

Self Has to Die By Mavis M. duCille

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IT IS A SERIOUS TIME

This is a time of urgency for the old as well as for the young people. The young people are not going to be able to live like their parents or their grandparents lived. There is an urgency, and I must get this point across to the young people. It is a very sad thing, for many of them say, "Are we not going to marry and have our families?" and so forth. God will take care of that.

God said through the prophet to the woman, "Make me a cake first." Let that be the first thing you do in life: Commit your life to the Lord as a young person, and let everything else fall into its place. Let it be the most important thing in your life (because it is).

"Lord, if You give it to me to marry and have a family, then I praise You for it; I will glorify Your Name for it. But let it be first, Lord, that I want to be what You want me to be. So that if You return before I am twenty... before I am twenty-five... before I am thirty... before I begin to bring up a family, I will be able to praise You. I will be able to look in Your face and say, "Lord, I thank You for what You have done for me."

Make that be first in your life! Hold it as if nothing else matters.

"Make me a cake first!"

"Make me a cake first!"

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness!"

We are to seek first "the Kingdom of God," not "the Kingdom of God and a piece of the world." We have to be separated from the world, and if you want life hereafter with the Lord, you have to make sure of what you do here and now (whether you be young or whether you be old, or whether you be middle age). For whatever is done now before the Lord is what is counted then; there will be no opportunity after to make it right. And for some there will be sorrow and bitter remorse, because God is going to ask us (young and old and middle age, or whatever age you are) to give account for every word that we have heard and for every opportuni-

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ty that we have had. What have you done with what you have received? What have you done with what you have heard? It is a serious time!

WE HAVE NO EXCUSE

We have to get in God's order. We have to find God's order for the day. I have known this for a long time now, that God is in everything that we do. From the time we awake to the time we go to sleep, He is in every inch of our lives. So there is no vacation, and in God's order there is no time for school, and time for this or for that. If we are in school, God is to be in school also; if we are at work, God is to be at work too. We have been very careless and insensitive in these areas.

Many of us work with people who do not even know that we are Christians because we are going along with whatever is happening at work. But wherever we are, we must make a difference! If you light a match in darkness, it makes a difference. I have a little flashlight that has delivered us many times. With it, we were able to find the keyhole and turn the key to get into the house. A little light makes a great difference, and the light of God within us cannot be overcome by darkness. The darkness cannot pull down the light.

And so, little ones, do not say, "It is peer pressure." Do not give that excuse! Ask God to give you strength to overcome peer pressure. Peer pressure was made to be overcome. It is an "honor" that God is introducing salvation to you at this time. Young people, count yourselves honorable and privileged that God has introduced salvation to you at this time in the history of the world. When you stand in school among your friends, you are "the light." Let your declaration be, "I stand for Jesus! He is the greatest!" and no darkness will be able to overcome the Christ in you, whether it be drugs, or profanity, or any kind of dirt, or whatever might be thrown into your path.

"I am able to do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!" So do not think that because you are in a certain time or evil age that there will be any excuse before God. 4 You are inexcusable because God has given a *greater* measure to us to cope with the *greater* measure of the devil. Hallelujah!

IF WE SUFFER WITH HIM

There is something that is burdening my heart and I hope to God I can adequately express it, so that we can catch the vision. God does not want us to be thinking about ourselves, our safety, our protection, our rights, and our this and our that; because God has called us to suffer. It says that if we suffer with Him, we will reign with Him. Praise God! It is a sacrifice. Jesus said, "If any man will be My disciple, let him DENY himself." If Peter had done that, he would not have denied Jesus. But Peter did not have the Holy Ghost. He did not have the strength to deny Peter, and so he denied Jesus. And do you know what I am seeing here? The only way that we can really bear the cross, to take up the cross and follow Him, it is only after we have denied ourselves. If self is still reigning, you have not started yet.

We have been taught that to deny self is

to *do without*. That is not all that there is to denying self. That is only denying the flesh a little bit (maybe your food, or clothes, and so on), but to deny self is to be denying "ME" — the person and that part of my soul that can be tarnished.

HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

I feel that the parents have a need to seek the Lord to find out how to overcome this devastating spirit that is trying to destroy the young people and to tear families apart. Father and mother have to spend time together in prayer before God, seeking God: "Lord, give us the grace." When Paul went to God with his thorn in the flesh, God said unto him, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished!" Man's redemption is complete and that is why His grace is sufficient, and there is absolutely no condition or situation for which God's grace is not sufficient.

If you cannot find the grace in your own walk, at your own place, then call to a brother or call to a sister, "Stand with me that God 6 will strengthen me by His grace to overcome." And if someone comes to you with such a need, do not take it as news what the brother is saying or hold it against him. Just pray! Put yourself on the line.

SELF HAS TO DIE

But I tell you, self has to die. All our problems come from self. "Me" and "My" and "how I feel"—it comes from self and if we are to be disciples we must deny our self. Whether you are big or small, God will require of you just the same. Whatever you have learned, whatever you have heard, whatever you have understood is what will be required of you. Hallelujah! So, young ones, do not let the enemy rob you! Do not be robbed! The time is short and we must make haste.

It was not a popular thing for a man to die on the cross—it was a curse! Jesus bore the cross. He despised the shame. He was not an old man; he was only 33 years old. How many 33 year olds will say, "I will die for my cause. I will die for Jesus. I will give up my life"? If you do not have that burning in your heart, then get it burning! Ask God to put it in your heart. You need to stand for Jesus in all conditions.

This morning I was saying to a brother, "The communists give their lives for what they believe. They die for it!" Look at what is happening in China and those places. The young people are dying for what they believe. They do not care if they get run over, they do not care if they get bombed out—and it is <u>not</u> glory! It is not everlasting joy. It is not eternal life. It is only for an earthly cause—for freedom, for democracy. But what are we giving our lives for? Are we at the place that we are laying down our selves for Jesus, or are we only walking in a religious setting?

We do not want religion. We are seeking salvation and <u>ALL</u> of it! The whole package! Not a part! The whole package! "I want You, Jesus!"

And every problem that you have (whether it be physical, or economical, or whatever the problem is), it will be solved when you settle the account with Jesus; 8 because sometimes He holds us at a point until we make the surrender. He throws us into situations until we make the surrender.

HAVE YOU SAID YOUR "YES, LORD"?

We once met this 90 year old sister in California who was there in the time of the Azusa Street revival. She explained, "I was 17 years old, and I had never seen anything like that, and I have never seen anything like that since." She said, "I am praying in my heart that God will bring back that reality to His Church because so many people have never seen it. I would love to see it before I die, but if I do not see it, may God help the Church to see God move." She said that the greatest part of it was that you would hear so many people saying, "Yes, Lord!" "Yes, Lord!" The question that would be asked when they met the others would be, "Have you said your 'Yes, Lord?'" Have you gotten to the place with God that you said, "Yes, Lord God, I give You total surrender! I will go with You, Lord, whatever the cost, whatever peer pressure-it will not matter!" "You give me

the strength, Lord. I will say 'Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord!'" Or are you still straddling the fence and going along with the compromises of the hour?

If Daniel went along with compromise, he would never have been delivered. We would never read about Daniel and to this hour be blessed with his life; but he said, "I have purposed in my heart that I will not defile myself with the portion of the king's meat." Daniel knew very well that this meant death. He did not know that God would deliver him. He did not have the experience of the deliverance from the lion's den yet (it is now that we know), but he purposed in faith and he said, "If it is death, then it is glory to God!"

Likewise, in the third chapter of Daniel, the three Hebrew boys, when they were cast into the fire, they knew that they would have to face the punishment, but they would not bow, they would not bend, they would not break. God did not come and whisper in their ears and say, "You go in, and I will be with you. You will not be burned." They went in with total commitment to God, "Whatever it takes, Lord, I will not bow!" Three boys only—and all the other Jews bowed!

IF WE SUFFER WITH HIM, WE WILL REIGN WITH HIM

God is calling out a witness to His Name and to His glory; if you want to be a part of that witness, you have to suffer with Him. If you suffer (endure) you will reign with Him. If you cannot suffer a little persecution-Jeremiah 12:5 says, "If you cannot contend with the footmen, then how will you contend with horses? And what will you do when the swelling of Jordan comes?" If a little trial can shake you and break your oneness with your brethren, then what will heavy persecution do? You will hide and give away all your brethren to save your skin. A little twisting of the arm and you will say, "They are over there," and, "They are over there!" It is a serious hour!

