. You can do a whole world of works and not please God. You can give your body to be burnt or whatever else you can do in the natural, but as long as your heart and your soul are not anointed in the Spirit to do those things, to accomplish these things, as long as it is man's effort and for world glory, then they do not count with God. There is a little poem which says, "Nothing is worth the making unless it makes the man." It might have referred to the man in a carnal sense, but I would rather apply it to mean the BODY OF CHRIST, the man to glorify God. This working of the soul is something which has been going on since God made man, for God's purpose for making man is to glorify Himself, and to be delivered from the possibility of the soul nature being taken over by the beast nature. Some of us might think that God just loves the glory, but all this is done to deliver man from the bondage of sin and corruption. Man is earth - earthy, and it takes the Divine nature to deliver him from the human nature.

Looking back through the ages of the workings of God on man, through Patriarchs and Prophets, we see how many times God touched Moses' weaknesses to help Moses to be delivered from the earthy humanness. From looking at the historical characters of the Bible, one picture looms very clear, and that is that the hand of God has been dealing against man's soul nature, in order to rid him of the carnality and earthiness, and to bring him into God's Divine nature of purity. That nature comes from feeding on the TREE OF LIFE. Jesus came when the Law and the Prophets failed, though we cannot say it failed, because Enoch came through, and out of every dispensation, at least one man came through into immortality as a witness and a testimony to his age. Moses overcame under the Law by the blood of his sacrifice; later on, we read that Satan contended with the angel of God for Moses'

body. Jesus had to come to deliver man from the Adamic nature, from the earthiness, from the soulishness. Our greatest bondage is our own soul nature. Whether we inherited it from our families or environment, or whatever other influences afflicted our souls to bring us under bondage, Jesus came to the rescue to show us the way, and to help us by sending us the Holy Spirit. This is the reason He said, *"It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you."* Jesus Christ could not indwell us while He himself was man. He could not move in the whole church at the same time, so He had to send the Holy Spirit to indwell the church, to be Christ for all and in all: omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent.

It is this work within the garden of man's soul that will accomplish this task of ridding the soul of this earthy, carnal, human nature. This is a daily task, and we have to enter into this exercise daily to make sure that we have the proper plantings: a good spirit, a good attitude, a good disposition, pure thoughts - putting away lying. The scripture says, *"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* Ephesians 4:25,32. A thought came to me recently, that when we hear about a brother or a sister's weakness, instead of crying out to the Lord for that one, many times it becomes a news item and something to glory in, and many times, we rejoice over that one's fall, or the tribulation of our neighbor. Now that is not the Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of Christ would rather weep for such a one, that that one be delivered, but there is a spirit that is going through the earth that allows man to want to exalt himself above his fellowmen, and so he rejoices over his weaknesses or his downfall. That is the spirit of the antichrist. We have to look out for that spirit, that we do not manifest in a spirit which we reject. We have to look out for the things which motivate us and move us to action: whether these actions glorify God, or whether they put down our brethren, or cause us to do despite to God's people, or to perpetrate ANY action that is contrary to the perfect will of the Lord.

As we go on, day after day, we are planting in the soul either good or evil, but God requires of us that we plant good, and as we do so, the thorns and the thistles will be eradicated. Sometimes, they are so deeply rooted that we will have to deliberately reject them, come against them, and do everything in our power to remove them. There is, however, one thing that is absolutely necessary - we must be aware and be conscious that they are there. If we close our eyes against them and pretend not to notice them, they will grow up as large trees and destroy the garden completely, and take such root in our souls, that it will be difficult to get them out. Sometimes we force God to take drastic action to get these roots out of our souls so that we can live. Tending the garden is absolutely necessary. Sometimes we have to lay aside food and all our daily activities, so that we can tend this garden in fasting and prayer, and cry to God and say, "God, I do not like what I have seen; help me to get rid of it before it brings forth fruit unto death," because anyone eating fruit from an unfit tree is going to be poisoned by it and hurt by it.

Revelation 8:10-11, *"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter."*

The picture we see here in Revelation is that of a star falling from its position in the sky, and falling upon waters which killed men. The "star" in symbolism means a son of God. "The waters" mean the Word of God. If our gardens be allowed to bring forth poison, it will poison others spiritually, unto death. Our ambition should be to bring forth that which brings healing and food and health to our surroundings. The fruit of love should come out of our gardens. We should eradicate slander and debate and war as evil weeds. When we have peace, our soul-garden bears good fruits abundantly. When one operates in peace, one would rather be defrauded than fight back, and when people speak evil of you, then you will have the fortitude to render them good for evil.

There was a nature in Esau which caused God to reject

him. God did this on pre-knowledge, since when he was rejected, he had not yet done either good or evil. If you could look into the future and see someone commit murder, then you could actually judge him a murderer before the act. Jacob also had inherent evil, which God had to help him to deal with. It took God years to deal with the evil of Jacob's garden, but he knew that Jacob was good soil and would eventually respond. IT IS TAKING GOD SIX THOUSAND YEARS to bring us to mature sonship. The time is now at hand when the true sons will come forth. One of the reasons it is taking so long is that man is not willing to submit totally to God; we are always fighting and resisting. The Word says, *"The Spirit warreth against the flesh and flesh wars against the Spirit."* Until the soul can be completely submitted and surrendered, and say, *"Not my will, Lord, but thine be done,"* then we will not know the joy of the Lordship of Christ. Then, and only then, we will attain to the knowledge that we have to lay down the nature of the soul in order to pick up His nature. It is like when Jesus was crucified, and the centurion looked at him and said, *"Truly this was the Son of God."* They had to kill Him to get that revelation, and some of us must go to that extreme before we can come to the knowledge that truly this is what we need; this is the best thing, for us to submit to the Lord; to make Jesus Christ truly King. It is a process in which we must continue and persist to do daily; then, the soul will stop its warring and find its rest in submission to the Lord. I know that many souls long to submit to the Lord, but because of the bombardments from the world, the flesh and the devil, many do not succeed.

