

MEDITATION MOMENTS



Virginia Brandt Berg

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ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR

(Program 116)

The question is how can you know when you need pray for a thing no longer? Do you really mean to say that you actually know the point at which you can cease asking God and you can begin to thank Him for the thing which you've asked for? I believe that you can. Maybe better read again the Bible definition of "faith." Faith is assurance of things hoped for, a belief in things not seen, to (oddly?) that when you come to that vital place where you have the assurance of the thing that you're hoping for. That you don't need to ask for it any longer. Now that's where you come to the place where you have the assurance. That's the experience of faith and it's through this faith that God speaks to us when we pray. Let's put it simply like a child could understand it.

First we know that God does speak to man through that inner voice called the still small voice. In the Bible we have many instances where the old saints heard the audible voice of God. We believe they did but God can also speak just as convincingly through the channel of your faculties. Faith is abundantly fundamentally a human faculty and God can use those faculties by the still small voice that He speaks of in His Word. But of course only a child of God can recognize that voice we've said that to you many times. That voice of God in the soul. You have to be born again, born into the family of God to hear that voice, but oh, what a joy, what a privilege to know that you're in such a family and have kinship with such a Father. You have to be born again of course.

Now there comes a question. How can you get from God, not by any power of your own, but by God's power, the assurance that you have been heard? The vital conviction that you are being answered. Yes, if you will pray sincerely for that which you feel would be pleasing to God and if you'll hold on with a fixed determination you'll come to the culminating conviction that you need pray for it no longer. I'm gonna repeat that. If you'll pray sincerely for that which you feel would be pleasing to God and you'll hold on with a fixed determination you will come to the conviction that you need pray for it no longer. Why? Because the assurance has come into your heart, because you know God has heard you and you have that splendid assurance and you don't have to ask over and over again. In fact, you may feel that you just can't pray for them any longer because you have received the thing that you have asked for.

Now having meditated upon God's promises until there's born in your heart this assurance of things hoped for then you come humbly before the Lord with your desire and then you enter into the faith that sees the things you asked for. You believe as God's Word says that "everyone that asketh receiveth," you believe also the promise, "Whatsoever things ye desire when you pray believe you receive them and ye shall have them." Also, you believe 1Jn.5:14 and 15 that "This is the confidence that we have in Him that if we ask anything according to His will he hears us and if we know that He hears us whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petition that we desire of Him." You see, the same faith with which you began to pray gets stronger and stronger and assured faith comes that keeps you from praying any longer for your desire. There's such an assurance that God, that your Father has heard you so your faith has truly become appropriation and possession. But remember, faith is a gift of God and He gives the power to receive only as you're faithful in prayer and in the reading of His blessed Word.

I quoted to you sometime ago Joshua 7:10 where you have the story of Joshua lying on his face in prolonged desperate prayer for his people after their defeat at Ai and God speaks to him while he's lying there so long praying. He said, "Get thee up; wherefore liest thou upon thy face any longer?" God's telling Joshua that He had asked and now it was time to believe God, to quit asking, to get up and go about God's business, that God was taking care of it. Oh, so many times dearly Beloved, we ask and then we don't believe God, we don't receive it. I said one time I'd asked God so long for something and I was sitting there wondering about it. God spoke to my heart in that still small voice just as clearly, "Well, accept it! Accept it! Why don't you accept it?"

You know, the great point to remember here is that God's Word's true. You must believe it in spite of every contradiction. I don't mean contradiction in God's Word because I don't believe there are any but I'm talking about the contradictions of what people say and the circumstances and conditions about you. God's always faithful but the Devil who's the father of lies often deceives us into believing feelings and circumstances instead of God's Word. You know, we have that lesson the healing of the nobleman's son when he heard that Jesus came out of Judea into Galilee. You remember he went and besought Him that He would come down and heal his son for his son was at the point of death.

Now it's so often apt to be the case with us when prayer is offered for our deliverance we're unwilling to believe unless we feel some

wonderful power our extraordinary sensation sometimes there are such things but many times there is not anything that we can see or feel or hear. But this nobleman didn't require anything. You remember that there was such urgency in the case. His son was near death and he said, "Come down and see my child 'ere he die." It was a faith which dared to press the cause so earnestly, so humbly and oh the Lord rewarded him. He said, "Go thy way. Thy son liveth." And you know that nobleman just turned about and went his way. There wasn't anything else that he could cling to except to believe Christ's Word. He couldn't immediately see his son to mark whether his condition was bettered or not, there was no visible means and he just had to believe that his son was recovered simply because Jesus had said so and His Word was true. That's just how it happened. Oh, that we could believe that Christ fulfilled His promises when we claim them in His name. Even before we can see any earthly circumstances to warrant to believe we have yet to learn how different faith is from sight. Oh, how we limit God by looking just at our five different faculties. We read that the man believed the Word that Jesus spoke to him and he went his way. He didn't look as to the way he felt or he saw or he heard. He just believed the Lord's Word. I wonder, would you have doubted the Lord's deliverance until you met the servant who bore the glad tidings of the Lord's (recovering?) You know from the Old Testament there's a statement in Psalm 78:41, "They turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One." Oh, this is just like a moan coming out of the depths of this soul because they have limited God. Clear and uncompromising is this denunciation, the sins of God's chosen people, the language of David here. They limited God. They were stubborn, rebellious and unbelieving. The words just came like a whiplash. They limited God. Oh, let's not limit God by asking to see this or to see that or that He might send us some sign, some wonderful token. Let's take Him at His Word, believe His precious Word, it will never fail you dearly Beloved. You can stand on the Word and having done all stand, for God is on the throne. Prayer does change and will change things for you if you'll only believe. Amen.

BACA (Program 1)

"IF I HAVE WOUNDED ANY SOUL TODAY,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive."

84 SAYS: "HOW AMIABLE ARE THY TABERNACLES O LORD OF HOSTS! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

"BLESSED ARE THEY THAT DWELL IN THY HOUSE: They will be still praising Thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

"THEY GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, everyone of them appeareth before God." Now we take that little verse:

"PASSING THROUGH THE VALLEY OF BACA THEY MAKE IT A WELL" (Psa.84:6) -- I talked to someone today, a woman that came to my home, who is dwelling in the valley of Baca.

NOW THIS VALLEY OF BACA YOU'LL NEVER FIND on any map! I looked myself on the maps of Palestine and it doesn't give any location of a place called Baca. And God did that purposefully.

HE TOOK THIS WORD "BACA" AS A THING THAT'S BEEN IN YOUR LIFE, a place where you and I -- all of us I guess -- have been some time or other. It's a place of suffering, a place of sorrow, a place of hardship.

IT'S A DRY, DUSTY PLACE, this place of Baca, just like a desert. But you remember your Baca, don't you? When you passed through the valley?

WELL, THIS WHOLE SCRIPTURE HERE BRINGS OUT THE THOUGHT which is so very beautiful -- that Baca is bigger than any geography, it is larger than any maps -- and that thought is that

DURING OUR LIFE SOME TIME OR OTHER when we have passed through such a place, we have had the great privilege of turning the difficulty, and turning the sorrow or whatever the hardship was, into a blessing.

I KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN SO AFFLICTED! This man has been a friend of ours for many many years, and once traveled with us in the Lord's work and has since been greatly afflicted. But he never talks about it and he has turned his valley of Baca into a great blessing: He has digged a well there.

YOU GET DOWN AND DIG DEEP IN YOUR HEART to find what God is talking to you about and just what has brought about this thing that has come into the life, and see if God wants to say something special to you about that thing. Do some real digging.

DIG A WELL THERE AND THEN DIG IN GOD'S WORD until He reveals His precious truth to you in his wonderful promises. In that way the Christian life can become victorious over any dry dusty place like this Baca that we are talking about, and you can transform that whole valley into a beautiful place.

SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT A WELL DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD BESIDE A RUNNING STREAM. I know that I sat by a little stream in Yosemite Park, and I don't thing a well would look so good or so refreshing as far as a drink is concerned, beside bubbling, beautiful clear stream!

BUT YOU PUT A WELL OUT IN A DRY DUSTY DESERT, and there, oh, the water will be mighty refreshing, and looks awfully good!

AND WHEN A CHRISTIAN IN TIME OF SORROW AND DISTRESS YOU CAN STAND ON THE PROMISES OF GOD and be so faithful that others will notice your faith, and there in that hardy dry dusty place you will dig a well -- that is, make it a place of refreshing -- that is where the Christian life looks good: When you become an overcomer in the place of difficulty.

NOW A WOMAN THAT CALLED ON ME TODAY, that I spoke about, true she was having terrible sorrows, but she sees only herself and she sees only her sorrow. She isn't getting her eyes on the Lord at all!

HER FAITH SHOULD BE THAT WHICH WOULD TRANSFORM THAT VALLEY of suffering into a place of blessing and refreshing. You remember Hagar lifted up her eyes and then it was that God showed her the water and she saw a well of water and refreshed herself and her son.

BUT SOME PEOPLE JUST CAMP DOWN IN THEIR SORROWS, they sort of luxuriate in their martyrdom and they just stay in the valley of weeping, they stay in the valley of Baca.

BUT YOU KNOW THAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS SUPPOSED

TO BE A LIFE THAT IS SUPERIOR TO CIRCUMSTANCES, superior to all these things, and we can live above it because we have all these wonderful promise[s] of God.

WE ARE NOT TO STAY IN THE VALLEY, and not to just endure our troubles, that isn't victory, just to endure!

IT'S TO PRAISE GOD AND SHOUT THE VICTORY and to prove the promises and so stand upon god's Word that you really get real victory out of defeat! And when you overcome in that way, you'll find so many Divinely given Living Waters that spring up!

GOD'S WORD SAYS, "THE RAIN ALSO FILLETH THE POOLS and you go from strength to strength." Use this passage, read this passage! It is a very wonderful Scripture, this 84th Psalm.

YOU KNOW THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE THAT HAVE NOT TAKEN THOSE DIFFICULTIES and sufferings and sorrows and made a well of them right in the very valley of Baca. Will you bow your head in a word of prayer?

JESUS, WE ASK THEE TO HELP THESE WHO ARE PASSING THROUGH THE HARD PLACE, that defeat might be turned into victory because they look to Thee alone and their eyes are on Thee, not themselves or circumstances, but looking unto the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask in His Name, amen.

BE STILL

(Program 7)

IN PSALM 46, IT SAYS: "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE. Therefore we will not fear, though the Earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea,

"THOUGH THE WATERS THEREOF ROAR AND BE TROUBLED, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." -- Psalm 46:1-3. In the 10th verse we come to that again:

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the Earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us." -- "Be still and know that I am God!" Oh, that is a wonderful passage! I had an experience this week that surely brought that to mind.

I WAS IN REAL DIFFICULTY to find someone whose address I did not have, and yet there was an emergency; it was a great emergency!

JUST EVERY PART OF MY BEING SEEMED TO THROB WITH ANXIETY because that party had to be reached, and reached at once! It was something that just was necessary and needed immediate and vigorous action. I felt for a little bit like I would just fly to pieces if I didn't get ahold of this party, get some word to them!

I WAS IN SORT OF AN INWARD TURMOIL, WHEN SUDDENLY THIS VERY VERSE CAME TO ME, just be still, get quiet, know that I am God. -- And so I sat down, and very quietly I looked to the Lord, just composed myself and asked God's Spirit to be with my own heart and help me to have faith and believe Him to do something so that I could get in touch with that one before something was going to happen that would have been disastrous!

SO AS I SAT THERE VERY STILL, AND THAT VERSE HAD COME TO ME, "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD," I WAS REALLY COMPOSED to a sweet quietness. And then as I sat there very quietly looking to the Lord, there came His Voice to my heart: Just write a note and take it to where they lived before.

THE PARTY HAD MOVED and that is why I couldn't get in touch with them. -- Take it to the apartment where they once lived, and maybe there would be some reason they would come back there, or the people that owned the place would find the note.

IT SEEMED LIKE IT WAS JESUS THAT HAD SPOKEN TO MY

HEART, SO I WROTE THE NOTE, and then immediately I got in the car with a friend of mind. We went over to the apartment and just as we pulled up there, the note in my hand, here came this very party that I had wanted to reach but no one could give me her address! Here she drove up in a car!

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL HOW THE LORD WORKS OUT THINGS! And it was just the Lord that dealt with that emergency and it brought to success the whole issue! I learned then that as God's Word says, my strength "is to sit still!" In Isaiah 30:7, God's Word says, "Their strength is to sit still."

IN THESE CRISES DAYS THERE IS SUCH A MULTIPLICITY OF CARES AND BURDENS and so many things to be kept up with, and the mad rush! And with all the excitement it seems like we have a greater need than ever before for this kind of Divine stillness, that God can just bathe our souls in quietness.

YOU KNOW, IT IS ONLY WHEN YOUR MIND IS QUIET AND SERENE AND THERE IS A POISE OF SPIRIT, that you can look to God to help you, and you hear the still, small Voice, or you come to know God, as the Word has said here: "Be still and know that I am God."

WELL HOW DID MY GETTING STILL MAKE ME KNOW THAT HE IS GOD? The answer to prayer was so wonderful! He really worked a miracle! And while I knew that He was God, yet again there was a witness, again here was God answering prayer in such a way that I knew in a new way that He is God!

FOR A YEAR AND A HALF A LONG TIME AGO, I HAD TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE THAT WAS ALWAYS THROWING THE HOME INTO CONFUSION AND DISHARMONY, or at least they brought a measure of it into the home. It just seemed like this party could stir up the very dregs of our souls.

IT WAS AT A TIME LIKE THAT THAT GOD REALLY TAUGHT THIS LESSON: JUST TO KEEP QUIET and He would handle that whole situation. The only hope for that situation was to not be disturbed and hurt, but to get alone with God and let Him put His hush upon us, just like He had commanded: "Be still."

IT WAS ONLY WHEN JESUS SPOKE THAT THE WINDS BECOME STILL! And the same sweet Voice that commanded stormy Gennesaret to be still put a Holy hush on our souls when this happened in our home.

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE GOT THE IDEA THAT STILLNESS IS

A SORT OF CONTROLLED TENSION, a practiced poise, and that you can compress anxiety in some way! Well if you do sometimes, you are just inwardly a boiling cauldron, though you are seemingly calm on the surface.

BUT THAT ISN'T THE KIND OF STILLNESS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT! The stillness of God isn't passivity! But it brings about the greatest clarity of thought and intensity of your desire God-ward. And it is in that stillness that you come to know God's will, and His Plan for your life.

I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE, AS I HAVE OFTEN TOLD YOU, THAT DIVINE STILLNESS OFTEN COMES THROUGH TRIALS AND TESTINGS! You say, "Oh, how can that be?" Oh yes! It subdues the soul, and suffering humbles the spirit! Are you going through a testing right now? Well, dearly beloved, you just get quiet and be still before the Lord and He will tell you why. Sometimes I know there are times when He doesn't tell why, but as a rule He will tell you why!

HE WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET ALL THE SWEETNESS OUT OF IT, and how to look to Him in such a way that He will teach you wonderful lessons from it! But you've got to get quiet! There has to be that sweet still devotion, and then He can speak to your heart!

"NOT IN THE TUMULT OF THE RENDING STORM,

Not in the earthquake or devouring flame,

But in the hush that could all fear transform

The still small whisper to the prophet came.

Oh soul, keep silence on the Mount of God!

Though cares and needs throb around like a sea

From supplication and desires unshod,

Be still and hear what God shall say to thee."

WHAT SHALL THE BELIEVER DO IN TIMES OF DARKNESS? -
- JUST SIT STILL AND LISTEN. Let him trust in the Name of the Lord, and rely upon his God. Let him just sit still, as the Scripture says, sit still and listen.

NOW THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TO DO NOTHING! -- That is, stand still. That's hard for human nature to do! There's a saying, "When you're rattled, don't rush." In other words, when you don't know what to do, just don't do it.

I KNOW MANY TIMES IN LIFE I HAVE RUN INTO SORT OF A SPIRITUAL FOG and I have wanted to do something so badly in my own strength! I've just felt like I had to unsnarl the tangled wires, or I had to somehow find an answer to the situation -- but do something!

THE HUMAN ENERGY JUST FELT LIKE IT HAD TO RUSH OUT AND TRY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM ITSELF, or work it out in some way! Dearly beloved, maybe sometimes human energy may help, but more often than any other time, just anchor your boat and let it swing upon its moorings for a while, and simply trust God!

WAIT UPON HIM, AND SEE WHAT GOD WILL DO, and then as we are quiet and really trusting, God can work! Worry prevents Him from doing anything!

IF OUR MINDS ARE DISTRACTED AND OUR HEARTS ARE STRESSED, and the darkness of shadow strikes terror to us; or we run here and there in a vain effort to find some way of escape out of the dark place of trial where the Lord doubtless allowed us to get -- He can't do anything for us!

THE PEACE OF GOD MUST QUIETEN MINDS AND REST HEARTS! PUT OUR HAND IN THE HAND OF GOD like a little child and let Him lead us out into the bright sunshine of His Love! To those in the hospital, or at home in beds of sickness, or the troubled businessman riding in his car:

GOD HELP YOU TO TRUST HIM! BE STILL! LET HIM DO THE WORK FOR YOU! Perfect faith will bring the victory. Put your hand in God's hands, God will work it out! Amen.

BEGINNING AGAIN!

(Program 34)

We greet you again with that precious old-time greeting: the Lord bless you and make you a blessing. We are praying that this will be a help to you and any problems you have at this time, and we greet you with the words of our theme song:

Lift up your head,
Smile through your tears,
God's never failed you
Down through the years,
He has watched o'er you
Cared for His own,
He'll not fail now,
He's still on the Throne.

Dark though the shadows
Just now may be,
Soon through the midst
A pathway you'll see,
Faith to the promise
Unfailing cling,
God's on the Throne and
Prayer changes things!
Someone has written:

I wish there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes
And all our heartaches
And all our poor selfish greed,
Could be dropped
Like a shabby old coat at the door
And never put on again.

I wish we could come on it all unawares
Like the hunter who finds a lost trail,
And I wish that the one
Whom our blindness has done
The greatest injustice of all,
Could be at the gate
Like an old friend who waits
For the comrade he's gladdest to hail.