As I said, I am trying to bare my heart of what I feel. The Lord has been speaking to my heart, "If you suffer with Me, you also will reign with Me." When His hour came

that Jesus should be betrayed and He should be crucified, and the burden of our sin came upon Him and He was heavy in the garden, He would wish that the three disciples would be able to pray with Him. He said to them, "Could thou not watch with Me one hour?" Can we watch with Him? Can we lift up the standard of righteousness that the world is waiting for? The world is not waiting for a wishy-washy people. The world is waiting for people who will stand up for Jesus. That does not mean that you cannot be wrong sometimes, but your wrong helps you to be right. And if you are going to look upon my wrong, and judge yourself according to my wrong, then you are going to miss it. This is because God has put you to see my wrong that you might help me to overcome my wrong, and that you might not be wrong where I have been wrong.

I always marvel that God puts people of opposites together. It is because the water has to put out the fire, and the fast have to bear with the slow. So do not think that because you are a fast catcher-on that you are going to 12 run away from your wife or your husband, and say, "Well, he won't make it", or, "He can't make it." You had better step back and keep pace, and ask God to help him to come along. Therefore, God puts opposites together to help each other. One does not pull the other down to where he or she is, or the other does not try to pull the other up to where he is, but in grace, one comes down to a level, or one comes up to a level, and you find the balance and walk in it. Praise God! Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus! Have you said your "Yes, Lord"?

SURRENDER TO HIM

Have you ever seen that when the Spirit of God touches a problem in life, the first thing one says is, "Yes, Lord"? You surrender! You surrender. You submit, and you allow Him to keep on pressing the button until you are totally lost in Him—totally and completely lost in Him! Hallelujah! Praise God! May the good Lord in heaven <u>help</u> us to be what He wants us to be before it is TOO late! TOO LATE!

LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT

If there is a problem that you had last year, and the year before, or the year before that perhaps as long as we have known ourselves we have been like this or that—may God help us because we are not growing then in grace. We might be growing in knowledge, but we have to grow in virtue also. Look to yourselves because *"the sin which doth so easily beset us"* (Hebrews 12:1) must be laid aside before we can really gain the victory. That is the difference between the testimony of those in Hebrews 11 and those in Hebrews 12:1. Praise God!

"Let us lay aside every weight." Every weight! Whether you come across it in school, at home, at work, at church, or wherever it is, let us lay aside every weight and "the sin which doth so easily beset us," because that sin is not a part of the divine nature. It is something that is a part of the Adamic nature and something that we must overcome. "Let us lay aside these things and run with patience the race that is set before us." Praise God! Hallelujah!

BE A LIGHT TO OTHERS

The time is short, and God is seeking a people to bear His glory and to declare His glory to the earth. Sometimes it seems as if the earth is taking over, but it is because of where we are standing. If God should plant our feet where we ought to be, then we would really see that it is He who is having the victory. It is only because we are in the twilight zone and we are not able to see, but you begin to pray, and pray in the Spirit, and you begin to feel like a giant. So then, when you are squealing and squawking and you find yourself in a pit, it is because you are not climbing out of it by the grace of God to see what He has there.

The army of God will never be defeated. Make sure that you are part of that army that is in the earth today to declare His Name to a sin-cursed, dying world. The people at the workplace are waiting on you to bear the light. Children, those in school are waiting on you to bear the light. You do not have to go spouting salvation and talking your tongue long—you only have to be the light! You only have to be the light, and when the pressure gets great and you feel yourself bending under the load, you cry to Jesus Christ and say, "Jesus, give me strength that my little heart... my little life... can be that light, that I do not fail You." And if you fail, then when you pray at night, say "Jesus, forgive me for failing You; for bowing to this which happened today at school so that I was not a testimony to You, Lord. I was not a testimony to Your glory, to Your faithfulness, to Your honor. Forgive me and help me. Give me another chance to make amends." There is no condemnation, but walk in the light of His love and you will have the victory every time.