This is the only time that the Spirit will be able to take the soul as its bride, to have complete union to bring forth the glory of God in the earth.

Nugget 21

Sold Out

April 1985

For some time now, the Lord has been stressing the responsibilities and sacrifices that accompany the call of the Lord.

Very early experiences with the Lord made it absolutely clear that only a complete separation from the ways of the world could put one in a place that would delight the heart of God, and cause one to enter into His secrets and be a part of His function in the earth.

ABRAHAM, though referred to as a friend of God, could not fulfill his role before God in Terah's house, because Terah did not overcome his idol worship, and the ways from which man had departed from God since the fall to that time. God, therefore, commanded Abraham, "*Get thee out of thy country... and from THY FATHER'S HOUSE, unto a land that I will show thee.*" Many people in our time take this in the natural, and reject their parents in such a way that it breaks their parents' hearts. They do not realize that such an action does in fact open the road to rebellion. The light of God's presence in one's life should shine first in one's own home, then radiate to others. One might not be able to bring his family to the Lord, but LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE. They need the testimony of Jesus. Yes, God intended Abraham to leave physically, which he did, but took his father and nephew with him, which meant that that family spirit went with him. Abraham was part of Terah his father. One can see the result of this, is that Abraham could not move on until he settled the Terah question - until Terah died (no matter that God provided a better way for man's deliverance and perfection). In all this, Abraham did not lose sight of God's promises to him - the possession of the whole land. There was no satisfaction in his soul in

the places where he travelled, though he kept moving on and hoping. The great test of Abraham's faith came at mount Moriah: the offering of his son Isaac. He could not see the two things working together - to be made the father of many nations and to offer up his only son - BUT HE BELIEVED GOD - he was sold out to FAITH IN GOD.

DAVID, a shepherd boy, remained a shepherd boy until he learned to be courageous, how to be tender, how to care for his flock, (to) be watchful over his sheep, risking his own life for their safety. He could then believe God for the slaying of Goliath, for the deliverance of Israel. He cheered Saul's heart with his musical skill, talent and spiritual power, not thinking of the hatred that Saul had for him. He was a man SOLD OUT to serve the God of Israel faithfully, and to be a shining light to the people of his generation. In the image of David, the people looked and hoped for their Messiah, who should come to deliver them and sit on the throne FOREVER. See Matthew 1:1.

DANIEL was taken captive from Judah to Babylon, but God was with him, and he was raised to power. He believed God for his deliverance, therefore was undaunted in his faith in God, even in the face of hungry lions. Do not forget that some people today are worse than hungry lions, but God does deliver those who trust Him.

There are so many others in the scriptures who walked in their integrity and trusted in the Lord. *"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is."* Jeremiah 17:7.

The people who made the Lord their only hope experienced deliverance from their enemies every time. In spite of the devastating circumstances they faced, they died with that hope of meeting face to face with their Messiah as David cried, *"Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell."* For this reason, Jesus Christ indeed had to go to hell and lead *"captivity captive,"* praise God.

In the New Testament, Jesus accomplished man's salvation in His atoning death, making the salvation of man obtainable by faith, so that man must abandon the reliance in his own effort. Whosoever believes on Him shall not perish. Faith and trust are Christian attributes. All Christians should

be sold out to Christ, because He establishes not only FAITH, but THE POWER to accomplish. Some, however, are not willing to pay the price. How sad that there are so many who accept the free will offering of salvation through the blood of Jesus, yet are not willing to forsake the world and its attractions to lay hold of the eternal blessings. It is like the contract of marriage which necessitates forsaking all other men and cleaving to your husband, or forsaking all other women and cleaving to your wife. In most of the marriages of this century, honesty and integrity are not the main ingredients, resulting in broken homes and great disasters. Even so in the Christian world, not many are willing to relinquish the striving after the reliance on the world and one's abilities, to rely totally on FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

One who is a believer and called of God is not his own, he is God's. To believe means to commit one's self decisively, not only as a past but a continuous action. Believing will take a person out of himself into Christ. Of course, the Holy Spirit in the believer is God's mark of ownership, which is the earnest of our inheritance; which guarantees the forthcoming of the final ETERNAL LIFE.

Paul saw the need of counting all things as dung to win CHRIST. Because he was SOLD OUT to Christ, he was able to run the race, to finish his course, and to look forward to what was laid up for him when he came face to face with the Messiah.

Although the term "price to pay" is sometimes used by us (Luke 14:28), it is not such a difficult thing as it might seem, because that which is gained far exceeds the investment.

One certainly cannot be used of God satisfactorily, unless that life is laid down completely and made ready for the Master's use by fire. Total commitment. NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE, words of Jesus Christ Himself. The disciple is not greater than his Lord.

Nugget 22

The Lord Waits on the Increase

October 1985

1. *"Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching His vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:*

2. *And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.*

7. *For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant..."*

Isaiah 5:1, 2, 7.

In different cultures, and at different times in the history of the world, men have changed their basis of assessing value. For example, in the time of Job, riches were counted by the amount of cattle and servants one had. We, therefore, have the tendency to think that the things which are precious to us are also precious to God. But this is not true, unless we have the mind of Christ.

As man would now count gold in this modern age, even so does God count His people, and their increase SPIRITUALLY is a precious thing to His heart. Any other form of prosperity outside of spiritual prosperity means very little to God.