So I wish there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all the mistakes
And all the heartaches
And all our poor selfish greed,
Could be dropped
Like a shabby old coat at the door
And never put on again.

Well, I'm so glad to tell you that there is such a place as that, and you can find that place no matter how deep the sin, no matter how dark the past has been. You'll find that place in these Verses from 1 John, Chapter 1, beginning with Verse 5:

"This then is the message which we have heard of Him and declared unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. But if we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we but lie, and the truth is not in us.

"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.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin" -- now here is that place where you can drop the shabby old coat of the past life --

"If we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. But if we say that we have no sin we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us."

We have always encouraged you to read and claim the promises of God in His wonderful Word, and we do say again, according to God's Word, that they are exceeding great and precious promises, and He will back them with His power and His ability! But though we've said that,

I must also say again that there are conditions attached to these promises and these conditions must be met. God sets His own terms and any light and superficial attitude which says, "Oh, just step out on the promises and claim them! The work is done, just claim them!" -- That will be met with keen disappointment.

These conditions are plainly set forth in God's Word: You read your Bible and you'll find them! But how blessed it is when you meet God's terms! You submit to His conditions and the wealth of His blessings and riches just come tumbling down on you then!

But these are the keys that unlock the treasure vaults of Heaven: Knowing the conditions attached to each promise. Now I'm not trying

to discourage you from claiming the promises, God not only wills, but longs for you to have your every need supplied and desire of your heart met. He says,

"Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give thee the desires of thy heart." -- But note the condition: Delight thyself in the Lord! God can't fail. He said it and so it's so. I don't back down on that at all, it's His infallible Word!

He has never failed in one of all His good promises and isn't going to begin to fail with you. But the terms must be met. You delight yourself in the Lord and He gives you the desire of your heart.

God's terms aren't hard! He said, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me, for My yoke is easy and my burden is light." -- My yoke is easy, He said! (Mt.11:28-30.)

There are so many wonderful promises for you, forgiveness of sin, joy that will come to you, peace, Eternal Life, that I couldn't begin to quote them, I couldn't begin to tell you all! They are there for you and they'll completely change your life.

But you note the Scripture: you must confess your sin, (1 John 1:9) and must come to God with a humbled heart, a broken contrite spirit. Sin can still be forgiven, but you can't hide the sin. Someone has said that dust under the bed is bad from a hygienic standpoint, but from a spiritual standpoint, to cover up sin is dangerous.

God's Word says, "He that covereth His sin shall not prosper, but he that confesseth it shall be forgiven." (Pro.28:13). The mistress asked the maid, "Emmie, did you sweep under the rug?"

"Yes Ma'am," she answered, "I sweeps everything under the rug!" -- Well, it's a policy that some people follow,

But things swept under the rug have a bit of coming back to harm and haunt us. You can't pretend all is well, for you'll be exposed and humiliated and hurt when the cover-up is found out. "Be sure your sin will find you out," God's Word says in Num.32:23.

So accept God's terms for forgiveness of sin, meet His condition, the condition that you repent of the sin. Turn away from it with Godly sorrow, turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for help, God will help you do this!

If you feel that you cannot do it yourself, that you have no strength to do it, I assure you that as soon as you confess you are a sinner and lift up your eyes to Jesus Christ, the Savior, and ask Him to help you, in that moment the strength you need will be yours: You can

turn away from sin.

God will help you and there will come into your life a change and freedom that you've never known! Remember, you can't hide sin, and you're miserable and unhappy living with it, so accept God's conditions through Christ's atonement.

Get rid of the sin through the shed blood of Calvary, then what shackles are broken! What joy and liberty are yours! Turn to God for deliverance: Now there is the condition again to the promise, plainly stated.

Is it so hard? Are God's conditions so unfair, when He gave His only Son for you? "There was none other good enough to pay the price of sin, He only could unlock the gate of Heaven and let us in." His Word says, "He that spared not His own Son, but offered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give you all things?"

BIRTHDAY SERVICE

Program 96

OVER THE SUNSET MOUNTAIN

Someday I'll softly go
Into the arms of Jesus
He Who has loved me so.

Toiling will all be ended
Shadows will flee away
Sorrows will be forgotten
Oh what a wonderful day!

Over the sunset mountains
Heaven awaits for me
And Jesus my Savior I'll see

I WANT TO GIVE YOU A TESTIMONY OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME. My heart has been so full of gratitude, I have been praising the Lord every day since it happened. I believe there's somebody who's really needing this testimony, I believe there's someone out there that God wants to have it because as I've prayed about this, He has laid it so definitely upon my heart.

IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY AND THEY WERE HAVING A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ME IN THE PLACE, in the beautiful banquet rooms of the Villa Sweden where I had my Sunday services. So they were celebrating this particular Sunday and there was quite a group there, and nearly every place was filled. I was sitting at the speakers' tables, facing everyone when suddenly I found, as I went to reach for the cup of coffee to put it to my lips, that I couldn't move my right arm! I had had a stroke!

THERE I WAS, THE SPEAKER FOR THE OCCASION, AND A SPECIAL OCCASION, A BIRTHDAY PARTY, AND FRIENDS HAD COME IN FROM DIFFERENT POINTS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND NEARBY CITIES, AND HERE I WAS PARALYZED! Soon I found out that I couldn't move my tongue at all either. Well, I just quickly looked to the Lord. At first, of course I was tempted to have them take me out of there in some way, or motion for someone else to speak, but you know, I felt in my heart that God didn't mean this thing to be this

way.

I FELT A DEEP ASSURANCE THAT IF I WOULD LAY HOLD OF GOD IN REAL FAITH AND UTTERLY TRUST HIM, THAT GOD WOULD BRING ME THROUGH and would glorify Himself, and that He would heal me, that He would let me give the testimony I had intended to give. -- Because that day I was going to give my life's story, of my wonderful healing so many years ago when I'd been an invalid for five years and God answered prayer -- quite a miracle! -- that launched me out into evangelistic work and set me free in God's service, the very thing that caused me to go into the Lord's definite service; and here I was being hindered in giving this testimony. I couldn't believe that that was what God wanted.

I SAID, "LORD, YOU BRING SOME OF YOUR PROMISES TO MIND THAT IN THIS CRISIS TIME I CAN STAND UPON, YOUR WORD. The first promise that came was, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee." -- Psa.81:7. So I said, "All right, Lord, I'm going to make it very definite." I believe in being definite when we deal with God. At a definite moment taking a definite stand and on a definite promise. So I said, "Well, I called, You said You would deliver. This is a day of trouble and You said that You would deliver. Now I'm going to trust You to deliver me." I felt my faith and my strength rising, and then I looked to the Lord. I said, "All right, that brings fresh faith, deeper assurance that Thou art in this."

I LOOKED FOR ANOTHER PROMISE, AND THIS ONE CAME: "WHEN THE ENEMY COMES IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF GOD RAISES A STANDARD AGAINST HIM." -- Isa.59:19. I said, "Well, Lord, the Enemy surely has come in like a flood, now I look to thee to raise a standard against Him, Lord, that's Your part of the contract, I'll do mine. Certainly, Lord, the Enemy has come in like a mighty flood and I stand upon this Lord and I believe You for it. I trust You that You'll raise a standard against him." And so my faith was mounting up on God's Word.

OH, HOW THE PROMISES OF GOD DO REFRESH US AND STRENGTHEN FAITH WHEN WE BELIEVE IT'S SO, BECAUSE GOD SAID SO. Then the next one came: "As they went they were healed." -- Luk.17:14. I thought that was a strange promise, because I couldn't go, I just wasn't able to move with that paralysis on my right side and unable to speak. I tried to lift the coffee cup two or three times and put it to my lips. The first time I tried to do it, why I spilt the coffee all over my blouse, and friends sitting near me saw what happened and were so

concerned and frightened for me.

BUT WHEN THAT VERSE CAME, I MADE THE EFFORT TO MOVE. You remember the man with the withered arm, Jesus told him to stretch forth his hand-arm. Well, he couldn't do it, but by faith he made the effort, he put forth the effort of a believing will and his arm stretched forth. And remember the man on the bed. Jesus said, "Take up thy bed and walk." Well, what a strange commandment when the man couldn't pick up his bed, he was on the bed as an invalid, and a very sick man. But he believed that he could if Christ said so, and so he made that effort of a believing will, and he took up his bed and walked!

SO WHEN THE LORD SAID THIS TO MY HEART, I MADE THE EFFORT AND MY RIGHT SIDE BECAME FREE, and I moved toward the microphone! Sort of a gasp of relief came from some friends around the table near me. Now I stood in front of the microphone and asked the Lord for another verse, and this verse came: "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of their testimony!" -- Rev.12:11. I said, "Well, Lord, I can't talk, my tongue is paralyzed. I've tried to speak and I can't speak."

AGAIN CAME THE VERSE, "THEY OVERCAME WITH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY." I said, "All right, Lord, Jesus paid for it on Calvary. He paid for my liberty and He paid for my healing, and by His stripes we were healed, Thy Words says. So Lord, I take that which belongs to me, that was paid for on Calvary, and I claim Thy healing power. They overcame with the word of their testimony, so I will overcome by the Word of His testimony."

SO I BEGAN TO TRY TO SPEAK, BUT I JUST MADE SOME LITTLE GURGLING NOISES. It was so garbled, and friends said they thought something was the matter -- that strangers thought there was something the matter with the microphone -- but they knew that there was something that had happened to me, and perhaps a stroke. But I kept right on. In my mind I kept saying, "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of their testimony," so I'll give my testimony, Lord, and by that I will overcome.

DO YOU KNOW THAT MY TONGUE LOOSENED AND I BEGAN, AND I TALKED FOR A STRAIGHT 45 MINUTES WITH MORE POWER THAN I HAD SPOKEN WITH FOR YEARS, and with more unction that I'd had at any meeting up in those beautiful rooms where we had our "Upper Room Fellowship" meeting each week. The power of God seemed to come down upon my life and touch my tongue

with a coal from off of the Altar, and I did overcome by the Word of our testimony, but mostly it was the precious blood of the Lamb, the price that Christ paid for that all things might be ours through Jesus.

IN FACT, JUST A DAY OR TWO BEFORE THIS, I'D GOTTEN THE FINAL REPORT THAT THERE WAS A MALIGNANCY IN MY BODY. I had known that there was something wrong and I'd gone just for a check-up. I trust God in all things, and always trust Him for my body, but I wanted to know fundamentally what was wrong. So I'd had this report and the doctor had engaged a bed in the hospital for me. Then this following Sunday, this stroke happened.

MY FAITH WAS SO LIFTED, SO ENCOURAGED BY HOW GOD MET ME, AND HOW HE SPOKE THROUGH ME AND HOW I WAS PERFECTLY DELIVERED there in front of that microphone and such wonderful results came from that meeting, that you know I started on a speaking tour for the Lord for four months, working for Him, and I had to live under the most rigorous circumstances sometimes.

I WENT BY FAITH BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THE MEANS FOR SUCH A TRIP. I crossed the United States both ways twice, went across Canada to Montreal, down to Miami, and from Miami took a boat to the Abiconian Islands. I ministered in the Abiconians and in a leper colony there, and God wonderfully blessed!

TO THINK OF THAT! GOD HEALED MY COMPLETELY OF EVERYTHING ON THAT TRIP. I've often wondered who got my bed in the hospital. Now if God can do this for me, what can't He do for you?

HIS PROMISES ARE REAL, THEY'RE SO TRUE! GOD IS BEHIND EVERY ONE AND ALL THE POWER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH IS IN THE HANDS OF JESUS! God bless you and help you to have the faith to take hold of those promises. Jesus, bless each one. May faith be lifted, so strengthened, Lord, that they will reach out for the desire of their heart. Draw them to Thee with cords of love, and reveal Thyself afresh, we pray, Jesus. Thou was there when this happened, and Thou dost know it is true, Lord. That which You did for me, such a humble one, You can more than do for these that are reading. In Jesus' name, amen.

BITTERNESS and VENGEANCE

(Program 126)

A lot of people have a lot to say about how they've been mistreated, or misjudged, or unjustly treated in some way or other. There's a little tract which begins in this way: "A small boy prayed, 'Lord, make all the bad people good, and then Lord, make all the good people nice.'" Well, unfortunately, many good Christian people aren't nice.

A lady advertised for a young woman to be her traveling companion, and she closed the advertisement thus: "Christian wanted, cheerful, if possible." Evidently this woman had found that some Christian souls lacked a cheerful disposition. Well, sometimes we have to live with people like that, and that seems to be the problem expressed in many. Resentment building up in the heart, almost hatred. Some people have a judging spirit towards the one who're mistreating them, be they their husband, wife, in-laws, relatives, co-workers, friends.

In Matthew 7:1, it says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Let's be careful about that, for verse 2 says, "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." That should make us a little more thoughtful about the way we criticize others, for exactly what you give will be exactly what you receive.

Toward that person whom you feel is so unjust to you, don't take their judgment into your own hands. Better to be a little hesitant about the judging, better to have mercy on that person, for the Word states in James 2:12,13b, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy." -- It's better to judge by the Law of Love, God's law.

The next verse is even more sobering, Romans 2:1-4, where it says, "Therefore, thou art inexcusable, I man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, I man, thou judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

It's an awful thing to bear a grudge, or a critical spirit, or hatred of another. If you are a professing Christian, it is far better to forgive and forget that injustice that has been done against you, than to have that condemnation of God upon you. And these verses make it very plain just what the reaping's going to be.

Don't take vengeance into your own hands, don't hit back. Don't let bitterness creep into your heart. Nothing will so ruin your disposition as to let bitterness get in the heart. God's Word says, "Beware lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." -- Heb.12:15. God will take care of that person in due time, if you leave the whole matter in His hands.

"To Me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time." -- Deut.32:35. Better to pity and love that one, for pity they will need when they fall into the hands of an angry God, Who says, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." -- Rom.12:19.

Perhaps you feel that you have to do something about the wrong that's been done to you and the slandering you've suffered and the cruel words that have been flung at you. You think God's too slow, and you're going to have to take it in your own hands and hurt them as they've hurt you, bring vengeance on them.

But in so doing, you'll only hurt yourself and disobey God, and get out of His will and have a broken fellowship, and that's going to make things a whole lot worse. The Lord knows all about it, and He speaks with finality regarding your forgiving that person, no matter how unfair it's all been.

He says, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." -- Mat.6:15. And Matthew 18:35 says, "So likewise shall My Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

But you can't do it yourself, beloved, it's not in the natural. It has to be the Spirit of Christ working in and through you. I can of my own self do nothing. Lay the whole problem at Jesus' feet, tell Him about it, and then positively commit it to Him and leave it with Him. Then He'll begin to work. This isn't what you feel like doing, but this is what the World needs to see: God's Love manifested through His born-again children.

This is a true test of discipleship, as Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another." -- Jn.13:35. It's God Love working through you as you yield it all to Him. It'll be miracle if you can love that person, a miracle of God's grace,

with which He'll supply you.

This is the Law of Love. He waits to help you, He wants to. When you ask Him for His help, there will be no veil nor cloud between you and Him, and He can work out through you the full purpose of His Will and Plan for you life, because it's utterly surrendered to Him with all of its problems and things which harass you. God knows about it and He cares and He loves you.

Perhaps this isn't entirely applicable, but a little girl left a note on a tree. She had been abused in an orphan's home, nobody liked her and she was just impossible. So they went out to see what the note said which she'd left, because it was against the rules of the Home. And this is what it said: "To anybody who finds this note, I love you." Oh, that's the spirit to have, to love everybody as God loves you.

The Love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, brought down with care,
God gave His Son to win.
His erring child He reconciled
And saved us from our sin.
Oh Love of God, how rich and pure,
How measureless and strong.
It shall forever more endure,
The saints' and Angels' song.

[Note: Since words were incomplete here on original tape, the song words were used from the "Heavenly Sunshine" transcript in the Family songbook, as Faithy sang that song on that tape.)

BLACK-OUT

(Program 75)

Some day I shall hear
God's voice of love
Calling to the land
Of endless day,
I shall then be with
My Lord Above,
Some day, some day.
Some day when the shadows flee away,
Sorrow shall be o'er,
Care be known no more,
Some day when the shadows flee away.

How wonderful it will be when earth's shadows flee away and Heaven bursts upon us with all its glory and light: Darkness forever gone! Those words are so fitting for that which I want to talk about.

When I was listening to the news report of the black-out in the New York area, there were a couple of remarks made by those that were there which struck me forcibly. One man said, he could never express the feelings he had when the lights suddenly flashed on, lights that he had always taken for granted, and never really been thankful for before.

It made me think of some of your letters which tell of live personal black-outs, times of severe illness when it seemed that you would never recover, but one day deliverance came and you were well again! How glorious it was to be out of the darkness and into the light once more, free from the pain and sickness.

Only those who have been through such black-outs know how glorious it is when the lights come on again! -- Never again to take such blessings for granted! I want to assure you that the lights will come on again if you do not waver, but if you'll hold on to your promise, promises from God's Word, and trust God implicitly when the darkness is on.

When the darkness is on, the thing that makes it blacker is the thought that you may never come out of it! That's doubt, of course, and this is where the real Christian has such a great advantage, for he has faith, and he knows the day will come when God will send deliverance!

Faith is the victory, isn't it? -- It was pretty dark for Paul when he was in jail, but he had such faith, that he was able to live above his

circumstances and conditions, so much so that he wrote in Philippians 4:11-13.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." -- Paul's attitude did not change according to circumstances! The joy of the Lord was his strength. Even in jail, he continued to live above those circumstances. That is why in Philippians 1:12 and 13 he says,

"But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the place, and in all other places." -- Just think of the influence he had in that place, in that unbelieving place!

These personal black-outs of ours are such marvelous opportunities to show the World that our joy and our feeling of security don't depend on natural conditions and circumstances at all. The famous Cornish miner Billy Bray, one day went out to his garden to hoe potatoes. He said he heard Satan say,

"Now Billy, isn't that mighty poor pay for your serving your Father the way you have all those years? Just see those little runty potatoes!" Billy replied, "Ha, ha, Satan, you're at it again, talking against my Heavenly Father, bless His Name! Why, when I served you, I didn't get any potatoes at all! Why are you talking so against my Father?"