There is no defeat in Jesus! Defeat is in us, in our heart, in our life apart from Jesus. And this thing (our heart) is very deceptive; this is why Jesus said, "It is expedient that I go. I have to get inside... so I can work from the inside." Although He gets on the inside, we must give way to Him so that as we yield to Him, He comes out and shows forth His glory in the earth. Then, when we overcome, we wonder how did we make it? How did we have this victory? Have you ever been in dark places where you see no hope and you do not know how you are going to make it? We have been there many, many times. As a matter of fact, that has been the pattern of our life. Some of us walk there constantly. Constantly!

COUNT YOURSELF WORTHY AND COME UP HIGHER

Our God is good and if He did not see that you are able to walk in that path, He would never allow you to embark upon it. God said something to me once when I was a very young Christian. He said, "Count yourself worthy and come up higher." He said, "Count yourself worthy that God allows you to be walking there." It means that I was feeling the pain and the grief of that situation because I was not high enough. I was looking through man's eyes! But He said, "Come up higher! Come up higher and let Me give you the strength. Let Me give you the anointing to go through and to be victorious." Hallelujah!

I will never forget that. It was a day I was very burdened. I crawled under the bed.

I used to weigh 97-98 lbs. so that I could get under there very easily. I crawled under the bed; I cried to God and when the anointing got to me, it was as if God was saying to me, "What are you doing here? Count yourself worthy and come up higher." You know those situations where you slip and fall, and you turn around and wish that no one saw you. You brush yourself off, crawl out, and say, "Thank You, Jesus! You are so real!" He was real to me! "You are so good! You are so merciful! You are so tender! You are so kind! You are so loving! Hallelujah! Praise God!" God wants us to know Him and to know that He is life eternal. Hallelujah! Praise God!

DELIVERANCE

I have only wanted to bare my heart. Praise God! May God deliver us from rebellion because, as you know, children rebel against what is good for them, and the children of God sometimes rebel against what is good for them, too. May God deliver us from rebellion for there is a way that seems right, but it is death. There is only one way, and it is the "high" way. May God help us to choose to walk the high way in spite of anything else. I do not think that there is one child in here who can speak or understand, who would say, "I do not want to be with Jesus." I think everyone would say, "I want to be with Jesus. I want to be what Jesus wants me to be." Then there is a price to pay, and the price to pay is not like a person coming to rob from you or to steal from you. The price is getting rid of those things which prevent you from being the person Jesus wants you to be. He is helping you to be rid of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The sooner you learn the lesson the better it is, because a rebellious child becomes a rebellious adult, and the Word of God cannot reach you if you have a rebellious heart. Praise God! Hallelujah! The Spirit has much to say on that point, but we are trusting God for a deliverance. Do you know that deliverance is the greatest part of our blessing? The sooner we submit and repent before God for anything that seems to be wrong, the quicker we are blessed.

Many times we come together and we do not receive the blessing that we should receive, and we blame everybody else except ourselves. "It is because of what that brother did." "It is because of what that sister did. She spoke out of turn, and she did this and she did that." Where is your Holy Spirit to bring him or her under the subjection of the Spirit while he or she is speaking out of turn? What you bind on earth is bound in heaven. What you loose on earth is loosed in heaven. So then, if we come together and we are not blessed or delivered, then blame yourself! Because if you look to God for a blessing, you are supposed to receive your blessing.

One man went from here as a missionary to China. Before he got there, a little boy in the congregation had a vision and he told it to the elders. He saw the man (the visiting preacher) all bound up. The elders got together and prayed, "God, loose him! Loose him that we be blessed and delivered." They prayed that the spirit be bound and that the Lord would loose him; and when he got up to speak, he opened up his 20 mouth and out came not a word. Not a word! And he was there until out of himself came an awful cry. He was delivered and later confessed, "I ministered as I have never ministered before." He said. "Something changed in me, and it was like my ministry just blossomed, and the people were blessed." Sometimes there is a need, and here there was a need for the congregation to stand for that brother. One little boy saw the vision and the people were blessed. Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven. Only make sure you are binding by the Spirit, because you can bind by the devil, too. May God help us to catch the vision of what it means to walk in the Spirit.