The picture which we have just seen in Isaiah 5:1, 2 and 7 depicts the very heart of God, and the whole purpose for which He made man: *"...the men of Judah, His pleasant plant."*

James 5:7b, *"Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."*

The fruit comes before the harvest. God's intent and purpose from His first planting of Adam and Eve was to bring forth His glory in the earth. *"Be fruitful and multiply"* and have

"dominion over the earth" - fruitful, bringing forth godliness, and dominion in righteousness and holiness, not worldly dominion. God tended His vineyard from Adam to Enoch, through the age of the Law and the Prophets: Moses and Elijah, to Jesus Christ.

What was lost in Adam was regained in Christ. He showed perfect and complete subjection to the will of the Father in all things. The first manifestation of this restoration and showing forth of the perfect will of the Father was seen on the mount in His three-phased temptation.

1. Making stone into bread - type of which was to satisfy the human nature.

2. *"All this power will I give thee"* - the craving after power.

3. *"Cast thyself down"* - self-exaltation and satisfying of ego - showmanship.

Jesus was put to the test, but stood on the authority of the Word and overcame in each case, as Satan could find nothing in Him. In Jesus' dealing with people, His love and compassion, His care for the little children, He pleased the Father in all things. In Him, we see perfect fruit bearing which pleases God. There was no place that Jesus went where there was a lack of this showing forth of fruit unto God in His life.

As He was in the earth, so are we to be. Through the effectual working of the Spirit, fruit bearing takes on a new dimension wherein the soul of man is transformed from his vile nature and brought into conformity to the image of Christ.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, established a church built upon the apostles and prophets. He laid down all the necessary foundations for its continuation as a fruit bearing institution, but so many churches have been deceived, even in the concept of what fruit bearing is. One denomination believes it is winning souls, and another that it is the gifts of the Spirit. ABUNDANT FRUIT is abundantly exuding the life and character of Jesus Christ in our daily living.

The whole creation is waiting in pain for that manifestation of the church, of that abundance of life in Christ coming forth, but individuals have to be delivered from *"the foxes"* (little or big), the *"caterpillars and cankerworms"* which de-

stroy the vine and retard the increase.

John 15: 1, 2, 4-5, 7-8:

1. *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2. *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

4. *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

5. *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

7. *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

8. *Herein is my Father glorified, that YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT; so shall ye be my disciples."*

"The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE...", Galatians 5:22-23.

"For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth." Ephesians 5:9.

These two scriptures give us an insight into what the increase which God expects is, and how they are obtained - not in our good deeds for God or our imaginations, but in GOODNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH.

Nugget 23

Be Strong in the Lord

November 1985

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10

For several weeks, these words kept ringing in my heart, so one day I decided to see what enlightenment the Lord had in store. It seems clear on reading from verse one to the end of the chapter that these are walking truths or instructions for our daily lives - a paragon by which our attitudes can be shaped or measured.

First, children are exhorted to obey parents, then wives to submit to husbands, then parents not to provoke their children, but treat them with love. James 1:20 says *"For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of GOD,"* therefore, whatsoever is done in anger cannot produce fruit of righteousness. Masters, treat your slaves kindly; for us it would be employers treat your employees kindly. Slaves, be subject to your masters, or employees be subject to your employer, as unto Christ.

The marital status in our society has deteriorated tremendously from "love and cherish, honor and obey" to hate and ill-treat, disrespect and disregard. Children are rebellious, instead of being obedient to parents who gave them life; parents abuse instead of loving and nurturing their children. Masters or employers cheat and exploit servants and employees, while employees do not give full measure or faithful service - we could go on and on.

These manifestations, however, are signs of the times: the Word enjoins us to *"...redeem the time for the days are evil."* See [Ephesians 5:16](#).

People of God! It is time for the world to see that having Jesus Christ in our hearts makes a difference in every area of

our lives. The Holy Spirit is willing and ready to guide every facet of our lives if we are willing to let go of our soulishness - using our own mind, emotions, will and desires instead of seeking the will of the Lord. We should desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all matters pertaining to our home, work and all other involvements. THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, and we are always under His watchful eye.

Verse 10, *"Finally, my brethren, be STRONG..."* When believers walk carelessly, they are robbed of the strength and authority that is within the Holy Spirit. *"I give unto you power over all the power of the enemy."* This is conditional to obedience to the Spirit of Christ. If a battery has a leak, then it loses power. When Christians do things contrary to righteousness, they are submitting to another spirit which drains their power and divests them of their authority through the Holy Ghost, with little or no overcoming.

It is not enough to say "JESUS IS LORD." We have to MAKE Him Lord and King over every detail of our daily lives. There are battles being waged in the heavenlies over us, and the people of God must have the victory. We are exercised first in small things. *"If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"* Jeremiah 12:5.

Ephesians 6:1-9 seems to point out a few possible weaknesses in our everyday living and how to overcome them, so that we might *"be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."* It is a ***walk of the Spirit. The verses after 10 tell us how we can be STRONG and overcome, having the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith which quenches the fiery darts of the enemy, the breastplate of righteousness, the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God, our loins girded with truth and our feet shod with the PREPARATION of the Gospel of peace.

The armour described above is not for lying down; it is for STANDING. It is not for sitting idly by; it is for fighting. It covers the head, the forehead, and the back of the neck - the helmet of salvation. The mind is protected by our salvation -

He gives us the Spirit of a sound Mind.

The shield of faith is a defensive weapon to turn back the lightning bolts which the enemies sometime throw at us. Righteousness is a breastplate of the Spirit. That which misses the shield, and is not parried by the sword, is turned away by the breastplate. The sword is the only offensive weapon in our armory. The power of the spoken Word is far beyond what we can, at this time, imagine. The Word says that "*He spoke*" and it was done. The words of our mouth have the power of life and death. Let us keep the Word of God in our hearts and on our lips. Loins girded with truth will help us to stand upright, and feet shod with that special mixture or preparation of the Gospel of peace will help us not only to walk but to run the race with patience.