And Billy just continued to hoe and loudly praise the Lord for the little runty potatoes. -- Billy Bray was like Paul, he was an immovable Christian. Satan couldn't move him, circumstances couldn't move him off of his promise and his love for his Father and his faithfulness.

No wonder Paul could say, "None of these things move me," (Acts 20:24) and that was Billy Bray's attitude. I'm positive that there were dedicated Christians in that recent black-out that felt just that way. The blackness didn't strike terror into their hearts, nor take from them their feeling of security.

They had an inner source of strength, a supply that was above all circumstances, and that is why Paul could write again, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed;

"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." (2 Cor.4:8-11)

There is an old saying, "When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on!" -- When Paul came to the end of his rope, he took a promise and held on.

God has given you so many wonderful promises to hang on to, and they can shine like stars in your black-out. -- And, by the way that's another thing that someone said who went through the black-out; they said,

The thing that impressed them most in the black-out was that they could see the stars. -- It had been so long a time in New York since anybody had seen the stars!

Let me give you a few stars to help you through the dark place you are now passing through. I know there are those reading this that are passing through a dark place and here are a few stars. Listen carefully and claim them, you can have them for your very very own, and they're from God's Precious Word.

"Oh fear the Lord, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him. They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." -- (Ps.34:9,10,19,7.)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (Jn.14:12,14.)

"Verily I say unto you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Mt.17:20) -- Then He says, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." (Ps.103:3.)

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." (Prov.18:10.) -- Now these are the stars that can shine in the Christian's night, or the black-out. "The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble." (Ps.9:9.)

What a wonderful feeling when in the dark, to know that God is there! That He's right there! I know some of you feel that way, He's

right there, we know He's there and we have nothing to fear. I thought this was such a precious little poem:

A little child lay in the dark
The room was strange,
He saw no where.
He was afraid, but then he called,
Father, are you there?
He felt a hand so strong
And warm and close clasping his,
Then calm and clear
He heard his father's tender voice,
Yes, laddie, I am here!
Like that small child
We sometimes feel
That we are in the dark of care,
In terror of some harm we call,
Oh Father, are You there?
We reach our hand to Him and find
A blessed answer to our fear.
His hand holds ours,
We hear His voice,
Fear not, for I am here.
So though we tremble in the dark,
In need of strength and help and cheer,
We have a tender Father's Word,
Fear not, for I am here!

-- Last night I was preparing for bed when I had a phone call from a woman who had fallen and sprained her ankle. She was weeping with pain and frightened and so I hurried to her home and took her to the hospital.

I prayed, but she talked all the time of her fear, and how everything happened to her and God didn't treat her so and so. -- I don't think she heard a word of prayer! She doesn't have any stars in her night at all, the lights didn't come on no matter what I said! She hadn't learned to live above conditions and circumstances, she never let God have a chance.

Another man who went through the black-out, said the thing that impressed him was that he felt it was a good thing that happened, for at least it partially prepared them for the real thing -- that it was sort of a rehearsal.

And may I say to you that all these little trials of every day and how you let them get you down when God is really by you and preparing you for victory and greater trials when they come, they're just a dress rehearsal that shows us how we would react in some really great tragedy.

But if we live above these little trials of every day and get the victory there, we will be ready for any big black-out that comes. He says, "My grace is sufficient for thee." (2 Cor.12:9.) -- Grace that gives you power to bravely bear the trial without murmuring and complaining:

Grace to be fully resting in His power and trusting. God help that this shall be so. His grace is sufficient for thee, it is! Amen.

BOOMERANG

(Program 2)

I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT INTERESTED ME MANY YEARS AGO when just a child. I attended the circus and before my eyes there were three rings in full action. I can remember it so well! The acrobats swinging and flying, leaping through the air! But more than anything there was something that interested me in the third ring.

I SAW A GIRL AND BOY FLINGING OUT ACROSS THE RING BRIGHTLY COLORED MISSILES, and they had gone a little way in space and then they would return and come back again, straight back into the very hands that had flung them out. No matter which direction they were thrown, back they came swiftly, and the young actors would catch them as they curved back.

THE CHILD WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT! WHAT MADE THOSE THINGS COME BACK AGAIN? What made them curve in their courses and circle right back to where they began? They left that girl's hands, and back to her hands they came! Then I heard someone beside me say -- and it was the first time I had ever heard the word --

THEY ARE BOOMERANGS! Well, I've heard the word many times since then after I tucked it away in my childish mind: I had to have it explained to me when I got home! But as I say, I've seen it so many times in life since then,

BECAUSE LIFE IS ITSELF A BOOMERANG. EVERYTHING YOU DO COMES BACK some time, somewhere. God's Word says, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Every word you fling out comes back some day.

I BELIEVE THAT EVEN MY THOUGHTS COME BACK UPON ME, for thoughts are things after all. It's just an uncanny way the boomerang has of describing a circle, that of returning back to the very one that threw it out.

AND THAT IS THE WAY IT IS WITH THE LAW OF SPIRITUAL GRAVITY, the law of retribution, just as fixed as life itself: That whatever a man casts out in the world shall return again on his own life.

HE THROWS OUT TO THE WORLD THE BREAD OF KINDNESS AND IT RETURNS after many years, such a blessing on his own life! He casts forth a curse and there curves back to him a greater

curse in the later years. You say, "I don't know about my boomerang, yours strikes one way and mine another." But as sure as you live, God's Word is true.

GOD'S WORD NEVER FAILS, AND WHATEVER YOU DO WILL COME BACK TO YOU. I know that kind words spoken years ago gathered momentum and I've reaped great blessings for them just in these later years of my life.

AND IT IS THE SAME FOR YOU TODAY. YOU'RE REAPING LOVE AND GRATITUDE FROM SOME FAR-FLUNG BOOMERANG that years ago you flung out. It's just the same. You take a parent -- the other day I was noticing -- who lives near me; irritable and impatient. And then I heard the child railing back in irritability and impatience and I thought, "It's just the boomerang coming back to that parent."

SOME TIME AGO I MET A YOUNG MAN WHO HAD LOST FAITH IN GOD, and in our conversation you could hear the whirl of the boomerang, for years ago he began reading the type of literature in his own home -- that was there by his own parents' hands -- which leads only to loss of faith in everything.

SOME TIME AGO AT AN ALTAR -- AND THIS SURELY I CAN NEVER FORGET -- was a dear one kneeling there and praying, a mother. She told how it was really a boomerang that a boy of hers had gone so wrong because she had not brought him up in the way in which he should go.

AND THE CHILD'S LIFE, LIKE METAL WHEN IT'S HOT, HAD FLOWN INTO THE MOLD AND HARDENED THERE, and now that he was a man she couldn't seem to deal with him. But it had been because of her own life in those early years, her indifference towards God, and no prayer in the home.

NOW THE BOOMERANG HAD COME BACK AND SHE SAID, "OH, AT THAT TIME IT WAS SO DIFFERENT! I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER COME BACK TO ME, and I wasn't afraid, and I thought I was just having a good time, and I used to say it was nonsense about these things coming back." But she said, "I'm hearing now the clink of handcuffs, the shutting of prison doors over my boy, and I couldn't help but think, as I sat in the deputy's office, that I heard in the distance just the return on my own life and what I had sowed in that boy's life."

SOME TIME AGO IN A HOSPITAL IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, I CALLED ONE MORNING IN TWO DIFFERENT SICK ROOMS, one room where Marie Smith was lying sick. There were flowers in

abundance, and all sorts of cards and beautiful little gifts that had been sent into her room, and she was just surrounded by those thoughtful little offers of kindness.

BUT THAT HAD BEEN HER LIFE, FOR SHE HAD SOWN LOVE AND THOUGHTFULNESS THROUGH THE YEARS into the lives of these others, and now it was coming back to her in her hour of need and desperate sickness in that hospital.

IN THE OTHER ROOM WAS LYING A WOMAN ALONE, BITTER: SUSPICION ON EVERY FEATURE OF HER FACE. SELFISHNESS HAD RUINED HER LIFE: Selfish, suspicious, critical, and there she was lying with her face turned to the wall. She had built around her life a friendlessness, a coldness, a hardness of heart and selfishness, and now she was shut in alone in the time of her death.

OH, WHAT A DIFFERENCE IN THOSE TWO ROOMS, WHERE THE BOOMERANG CAME BACK IN DIFFERENT WAYS! In Proverbs 26:27 God's Word says, "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return unto him." And then in Ecclesiastes 11:1, God's Word says,

"CAST THY BREAD UPON THE WATERS: FOR THOU SHALT FIND IT AFTER MANY DAYS." Oh, the one that lives unselfishly, caring for the needy and lifting the burdens, easing the pain, supplying the need, you surely will see that boomerang come back in blessing upon them some day!

GOD'S WORD MAKES IT VERY PLAIN ABOUT REAPING WHAT YOU SOW. If the reaping doesn't come in fullness here in this life, it will come in the next life. Except ye repent, the reaping certainly is coming.

BUT YOU CAN REPENT! GOD'S WORD SAYS, "EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL LIKEWISE PERISH." But God's Word also says, "If you confess your sins, he is faithful and just to forgive you your sins." God's Word never returns to Him void, and it shall prosper in that whereunto He sent it.

IF YOU WILL TURN TO GOD'S WORD AND READ IT, AND LIVE IN IT, WHAT A BOOMERANG IT WILL BE UPON YOUR OWN LIFE! What a blessing it will be! Lay up your treasure in Heaven now, and what a glorious boomerang it will be in the days of your old age! God bless you and bring this lesson home to heart. God's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

THE BREAD OF LIFE!

(Program 23)

We turn to one of the most precious passages in the Word of God, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto Me and eat ye that which is good and let your soul delight itself in fatness!" (Isa.55:1-2)

This wonderful passage tells of the promise of Jesus Christ, calling to faith and repentance, and He tells you here of the blessings that will accrue to those that would accept the invitation.

The greatest of all supernatural things to me is that Christ, the incarnate Savior, should plead with us in all of our emptiness to come and partake of His riches and glory! So marvelous! He says if you're thirsty in soul, come! If you're hungry of heart, come!

And he that hath no money, come without money and without price! He's saying also in this passage, nothing has satisfied you, you still have that emptiness, that aching void. You spent your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfied not, now come and eat that which is good, let your soul delight itself!

God's Word declares Jesus Christ is a satisfying portion, and you know that millions have testified that that is so, that He has satisfied every desire of their needy souls, and that when they knew nothing but the world's wages, spending money for that which satisfied not, that Christ came into their life!

There dawned upon their dark souls a light that never is on land or sea. As God's Word puts it, "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." You are listening in, the one that has never known Him. He knows that you don't care about Him!

He knows just what you are, yet He humbles Himself and stoops down to your very level, and He pleads with you to come. He said, "Come unto Me, hear and your soul shall live." Isn't it wonderful that you're still alive, and God is giving you another chance? That you're still in the place of hope, you still have the opportunity to meet the Savior? He says in another Scripture:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come into him and sup with him, and he with

Me." Another wonderful "Come!" He just says, come, come, come, all the time!

If you could only realize dimly what a satisfying portion Christ is, you'd leap to accept this invitation of His! God grant that you'll not leap too late, for as sure as you're there listening to this invitation, and we're here telling you of it from God's Word, just so sure the Judgment Day is coming. And in that hour you'll know too late that He was that bread of life that could have utterly satisfied your hunger, but instead you spent your all for that which satisfied not. And you will know then that He was a Fountain of Living Water, but you refused to come to Him and drink. Oh, that's a tragedy!

In that hour you'll remember how He pleaded here, "Incline your ear and come unto Me, hear and your soul shall live," for His Word also says "This is life eternal, to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." So many scores of times He says come, come!

Dwight L. Moody was asked one time just what was meant by "come." "Tell us what it is to come." And Moody said, "I've given up trying to explain it. I always feel like the colored minister who said he was going to confound the Scripture about this, instead of saying he was going to expound it!" -- And if I go into too much detail, I might confound it!

Surely you know what the simple word "come" means? It's just the loving call of the Father God to your heart to come to Him and partake of the riches of glory, salvation, eternal life. Now do you ask how to obtain this Bread that satisfies and the Springs of Life that never dry up?

Just as we've said, it's just for the asking! Tonight there in your bedroom alone, or there by your radio now, get to God and accept His gracious invitation! He says, "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." Note again in closing, the closing words in this 55th chapter of Isaiah.

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near," and then Verse 7 closes with these words, "He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon", if the wicked will forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and return unto the Lord!

Won't you in return accept His invitation? He loves you and calls for you to come. God reigns tonight, and how He can change your life! He's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

BRING BACK THE ARK

(Program 104)

Greetings and welcome again to Meditation Moments, and again that old time greeting, "God bless you and make you a blessing."

I want to talk to you a little bit tonight about the Power of God. You know the Lord has a way of propagating everything in the World that He put here for our blessing, for our benefit. He put the seed within the apple, and the seed within the plum, and so on, and the acorn for the tree that they might carry on.

And it's just the same in the Gospel, that it was to be the Power of God that carried on God's Work, and not man's power that's not by man's might, nor man's power, but by the Spirit of the Lord. And if His work isn't done in His Spirit, it never amounts to anything.

And there's a very wonderful story in God's Word that brings out this truth so very well, and you'll find it in **2Samuel**. In fact, the story runs through the book of Samuel. The part I particularly want to talk to you about tonight is in the **6th chapter** of 2Samuel when David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, 30,000, and he went with all the people that were with him from Israel to bring up from thence the Ark of God.

You know there's a very remarkable thing about this, when Saul was on the throne. Saul, who was such a magnificent man, he was so tall of stature. Saul just had everything, but he didn't have the one thing that Israel needed and that was the Power of God. And you know, the women, the mothers would sit in their tents with the flap of the tent pulled back there, their children about them, and tell about the days gone by when God so wonderfully worked miracles for Israel. It was implied that there had been a lost vision because God didn't seem to be working in their midst.

Now Saul hadn't made an effort to go out and bring back the Ark. The Ark was a type of the presence of God in their midst. It represented the personal presence of God in the midst of His people. But Saul never even missed the Ark. Now someone has so wisely said, there's only one thing worse than not having the power of God in your life as a Christian

and having that power manifest, and that is if you don't even know that you don't have the power.

Now Saul wasn't lazy, I think he did a lot of rushing around and he tried hard to do a lot of things for Israel, doubtless did in awry, but that wasn't what Israel was needing. Israel was needing the very Power of God in her midst. Now sin and disobedience had grieved the Holy Spirit, Saul had been so disobedient. Numbers of times you'll remember when Samuel told him to wait there for so long a time, 7 days, and Saul didn't wait at all.

Now it began with disobedience on Saul's part. He had gotten away from God. This sin and disobedience had so grieved the Holy Spirit that God's great heart was so grieved that the Word says that the Lord answered him not when he prayed.

Now, I wonder in our own lives sometimes if we don't even know when God's Power isn't there. I've seen Churches that have just ran along on substitutes, ineffectual things, and wasted energy of all kinds, all sorts of outward demonstrations and all kinds of suppers and eating fests and mechanical observances, and yet the alter of the Church would be cold and there would be a formality there that was really pitiful. Political maneuverings even, an awful thing to have these tricks and trappings in the House of God instead of the Power of God, the Power that the Lord intended should carry on His Work. He made every provision to have His work successful and have it magnificent in its usefulness and not to be carried on by such awful effort on man's part.

Saul didn't even know, as I say, didn't even miss the presence of God. And in the empty place that was there he had a little of everything to make up for this emptiness. And that's the way it is with the Christian who had lost the Power and the Presence of the Lord. They try to fill that empty place in the heart with something else, but it never will be filled, there's always that terrible void there, you know that something's missing in your life if you ever know the Power of God in your life.

Oh, I wonder why we take the hard way when we could have the Divine, that we'd take the human, and we can have the omnipotence,

we take that which is really just the impotent, and we take the earthly and passing things when we can have Heaven's wonderful resources.

So Saul, I would call him the make-believer, because you would remember that when he came back from the battle with the Amalekites and he brought back king Agag, he met Samuel. We mentioned that talking these things over one time, Samuel, we'll say, was his pastor, and Saul said, "Blessed be thou the Lord, I have kept the commandments of the Lord." And Samuel said, "Then what means the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen in my ears?" Saul has the language of the Church, but he's completely lost the Spirit of the Church and lost out with God. But still he keeps up this pretense.

Oh, it's a terrible thing to be a make-believer and not have the real thing, to just not even miss that which could be so powerful in your life, to take some substitute. I passed Church recently that God has not so long ago written the word "Ichabod" over that Church, and yet they're trying to keep it going on just wasted energy and ineffectual things and there's that empty place, the lack of the presence of God and as I say the Alter there is cold and empty.

I think David here, in going out to bring back the Ark is a type of some of these hungry pastors, the other type of pastor, who is just determined to have the presence and Power of God. The minute David comes to the throne, he misses the Ark, so he gets his group together a little company and goes out to bring back the Ark. How wonderful it is that there are some people that have such hungry hearts, that they're not going to be satisfied with any artificial enthusiasm and all this superficiality. They want the real thing, they want the Power of God, this wonderful provision that God has made for the Christian to live a victorious life, the provision that God has made for His work to be carried on, that it might be carried on in the Power of God's precious Holy Spirit.

So David goes out on God's terms, he's obedient to the Lord and he's so earnest about it, he's desperate. You know, God has this power for you, He never meant you to struggle like you struggle sometimes and He never meant for life to be so defeated, to live a defeated Christian life. He meant you to have victory! God has supplied victory for you and victory is there for you, God wants to give it to you.

I'm going to ask that we just search our own hearts for just a moment and see if we have really the presence of God there and God is in His rightful place and there isn't that empty place in our own hearts where we've gone on in the natural and the self-effort and the self-enthusiasm, having other things to take the place of the Lord working in our lives.