We are not called to "*church*," but we are called as a people to bear the Name of Jesus (to bear His nature). And when God is finished with us, He is going to turn us loose to deliver all those out there who are playing church. So then, if your house is not right and put in order, you cannot help another person out there. If you are not standing firmly, you dare not cast a line to save a drowning person or you will be drawn in, too.

May God really help us to "break up our fallow ground" and to be very serious about this place to which He has called us in Him. It is not a playing around anymore! I cannot be me as I used to be. I have to be what He wants me to be! When I see "me" rising up, I have to apply the grace of God and say, "God, help me to get rid of me, because there is no place for the 'me' in things that pertain to Thee. I must die! I must deny me, take up my cross and follow Thee. Then will I be Your disciple."

Other than that, I am just a shameful mixture that cannot find a place in the world or in heaven. Just a shameful mixture that is neither for here nor there; it is no good anywhere! The Bible says it this way, that the salt has lost its savor and it is good for nothing!

Oh God, Oh God! We are in a sad situation. May God help us, even at this moment, to deny ourselves and to take *self* off the throne. We have no rights, we have nothing to fight for. We are His. We are bought with a price, and we have to glorify 22

Him in all that we do and in all that we say. May God help us! Hallelujah!

DENY SELF

When the other person comes against us, can we forget ourselves and consider that this soul is probably taken by the enemy and needs our help? Or are we going to stand upon our rights and our dignity and not care what our actions will do to that person? There are many spirits against which we are wrestling. All around us now, there are those who are trying in their own strength to set up that thing in the earth that Jesus Christ came to do. There are a lot of impostors! Look out for self-ambition! It is a very deceptive thing because it will say to you, "Don't you want me to glorify God?" Look out for it! Sometimes if you touch it, you are wrong, and then other times if you don't touch it, you are wrong, also. (Is that a catch 22?) We are dealing with spirits that have 2000... 6000... 7000 or more years of experience, and our finite minds are not able to cope with it. It has to be the Holy Spirit.

So then, if you are going to walk without the Spirit, you are going to die. It will be death and destruction! These are serious times! Serious times!

When Jesus had twelve disciples and one betrayed Him, it was because he was of this world and he wanted whatever it was that he wanted. When the time came for the crucifixion, Jesus left His disciples behind and took three. He picked out the three that were the strongest and were more willing to help Him bear His agony. He left them to pray but found that He had to go alone because they were not at the place where they could bear with Him in the Spirit.

After Peter's ugly manifestation of denial, Jesus' word came back to him, "When you are converted, you strengthen the rest." At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came, poor Peter was not poor anymore. He broke loose and was delivered from Peter! Though, before that, Peter said, "I go a *fishing*." (Fishing had a hold on Peter!) May God help us to DENY our self. DENY YOUR SELF! Take up your cross if you want to be a disciple. Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!

I am sure that God is speaking to a people and that we are going to submit to the working of the Spirit. Let the prayer of our heart be, "Thy will be done, Lord God! Thy will be done!" Hallelujah!

Some of our hearts are so crusted over that we cannot even be tender to God, much less to one another. Oh, Jesus! For if we have not been tender to Jesus, then how can we be tender to our brethren? How can we pray until the voke is broken over the head of our brethren? When we come to Jesus, we are no longer normal, natural people; and normal, natural things should not be expected of us. We are expected to *walk* in the Spirit and to be different from the man who has only heard the Word. I am very tired of hearing people say to me, "I did not see much difference between the Baptists and the Pentecostals (other than they make a lot of noise), and now I cannot see any difference between what the Pentecostals are saying and what these people are saying (those called out of the Pentecostals and walking as the Body of Christ). Because they still talk about one another, they still slander, they still hold grudges, they still have bitterness." (I am talking about what I have heard with my ears.) "They are still worldly, so it is better for me to go back and stay in my Baptist church where I am comfortable." Unfortunately, what they are saying may seem to them to be good (some of it may be right, for we see it too), but what they are not seeing is the death that they are going back to; a worse death than they were in before. For them to be content to go back means that they had not seen a responsibility to God and a people but only what was good for "ME."