Be not afraid of the roaring of the lion, for the power of His might is greater than that of the roaring lion. Like Daniel, let us say "*...my God whom I serve continually shall deliver me.*"

NO WEAPON THAT IS FORMED AGAINST US SHALL PROSPER.

Nugget 24

Grace

February 1986

Grace is undeserved favor - God to man.

Enoch found grace with God - he walked with God, and God took him as He desired.

Moses found grace with God - he talked to God face to face and lived; he received the ten commandments written by the finger of God; he led a miraculous life from Egypt to Canaan; died and was taken away by angels, and did not see corruption.

Elijah, the prophet, found grace with God - he lived a life of power and spiritual authority; was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

Jesus Christ, our great benefactor, the very author of grace, with all the faculties of God fully developed in Him, showed us what it meant for man to live by the grace of God. He was the embodiment of grace, peace and love. In Him, we beheld the glory of God. He is the grace of God.

God dealt with the patriarchs individually according to His promises. He dealt with Israel, His choice as a nation, under the law, according to His promises. The prophets stressed repentance in their prophetic writings, and encouraged Israel to take advantage of the GRACE which God always makes available to man. They stressed repentance as an inward work which renews the heart, as a gift of God's Grace.

God's Grace envelops mercy, lovingkindness, goodness and forgiveness. His AMAZING GRACE includes the Divine Power to equip man to live above his fallen state, thus fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ. He came to seek and to save that which was lost.

God, therefore, exonerates Himself from blame, because GRACE is His free gift to everyone. Accept it and you have

life; reject it and you are lost. Grace is from the beginning to the end of our salvation. Justification is through grace. When one comes to Jesus in repentance, God in His grace treats him, the guilty one, as if he had never sinned. Here FAITH, which is also a gift of God, is exercised to accept this forgiveness "*not of yourselves,*" Ephesians 2:8, but the will of God. Ephesians 1:13 speaks of Consecration and Baptism as the next step in grace - a provision for the conquest of sin in the believer's life. It is, therefore, necessary that one must be at an AGE and STAGE to recognize sin.

NO GRACE, NO GOSPEL: Every step in the Christian life is due to GRACE. Romans 8:28-30 shows there is a calling, a justification, and a glorification, with a responsibility in between; obedience being the moral attitude.

Hebrews 4:15-16, "*For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the THRONE OF GRACE, that we may obtain MERCY, and find GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.*"

So many times, we Christians fail so miserably with our loved ones and the world in general, forgetting that the whole creation groans and travails, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Before the world can have that witness, we, the people of God, must overcome the nature within us that is contrary to HIS DIVINE NATURE.

There is a work to be done in the soul - the mind, the emotions, the will and the desires (this is man) - by daily exercise, which necessitates getting to the throne of grace - i.e. forgive, that you might be FORGIVEN.

The trouble with many Christians is that sin does not appear EXCEEDINGLY SINFUL. The Holy Spirit has not been allowed to permeate the soul to do the purifying work to which the heart and conscience bears witness. They always seem to be either excusing themselves or accusing one another; therefore manifesting anger, malice, strife, wantonness, love of pleasure, divisiveness, cunningness, impatience, bitterness, selfishness, ego (which exalts self almost or altogether above God), fear, contention, pride, etc. - fruits of the flesh in general. All these are enmity against God, having

one's personality organized in the wrong direction.

Because the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, God makes provision for man in mercy and grace - that we might find the grace needed for the situations of each day.

It matters not how much one prophesies, preaches, imparts healing, teaches or is involved in any church activity; one needs to find GRACE to help when accused, robbed, beaten, reviled, cursed or caused pain or grief. The believer does not draw from the abundance of words in one's own vocabulary or from one's own strength, but rather from the abundance of GRACE from the THRONE OF GRACE. This will glorify God and produce much overcoming strength.

Matthew 5:21-28 shows that under grace, anger is equated with murder, and a wrong look is equated with adultery.

To stand on one's pride and depend on and use one's strength is frustrating the GRACE OF GOD, whereby we are S-A-V-E-D - saved from having been born in sin and shaped in iniquity - being saved from our own self nature - being saved from corruption to incorruption, and from mortal to immortal.

Nugget 25

Egypt to Canaan (Part 1)

October 1986

God called a people out of Egypt's bondage to a land of Promise, specifically to serve Him and to live out a covenant with Him, which is a type of God's calling a people out of the world and sin (Egypt) to serve Him in righteousness, and to reign with Him forever (the Promised Land).

Moses was prepared of God, and sent as a deliverer of the Children of Israel; the same as Jesus was sent of God the Father to deliver His children from the bondage of sin in the world.

The EXODUS of Israel from Egypt, therefore, has a place in God's revelation of Himself to His people, not only in the Old, but also in the New Covenant, in which the Passover Lamb is a type of our Lord's sacrifice, and the Passover feast a memorial of our redemption.

RAMESES TO SUCCOTH: Rameses, the city of Pharaoh, is the symbol of our house of bondage or the place of our incarceration. The things of the world which take the Christian captive would be described as our Rameses. Man could not deliver Israel from Pharaoh and his mighty army, but the blood of the lamb shed as an atonement delivered Israel at midnight. Pharaoh Rameses II named the city after himself, but the original name was ZOAN. Isn't it just like our Lord to take us out of ZOAN, a city of bondage, to ZION, the city of God. Six hundred thousand men, not counting the women and children, went with Moses out of Rameses, and since six is the number of carnal man, they all perished in the wilderness. Carnality cannot enter the Promised Land.