And I want just to have just a word a prayer about this because I know just where the temptation is to live in the natural, instead of expecting the supernatural, and as I said, to have the human instead of the divine and to be so impotent, instead of having omnipotence working in power in the life. *Lord, we want to thank Thee, that we have all of Heaven's resources to our command. We want to be conscious, Lord, of our Spiritual condition, we want to know just where we stand with Thee. We thank Thee, Father God, that Thou didst make provision for us to have this power through the precious infilling of Thy wonderful Holy Spirit. Thy Word just told us, "ye shall have power," for the Holy Ghost is come, and you said to tarry until you are endued with power from on high, and we thank Thee for this provision. We pray that Thou will put hunger in hearts, Lord, that they might seek the great infilling of Thy Holy Spirit until they shall move and speak and pray with God's power and all that they just do shall be done with Thy Spirit, that He might be in His rightful place Lord, we ask in Jesus' name, amen.*

BROKEN THINGS

(Program 45)

As we have so often greeted you at the close of our little meditation, our hearts are assured again by the things we see and the things we hear, that God has His hand on the helm of the Universe and prayer changes things! May you come to an even greater realization of that as we talk to you about "broken things."

"I had a tiny box, a precious box of human love, my spikenard of great price. I kept it close within my heart of hearts and scarce would lift the lid lest it should waste its perfume on the air.

"One day a strange deep sorrow came with crushing weight and fell upon my costly treasure sweet and rare, and broke the box to atoms! My heart rose in dismay and sorrow at this waste, but as I mourned, behold a miracle of grace Divine!

"My human Love was changed to Heaven's own and poured in healing streams on other broken hearts, while soft and clear a Voice above me whispered, Child of Mine, with comfort wherewith thou art comforted, from this time forth, go comfort others, and thou shalt know the blessed fellowship with Me, whose broken heart of love hath healed the World."

There is many a life whose rays of helpfulness and sweetness would always have been hidden and undeveloped had not that life been broken. That wonderful writer, A.B. Simpson, has written this, called "The Potter and the Clay," and part of our story is from the 18th Chapter of Jeremiah, about the potter and the clay.

Down by the house of the potter

I went with the Lord one day,

And I watched while he slowly fashioned

A vessel from plastic clay.

Slowly on the wheel he turned it,

Shaping it with patient skill

Till the plastic clay was molded,

According to the Master's will.

But as I watched His working

He turned with a look of pain,

For the vessel in His hands was fractured,

His work seemed alas in vain.

Something in the clay had marred it,

Somewhere there has been a strain,

And the work must be suspended,
The potter must begin again.
Then as I watched and wondered
He took up the clay once more,
And around on the wheel he turned it,
And fashioned it o'er and o'er.
Patiently he pressed and shaped it
With a bright and smiling face,
Till at last from the wheel he took it,
A vessel of surpassing grace.
O Lord, Thou art our Potter
And we the plastic clay,
Mold us to Thy perfect will,
And lead us in Thy way.

-- In this 18th Chapter of Jeremiah, Jeremiah was sent by Divine order down to the potter's house, and he sees the potter make a vessel, which in the making is marred, and God's Word tells us that the potter made it again another vessel.

There was doubtless some hard unyielding lump in that clay, so that it broke upon the turning wheel. The lesson from the Lord in this scene is that if we do have a desire to know God, if we have a desire to be used of him, and yet we are unyielded, unsubmitive, He'll have to break us for our own good and for our own worth in usefulness, and make us into a better vessel. There may be someone reading this, who in pride or self-sufficiency or pure willfulness is rebelling at God's Will.

That hardness of heart has to be dealt with by the Lord, not in anger but in love and mercy, to make a better vessel, the vessel He intended you to be. It shows God's love and care so truly, that He, the Mighty God, will stoop to the trouble of making a better vessel, a vessel of beauty, out of your life, rather than just casting you aside because you're unsundered.

Many times I've had to cry to the Lord, Lord don't take Your hands off my life! And I know there are many of you that are thankful that God loves us enough to deal with us! He wants us to be so conformable to His Will that we can say with all our hearts,

"I know Thy will is glorious and best, if there is any hardness in my life, any sin or self, and I've allowed it to go unchallenged, Lord, deal with it. Mold me and make me after Thy will, even if it means a broken vessel! Thou canst make it a better vessel!"

Great Master, touch us with Thy

skillful hand,

Let not the music that is in us die.

Great Sculptor, you empolish us,

Nor let hidden and lost Thy form within us lie.

Spare not the stroke, do with us what Thou wilt,

Let us not be unfinished, broken, marred.

Complete Thy purpose that we may become

Thy perfect image: Thou, our God and Lord!

It's strange how few broken things are useful, but God uses only broken people. God has to have broken empty vessels, and these become His chosen vessels. No Christian is in real service until he's deeply humbled, and that comes only by a real breaking.

Like Gideon's broken pitchers that let the light shine out only after the breaking, then the victory came! A little poem has been written by one of the great men, John Hay, who was a very great Secretary of State. This is what he said:

"The Will of God for us is not something that we're to be resigned to in a sort of melancholy reluctant way, but something we are to feel jubilant about, because of what it is going to do through us, in making us malleable and submissive." And then he brings us a real lift in this lilting little poem:

Not in dumb resignation

Lift we our hands on high,

Not like the nerveless, faithless,

Content to do and die.

Our faith springs like the eagle's.

Who soars to meet the sun!

We cry exultantly unto Thee,

O Lord, Thy Will be done!

So many of the old saints of God in God's Word never amounted to much until they were broken. Even Jesus' body had to be broken before His Sacrifice was complete. The great spiritual truth is,

God cannot make what He desires of any life unless it is absolutely submissive! He has a plan for every life: every one that came into being in this World!

If we miss God's plan by failing to seek His Will, by not being surrendered in His hands, our lives will be forever defeated and frustrated. Always we'll have the feeling that somewhere, oh somewhere, we missed the mark! Life will be meaningless!

There is no more happier, more peaceful place in the World than

the center of God's Will, where you're wholly submissive to His desires, utterly yielded in His loving hands, this precious Potter!

So many times this process has been likened to the Potter molding the clay into the vessel he desires it to be. I wonder what kind of clay we are today? Are we malleable, plastic, capable of being molded? God grant this shall be the case in your life!

If men would but believe that they are in the process of the making, they would let the Maker handle them as a potter does the clay, yielding themselves in resplendent submissiveness, hopefulness, into the turning wheel, that is God's hands! Before long they'd find themselves able to welcome every pressure of that Hand on them, even if it was felt in pain sometimes.

They'd not only believe, but recognize all of His divine purpose in view. God grant it shall be the case that "not a single shaft shall hit until the God of love sees fit," so you may know in your life when you are in the breaking process! Let's have a little word of prayer: Father, bless every Scripture we have given. Thy Word says, and we claim it:

"A broken spirit and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise" -- Thou wilt not despise, Lord, and Thou wilt not cast aside the broken spirit. We pray for a brokenness of spirit in us all, that we might be more useful to Thee. In Jesus' Precious Name we ask it for a blessing on each one. Amen.

BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

(Program 131)

"Take time to the holy,
Speak oft with the Lord,
Abide in Him always
And feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children,
And help those that are weak,
Forgetting in nothing
His blessing to seek.

"Take time to be Holy,
Be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive
Beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit
To fountains of love,
Thou soon shall be fitted
For service Above."

God's Word speak of this "secret place," the inner chamber of prayer within the secret of His presence, where Mary found rest. We read the story in Luke 10:38-42, where she sat at Jesus' feet to learn of Him, while others rushed about, bothered with much serving. That's why Mary's name has gone down in history as a wise woman, because Jesus said, "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." -- Lk.10:42b. At the beginning of that verse, Jesus said to Martha, who was distracted with the things that can be taken away, "But one thing is needful" -- one thing.

I believe with all my heart that all things are possible with God. -- And I mean all thing. "All things are possible to him that believeth." -- Mk.9:23. It makes no difference what it is, God says, "all things," and God's Word is true! That includes your present need. Don't say, "except this" or "except that" -- God says "all things."

What vistas of hope! What possibilities this word "all" opens to every one of us! And what power and privileges lies at our command! But as we meditate about this, and read what Jesus said, we see that there's something which is in contrast to this, and it is the only thing that's really needful.

"All things are possible," but only "one thing is needful." This verse is a real tranquilizer. It's so restful in its sweet simplicity, its humble requirement: "But one thing is needful." Many things are worthy of our effort, some things are worth sacrificing and striving for, but only "one thing is needful." Jesus said to meet Him alone like this, in the secret place of prayer, and learn of Him. This one needful thing, as we sit at His feet, transcends all else. Mary's sister, Martha, was fussing over the big dinner, and Jesus said she was troubled, distracted and anxious about many things.

She wanted to please the Lord with the work of her hands, but he wanted the worship of her heart. She didn't realize that before the "all things possible" that "one thing is needful," that she couldn't possibly expect the "all things" until she had practiced the One thing.

There are professing Christians today who are neglecting the secret place of prayer, the One thing needful, and they think they will, by their works, their "much serving," please the Lord and gain a higher place in His Work and in His Kingdom. They don't seem to understand that the surest way of being lifted up into the "all things" and the place of responsibility and power is to first take the lowly place in the "One thing," for God's way up is down.

A worker once came to me for counseling. He had been a missionary, but was crowded out of his field and replaced by a more successful, sincere worker. He had been himself an untiring worker, and had often written to his Home Board that there was too much work, to send others to help him. Like Martha, his cry was, "Lord, bid someone come and help me!" But with all his work, which was constantly rushing here and there in a feverish flurry, he bore no fruit. And now defeated and with frustrated plans, he was back in his home field, laid aside.

If only he had stopped in his mad rush each day and sat at Jesus' feet and learned of Him Who is meek and quiet in Spirit, he would have gone out there on the field in due time, to speak with gumption, and labored with power, and to work with the Lord. Not just for Him, but with Him.

If he had gone to the secret place and sat at Jesus' feet. It isn't a crowded place! But there he sat, an unfruitful, disappointed servant, because he hadn't realized that "but one thing is needful" in order to make "all things possible."

He was distracted with so much serving, serving, that he neglected the better part, his prayer life, the sitting quietly and learning

of Christ. He had tried to climb up some other way. (See John 10:1.)

Have you done so? -- Or have you chosen the better part, which can never be taken away? Have you humbled yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time? (See 1Pet.5:6.) Or do you fret yourself, and become troubled over "what shall we eat, what shall we drink and wherewithal shall we be clothed?" -- Mat.6:31.

Martha was busy and hurried

Serving the Friend Divine,
Cleansing the cups and the platters,
Bring the bread and the wine.

But Martha was careful and anxious,
Fretting in thought and in word.
She had not time to be learning
While she was serving the Lord.

For Martha was cumbered with serving,
Martha was troubled with things,
Those that would pass with the using,
She was forgetting her wings.

But Mary was quiet and peaceful,
Learning to love and to live,
Mary was learning His precepts,
Mary was letting Him give --

Give of the riches eternal,
Treasures of mind and of heart,
Learning the mind of the Master,
Choosing the better part.

Do we ever labor at serving,
Till voices grow fretful and shrill?
Forgetting how to be loving?
Forgetting how to be still?

Do we strive for things and possessions
And toil for the perishing meat?
Neglecting the one thing needful?

-- Sitting at Jesus' feet!

Oh, service is good when He asks it,
Labor is right in its place,
But there is one thing far better --
Looking up into His face.

There's so much that He would tell us,
There are so many truth, oh so deep!
This is the place where He wants us,
And these are the things we can keep!

Before my back was broken and God brought me to Himself the hard way, and I was ill so long, I was like that fretful missionary, and this poem which I wrote, describes what happened to me:

I was longing to serve the Master,
But alas, I was laid aside
From the busy field of workers
In the harvest field so wide.
There were few, yes, few in number,
And I couldn't understand
Why I should be left inactive,
It was not as I had planned.

I was longing to serve the Master
And the need indeed was great.
For me it was easy to labor,
But oh, it was hard to wait.
To lie quite still and be silent
While the song was borne to my ear
From the busy field of workers
In the harvest field so dear.

I was longing to serve, just to serve the Master,
But He led to a desert place,
And there as we stopped and rested,
His eyes looked down in my face,
So full of tender reproaching,
They filled me with sad surprise!

Did He think I had grudged my service,
Or counted it sacrifice?

"Oh Master, I long to serve Thee!
There are so few at the best.
Let me off to the field!" I pleaded,
"I care not to stay and rest."
I knelt at His feet, imploring,
I gazed in His face above,
"My child," He said, "don't you know
Your service is nothing without your love?"

I was longing to serve, to serve my Master,
Oh, this was my one fond thought,
For this I was ever pleading
As His footstool in prayer I sought.
But there in that lonely desert,
Apart from the busy scene,
It dawned on me slowly and clearly
Where my great mistake had been.

My mind was so full of service, just service,
I had drifted from Him apart,
And He longed for that sweet communion,
That union of heart with heart!
Well, I sought and I found forgiveness
While mine eyes with pain were dim;
And now, though His Work is still precious,
The first place is kept for Him!

Let's remember that, and that God is still on the Throne and
prayer does truly change things. May God bless and keep you and cause
His face to shine upon you.

CHRIST IN YOU!

(Program 81)

Let the beauty of Jesus
Be seen in me
All His wonderful
passion
And purity.
Oh Thy Spirit divine,
All my nature refine,
Till the beauty of Jesus
Be seen in me!

I was traveling over a very rough road, oh so bumpy, and we began to talk about the roads as they were many years ago when we traveled 'cross country and there weren't the fine highways like there are today. Such bumpy roads! We just went from one rut into another in those days!

And we were talking about the old Victory Highway. -- Perhaps some of you were on that old highway? It was a victory if you ever got over that highway! I think that's why they called it that! -- At this particular time we were moving toward a little town where a friend lived where we were to spend the night.

We couldn't find our way and had stopped to ask directions. A farmer had given us the strangest direction and we missed the way. Again we found another one when we came to the next farm house. But he gave us those directions that we get sometimes:

"You go a little way this way to the right, and then turn left at the barn, and then you go just straight for a while till you come to a hill, and go up the hill, and then circle back for a 'stone's throw.' And then turn left and go for a 'stone's throw' again." -- And he talked about a hill and a gray barn.

Well, there were a number of gray barns and there were a few hills, and a stone's throw can mean a lot of things, and so again we missed the way! We traveled on for quite a little while, and then we found a very intelligent farmer. He was so kind, and we stopped to ask him the direction again.

He said, "You know, it would be very difficult to tell you in this part of the country, and some of the roads are not so good that would take you a little nearer the way there. Would it please you if I got in and just showed you the way?" -- We were so glad!

So he got in, sat down beside us and then he would say, turn this way, and turn that way, and, just go straight ahead now, and then again, turn to the right, and so on. What a comfort it was! What a blessing!

It was a relief, we felt, as we just sat back and rested and let him guide us! And I thought of this particular Scripture that I am going to read to you, and how wonderful that that is the victory in the Christian life!

So many people say, "Why is it that some people claim to be Christians yet they are not living the Christian life?" -- Well it can never be lived in your own effort and in your own strength and by your own will power.

God has a secret, and that secret is that Christ must come in and He must sit in the throne of your heart and tell you what to do and what not to do. He takes His place there and guides you from within!

The Christian life is just the life of another person lived through you, and that person is Jesus Christ. Now Paul tells about it in Colossians 1, it's a wonderful chapter, please read it. Take it from the very first, you get the thought much better.

Somewhat like a woman here, it takes her a long time to tell you a secret! And she makes a lot of preparation for it! And Paul has taken this entire chapter, and then he tells you the secret in the 26th and 27th Verses.

He said that it's a "mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles;

"Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!" -- He said the secret of it all is Christ in you! And that's so true! We just do the yielding, we do the complete surrendering, and then He does the rest: He does the living of His life through you. I had a preacher friend who had been preaching some years, and he said,

"I'll never forget the day it dawned on me that this indeed was a mystery, indeed a wonderful mystery! And it was revealed to me that it was Christ in me, that Christ really came in and lived out His life through me!

Paul says in another place, Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." -- It's not I, but Christ that liveth

in me.

And in another place Jesus said, "I have been with you but I shall be in you." And this surrendering, just yielding to Him and letting Him live out His life, reminds me of the story of the little girl, only five and a half years of age, who was telling at a testimony meeting how she got saved and how Jesus had come in her heart to live.

And the hair-splitting old elder, who just couldn't think of a child like that knowing what she was talking about, came down front and he said, "How do you know you're saved?" And she said, "Well, I know that I asked Jesus to come in my heart and He did come in my heart." "How do you know?"

"Well I know He's there because He talks to me, and I know, I can feel Him there." So then the old elder thought he'd surely catch her with this, and he said, "Well what would you do if Satan came to your heart to tempt you?"

"Why," she said, "I would just send Jesus to the door! I wouldn't do anything, I'd send Jesus to the door; and when Satan saw who lived there he'd say, 'Excuse me Sir, I came to the wrong house'."

And the old elder turned away, very quietly this time, he had nothing more to say. How true! When Christ comes into the heart to live, He's living out His life through you, with you completely surrendering to Him.

I think we know what surrender is. We've seen pictures, we've heard stories of soldiers who had to surrender, who just threw up their arms and just gave up the fight.

It's giving up that awful fight of self and self-confidence and the carnal will power and all, doing it all in the flesh and doing it all by human effort and human confidence.

But God's Word tells us that it's Christ in us, the hope of glory. -- He lives in you, let Him have His way! He's still on the Throne and He can be on the Throne in your heart, and will change things. Amen.

CLEANSING

(Program 106)

Greetings and welcome again to Meditation Moments. We have been talking to you about the ladder of faith by which if you'll earnestly climb you can reach the great and mighty things God's Word tells us about in Jer.33:3. And last week we dealt with the firm foundation upon which the ladder of faith must rest and that's the Word of God. For God's Word says, "Heaven and Earth will pass away but My Word shall never pass away." And so the ladder of faith must rest on such a firm foundation. It's useless to start up a ladder unless you are going to take God's at His Word and have your ladder that you climb up to the great and mighty things when firmly planted on that word.