Jesus said to the disciples, "In this are the children of God made manifest from the children of the world, in that they have love one for another." I am not talking about the love that the world knows. It is a different love. It is a love that we have not yet fully entered into; a love that caused Jesus Christ (Who had no sin) to become sin for us; a love that will not eat or drink until my brother or my sister is delivered; a love that the Spirit can wake you at night and say, "Pray for such and such a person." And 26 your night's sleep does not matter to you, because God is not an extortioner Who is going to just take from you and not give back to you and resuscitate you. It is a love that cannot be shaken, even if a person comes to you four, five, six, ten (and God says even "seventy times seven") times with the same problem. Year after year he comes with the same problem, and you find God giving you a word of grace, a word of strength that you may say, "Lord, this brother (this sister) is carrying this problem too long! It is time, my God, that this be broken, and I will not eat or drink until that person is delivered from this problem! I stand for that person!" That's the love and care of God!

Sometimes I find that a person might be suffering greatly in a group, but cannot find one person to bare his or her heart to, lest they should think of them in a different way or say, "I did not know that person was like that." That should not be! There should be that place of refuge among us that anyone of us can come and find refuge knowing that our problem is not going to be scattered among the brethren, or if anything happens, love is going to cover it.

Do you know that Jesus spoke about death, burial, and resurrection? Some of us are hard to die! Some of us refuse to be buried and so we have no resurrection. What would you do if a dead person got up, refusing to stay dead; someone who was determined to live? WE HAVE TO DIE. We have to be buried before we can have a resurrection. God is seeking a people who will TRULY die and leave the grave clothes and be resurrected to a new life! Hallelujah!

LEAVE THE GRAVE CLOTHES

I hate and will not be identified with dead things. I tell you, when I see any dead thing hanging on to me, it hurts me. I hate it with a passion! I love my family, I love my mother, I love my father, but I refuse to be identified with the things that were not pleasing to God in their lives. This is where God gives us authority. You have to deny the thing before you can have any authority over it. You love your family, you love your 28

people, but you do not want to be identified with the things that came between them and God, the things that have prevented them from soaring high in Jesus. God presents them with a measure of salvation; my mother had a measure of salvation but she could not understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit. She was a dear person, I love her. I still remember her for she lives in my heart: but she could not understand the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I do not know if God revealed it at the end (I was not with her at the end of her life), but every time we tried to talk to her about the baptism of the Holy Spirit there was a block there, because she was brought up as an Anglican. If we are to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we have to deny ourselves and our identity with the world and with everything we were previously involved in. We have to take up the cross and follow Him.

When Jesus in His last days came upon the strength of the world, the tormentors, and all the demons that wanted to destroy Him. Right through His life they must have told Him He did not have to go to Calvary, "Just finish the work now!" In John 14:13, when He came to the end, He said, "*The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me*." He had denied Himself and taken up His cross. What does the prince of this world have in you? As we examine ourselves, what does the prince of this world have in us? In Chapter 12 of the book of Revelation it says that Michael fought with the saints against the devil until there was <u>no</u> more place found for him. Michael is fighting with the saints. Notice all the troubles that we are having now.

Young people, you feel that your parents might be putting too much stress on you. It is to get the old demons out and to help you to serve God in spirit and in truth. He (Satan) never gives up. He sits in the benches. He causes distractions. He causes your ears to be stopped that you cannot hear. He brings all sorts of accusations, but Michael is fighting with the saints, and there will be no more place found for him in us. It is not just the knowledge—there has to be a casting out. The reason there was found no more place for him was because he was cast 30 out. He was rejected.

The Word says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Whatever age you are, you have to learn to start resisting the devil. Parents have a responsibility to help the young children to resist the devil. Resist the devil! Start early because there is a place where the devil will try to take root at an early age—as a matter of fact, he makes his claims right before they are born. So prenatally you begin to feed the heart of the child with the Word of God and with the Spirit of God. Because an angry parent brings forth angry children, and deceitful parents bring forth deceitful children. Every seed is going to bring forth after its kind, but the seed of Jesus Christ has been given to crush the head of the serpent and to have the victory over the devil. When you begin to minister that seed, no other seed can come against it or stand against it. Some of us did not know these things when we were bringing up children, but we can educate you now. We can tell you now.

However, there are some young people who feel, "Well, it is no use! You came in a

different era." Rebellion in the hearts of the young people prevents them from listening to their parents or their elders. The Bible says that the older women must teach the younger women how to be good mothers and wives. You cannot depart from the Word. You are either going to abide by the Word or perish outside of it.