The word Rameses comes from the root word "*rawah*," which means to spoil by breaking to pieces, to make good for nothing. THIS IS A PERFECT DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WE

WERE IN SIN. The word Succoth means "booths" or tents of betrothal. When Christ delivers us from our place of bondage, He betroths us to Himself, (though we still are in the wilderness), and brings us into His booth, or tabernacle.

Israel was led through the wilderness by the Angel of God. This angel chose their camping sites for them, the route they should take, covered them with a cloud by day, and gave them light with a pillar of fire by night. This, surely, is a type of the Christian journey, which, instead of an angel, we have the Holy Ghost (God Himself) within and without, and His angels around us continuously.

The whole journey of Israel is a type of the Christian journey. The journey from Egypt to Canaan has spiritual implications for us today. God bless you.

Nugget 26

Egypt to Canaan (Part 2)

February 1987

Because God made man with a moral nature that equips him for discerning right and wrong, and places in the world a Spirit to assist him in making the right choices, there is really no excuse when we take the wrong road. The power to choose is a God-given endowment, therefore, man has to destroy his own conscience before he is able to totally reject God.

This provision is made because of God's foresight and foreknowledge. He saw man's weakness before the fall, thus made preparations for man's deliverance. One would say, why would God, knowing this, expose man to evil influences? If, however, one should carefully examine the structure of God's created beings (spirit, soul and body), one would only see that this very weakness is man's greatest strength, THE POWER TO CHOOSE. This power can be so great that it transcends the power of the enemy. God will NEVER reject or turn away from one person who desires Him. *"And him that cometh unto me I will in no wise (no case) cast out,"* John 6:37b.

When man fell, he was separated from God, since God and sin cannot exist together. Adam, therefore, lost the relationship he had with God in the Garden, through disobedience, but God provided the SECOND ADAM, Jesus Christ, to rescue mankind through the LAW and by the LAW. *"For without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."* By this means, Jesus Christ opened the way back to God.

The Bible is written in types and shadows, parables and mysteries. Jesus told His disciples that it was expedient for Him to go, that the Comforter, THE HOLY SPIRIT, might come to them to teach them, and bring all things to their re-

membrance. The Holy Spirit, therefore, unveils the mysteries in the types and shadows, making the Word understandable to all who believe - He is the revealer. This enlightenment seems to have come in waves and moves of the Spirit down through the ages. In spite of the evil forces working against believers, the burning of scrolls, persecutions, poor or bad translations, God has preserved His Word by the Spirit, and will until all the RANSOMED CHURCH IS SAVED TO SIN NO MORE. THIS IS THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

The story of the journey of the children of Israel is most fitting in relation to the Christian walk, because after man left Eden, his way back has been full of struggles in his encounter with the world, as aptly described in the book PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

It is very clear that Satan got into the church and created a religious system, which became an enemy of God's true church (believers everywhere who submit to Christ, and are being led of the Spirit); thus, we have the many and varied religious groups. The sad part of it all is that many resort to murder, violence and other evil practices, claiming they are acting in the name of God. HATE IS NOT OF GOD.

The children of Israel in bondage in Egypt is a type of the people of God in bondage in the world with all its allurements and enticements, robbing the people of their inheritance, and binding them in slavery to its customs and traditions. This heavy burden, however, causes people to cry out for help, even as Israel cried to God from the iron furnaces of Egypt. This pressure from the enemy brings us to the place where we realize that our help comes from God alone. It is important for us to discover the source of our help.

Coming to ourselves and recognizing our need is, therefore, the first step to deliverance. The "prodigal son" CAME TO HIMSELF, cried out, got up and went. God heard Israel's cry, prepared Moses of the tribe of Levi (who was brought up as an Egyptian, in spite of his mother's hiding him from the Pharaonic edict for the destruction of all Hebrew male infants), and gave him His command when He spoke to him from the burning bush in the wilderness.

In delivering Israel, God wrought great judgments on Egypt, and also demonstrated His power to those who did not know Him before. There are so many people who feel that the power of Satan and the world seem greater than the power of God. God is patient and longsuffering, but when He moves to deliver His people, one or many, nothing stands in the way. Nothing can stand against the BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST. God told Moses to put the blood on the door posts and lintels, and no power from hell or earth could withstand the power of that blood, which was only a type of the real thing, which is now applied to the heart or soul of those who come to Him.

"Precious blood upon the door.
Saving blood upon the door.
Oh, my soul, there is no danger
Where the blood is on the door."

This is how God eats with us the PASSOVER. Praise God for the feast.

If there is anyone reading this article, who has not yet had the experience of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ, and belief that the blood has power to save - just call on Him right now; ask Jesus to save you by His blood, and deliver you from the bondage of sin and self. Moses led the people from Rameses and Succoth out of Egypt. Jesus leads believers out of bondage into freedom.

Pharaoh and his people thought Israel was trapped by the natural obstacles (the Red Sea and the mountains); they hastened to attack, but by Divine intervention, the Red Sea parted for Israel to pass over on dry ground, then closed to destroy Pharaoh and his army. How many times has God come to our rescue - so many wonderful testimonies of God's divine intervention in the lives of His people. Even now as you read, I am sure, thoughts come to your mind of your deliverances from the enemy's traps and snares.