It really takes effort and wisdom to climb the ladder of faith and get real answers to prayer. Many people are satisfied with a very mediocre common existence although the Lord has said, "I have come that ye might have life and have it more abundantly." They're not satisfied to climb up to that cause it does take such an effort sometimes and takes a clean heart and it takes perseverance. The first round in our ladder is a definite cleansing of the heart. If you come to God for the fulfillment of His promises you must have a clean heart. He can't pour His blessing into an unclean vessel for His Word says, "If our hearts condemn us not then we have boldness to come to the throne of mercy and receive help in a time of need." It's impossible to have boldness if there's condemnation upon the heart. His (?) robs the heart of that confidence. God sees the things that are hidden behind the door of the heart. He can't bless (?) sin in the heart. So quick, so anxious God is to forgive the repentant heart that he says, "The broken and contrite heart He'll not despise," but there's one thing God can't do. That is, He cannot forgive sins which are not repentant and the story is told of two men who were attending a Communion service and the one saw his companion on his knees at the altar for taking of the sacrament and he whispered to him, "Sam, what fall you all down on your knees in taking the sacrament when I saw you last night stealing a pig?" To his surprise his friend replied, "You all don't think I'm gonna let a little thing like a pig keep me out of the Kingdom, does you?" He went right on praying and taking the sacrament and that's about the attitude of many a heart that God'll overlook a few things here and there and just hide them, if they're hidden out of sight I mean, leave them buried in the past and God'll forget them like a debt which is forever forgiven because of lapse

of time but sin's only forgiven when confessed and repented of. All that God asks is obedience to 1Jn.1:9, "If we confess our sins He's faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Sin has to be brought out into the light in sweet humility confess to the Lord and know how quickly He forgives and cleanses the moment He sees genuine repentance. Oh, that's the way to start climbing your ladder of faith because prayer is hindered when there's condemnation upon your heart. That awful pressure that's in your soul when you go to pray and you feel God doesn't hear me and God doesn't answer my prayers like other people. I'm not as good as other people. I'm so unworthy. And those condemnations will definitely hinder your faith and take away your boldness in prayer. Therefore by definite act of confession and offense you clear away all such hindrance and rid yourself once and for all of such condemnation. To the one who has by a definite act of faith put his past with every sin beneath the blood of Calvary there is no condemnation. It's true then God will try to put condemnation of your heart but if you obey this Scripture, one we just read, 1Jn.1:9 you can't do so. God's Word says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." That's the reason a clean heart is so necessary so that you can come boldly to the throne of mercy. A heart that's truly right with God cannot easily be accused by the Devil.

Martha Snell-Nickelson writes, "I feared and then straightway post haste Satan flew before the presence of the most High God and made a railing accusation there. He said, 'This soul, this thing of clay and sod has sinned. 'Tis true that he has maimed Thy name but I demand his death for Thou hast said, The soul that sinneth it shall die. Shall not Thy sentence be fulfilled and justice dead. Send now this (?) sinner to his doom. What other thing can righteous ruler do?' And thus he did accuse me day and night in every word he spoke, oh God, was true. Then quickly one rose up from God's right hand before whom glory angels veil their eyes. He spoke, "Each jot and tittle of the law must be fulfilled, the guilty sinner die. But wait, suppose his guilt for all transferred to me and that I paid his penalty. Behold, My hands, My side My feet. One day I was made sin for him and died that he might be presented faultless at Thy throne and Satan flew away only well he knew that he could not prevail against such love. For every dear Word my dear Lord spoke was true.

Oh my friend, there's room at the cross for you. God's Word makes it so plain. He'll turn from sin they that have sinned. The Savior

still waits to open the gates and welcome a sinner before it's too late. There's room at the cross for you. Though millions have come there's still room for one. Yes, there's room at the cross for you. God will answer prayer for you. He's still on the throne, prayer changes things.

CLOSER WALK

(Program 46)

THE OTHER SUNDAY WAS A BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY MORNING, and some friends took me to a little white chapel at Knottsberry Farm for the Sunday morning service. They sang the old hymns and the preacher gave a good plain Gospel message: It was all very good and helpful, but there wasn't anything outstanding or striking about that part of the service.

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY STRIKING THAT HAPPENED THERE, and very few people noticed it, for perhaps only two or three recognized the slender, humbly quiet man that ushered the people to their seats. Yet he was a very famous man, a multi-millionaire and the founder and owner of the famous Knottsberry Farm: It was Walter Knott himself.

THERE HE WAS, HUMBLY, USHERING IN THE PEOPLE in that tiny little frame church, each one to where they desired to sit. And as I sat there through the service, I thought, I'd like to know better this man, who with all his wealth and fame, just wants to be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord! I had met and talked with him a couple of times, but that's not really knowing a person.

IT TAKES TIME AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION TO TRULY KNOW AND UNDERSTAND SUCH A ONE. Now as I sat in the humble little frame chapel, waiting for the service to begin, I became conscious of the melody the organist was playing at that time. It was "I am Thine, O Lord," and as the words of the old hymn formed in my mind, I said in my heart,

LORD, I WANT TO KNOW THEE BETTER! SOME ARE SATISFIED WITH A PASSING ACQUAINTANCESHIP, but they never know what Christianity is all about until they really know Thee in a closer walk:

*Just a closer walk with Thee,
dear Lord!*

*Blessed Jesus, let it be,
I'm satisfied as long as I walk,
Yes, I walk with Thee!*

"JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE!" -- AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT for a little while, this "closer walk." Now the secret of drawing closer to know the Lord better, is prayer and communion. It is getting in touch with the Lord through meditating on His Word.

WE'VE SAID MUCH IN THE PAST ABOUT PRAYER, BUT I WANT TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE SECRET ABOUT MEDITATION that, if you want a closer walk with Him, will surely bring you closer to the heart of God: When you take up your Bible, even before you open its pages, just humbly, sincerely -- and it must be sincerely -- ask God for help.

THE WORDS OF YOUR PRAYER CAN BE VERY SIMPLE, such as, "Holy Spirit, reveal the things of Christ to me," or "Holy Spirit, help me to get in touch with God right now. Illumine Thy Word, Lord." -- It can be very simple but it has to be sincere.

IT MUST BE A CRY FROM THE HEART, NOT LISTLESSLY NOR HALF-HEARTEDLY, but a real hungering and thirsting. So many people just pick up their Bibles and begin to read thoughtlessly. They never get much out of it because they haven't asked the Lord to illumine His Word, asked the Holy Spirit to reveal the things of Christ.

MAYBE YOU DON'T FEEL ANY HUNGER FOR THE WORD OR TO HAVE A CLOSER WALK, or for God to open to you His rich treasure. Well, if that's the case, there ought to be a heart-searching, for at the root of this loss of spiritual appetite there is generally sin, or some failure or habitual weakness.

THIS MUST BE FACED AND DRAGGED OUT INTO THE OPEN AND BE REPENTED OF, before God can open to you of His rich treasure in the Word of God. This repentance is a foundation stone to blessing in meditation!

HOW CAN ONE COMMUNE WITH GOD WITH AN EVIL HEART? Now the Holy Spirit is waiting to bless and to comfort, and to reveal the things of Christ to you! But you have to ask with a sincere heart, and repent of any known sin.

THAT IS WHY WE'RE ASKING THAT BEFORE YOU EVEN OPEN THE WORD you bow your head and pray earnestly, sincerely for God to reveal anything in your heart that will stand in the way of your

having truth revealed to you from that Word.

THIS IS WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS READ THEIR BIBLES AND ARE NO FURTHER ALONG SPIRITUALLY, NOR CLOSER TO THE HEART OF GOD than when they began to read! One of our great teachers made this statement: "I'm sure that the failure of many Christians to gain much from meditation, arises far more often from their opening the Bibles too quickly than from their shutting them too quickly!"

YES, I THINK YOU CAN OPEN YOUR BIBLE TOO QUICKLY! First you have to set your heart right before God! And it's the Holy Spirit that reveals the things of Christ to you, so you ask Him by His Holy Spirit to reveal that which you're going to read, reveal It's deep riches to you.

SO MANY TRY TO EXIST SPIRITUALLY ON JUST A FEW SIPS OF THE MILK OF THE WORD on a Sunday morning, and in some instances this is skim milk! But they never grow at all, either morally or spiritually, nor have they any great spiritual sinew, because they don't masticate and assimilate the meat of the Word.

IN ORDER TO GET THE MEAT OF THE WORD, THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO: This that I've been talking to you about. But maybe you're satisfied with your present passing acquaintanceship with the Lord Jesus Christ? And you have no great desire to draw nearer, to have the closer walk? If so, it's because you don't realize what's in store for you in Christ Jesus.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE JOYS, THE BENEFITS, THE COMFORT, THE PEACE AND REST, or you'd want to know Him better, you'd want the closer walk! Words can't describe the riches to be found in Jesus, and the closer the walk with Him, the greater the revelations of His power and glory and inheritance you will have as a Christian.

WHILE WE WERE SITTING IN THE LITTLE CHAPEL WAITING FOR THE SERVICE TO BEGIN, the organist was playing,

*I am Thine O Lord,
I've heard Thy voice
And it told Thy love for me.
But I long to rise in the
arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.
DRAW ME NEARER, NEARER*

*BLESSED LORD,
To the Cross where Thou
hast died,
Draw me nearer, nearer
Blessed Lord,
To Thy precious bleeding side.*

-- These are Fanny Crosby's words, and you notice that she has the secret of the very thing that I'm talking about: To know Him better.

YOU RISE ON THE ARMS OF FAITH TO BE DRAWN CLOSER!

Then she says,

*Consecrate me now to Thy
service, Lord,
By the power of grace Divine,
Let my soul look up with
a steadfast hope
And my will be drawn to Thine.
Oh the pure delight of a
single hour
That before Thy Throne I spend
When I kneel in prayer,
And I with Thee, my God,
Commune as friend with friend.*

I WISH I HAD SOME NEW WAY OF TELLING YOU WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO COME CLOSER to the Lord Jesus Christ! He is come that ye might have life and have it more abundantly! And He wants you to draw closer, He wants you to have the things He has to give. He wants to give you His best, and He longs that you shall have this peace and rest and joy.

HE'S NOT HOLDING IT BACK FROM YOU, YOU'RE HOLDING BACK FROM COMING CLOSER TO HIM! He says, "My peace I give," and "Ask and receive, that your joy may be full." -- He wants you to have all this fullness, He wants you closer.

HE EVEN DESIRES THAT YOU MAY PROSPER! You read the first Psalm and you'll find that: It tells of the righteous man, saying that all that he doeth shall prosper! And He wants to give you a goodly supply of all these things.

OF COURSE, THE CONDITIONS HAVE TO BE MET! But He

wants His children to have all this, not that you might satisfy the cravings of the human flesh, but that it may prove His love for you.

THE RAIN AND SUN FALL ON THE JUST AND THE UNJUST, manifesting God's love even for the sinner, but as we've said to you so often, don't you think He'll save the best in all things for His very own? Don't you think for His own children He'd do the best?

HE WANTS YOU TO DRAW CLOSER TO HIM SO YOU'LL KNOW THE ABUNDANT LIFE that He has offered and which He comes to give: A life above the common, a life above the mediocre, a life above the ordinary! But you'll never know it by having just a passing acquaintanceship with Him, never! You have to draw closer! "Draw me closer, closer, just a closer walk with Thee, dear Lord."

HE CAME TO MAKE ALL THESE PROMISES REAL AND HE WANTS TO SHOW YOU THE RELIABILITY OF EVERY PROMISE! If you've got a need today, He wants to supply that need, He says so. He promised to give you the desires of your heart if you delight yourself in Him.

ARE YOU DELIGHTING YOURSELF IN HIM? OR ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH JUST A COUPLE OF LITTLE VERSES from the Word just before you jump into bed at night? And aren't you really interested in getting the Meat of the Word and truly drawing closer?

"ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVES!" That's limitless, isn't it? Don't you believe He came for you also? That you're included in this offer that He makes? Can your faith become strong enough at this time to take hold of this promise, for this closer walk, for the abundance that He promises?

OR IS FAITH WEAK AND WAVERING BECAUSE YOU'RE NEGLECTING TO DRAW CLOSER, neglecting to read His Word as you should? Perhaps even neglecting to have fellowship with other believers? His command is "Learn of me," and that's the way faith grows strong.

HE SAYS IN HIS WORD, "THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH!" -- Beloved, in these strange and dangerous times in which we live, no other life is worthwhile but the abundant life that the Lord Jesus Christ is offering you!

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HUNGERING FOR! That's all that will ever satisfy you! There's a verse of Scripture that says He is the "satisfying portion." Draw closer to Him, read the Word, meditate upon it! God bless you and keep you through this day for His Name's sake

THE COMMONPLACE

(Program 70)

*He heals every heartache,
He hears every sigh,
This wonderful Savior of mine!
He helps me in trouble,
He heeds when I cry,
This wonderful Savior of mine.*

Greetings again and welcome to Meditation Moments, and again our old-time greeting, the Lord bless you and make you a blessing! Let's have a breath of prayer for these that have written in for prayer. Our Father, we come to Thee in the blessed name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we bring to Thee these that are in need.

We know Thou dost hear us and Thou hast told us to ask and we shall receive, and we do believe Thy Word. You said to call upon Thee in the day of trouble and Thou wilt deliver. We do ask for deliverance for these that are in distress.

We ask also, Lord, that Thou wilt give courage and grace to bear and faith to bring out into victory these that are suffering. We do pray for the victory through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ -- that precious Name that's so powerful -- for these others that have written about troublesome things, and to know Thy Will. Show them the way, give them wisdom. And we ask Thee Lord, that they may desire above all things that Thy Will shall be done in their lives. We pray Thee Lord for wisdom on our part and our little team here that we may do our best for Thee. We want more than anything else that Jesus Christ shall be manifested to each one that reads this. And so we do pray in His blessed, precious Name, and Thy blessing upon each one. Amen.

We've been talking to you about the humble people, and now we're going to say a few words about commonplace things and living in the grind of the commonplace. In 1st Corinthians 1:27-29, God's Word says, "God hath chosen the foolish things of the World to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the World to confound the things which are mighty; and the base things of the World, and the things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and the things which are not, to bring to nought the things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence."

These verses sort of hang a halo of glory around commonplace

things, and puts the idea of human greatness completely out of balance, puts it on rather shaky foundations. Now this letter was written to the Greeks, and you'll remember that they were not caring so much about the commonplace; the ever-present things of life had lost their charm for them. And they were wanting something new all the time.

Now what is "the commonplace"? Well, it's the valley where the millions meet, it's where the multitudes travel, and what the multitudes do. It has nothing to differentiate and bring it to limelight. But it's the real work of the World, there is generally desire on the part of many people to get out of the commonplace, to do something great, and they forget the cooking, washing, mending, sewing, farming, nursing the sick, child-training and doing little kindnesses.

All of these things that come in the everyday round of the commonplace are great things in God's sight and God created them as well as He did the great things. We get numbers of letters, especially from women, who are groaning about the commonplace, and dear ones who are nursing a loved one and they're shut in to just four walls sometimes.

But you know there is an economic necessity for the love of the commonplace. There's real character building in making the fires and washing dishes and doing cooking and raising your own garden, and a man doing carpentry. I love to see a woman who loves cooking and washing and mending, and I like to see a man who delights in his plows and his teams and his produce. For these things are divine, God made the farmer and he made the housewife.

God made the commonplace. I don't know why it is that it seems like the very grind of it gets into people's souls, and they begin to feel like they're nobodies and that they don't amount to anything in man or in God's sight. Well, Dorcas was of more value than Bernice, the society daughter of Herod, and you'll find many characters in God's Word who lived amongst the commonplace.

God's Word says, "Having food and raiment, let us therewith be content. We brought nothing into this world and certainly we can carry nothing out of it." (1Tim.6:8,7) Now that's kind of a hard dose to swallow for anyone that's craving for the high place in life and just likes to hit the high places and wants notoriety, and wants fame, and they detest the common round of things every day. But God's Word is true, and to those that are grumbling about the monotony of life's dead level -- and that's the great majority of us -- let us remind you that God's Word is just full of the commonplace and about the commonplace. --

For most of us there is a trivial round every day. The morning bell calls us to do the same routine of the commonplace, and there seems no chance for doing anything really heroic or worth having lived for.

I wonder when we'll ever learn the lesson that it's doing some little duties of life faithfully, punctually, thoroughly, reverently, not for the praise of men, but for the "well done" of Jesus Christ, not for the payment to be received, but because God has given us a little place of work to do in His great World. Not because we must, but because we choose, not as slaves of circumstances, but doing it with the Lord in mind, doing it "as unto the Lord and not unto men," doing it as Christ's freed ones.

Then far down beneath the surge of common life, the foundations of a character are laid, more beautiful and enduring than coral, which shall presently rear itself before the eyes of man and angels, and will become an emerald island green with perennial beauty and vocal with the songs of paradise. We ought therefore to be very careful how we complain about the common tasks of daily life. We're making the character in which we have to spend eternity.

Let it be granted that you're a person of ordinary ability, there's only one chance in a thousand that you may be removed in some great sphere. Isn't it a pity then to spend your life in useless regret and complaining and not being willing to do the humble task as unto the Lord, and do it with a sweet and cheerful spirit.

It's a greater thing to do an unimportant thing with a great motive for God and for truth and for others, than to do a great important thing and do it with such a complaining spirit. It's greater to suffer patiently each day a thousand stings than to die once as a martyr at the stake. An obscure life really offers more opportunities for the nurture of a loftier type of character, the growth of Christian graces, more opportunities than any greatness, such as men call greatness. We sometimes will go down the story book of history, and say, "Oh, if we could have been Grace Darling or Florence Nightingale, someone like that," but God meant you to be for Him just where He put you, if you do as unto Him and not unto men.

God bless you to learn the lesson. He's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

COMPOSE AND REPOSE – ENTER INTO REST

(Program 128)

"I am not worthy, the least of His favor,
But Jesus left Heaven for me.
He left Heaven to die in my place --
What mercy, what love, what grace.

I am not worthy, the least of His favor,
But He's preparing a place
Where I shall dwell with my glorified Savior,
Forever to look in His face."

In Luke 9:10 it tells about how Jesus went aside into a quiet place: "He took them, and went aside privately into a desert place."