There is a thing in the world today about "in-laws." A mother-in-law has to close her eyes to all the ills of her daughterin-law, until next thing that happens there is a divorce. I do not know if you see it, but I see it. I see it. When I was married, I wanted my mother-in-law to instruct me. I thought the only way I can know about my husband is from my mother-in-law. She has had him, she raised him, she knew him; she is the best person to instruct me how to take care of him. However, it is not like this any more because the world is on the downward fling. At the same time, we have some mothers-inlaw who are like needles! I have seen that side, too! So there is a balance that we must find

God is bringing the homes together. God is correcting our lives. We have to deny ourselves. If we are not the right parents, we must be. If we are not the right in-laws, we must strive to be. It is better if you take a back place concerning their marriage and don't touch their lives until you can do it in grace, in love, and in the Spirit of God.

LORD, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE

Our young people are in great danger, and the poor young hearts do not know it. It is only the grace of God that is going to help us because you can do the right thing at the wrong time. God, however, has never made a mistake. Never! He is never late. He is never wrong. Hallelujah! Never late! Never wrong! We are the ones who are always in a hurry and doing the wrong things (in trying to do the right thing), and we make the breach bigger and the condition worse. Then we have a double, triple problem on our hands. When you are trying to do right, Satan turns it around and makes sure that you look wrong. We are living in a world of wise demons, and it is only the Spirit of God that can cope with it. It is only the Spirit of God that can manage them, and so we have to sink ourselves deeper into God. We have to put our roots down farther so that our branches can grow up and reach the heavenlies; so that we can pull down from the heavenlies what is necessary for that particular need. Hallelujah! Praise God!

Let us be encouraged that this is the time when God is putting all the wrongs right and taking care of all our ills, if we will just let Him. Move self out of the way! Why do you think Jesus said, "Not My will, Lord"? It was because there was something else struggling against the Father's will! Jesus said, "Not My will, Father, but Thine." The will of the Lord for us is the most important thing even right now. Let us seek God with all our hearts. Let us deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him! In spite of the world, in spite of anything else, let God be true and every man a liar because 34 He is truth! We know no other truth but Him, and if our truth does not measure up with His standard of truth then we have to get back to the plumbline and say, "God, straighten me out! Straighten me out! I do not like how I look. I do not like how I feel. Straighten me out and help me to be truly conformed to Your image." Hallelujah! Praise You, Jesus!

THE PLUMBLINE

When God calls us, our only paragon is Jesus Christ. I believe if you are about to do anything, just say, "Is this what Jesus would do?" and you will get your answer. "Measuring ourselves among ourselves" is not wise (2 Corinthians 10:12). We are to measure ourselves with the plumbline (Jesus Christ). Many people make excuses. I heard a man preaching recently on the radio. He said, "The Word of the Lord says, 'Be ye angry and sin not' (Ephesians 4:26). It does not specifically say you are not to be angry!" He, however, did not read the other passage (Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Galatians 5:20) that says that anger is a work of the flesh. There are different stages where some words might apply to help us to go on to the other stage; but if we remain at the stage which says, "*Be ye angry and sin not*," then maybe we will think, "Oh, I have a little latitude for anger here." If you never go a little deeper, you will never see that *anger* is a work of the flesh, and we are not called to a flesh walk. We are called to a SPIRIT walk! Hallelujah! Let that be our prayer from day to day, "Lord God, let me die, that I might live!" Praise God!

Hebrews 11 speaks of these men who gave their lives. It says that they suffered, they were martyred, and everything happened to them because they sought a better resurrection. Now we <u>have</u> that better resurrection—life to life! The life of Jesus Christ will raise us into His life. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1). It is living in Him that gives me life! Praise God! Thank You, Jesus!

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Self has to die. All our problems come from self. "Me" and "My" and "how I feel"—it comes from self and if we are to be disciples we must deny our self. Whether you are big or small, God will require of you just the same. Whatever you have learned, whatever you have heard, whatever you have understood is what will be required of you. Hallelujah! So, young ones, do not let the enemy rob you! Do not be robbed! The time is short and we must make haste.

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