*"Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?
Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?"*

*God specializes in things seen impossible.
He does the things that no other one can do."*

Nugget 27

Egypt to Canaan (Part 3)

March 1987

God calling a people out of a nation specifically to serve Him and live out His Covenant is unique, and so also is a people called of God unto SALVATION. There is a coming out of EGYPT (the world and its ways), passing through the wilderness unto Canaan, into our possession (the fullness of Christ). Do not forget those who came out never entered into their possession. 2nd Peter 1, from about the third verse, shows that God's divine power has given His people all things pertaining to LIFE AND GODLINESS, because He has called us to GLORY AND VIRTUE. It goes on to say that He has given us "exceeding great and precious promises" whereby we "might be partakers of the DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." However, to partake of the Divine Nature, one has to press on from glory to glory. "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (agape love)." If these things abound, we shall not be barren, but fruitful. If they are lacking, then we are blind and making no progress in our walk with Christ. We are exhorted, therefore, to be DILIGENT to make our CALLING AND ELECTION sure, that we may never fail. "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

There are distractions and temptations every step of the way, but "HE THAT ENDURETH TO THE END SHALL BE SAVED." The precious blood of Jesus, however, that makes atonement (AT-ONE-MENT) for the soul, opens up the TRUE AND LIVING WAY; therefore, "THOU ART INEXCUSABLE, O MAN." There is absolutely no hindrance but one's self.

SELF, described as that which is born of ADAM, has to die, in order that the Christ life might come forth.

FROM EGYPT, one passes through the gate, the only way into Christ - "I AM THE WAY." God had to make a way through the Red Sea, by His Divine power and providence, to bring an end to the powers of Egypt's bondage. By thus doing, He also created deliverance and the beginning of a new experience for His people.

THE WILDERNESS OF SIN - EGYPT TO SINAI: God is the great supplier, the *El Shaddai*. Israel's wilderness journey is still the same today for the modern church. Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, and lusted after the flesh pots of Egypt, even as the modern church strives after world acclaim and worldly things. Korah, Dathan and Abiram were leaders in a rebellion against Moses, which, in effect, was a rebellion against God. When compared with our present day situations, it would seem that the church is stymied in its progress, because it has refused to be led by the Holy Ghost.

FORTY YEARS of wandering in the wilderness by the children of Israel should be taken seriously by the modern church, seeing forty is the number of tribulation, testing and death to the old nature. It is also a symbol of the Outer Court of the tabernacle of Moses, with the Brazen Altar where the animals gave up their lives - which is a type of man's death to sin. The Brazen Laver is also there, which is made of the womens' looking glasses, where the priests washed their hands - typifies baptism (death, burial and resurrection). Here is the "death to self" message clearly stated. It is very unfortunate that so many professing Christians have not had a genuine born-again experience, wherein they can say that "one day Jesus saved me by His blood, gave me peace and I am changed," which is the beginning of Salvation; there is no other way. Ephesians 1:12 gives the steps into His glory. Many refuse to die, and because they are alive, of course, they rebel against being buried; (want to keep their own identity and Adamic nature). It is a shame to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that there are so many talking as Christians, and living as something else. If we are buried with Him then we will be raised in NEWNESS OF LIFE.

The wilderness experience for Israel was designed of God to destroy the old and rebellious. None who left Egypt entered Canaan, save Caleb and Joshua. Joshua is a type of the Firstfruit Company, and Caleb, of the tribe of Judah, represents those who are one with Christ. Moses was privileged to see the Promised Land from afar, mainly because he represented the Law, and Law cannot enter into Grace. Moses struck the rock which was Christ, and the Law struck Jesus Christ and nailed Him to a tree.

Hebrews 6:2 speaks of Baptisms (plural), yet Ephesians 4:5 speaks of "*One Lord, one faith, one baptism.*" This is so, because water Baptism leads one to Holy Ghost Baptism (Matthew 3:11), and Holy Ghost Baptism leads to Baptism into Christ. 1st Corinthians 12:13, "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into ONE BODY.*" Submission to the Holy Ghost makes the working of the Divine nature in the soul possible. This brings the mind, emotions, will and desires under the power and authority of the Spirit, which culminates in the final work in the SAVING OF THE SOUL. Romans 7 tells of the union or marriage, not by divorce but by death. The soul nature, which is carnal, must die, that the Spirit might bring forth the Christ nature within. Galatians 4:19 shows that there is a travail in birth, until Christ be formed in the soul of the believer. Christ is already in the spirit of those baptized in the Holy Ghost, but the Blood quickens the soul, that the Holy Ghost may do His final work, so that when HE SHALL APPEAR, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM.

Nugget 28

Egypt to Canaan (Part 4)

June 1987

The walk of life is like an obstacle course, mainly because God has set obstacles in the path of every human being to cause him/her to have the opportunity to turn from evil to good; therefore, there is no excuse for anyone to lose his soul. God was not even willing for the devil to lose his soul, as seen in Ezekiel 28:18.

"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick."

It is amazing to think that God had put barriers in the way of Heylel, which He called sanctuaries, so that there were hindrances to his falling and becoming Satan.

The psalmist says in Psalm 19:1-2:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

No man can truthfully say he never heard from God, or that God did not reveal Himself to him, because the earth and the sky and the sun testify of God.

John 1:9 says:

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

God's voice speaks throughout the earth to restore man from his lost estate, in whatever language he can understand. It is appalling to see the devotion and dedication human beings can give to evil, compared to the devotion and dedication to God and good. A man devoted to a cause will put his life on the line, and commit brutal crimes in the name of his cause, and die for it, and lose his soul for it, yet that kind of dedication is not very popular among those who stand for the cause of salvation. The devil has been able to rob the strength

of the church. Praise be to God, however; there is a restoration taking place, and although Samson (a type of Christ) was bound and grinding at the mill, his seven locks are now growing, and very soon the power of God shall set in motion the deliverance of His people out of the bondage of slavery.

God's plan seems to be moving slowly, but it is because His plan includes man, and man has a free will which has to be brought into conformity with the will of God the Creator. In God's patience, He takes man through the paces, knowing that in time He will have a harvest.