We're living today in such a time of pressure. "I'm under so much pressure. I can hardly stand it, the pressures are so great!" is the cry of so many people today. We're living in a day of such busyness, such rush!

The word "busy" is constantly heard, we almost grow weary of it. It seems to be the excuse for everything! Everybody is in such a hurry and flurry!

Such words as "rest", "quiet", "stillness" and "solitude" seem to have gone out of life. Everywhere streets are crowded with rushing cars, bumping fenders and screeching tires! Why? Because people are hurrying so fast. They've got to get where they're going, so they pass the car in front of them because they've got to get there in a hurry.

It's like the man who had hired a new chauffeur. The chauffeur drove like mad all through the streets as fast as he could go, and when he got to their destination, the man just sat in the back seat of the car and waited. He said to the chauffeur, "What are you going to do with the five minutes? What did you think I wanted to do with the five minutes that you saved by rushing like that?" The chauffeur replied, "I'm just going to sit here now and relax!"

It's really a problem, when people talk about the strain they're under and the strain can be seen upon their faces. You try to talk to them about stopping a minute and getting quiet, and, as Jesus said, "Come apart and rest awhile." -- Mark 6:31.

We are living in the rapids of time, in strange and awful days, but

the speed with which we move is the most remarkable, and the restlessness is the most deplorable.

"Take time to be holy,
Speak oft with thy Lord,
Abide in Him always and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children,
Help those that are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

"Take time to be holy,
The World rushes on,
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be,
Thy friends and thy conduct
His likeness shall see.

"Take time to be holy,
Be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive,
Beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit
To fountains of rest and love,
Thou soon shall be fitted for service Above.

As I got quiet in my soul today, I began to realize during that quiet time that so much of the jar and hurry of this restless time, this time of such stress and pressure, had gotten into my own soul. But I know the remedy and I've tried it so many times. I know where I can find repose.

I looked up in Webster's dictionary the difference between the words "repose" and "compose." We hear a lot about compose as compared with aspirin -- aspirin for the headache -- and compose, to bring the body to quiet. In the dictionary says that "compose" means "to bring the body and mind to a condition of repose, calmness and quietness." And "repose" means "to be at peace; in a dignified calmness."

That sounds so nice, but how do we get there? There is a remedy, but just how people are going to find that repose when they're on the run and in a rush all the time, that I don't know, I don't think they can

do it! But the remedy will take all that strain out of our spirit and relieve you from that unrest in your mind and the tension from your body.

When I get alone to take time in God's presence, when I read His Word and search the Scripture, and search my own heart and spend time in prayer, there's restored the peace that He promises, a sweet rest that He gives, and the repose that only God can give. He's the only One Who can give that repose!

So many people in this jet-propelled age of today have to take some kind of tranquilizer to calm them down! I read recently of a man who came rushing home from work and said to his wife, "I'm can't believe all the things that happened in the office today! I've been under such strain, such tension, that I can hardly stand it! Give me one of those pills to compose me, to calm me down." So she gave him the pill, but just about that time the phone rang and he was ordered to come back to the office, that a very important customer was ready to give a big order, and so he had to return immediately. So he said to his wife, "Where are those pep pills? I've got to have one!" Well, that's the way it is today -- take one to pep you up and one to calm you down.

But seriously, the pressures today are many, and some people do have no other recourse, but the Christian does! The Christian has the quiet time, the time of meditation before God, where they can get rest. The Christian has that which can cool the fever of this hectic rush. Here are some verses that'll show you the reality of this.

"And Moses said unto them, 'Stand still, and I will hear what the Lord will command concerning you.'" -- Num.9:8. He had to get them quiet before he could even tell what the Lord would command for them!

In 1 Samuel 9:27 it says, "And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, 'Bid the servant pass on before us...but stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the Word of God.

In counseling and praying with people, it can be so hard sometimes to get them quiet to listen to God's Word. A wonderful verse about that is 1 Samuel 12:7, "Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord of all the righteous acts of the Lord, which he did to you and to your fathers." And Job 37:14 says,

"Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God." "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still." -- Psa.4:4. David always talked about meditating and communion at night on his own bed. "Be still, and

know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen." -- Psa.46:10.

If only we would get into this quiet place. I haven't been very long in a home, that the mothers said, "Well, we're going to stay home tonight, children," and the young daughter in the home said, "Stay home? What in the World's happening, what's wrong?" "Well," replied the mother, "I don't know that there's anything wrong about staying home." The girl looked up and said, "What a bore that will be!" Well, I can tell you, in my early days, we thought it was a wonderful thing, and the thought of staying home wasn't the thought of not doing anything. -
- And not going some place wasn't so shocking!

Seek God's presence, read His Word, that He may refresh your soul, clarify your thoughts and take the strain out of your life. Some people think it's a waste of time to stop to meditate, to stop and pray, yet millions have found, through the ages, that only in the presence of God could they find rest and peace, and that every symptom of pressure would be subdued.

Prayer makes available the power of God that can take all the strain out of life. Won't you think about it? Won't you get to the Lord? His Word says, "We which have believed do enter into My rest." -- Heb.4:3. But that resting place comes only through faith in God, and faith comes by reading God's Word (Rom.10:17), and getting quiet in prayer before Him.

God's Word says, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" -- Heb.4:9. But you don't have to wait for Heaven to get that rest! You can have it right now! "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." -- Isa.26:3. God bless you and bring you into His place of perfect peace

COMPROMISE and CONFORMITY

(Program 16)

We have a very wonderful Scripture today and I think one of the sweetest stories in God's Word, and this is about some 14 year old teenagers in the first Chapter of Daniel.

Daniel himself was about 14 years of age, and here he is standing out against all of the conformities of that day. I want to read you a part of this. It is such a long story here, written in the first Chapter, that I couldn't possibly read it all: and doubtless most of you know the story.

These young men, four of them, were chosen to stand before the king. For the king had asked for certain of the children of Israel that should be kings seed (the seed of kings and princes, that is) and who would have no blemish: They were to be well-favored and skillful in all wisdom and cunning in knowledge and understanding science, God's Word says.

So it wasn't so easy to find young men like that, who even understood science, and such as had ability to stand in the king's palace. Then it goes on to say that they were to teach these young men the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans:

In other words, they were going to take these Israelitish boys in their teens and they were going to brainwash them to make them real Babylonians. Now Nebuchadnezzar was a very cruel king and was much given to the cruelest atrocities in that day. So here are these young men whom they were going to try to change: Why they even gave them names of heathen gods!

God's Word goes on to say that the king appointed them a daily portion of the king's meat and of the wine which he drank, so nourishing them three years, and at the end they were to stand before the king. It goes on to tell you the names of the heathen gods that were given to these young men:

These young men were Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. By the way, I might say that their names amongst the Jews had real meaning, wonderful meaning, but now they are going to change even their names, and as I said they are going to try to brainwash them and make them into Babylonians.

But young Daniel "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with a portion of the king's meat" nor the wine. Therefore, he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince

of the eunuchs.

"And the prince of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear my Lord the king who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse than the children which are of your sort?" -- Then you know the story how Daniel and Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego made up their minds that they would not partake of the king's dainties.

So Daniel asked if for 10 days they could just eat their own food, pulse. And at the end of the 10 days, then the eunuch was to appear before them and take them in before the king. And God's Word goes on to say that at the end of that time,

"As for these four children whom God gave knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding of all visions and dreams," when they came to stand before the king, their countenance was fairer than all the rest.

They were so wonderful to look upon! God's Word says here in the 15th Verse, "their countenance appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat."

And, therefore, as Daniel wouldn't compromise, Daniel wouldn't partake of the king's dainties, he in the long-run was exalted above all the others! It's a wonderful story, but the thought I want to bring out is this:

How fearless these young men were of death: everything was to be theirs if they became conformed to the Babylonian way of life! But oh, how much there is a conformity today amongst our young people! Here at the end of school and coming near the time of the graduation when there will be so many parties and the different affairs that take place at the end,

So many Christian young people are wondering about just what they are going to do. They want to belong, they want to be accepted! And that is the case with teenagers so much today: there is a conformity! -- It's pitiful but that is true! But this shows here how a small decision will bring about great repercussions in the years to come.

Because if Daniel had compromised here early in life, he would not have stood his ground later. There would never have been the wonderful story of Daniel in the lions' den and how the lions' mouths were shut and Daniel's life was spared! -- That wonderful story that almost everyone knows.

There never would have been that 6th Chapter of Daniel if Daniel had not stood in this particular place. Everything in the World could

have been his according to his World at that time, if he would have just become conformed to the Babylonian way of life, but instead he looked go God and he stood his ground fearlessly.

And I say that if you can't stand now, how will you stand in the coming days? Our nation is being confounded right now before other Nations. We are being embarrassed before other Nations; we stand confused somewhat before our enemies: Great Nations today like ours have ruled God out.

So many lives have ruled God out of their lives and their thoughts and their programs and there has been an awful apostasy in our churches and schools and our colleges, in our universities:

Destructive criticism of God's Word, the repudiation of God's laws, the refusal to submit to God's Sovereignty, the rejection of Christ's Deity and adoption of the vagaries of rationalism, evolution and materialism, have all produced a demoralizing effect upon America.

And the confidence of some of the people has been shaken and there has been produced anti-Christian attitudes which find their fruit now in uncertainty in our political stand, and confusion and unrest and fear and hate. And the course of the World that the church has been pursuing in recent years plays its part in the present crisis.

They've been producing some chaos in the midst of all of this World confusion. These blind souls of men and organize their campaigns of hatred against America and against truth and against the Bible, even against God's people. And so I say we are facing critical times.

We are facing things that are going to be frightful to bear in coming days if we can't stand now. All these things are roots of the systems which men have built: the sources of all these new ideologies now contending for supremacy.

How are you going to stand amidst it all? That's the question that faces each one of us right now. I look at Daniel's stand and I will say that it was a difficult place that he was in, but we feel even today the result of his decision. He was face-to-face with a problem which everyone faces. At the entrance to any line of action that calls for a change to a higher sphere of conduct there stands this decision:

Whether or not you're going to stand out and out for Jesus Christ -- if you are going to stand true to God's Word -- Because that is the only standard! The only real standard. For today is the Word of God. -- Or whether you are going to do that which is expedient, and

compromise. You know there's an allegiance that is one and undivided in the Christian life. It's a devoted dedicated life, a surrendered life to the Christian ideal. And therein lies its power.

You ask, "Where is the power of a Christian life?" Well, in its dedication and its consecration! And right at the entrance, as I say, to this higher ground there comes this decision. It's very easy to let some things go but there are other things that it is not so easy.

It is a bitter struggle! Some things involve loss and involve embarrassing explanations, and we have to stand out against the World. The question is, How are you going to stand?

Are you going to take a definite stand for the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you going to be willing to witness for Him? Or are you going to cut the corners of bed-rock principles and make dim and shadowy the Word of God which says "Thus saith the Lord"?

The Kingdom of God is found on absolute things: absolute truth and candor and sincerity. And always there is the Kingdom of Evil that is no less absolute in its falseness. But the question is whether or not you are going to see that the issues of Christian living and Christian duty are sharply defined.

And you have to take a definite stand today! You can't conform to these things! It's a transformed life and not a conformed life! And if we do: -- I want to read you just a little bit of Psalm 27 over here and then you read it when you get alone with God. God's Word says here,

"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 upon a rock."

Then in Psalm 22:5 is a Verse that tells you that you will not be confounded if you stand outright for the Lord, "For they cried unto the Lord and were delivered, they trusted in the Lord and were never confounded." And you will not be if you really trust in Him fully and never compromise and never conform. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

CONFESSION

(Program 48)

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

God bless you and keep you and cause his face to shine upon you today.
The following is a poem from the writings of Mrs. Elsie Ployer, of
Kendale, Florida.

THE POEM IS ENTITLED "GO AND SIN NO MORE," AND IS ON THE SUBJECT THAT WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT:

A woman was brought to the Savior,
Accused by some arrogant men
Of breaking a solemn commandment,
The Seventh Command of the Ten!
"Now Moses decreed death by stoning
For such as this woman," said they.
"But what sayest Thou?" they inquired.
The Savior turned gently away.

THEY HOPED TO ACCUSE JESUS ALSO OF BREAKING THE MOSAIC LAW,

His reticence and composure
Perplexed them and filled them with awe.
The woman, embarrassed and trembling,
Remorse and regret in her heart,
Seemed desolate, utterly hopeless,
Their world and hers far apart.

TRADITION SAYS JESUS WAS WRITING

With one finger on His firm hand,
And that as they continued to censure
He traced all their words in the sand.
Yes, only in sand was it written
Where the wind could blow it away:
Thus every known sin may be banished,
Forsaken, given for aye!

THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES WAITED TO HEAR JESUS' ANSWER, and then

Would God bestow foresight and wisdom?
He answered those self-righteous men.
He said, "Let the sinless among you
Be the first to cast the first stone."
The elders withdrew, others followed,

And then He and she were alone.
NOT ONE OF THE MEN HAD CONDEMNED
HER,

Her gratitude rushed to the fore.
With His, "Neither do I condemn thee."
He told her to "Go sin no more."
If she'd lifted her drooping eyelids,
One glance at Him must have sufficed
For her to behold God's great glory
In the face of Jesus the Christ!

-- How sweetly this one has written of this very Scripture in God's
Word that we love so much!

IT SPEAKS OF THE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS OF THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST. In the 8th chapter of John it tells that He went to the
Mount of Olives, and early in the morning He came again into the
temple and all the people came unto Him, and He sat down and taught
them.

"THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES BROUGHT UNTO HIM A
WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY, and when they had set her in the
midst they say unto Him, 'Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in
the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded that such should be
stoned, but what sayest thou?'

"THIS THEY SAID TEMPTING HIM, THAT THEY MIGHT
HAVE TO ACCUSE HIM. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger
He wrote on the ground as though He heard them not. So when they
continued asking, he lifted up himself and said unto him.

"HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM FIRST
CAST A STONE AT HER.' And again He stooped down and wrote on
the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own
conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest even to the
last.

"AND JESUS WAS LEFT ALONE, AND THE WOMAN
STANDING IN THE MIDST. When Jesus had lifted up Himself and
saw none but the woman, He said unto her, 'Woman, where are thine
accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?' And she said, 'No man,
Lord.'

"AND JESUS SAID UNTO HER, 'NEITHER DO I CONDEMN
THEE. GO AND SIN NO MORE.'" -- And I want to say to your heart, if
Jesus will do that for that woman with such a sin, and under such
condemnation, why, He'll surely forgive you! -- Now I'm thinking

particularly of those who say that they just can't feel the Lord's forgiveness: But there's room at the Cross for you!

THE CROSS UPON WHICH JESUS DIED
IS A SHELTER IN WHICH WE CAN HIDE,

And its grace so free

Is sufficient for me

And deep is its fountain,

As wide as the sea:

There's room at the Cross for you.

Though millions have already come,

There's still room for one,

Yes, there is room at the Cross for you!

IN THE YEAR 1517 THERE WAS A GREAT RIOT IN LONDON
IN WHICH MANY HOUSES WERE SACKED: Insurrection reigned, guns from the Tower of London were thundering against the insurgents and armed bands were assailing them on every side. Three hundred men were arrested, tried and hanged, and five hundred more were thrown into prison and were finally put on trial before King Henry VIII.

THE PRISONERS WERE TRIED IN WESTMINSTER HALL and on the appointed day the five hundred men marched in under escort, and every man had a rope around his neck. Before the king passed sentence of death, three queens entered the hall by a side door. They were Catherine of Aragon, the wife of the king, Margaret of Scotland, the sister of the king, and Miri of France.

THEY APPROACHED THE THRONE, AND PROSTRATING
THEMSELVES BEFORE THE KING, they reminded him that every man was pleading guilty by wearing that rope around his neck. The king was greatly moved and the tears and intercession of the three queens prevailed: Every one of the trembling men was forgiven and released!

IN WHAT WAY DID THOSE MEN PLEAD THEIR GUILT? Each man wore a rope around his neck, according to the custom of those days, and that rope had a voice which said, "I am guilty of the offense with which I am charged, I deserve death. Here is the rope with which to hang me."

AND SO THE WAY TO WIN GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND
FAVOR is to come into His presence wearing the rope of confession! You remember the story of the publican? He came with this rope, and he cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner." -- He said "the sinner" really, in the Greek it's "the sinner." -- And he went down to his house

justified.

THERE ISN'T ANY FORGIVENESS WITHOUT CONFESSION, BUT THERE IS INSTANT FORGIVENESS WHEN WE DO CONFESS, for forgiveness is offered on God's terms and these are His terms. Then we must remember there is no pardon except on the ground of Christ's atonement. 2Corinthians 5:21 tells us in the words of Paul,

"FOR HE HATH MADE HIM (JESUS CHRIST) TO BE SIN FOR US, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." -- The sinless, spotless Son of God became sin in order that He might bear the consequences of our sin. The sinless One became the sin-bearer, for you and for me. HE SATISFIED EVERY DEMAND OF THE LAW AND WE HAVE UNCONTESTED PROOF THAT OUR DEBT OF SIN IS PAID! Paul also says, "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by him all that believe are justified from all things."

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin,
he only could unlock the gate
Of Heaven and let us in!

THERE'S POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS TO CLEANSE YOU FROM THAT SIN, BUT THERE'S NO POWER ANYWHERE ELSE, and sin must be confessed to the Lord before He can forgive. Until that is done, there will be no rest for sins against a loving personal God. He says in Proverbs 28:13,

"HE THAT COVERETH HIS SIN SHALL NOT PROSPER, BUT WHOSO CONFESSETH AND FORSAKETH IT SHALL HAVE MERCY." And David said, "When I kept silence my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long." -- That is, when he covered his sin, refused to confess it to God, tried to put a brave face on it and not own up to it: then God's hand was heavy upon him.

UNCONFESSED SIN IS JUST LIKE A POISON DRYING UP THE LIFE! He says, "My moisture is turned into the drought of summer." -- How beautiful though, when at length we confess and get right with our God and come to him in all humility with this confession! As Psalm 32:5 says, "I CONFESSED MY TRANSGRESSIONS UNTO THE LORD, AND THOU FORGAVEST the iniquity of my sin." -- Confess! Come to Him, and how willing He is to receive you! He'll say to you, "Go and sin no more, neither do I condemn thee." There's room at the Cross for you. Amen.