The wilderness journey and the Outer Court of the Temple are typical: time of preparation when the old is discarded, as an old garment, for the new; the putting off of one and the taking up of the other. In the Outer Court, everything that was not pertaining to, or lawful for the temple, was exchanged or bought so that the proper offerings were made. In the same way, the journey through the wilderness purged out the old and established the new. For forty years, God made provision for Israel in the wilderness. He gave them food, shelter, water and even chose their camping sites for them. He was the scout that went before them; that sheltered them from the heat of the sun; that gave them florescent light; truly this was the mightiest manifestation of *El Shaddai* (God's tender mothering) in all of the Bible history.

The Law of God is an expression of God's nature, and must constitute a manifestation of the attributes of holiness fundamental in God, which man must possess to be in harmony with Him. This, man can attain, not by the natural but by the supernatural, if he accepts the terms of salvation through grace.

Seeing, then, that the will of man is so involved in his own salvation, man's will is free from law as enforced by power, but free under law as enforced by punishment. Man has a free choice; he can accept or reject; he can go the whole way with God, or stop at any stage; he can rebel against God or make idols, or tabernacle with the gifts of the Spirit in the "Outer Court" of Christianity, or in the wilderness, as discussed before; he could stop in Canaan (the Holy Place) and deteriorate into a Canaanite, even after crossing Jordan, or

PRESS INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES, to our possession, having partaken of the three feasts - Passover which is Salvation, Pentecost which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Tabernacles which is the Fullness of Christ. "From glory to glory, He's changing me." This change is dependent on our willingness to let go of the old nature and to put on the new.

MOUNT HOREB: *"And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. And He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel and because they tempted the Lord."* Exodus 17:5-7.

The same rod or authority of the Spirit by which Moses conquered Pharaoh, and destroyed the power of the mightiest nation on earth, the same rod which opened the Red Sea, is seen here being used to smite the rock, Christ Jesus, to bring water to the thirsty Israel. Moses is a type of the Lawgiver, and his rod represents to us the authority of the Holy Spirit, not men's authority over one another through hierarchical position, but by Divine appointment. It was the Law that struck Jesus. The law says, *"The wages of sin is death."* Jesus took our sins, so He had to die; this, then, is the reason God told Moses to strike the rock, for out of it came the healing of the nations.

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." John 7:37.

MASSAH means testing. After all the miracles of their deliverance from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea - they had seen the goodness of God - now they came to the time of testing. God will take us through a testing after we have seen His glory. The testing seems either to make us ardent believers or confirmed unbelievers.

MERIBAH means strife and contention. They were tested, but they failed, so they fell into strife and contention. They grumbled against Moses' leadership, thus doubting God. This is so very true about our Christian lives. We reject God's appointed ones, and accept the others.

Nugget 29

Egypt to Canaan (Part 5)

August 1987

The greatest achievement of man on earth is to live *Christ*, that is, really knowing Him. For this purpose was man made - to be His expressed image - "*That I might walk (and talk) in them.*"

The devil, however, lied to Eve in the garden; man disobeyed and lost the fight against him. Jesus came and opened up a different front for man - "*A true and living way in His blood.*" The sad thing is that Satan is still lying, because he is a liar and will always lie. And he is older and wiser now, and in spite of Calvary's victory over him, he does not quit, and will not, until man takes back or regains that which was lost, the KINGDOM.

This road of redemption seems a lifetime, but we know that our REDEEMER LIVES, and because He lives, we shall live. The process of change must go from victory to victory, until the final and sudden change. God made man to be a habitation for Himself, which He will not share with another. For this cause, everything undesirable to Him must be driven out, so that God can tabernacle within man.

Praise God, that our High Priest has already entered within the veil, opening the way for His Body. And Jesus overcame Satan until "*there was no place found for him*" - total and complete victory over him. The Word states in Revelation 12:7 that Michael and his angels fought along with the saints to overcome the devil, and that there was no place found (in the saints) for him. The devil has to be cast out before salvation and power can be experienced by us in its fullness.

It is a fact that Satan still finds a place in man, but thank God, we are getting wiser in Christ. (Samson's seven locks grew while he was grinding at the mill and the Philistines

were still having fun). God is strengthening a people, so that they can reject the work of the devil in their lives; so that there be no place found in us for him.

This whole position is equal to the children of Israel tramping around in the wilderness for forty years, when they could have entered the promised land a week or two after leaving Egypt.

At Rephidim, Israel received water from the rock. Jesus Christ, Himself, was that Rock which provided life-giving water. They journeyed to Sinai, received the law, and broke it in rebellion. Israel chose a golden calf instead of the true and living God who had brought them out of bondage. Man has a very short memory, but many of them were deceived to believe that the calf was a symbol of God, even as today many are worshipping statues of the Queen of heaven (Semiramis) and the gods of Greece as saints, thinking in their vain imaginations that they are worshipping God.

There is indeed a grievous parallel between the people of Israel in the wilderness and the present-day church system. People seem to be the same. God's gift to us should have changed us (and indeed does change us); therefore, we have the power to pull ourselves out of the natural conditions which motivate natural men.

Nugget 30

The Prince of the World

Is Judged

February 1989

Let us look at the line of events in the history of humanity, and there we will see a "pattern of failure and success." This, in itself, is a joyous thought, for since it began with failure, it will end in success. It began with evening and it will end in morning; with darkness and it must end in light.

In the beginning:

- (1) Eve was tempted
- (2) Adam fell
- (3) Sin and death entered
- (4) Dominion was lost
- (5) Jealousy - Cain against Abel resulting in...
- (6) Death - Abel's death

As a matter of fact, death entered from the moment Eve disobeyed and ate of the tree. The Word of God was, "*In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.*"

It was not long before the resurgence of righteousness began with the birth of Enoch, and men began to call upon the Name of the Lord. The record changed to look like this:

(1) Enoch overcame the judgment of death pronounced on mankind by walking with God. The record showed that Enoch "*walked with God,*" and Enoch "*was not, for God took him.*" This simple phrase describes a situation, which, in itself, is an anomaly of amazement: it speaks of a love story between God and a man, in which his wife, his children, and life itself became so small that heaven could not refuse him. God's intention from the beginning was to establish a relationship, and this He did with the first man Adam. The first

man who talked with God was Adam. There is a profound revelation in this thought: God wants the companionship of man. We can only imagine the glory and beauty of it all. A man wrapped in the arms of God Almighty, looking into the secrets of life; viewing all things from the concept of God. We know that one day, we will also know and see what Adam saw and knew. Adam must have received promises from God which were not crafted in words, nor expressed in the crude and slow-moving human phraseology, but issued into the consciousness like a bolt of light from the innermost being of the Creator. Under these circumstances, it was not possible for Enoch to resist his heavenly ascent. Love must have lighted the way, and the innate desire of the human soul for God fueled his escape. Like the psalmist David, Enoch must have cried, "*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, Oh God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*" The answer came back from God: "NOW!" The chariot of fire (or was it the flaming sword?), whichever it was, lifted him from carnality into the presence of the Lord, without death! It seems, however, that the door was closed behind him, since none that I know of, except Elijah, has found this way of faith.

(2) Moses overcame the judgment of death passed on all mankind by the one and only opportunity which the law afforded. Because he walked with God, he could hear the voice of the Lord clearly, and he went up Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah, from whence he viewed the promised land. He was about to reap the spiritual promised land, for he would walk with Enoch, and later with Elijah, among the overcomers who had their bodies in the heavenlies. Enoch never tasted of death, but here was a man who went through death, but was never incarcerated by the enemy. He must have offered his sacrifice just before death and died without sin. "*Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*" Jude 9. Later, we see Moses appearing in the transfiguration with Elijah, discussing with Jesus the Christ the details concerning His death, burial and resurrection. See [Luke 9:29-31](#).

(3) Elijah, all through his life, manifested the power of God. He raised the dead; destroyed his enemies by fire from heaven; called fire from heaven and burnt up wood, water and stones, as well as the sacrifice; slew the prophets of Baal; ran faster than horses; parted the Jordan with his mantle and went over on dry land. All this and more, he did as a type of Christ. In the age of the prophets, he stood tall, and by faith, slipped past death and is alive today with his body in the heavenlies. He is among the overcomers, and we will see and be with him some day.

(4) Elisha, with a name which closely resembles that of Elijah, asked for a double portion of the power of Elijah when Elijah was leaving. Elijah told him it would be a hard thing to give, but that if he could see him when he was being taken away, that he would receive his request. They had gone across the river Jordan by the supernatural means of Elijah striking the water with his mantle and parting it. Suddenly, a roaring chariot of fire with horses of fire came racing towards them. It was Elijah's transportation. In a split second, Elijah was aboard, and Elisha must have been frightened out of his wits as he was forcibly separated from his master, but he never blinked an eye. He saw the whole operation, and the reward was the mantle of Elijah thrown to him from the awesome fiery chariot. The double portion was his. He struck the water with the mantle, in the name of the God of Elijah, and walked back across the parted water. From that day onward, Elisha lived a life of absolute victory. He was permitted of God to do twice the miracles of Elijah. Instead of running from Ahab and Jezebel, as Elijah had done, he took up residence in the palace; he had surely received a double portion. Elisha is the type of the overcomers, and after he died, his bones resurrected a dead man who was thrown into his sepulcher.

(5) John the Baptist, the greatest of the prophets, overcame the world from his youth, and was never influenced or led by society, or tarnished with its corruption. He introduced Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the world, and ended the law and the prophets, thus ushering in the new age of the Grace of God manifested in Jesus Christ. He was a lone voice crying

in a blind religious world which could not discern Jesus as the Christ. It is a mockery to the devil that John the Baptist was beheaded, because when we see him with Christ, John will be wearing that same head.

(6) Jesus restores the kingdom. It would take a good-sized book to outline all the victories of the overcomers from Enoch to Christ; therefore, we must be satisfied with this short outline.

Jesus came and fulfilled the law and the prophets. That which is fulfilled is done away with, because it is superseded by the very purpose for which it was given. Christ became sin, that sin may be judged, thus putting an end to death by overcoming it. Moses and Elijah had their questions of death, burial and resurrection answered in the mount, in Jesus, the Spotless Lamb of God. Judas did not overcome the sin that doth so easily beset man, and it slew him. He became his own judgment, pronounced his own punishment, and carried out his own execution.

Jesus became sin, and then sin was under judgment, even in hell. In hell, Christ's first stop, He released the patriarchs, who waited long for the eventful hour, and some came out of their graves and walked the streets of Jerusalem in triumph. What a release! What a Jubilee! The door was made wide open for those who will accept the atonement of the spotless Lamb of God, escape sin and death, and walk in the overcoming light and grace, and put on the divine nature, having power and authority in Christ Jesus.

About the Author

The author does not claim that the words of this book are comparable to the Bible, but only that they are compatible.

Visions and dreams and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit work on the level where the believer lives. The level of the revelation, of the word therefore, is limited. Jesus Christ our Lord alone had the fullness of God, without measure.

The author has a most diligent and extraordinary dedication to God and to His word. She lives an exemplary life before her family and the church, thus offering a great measure of Christian maturity and experience to the readers of this book. Most of these words were given to her by the Lord while working at home, tending her garden, in the office or in the congregation.

We thank God for this gift of the Spirit for the blessing of the Body of Christ.

I submit this treasure into your hands and trust it will help you on your way as you go forward to possess your inheritance in Christ Jesus.

Cecil J. duCille