DANIEL

(Program 35)

We greet you again with our greeting and ask that God will grant you through His Word a wee bit of encouragement by it.

There is a place where thou canst touch the eyes
Of blinded men, to instant perfect sight.

There is a place where thou canst say, Arise,
To dying captives bound in chains of night.

There is a place where thou canst reach the store
Of hoarded gold and free it for the Lord.

There is a place upon some distant shore
Where thou canst send a worker or the Word.

There is a place where Heaven's resistless power
Responsive moves to thine insistent plea.

There is a place, a silent trusting hour,
Where God Himself descends and fights for thee.

Where is that blessed place?

Doest thou ask where?

Oh friend, it's the secret place of prayer.

I always think when I think of Daniel, that old prayer warrior of days long ago, that one of the most beautiful pictures in God's Word is the picture of Daniel on his knees by the window, as he prayed three times a day with his face toward Jerusalem. I want to read you part of this old story for it may have been a little while since you read it.

You remember that the foolish king had signed a decree that anyone that would ask a petition of any god, save of the king, would be cast to the lions. King Darius got so flattered by this homage that he never even thought of Daniel, who was the first of the presidents over the whole kingdom, and he loved Daniel.

The other presidents and princes who were jealous of Daniel did this thing to trap Daniel, for they had said (in this 5th Verse of the 6th Chapter of Daniel), "We shall not find any occasion in this Daniel except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

They knew right where Daniel stood with his God, and they knew that he would not fail God no matter what the cost, and they knew when and where Daniel prayed.

I wonder if our prayer life is so evident in our living that people know when we have prayed? I want to read you just a little bit of this

story, I wish we could read it all if we had time.

"Now when Daniel knew the writing was signed, he went to his house, and his windows being toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day." -- Then God's Word tells us that these men spied on him and saw him praying and they went back to the king and told the king about it.

"And the king answered and said, 'This thing is true according to the laws of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not'" -- because the law of the Medes and Persians could never be altered once it was spoken. -- "Then answered they and said before the king, 'Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity, has not obeyed this that thou hast signed.

"But he maketh his petition three times a day to his God.' Then the king, when he heard this, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him, and he tried till the going down of the sun to deliver Daniel." -- Then you'll remember that part of the story where the king couldn't sleep through the night. His heart was so hurt and his conscience stinging him that he couldn't sleep.

So the next morning he arose early and ran down to the den of lions, and when he came near he called, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then Daniel said,

"My God hath sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, they have not hurt me, for so much as before him innocency was found in me and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den."

Because he belied in his God no manner of hurt was found on Him! -- Wonderful Words! Because he believed in his God! Then the story ends with this, that Darius the king wrote a decree, "that in every dominion of my kingdom tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God and steadfast forever.

"And His Kingdom is that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be unto the ends of the Earth. For Daniel's God delivereth and rescueth, and worketh signs and wonders in Heaven and Earth, for He hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." Wonderful, wonderful Scriptures!

God forgive us for our little faith when we see what surprising things faith can do! I like those words best: "Because he believed in his God." And wonderful words which the king spoke also, when he saw

Daniel's prayer answered and he came to his senses! I would that some could come to the same conviction, for this is what he said,

"For Daniel's God is a living God and steadfast forever, and His Kingdom is that which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be unto the end. He delivereth and He rescueth" -- and my friend, He does it today! "And He worketh signs and wonders in the Heavens and on the Earth" -- and He's still the same today.

You know, the faith that was born of Daniel's prayer life was simply dynamic! There in prayer by that window Daniel set in motion the greatest force of all the Universe. This was an impossible situation that Daniel was in, but as we so often have quoted:

It takes an impossible situation for God to work a miracle! That's the stuff out of which miracles are made, impossible situations. Do you feel that your situation in your life is impossible today? Think of Daniel, remember the words that he prayed, and how he prayed three times a day.

There are three things it's well to remember about prayer: first, Daniel knew his God! He was acquainted with God, he had fellowship with Him, he loved to talk to Him. -- you'll not love to pray unless you know and love the One to whom you are praying.

The only way to get acquainted with God is to read His Word, open your heart to Him, obey Him, have fellowship with His people. And then for even a closer walk, read it again and read it more. Soon you'll love to pray.

Second, Daniel had a set time for prayer: It's always best to have a time dedicated to God. you have a set time for other things, when you eat, when you sleep, when you work. The giants of faith down through the ages have testified that it's best to have a definite appointment with God in prayer. You're definite about other things.

Third, Daniel had a place where he went to pray. God's Word speaks of going into your closet to pray, that simply means a place apart from the World and its distractions, a quiet place, but alone. Fellowship with others in the home and prayer is wonderful, but there's got to be a time alone with God, no matter where the place may be.

I know an old house on a hill,
A mountain road, a grove, a rill,
A billowed hilltop stretching far
To sunset and the evening star.
I take a path through glade and wood
Deep drinking of its solitude

And find a spot o'er reached and still
Where peace and poise the spirit fill.
The Master's presence there is near,
The Master's plan again is clear
And far removed from work or strive
I reappraise the worth of life.
Yet hill and outlook, glade and wood,
The time, the place, the solitude
Hold not the secret of the prayer,
The secret place is anywhere.

My friend, the secret place could be anywhere, but if faith is to grow it's necessary that you keep your appointment with God. God's Word says, "watch unto prayer." Soon you'll find flourishing in your spirit a real desire for prayer, then and then only have you begun to build a faith like Daniel's, that causes the World to say of you,

"Thy God, whom thou servest continually, will deliver thee." --
Take your need to Him now, He's just the same to you, He's no respecter of persons: Thy God, whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee

DARE TO STAND ALONE!

(Program 25)

Greetings and welcome again to Meditation Moments. Again we ask God's blessing upon you and yours, and I trust that you're in the place and attitude of heart that God can bless you.

Sometimes in the past I've had to ask myself, am I where God can meet me? Am I on praying ground where I can truly expect God to answer my prayers? I believe He's so willing, and I do not say this lightly, I believe God's willing to answer prayers, to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think, as His Word says, but there are conditions to be met!

A visiting friend was telling me of the hard place he had gotten into financially: that is, not able to collect much of what was due him. He was really murmuring about it. Then he added, "I do know God's able to prosper me and make Malachi 3:10 come true in my life. Malachi 3:10 says, "I will open you the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing there's not room enough to hold it."

Well, it took some courage for me to ask him then, "But have you fulfilled your part of that bargain?" For you only quoted half of that verse. It says, 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in My House, and prove Me now herewith , saith the Lord of hosts.'" And then, of course, it goes on to say,

"I'll open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing there will not be room enough to hold it!" Then his wife spoke up and said, "No, we haven't done our part. He always makes the excuse that the government got the part that he would have given to the Lord!" -- Well, all this doesn't change the verse any, does it?

It's there and it's true! It's God's Word, and you can trust Him to utterly fulfill it. It is so because God said so!

He stands behind every promise in that Word with all His power. And that power enables Him to fulfill His Word, and His Love makes Him yearn to give you the desires of your heart, and His truth won't let Him fail His Word, and His mercy stoops down to the level of your need.

I will not, therefore, minimize my prayer,

But make it large as all the promises!

Since God is willing thus to bless,

No less an answer would I share!

Alas for my small faith
Compared with what He saith.
Therefore, hence with shall prayer be heard
From me according to God's Word.
I will request as long as I shall live,
All God has shown His willingness to give,
As all the love and power His truth declares,
So faith shall make the measure of my prayers!

And, you know, that brings to mind that precious old song:

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.'
'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest and joy and peace.
Jesus Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, precious Jesus,
O for grace to trust Him more!

From Hebrews 6:15 we read, "And so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." And I like this from *Mountain Trailways*:

"God's Word is as full of promises as the heavens are full of stars, and all of them are payable upon demand according to the conditions named. They are made freely and they are paid fully . Spurgeon calls a book of God's promises 'The Checkbook of the Bank of Faith'. We do not have checkbooks for an ornament or for meditation, but for use!

"A promise of God is given to be presented and paid in full. The believer's capital for the King's business is all lodged in the Lord's treasury, and the only way to secure it for use is to make daily drafts upon the unfailing supply.

"God writes no names upon these promises, only conditions upon which they will be honored. Put your name in, fulfill the conditions, and draw upon God for all His promises! Now some promises are payable upon demand "--this fits in with our Scripture in Hebrews,

"And so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

"Some are payable upon demand, others are dated farther on. But a long-term promise of God is as sure of payment as one payable on demand ! Be sure of the time limitation of God's promises, and if delayed, look at your dates!" And then he makes this statement, "The possibilities of prayer are founded by the promises of God." I want to repeat that:

"The possibilities of prayer are founded by the promises of God."-
-You know, I take God's Word literally, and because of this I've sometimes had to stand out against leaders who try to spiritualize so many things in the Word of God. Just recently I was visiting with relatives in the church where the pastor was teaching the adult Sunday School class, and the lesson was from the Book of Genesis.

He began to tell us that this verse didn't mean what it stated, and that verse wasn't to be taken literally, and the next verse wasn't to be accepted as a fact, that it was only meant as a sort of a picture, just a picture, an underlying truth.

It was just the underlying truths of these verses that count anyhow, not that they were just things that really happened! Soon I couldn't stand it any longer, for the sake of strangers visiting there. I said to the pastor,

"Well, my friend, just where do you draw the lines between what's to be taken literally and that which is not? How are we going to know what's to be spiritualized and what we're just to accept as a fact of truth?" Well, he tried to answer, but in the end he got so confused, and then he said there wasn't any definite rule, that it just took "lots of wisdom and judgment."

I asked him, "Do the little children and very young in this church have that kind of wisdom and judgment that they can differentiate between that which is a fact and that which we are just not to take as any truth at all, but just a spiritual thought?"--What do you think he answered? He said, "Of course, it's not the best to teach these things to young people."

I mention this because I want you to know that I take God's Word that it really happened, I take it literally . I'd love for you to read one of my books, and then you'd know just how literally I take God's Word and how truly I believe all this.

I want to tell you about something that happened in a meeting where I spoke the other night in a congregational church. I was telling some of these things that I've been mentioning to you, but especially of

the time when conviction first dawned on my soul that God could not, would not, fail His Word,

And I said over and over again, "This is the Word of the Almighty God. It cannot fail; you can depend upon it." Put your fingers on the verse, some promise, and say, "It's so because God says so!"--You know how many times I've used that expression on these broadcasts!

Well, after the meeting a woman who had been a church member all her life came up to me and she said, "I've never thought of the Scripture in that way. But when you keep saying, "It's so because God said so," it seemed to startle me into sort of a spiritual alertness.

"And I saw that through the years, the Bible had never been real to me, never a vital thing to me! Just sort of a teaching of some doctrine or creed, and a lot of lovely wise sayings, but I'd never known the Power of the Word, nor believed at all that it could bring to pass miracles! But since that meeting when you said those words over and over, 'It's so because God said so', those words have been ringing in my ears and, you know, I believe it now! I believe it's so because God said so!"

Well, I had been telling those at the chapel that day where the woman heard this that when this realization came to me, it brought with it a lasting, unshakable confidence in the Word of God, because at the time it came to me, I was a total invalid, utterly helpless, given up by the physicians!

But I had been newly born again, and my husband had taught me just newly the way of faith. Oh, how wonderful it was when I found out that Jesus Christ was the same yesterday today and forever! Now that was many years ago, but from that day I've never doubted the power of the Word of God!

John 6:63 says, "The Words I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are Life!" And when we come into this realization of the power there is in the Word of God, then we have hold of the truth that makes all things possible!--And the "all things" came to pass with me! God answered prayer and raised me up, and I've been over 45 years now in the work of the Lord.

Meditate on these verses, "God is not a man that He should lie, neither the Son of Man that He should repent. Hath He not said it, and shall He not also do it! Or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?" That's Numbers 23:19. And 1Kings 8:56, "There hath not failed one of all God's good promises!" And Psalm 89:33, "He will not suffer his faithfulness to fail!"

And to every listener He said, "I will not fail you!"--God grant that His Word will have a pre -eminent place in your life! When you're obedient to the Word, His blessing will be poured out. When you yield yourself to His Word, He'll guide your life daily, and faith will spring invincible, and you can shout triumphantly with this woman I told you about, "It's so because God says so! What He has promised He is able also to perform!" God bless you and make it very real to you: He's still on the Throne, and prayer will change things. Amen.

DINING ALONE TONIGHT

(Program 100)

Greetings to Meditation Moments, and again, God bless you and make you a blessing. I was sitting the other night in a hotel restaurant where we had gone for a great prayer gathering in. I sat alone, because my husband has not been able to be with me for quite a while when I've had to go out to different places. While sitting there alone in the dining room, the head waiter came past the table, and said, "You're dining alone tonight?" And as he went on, I thought, "Am I dining alone?"

My memory took me back many years to the times when my precious companion had been with me in so many places and we'd had such wonderful fellowship together, and the companionship had grown sweeter as the days go by. So I say to some of you young people, and some young housewife who's listening in, hold on. Oh, let some things pass, and don't take up every little thing, because as the years come and go, those years will amount to so little, and the companionship grows sweeter as the years go by.

But I sat there thinking about another companionship, and I thought, "No, I'm not alone." I'm really not alone, and I feel no real loneliness, such as the World would feel. I looked over and saw someone alone sitting at another booth not far from me, and they did look lonely. And I thought of the cure for loneliness. In Matthew 28:20 God's Word says: "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the World."

You know, my husband was a Swede, and we used to read some of a great Swedish poet's works, who, at the very peak of his popularity and fame, spoke of the incurable loneliness of the soul. He knew what he was talking about. He had a whole nation at his feet and a few staunch friends who shared his philosophy of life and spoke the language of his soul, and he had tasted the fruit of human love. Well, he had dipped very deeply into all of life's experiences, but his life was in incurable loneliness. Well, why was it so? Well, he'd shut God out of his world. No wonder, no matter how wonderful his writings. Of course, hence it's utter hopelessness, when you shut God out.

Anna J. Lingron wrote in "In His Presence": "The loneliness of the soul is a face. We do not live by twos. Our trails may meet and cross, or run parallel, but they never merge, they ever remain our own. If we must look to another human soul for complete satisfaction and

understanding, we're going to be disappointed. You will remain ever, incurably lonely. Because we have access to the companionship of One Who does not heed the imperfect medium of my words, because His eyes can read the desires and reactions of my soul like an open book. I can be assured of a love that knows neither beginning nor ending, and that does not stop at any sacrifice making for my happiness. -- A love that delights to stoop when he can lift me, and whose resources fought for my development are as endless as His being. A perfect Person, this Companion, Jesus Christ."

So intimately near, infinitely satisfying, ever at hand, and if I have Him, then my loneliness is cured, and the poet is wrong. Oh, I know he's wrong, for I know Christ. And He has said, as I read to you a moment ago, "Lo, I am with you always." As a precious song I love goes, "When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near. When the light is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call. Hold my hand lest I fall, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me Home."

And so I sat there thinking about the head waiter. I thought, "Oh, I know something he doesn't know. He doesn't know there sits One here beside me, Jesus Christ. So near and so precious." And I try to follow Him, because, dearly beloved, if you're not going to follow in His footsteps and follow in obedience, there will be a loneliness, you'll feel His presence withdrawn.

John Wesley wrote: "Would you judge those things which bring about a broken fellowship. The unlawfulness of a pleasure, whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscured your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind, that thing to you is sin." The dear Lord bless you and remind you to stand by His Work. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

DISAPPOINTMENT

(Program 76)

I want to give you this Verse from 2 Corinthians 1:10, "For it is God who rescued us from such a perilous death, and He will still rescue us. And on Him have we set our hope that He will again deliver us from danger and destruction and draw us to Himself."

I have been thinking a great deal about those who have suffered disappointment. The word "disappointment" has been on my mind a great deal. You know, some people take disappointment so differently than others. There are those that have so grown in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are mature Christians, that they don't worry when there is some disappointment.

No matter how much they look forward to some occasion, or some dear one coming or something they expected, if it doesn't mature, the thing they wanted so badly doesn't happen, that doesn't seem to move them at all! They are like the Apostle Paul.

They are such steadfast, immovable Christians, they can say, "None of these things move me." (Acts 20:24.) -- And it's true about them! They've gotten so grounded in the Word of God and so close to the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ that they take all things as from Him.

They accept all that happens in their life as if it came from His hand, and to them there are not any disappointments! There is a little poem which reads, "Disappointment just take the letter "D" off and put "H" there and it's His appointment!"

These mature Christians, so grounded, so established in the Word, just take any disappointment as His appointment for them! To be so deeply disappointed and to get your heart broken over disappointments is almost childish, and Paul said that when he was old he put away childish things, and that he thought as a man and spoke as a man.

I remember as a child when my father was pastor of the Christian Church in St. Louis, Missouri and they'd planned a large picnic at Forrest Park and oh, I was looking forward to it so! There had been great preparations, lunch was ready and there had been a busting about the house all morning long getting ready for that afternoon picnic.

And suddenly clouds came and it just poured down raining! I was so broken-hearted that I wept and I moped for the rest of the evening! I've had similar things happen since then, but never any

disappointments or an attitude of that kind.

I pray that God will keep us all in that place where we accept sweetly His Will! I ran across such a precious poem and I believe it will be a blessing to your heart:

It does not matter
What it means, poor heart,
The dear Lord knows.
To bear it is your part.
Nor think some
Strange thing happened unto you
Which He would not allow
If He knew.
Well He does know!
In all His Fatherhood
He knows and allows it for your good
He is not hard.
You do not think He is
When in the dark
You find your hand in His.
When it was light
You tried to walk alone
And thought the strength
He gave you
All your own.
You did not ask
What that last blessing meant,
Just smiled and took it,
Satisfied, content.
You didn't think it strange,
You thought He knew,
And planned the sweet surprise
That came to you.
Then do you, tried one,
Take life sweet and good
Yet cannot trust
That tender Fatherhood?
But think It makes mistakes
Whene'er it sends some hindrance
Which your eager haste offends?
Or when He lets the wicked

Plot you harm
And stir a whirlwind
When you seek a calm?
You think it strange, this disappointment so keen,
And in your weakness ask, "What does it mean?"
I think the language
Of God's heart would read,
"I love my child
I note his slightest need.
I long to prosper him
In all his ways
To give him quiet nights
And peaceful days.
But if I do
He'll lose himself from Me,
My outstretched hand
He will wait to see,
I'll place a hindering wall
Before his feet,
And there he'll wait,
And there we two will meet.
I do it not in wrath
For broken laws
Or willful disobedience,
But because I want him near Me
And I cannot wait
For him to come
For he might wander late.
My child will wonder,
Will not understand,
Still half in doubt
He'll clasp My outstretched hand.
And when at last
Upon My heart he leans,
He will have ceased to wonder
What it means."

You wonder what the disappointment means? Oh my friend, He
isn't any disappointment! If you'll trust everything in His hands, then
all your glowing day dreams you'd fancied, Christ to be in them!
The more I get to know Him

The more I find Him true
The more I long that others
Should be led to know Him too!

He's no disappointment! Put everything in His hands, and if something like that comes, it shall work for good for you, through Him.
Amen.

THE DIVINE EXCHANGE

(Program 98)

WHEN GOD IS NEAR,
The Tempter cannot lure me,
The peace of God surpassing sweet, is mine,
His mercies reassure me
And some day I shall dwell with Him in realms divine.

When God is near,
So near I hear Him speak to me,
My every need His boundless grace supplies,
When God is near
My heart is filled with ecstasy
And all the world is a paradise,
When God is near.

THE MORE VERSES BY A.H. ACKLEY, GO LIKE THIS:

When God is near,
With light my path is glowing,
The cup of life with gladness overflows,
And in the garden of my heart is growing,
The flower of love,
More fragrant than the sweetest rose.

When God is near,
So near I hear Him speak to me,
My every need His boundless grace supplies,
When God is near,

My heart is filled with ecstasy
And all the Worlds a paradise
When God is near.

When God is near,
The heavy load is lifted,
And every duty charms me with delight,
The clouds of sorrow by His love are lifted,
And songs of joy my soul keeps singing in the night.

When God is near,
So near I hear Him speak to me,
My every need His boundless grace supplies,
When God is near
My heart is filled with ecstasy
And all the world's a paradise
When God is near.

HOW TRUE THAT IS! WHEN YOU FEEL HIM NEAR YOU AND THAT YOU'RE HAVING SWEET FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM and His promises are being realized in your life, and you are conscious of his loving you and you just feel that love surrounding you, it is a paradise, isn't it? It is an ecstasy! There is nothing like it in all the world!

WE ARE TURNING TO GOD'S WORD IN 2ND CORINTHIANS, THE 12 CHAPTER, THE 9 VERSE. As we read, Paul was speaking, "The Lord said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee. For My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ should rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, and persecutions and distresses, for Christ's sake, for when I am weak, then I am strong."

IN THE VERSE "MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS," THE LORD WAS SAYING TO PAUL'S HEART THAT HIS STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN PAUL'S WEAKNESS. And then He says, "For when I am weak" -- Paul now speaking of himself -- "when I am weak, then am I strong." You'll be puzzled at such a strange statement if you are not acquainted with the writings or character of the Apostle Paul when he says that "when I am weak, then am I strong," for he was a great scholar, talented writer, and outstanding Christian Apostle, and to think that he would say this thing. But if you

look to whom Paul is writing, it might help us to find an answer to this strange statement.

PAUL WROTE THESE WORDS TO THE GREEKS. If you read back in the Corinthian letter, you'll note that they had questioned his right to Apostleship because of something which they called weakness. They inferred that his bodily presence was weak, and therefore not fitted for his high calling. The Greeks exalted perfection of the physical body, not only through their national races and son on, but they thought that anyone was a weakling who was not robust.

WE KNOW FROM WHAT PAUL WRITES ELSEWHERE THAT THEY ALSO ATTRIBUTED OTHER WEAKNESSES TO HIM. They scorned a man that had been stoned, whipped or imprisoned. This did not at all constitute their idea of strength. And Paul's manner of organizing and sustaining the Church, that was contrary to their strong human logic also.

THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT FREQUENTLY GOD WORKS CONTRARY TO HUMAN LOGIC. Someone has written a wonderful book on that very saying, that God works contrary to natural expectations, that God has His own way of doing things, and they are quite contrary to our ideas. In His Word He says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways. For as the Heavens are high above the Earth, so are My ways above your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." -- Isa.55:8.

THE GREEKS INFERRED THAT PAUL WAS NOT AN ORATOR, THAT HIS SPEECH WAS CONTEMPTIBLE. It was the greatest ambition of a Greek to be an orator. That's what they taught their youth, and the lack of the gift of oratory was a weakness. They reasoned man's way, for you know that God's way has always been that it isn't the oratory, it's the spirit in the speech that counts with God.

PAUL SAID IT'S ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKETH IN YOU. Oh, that's a wonderful sentence! This that the Greeks called weakness, God calls strength. It was an asset to Paul. How many times we've all heard some humble speaker that isn't gifted at oratory at all and not learned in man's wisdom nor trained in man's colleges perhaps, but oh, filled with the Spirit of God and he literally sweeps the people off of their feet, sweeps an audience along on the tide of his earnestness in the power of God which was manifested through him.

THE MAN IS SO HUMBLE, SO EMPTY OF SELF, SO WEAK IN HIMSELF, THAT GOD HAS A CHANCE TO WORK THROUGH HIM.

Thus this very weakness becomes his strength. That's why Paul says that when he was weak, then he was strong. The Word says,

"MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." Now you may think, "Oh, I'm too weak to do this or that" or "I'm so weak when it comes to temptation, I feel my own weakness so much that I don't feel worthy to claim promises." Well,

A MAN IS ONLY STRONG WHEN HE'S COMPLETELY EMPTIED OF HIMSELF, AND HIS STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD. There are those before whom I stood once in a while, that when I stood in public ministry, I felt so keenly my weakness. Oh, I can't begin to express the weaknesses I felt, and I've gone so hesitatingly before those to whom I was to speak feeling utterly helpless in myself, but that can become my strength because of this verse. That's what it means, "My strength" -- God's strength -- "is made perfect in weakness."

THE LORD COMES AND HE SUPPLEMENTS YOUR WEAKNESS WITH HIS STRENGTH. That's what He wants to do. So when you feel this awful weakness, this terrible lack, that's the very time to take hold of God, to claim His strength. When you're weakest in yourself, then you become strong if you depend on His strength. So what the Greeks in ignorance of spiritual things called weakness, that really became strength.

GOD'S WORD SAYS IN ISAIAH 40:29: "TO THEM THAT HE NOT MIGHT HE INCREASES STRENGTH." Oh, when we're so sure of our own strength, so confident of our own powers, then the Lord just lets u walk alone in our strength. I was reminded of when I visited my little new grandbaby who was just learning to walk. She would take a hold of your finger and just start out like she's going to take the world by storm. She just thinks that she can surely be there and she goes so fast, and the first thing you know she's stumbled and bumped her nose and bruised herself. She'd just walk in her own strength until she learns that she's got to hold on to your finger because she can't quite walk by herself. -- And that's how we are.

WHAT A PITY IT IS THAT WE'RE SO DETERMINED TO WALK IN OUR OWN STRENGTH, and we walk our own way and we won't depend upon the Divine. We lean so much on the human. What a pity when we draw only upon natural resources when we have all of Heaven's resources at our command. How strange that we should ever insist on walking in our own strength and depending on our own wisdom when we can have God's power and His riches, and we can be

linked up with everything that God is and God has.

THE WONDER OF IT IS THAT THE LORD WANTS TO HELP US! He yearns to strengthen and comfort and supply. He longs to give His strength to us, but if we insist on walking by ourselves in our own strength, then He leaves us alone and He walks off the stage of life and leaves us to ourselves. -- Perhaps until the foundations of our pride and confidence in the human have been shaken and we come to the realization that our human strength after all, is only weakness.

YOU ARE SAYING THAT YOU ARE SO WEAK? GOD'S WORD SAYS IN ISAIAH 27:5, "TAKE HOLD OF MY STRENGTH," and in Isaiah 49:5, "My God shall be my strength." The Lord said about David, "Look not upon his countenance nor the height of his stature." These things, He said, make no difference -- your human wisdom. It's the strength of the Lord that can be depended upon.

THE LORD IS SAYING TO YOU, "MY STRENGTH FOR YOUR WEAKNESS IS MY PROVISION FOR YOU." The humble, the meek, the weak, can thus become strong. Then your testimony will be, "I can do all thing through Christ which strengtheneth me." -- Phi.4:13.

REMEMBER THAT ALL OF GOD'S GREAT SPIRITUAL GIANTS WERE WEAK MEN WHO WERE MADE STRONG BY HIS POWER. It can be the same with you. So don't feel yourself hindered by some infirmity of human weakness, for the strength to go through the victory is not in your human strength anyhow. You're to take God's strength, Divine strength. Can't you take it today? Take it now.

GOD'S WORD SAYS, "WITH ALL MIGHT ACCORDING TO HIS GLORIOUS POWER, THAT WE MIGHT KNOW WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO USWARD WHO BELIEVE." -- Eph.1:18. God bless you and help you to reach out and take hold of all that God has provided for you. You must diligently seek and depend utterly upon that strength of His, He'll give it. God bless you. He answers prayer and He's still on the Throne.

DIVINE GUIDANCE

(Program 69)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
Whose mind is stayed on Thee,
When the shadows come and darkness falls,
He giveth inward peace.
He is the only perfect resting place,
He giveth perfect peace.
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
Whose mind is stayed on Thee."

Greetings, and the Lord bless you again! I was reading this week the autobiography of Jerome Hind, the great opera singer, and he was telling of how he learned about divine guidance, and he made these statements, he said: "The experience of obedience to God revolutionized not only my career, but my entire life, and yet spiritual growth was so often blocked by my own interference, my ego. Time after time I would charge ahead on my own steam, only to fall on my face. On each occasion I would tell myself, once and for all, to get out of God's way and let God run my life."

"Now I realize after all these years in my career, that guidance comes to different people in different ways! Some people obtain it just through quiet meditation and Bible reading, to others divine guidance arrives at odd moments in the form of quiet mental nudgings from God and His Spirit.

"There are times, to be sure, when I've badly wanted direction but all I could hear were my own thoughts clamoring for control. Yet I know that real guidance doesn't always come when I just keep asking over and over, 'Now God, is this what I'm supposed to do?' No:

"Divine guidance comes through obedience and trust: Believing that God is hearing and believing that God cares, and knowing that if I trust Him and obey, that step by step He will guide me, and then there must be no doubt." And so he goes on and tells of the timing of some of his remarkable experiences and how it strengthened his conviction that God wants to give us divine guidance in our lives.

You know it's so foolish that one who values his life at all should ever forget that he cannot ever succeed or really be what God meant him to be unless he constantly seeks God's guidance. How foolish is the one who values this life so little that he has never sought God's plan for his life, but just wanders aimlessly through the years, never knowing

what God meant him to be or wanted him to do.

The story is told of a billy goat being shipped from one point to another and it arrived at last to the Baggage Station. The station man, just seeing the goat there, asked the baggage man what his destination was, and the man replied, "He don't know whar he's going, he's done chawed his tag!" Well I want to say that -- worse than that goat -- some people don't even know that they've ever had a tag.

But God has tagged every life! He has planned a destination and a purpose for every single life; for your life. Among the mighty works of God, His creation, His greatest masterpiece is the immortal soul of man and his body that's made to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. You know it would be amazing if God did not have a program or plan for that life. This means then a Divine Guidance is vitally important in your life.

For God has a definite plan for your life, for my life. It's such a tragedy to miss God's plan for your life, to miss the special program He has especially for you. Now we're speaking especially to those who have been born again, who have become new creatures in Christ Jesus. In Ephesians 2:10 we read this:

"Created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." According to this verse, we are to know God's will for us and live it out in our daily walk, making sure that we find that will in every decision we make, in every crisis of life whatever, great or small. You'll go stumbling through life, coming to dead-end streets, frustrating detours, stone walls that block your way, unless you determine the will of God in every avenue of your life and:

What will it profit when life here is o'er,
Though great worldly wisdom I gained,
If seeking knowledge, I utterly fail
The wisdom of God to obtain.
What will it profit when life here is o'er,
Though Earth's fleeting love has been mine,
If seeking its gifts, I failed to secure
The riches of God's leading Divine.
What will it profit when life here is o'er
Though Earth's farthest corners I see,
If going my way and doing my will,
I miss what His love had planned for me."

Paul uttered these particular words, he said, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." (Phil.2:12,13) I'm going to

read that again. Paul said, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Now when you hear the still small voice pleading from within or when you feel the "nudge of the Holy Spirit," as Jerome Hind calls it, the feeling to do this or that, this is, as the Scripture says, "God working in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." That's a precious promise, but it's also a serious warning! For we are to work out with fear and trembling, lest we miss God's will for our lives. In Proverbs 20:24 it says this: "Man's goings are of the Lord; how can he then understand his own way?"

Oh it's a blow to human pride to say that man is not capable of choosing his own way, that he has to have Divine Guidance, but it's so true. An experienced guide of many years in the jungles of Africa, once said, "It's hard to lead one who is willful. It's very difficult to guide them. They don't trust their guide, they're always wanting to have their own way, and I've seen many such people in my days of guiding that ran into dangerous situations and serious accidents because they wouldn't follow the guide."

Is it strange then that God's people, the sheep of His pasture, need a Shepherd to guide them? You know we shouldn't dare to face a single day without the presence and guidance of the Lord! It's so dangerous to seek guidance from men and not get the counsel from Almighty God Who knows all.

The first step in Divine Guidance is to yield your life utterly to God. Now that's a full and complete surrender, nothing less than that, because there can't be any clashing of wills, that's the supreme essential! Remember that verse: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may know what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Ro.12:1,2)

You want to know how to know God's Will? There it is: You present your body a living sacrifice! There's that dedication, and being wholly consecrated, it's holy and acceptable unto God. -- "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may know what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." You can know, know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will: It's that complete consecration and it's called for in this very verse. This brings about a divine harmony with God's Will. Oh, it's

an awful thing when there's disharmony: You will just bucking up against the Will of God for your life.

And I'd say next you've got to exercise faith for guidance: If you do not believe God has a plan for your life, you'll lay out your own plans, and then you'll miss God's way. So many Christians that are not fully surrendered and who choose their own path come back to God's way sometimes, after years of frustration and suffering, but oh, it's such a costly way to have to learn to wait for Divine Guidance and to learn that you must have it, and then have to come back the hard way.

Do you believe that God has a plan for your life? Are you going to determine to take that plan? Then you're going to have to pray for it, because God says so! You're going to have to pray constantly for guidance; not only surrendering that will, not only seeking, exercising faith, yielding your body and consecrating all, but pray for guidance, ask for it, pray with expectancy, truly expect God to reveal His Will for your life.

Note in Ja.1:5 and 6 that we have to "ask with faith" to know God's Will and then have an expectant attitude that He's going to guide. Remember that God's Word says, "If any man will do My will, he shall know," he shall know it. (Jn7:17). Now that is, if he wills to do the will of God, then he shall know!

I was reading this passage today, "In all the ages there never has been and never will be a man or woman just like you. You are unique and have no double. No two leaves, no two jewels, no two stars, no two lives are alike. Every life is a fresh thought from God to the World. There's no man in all the World who can do your work as well as you. There is a need for you. God has a plan for you. "And if you don't find and enter into God's purpose for your life, there will be something missing from the glory that would otherwise have been there.

Every jewel gleams with its own radiance, every flower distills its own fragrance, every Christian has his own particular bit of Christ's radiance. Has God given you a different personality? He has also created a particular circle of individuals who can be reached and touched by that personality only, and you can do it as no other one in all the world."

Seek His guidance, find His plan for your life. Turn to Him right now, and ask Him to lead you and guide you all the way. Amen? He's still on the Throne.

ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH TRIAL

(Program 38)

Greetings and welcome to Meditation Moments. The dear Lord bless you and make you a blessing each day. We're so glad to be back with you again. You know about the trial that we went through, that my precious companion passed away last week.

He went to be with his Lord, and it was such a glorious going. You know he had such a wonderful life and he had served the Lord so faithfully and he loved the Lord so much, and I said as I stood by his bed towards the last,

"Well, Daddy, you've lingered so long here in the vestibule, it must be that they're getting ready a great reception for you Over There, and I wish that I could be there to welcome you when you go, when you enter into the Lord's presence."

I want to tell you that never have I been so glad that I was Christian! Oh, the privileges of being a Christian! The comfort, the blessing, the peace in the hour of trial! I've been so glad for the hope of the Christian! So many of the cards that I got would write that verse, "We sorrow not as those that have no hope."

In the hospital when I was tending my husband, I saw people that had no hope, and I talked to some there that had no hope. There were loved ones that stood by the bedside of dying loved ones and they had no hope. It's an awful thing to die without hope, but the wonders of being a Christian!

With all the hope that we have, we couldn't possibly sorrow like they sorrowed. you know, I'm glad that we come into a world of beauty and opportunity, and all that there is here: but it's also a world of sin and suffering and trouble and death, and it just doesn't seem to me there would be any purpose in life at all without Jesus Christ, without being a Christian.

Thank God today for the blessed Word of God that is such a strengthener also in the time of trial. So many precious Scriptures have just comforted my heart and lifted my spirit, and they just seemed to be created just for me!

I thank God for His wonderful plan of redemption that makes me to know that through it I'm going to meet my loved one. And this plan was already worked out in God's mind from the foundation of the World, that though we sin, we can be justified, that though we die, we shall live again!

And thank God for the shed blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, that cleanseth us from all sin if we just believe and repent. And I thank God for this wonderful message of the Gospel, the good news that proclaims to us that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and the third day He arose for our justification. I wonder if you've experienced that?

I wonder if you've taken him at His Word, and you have this blessed hope? And you live in God's Word and it becomes a lamp to your feet also, and will help you in your time of trial, your time of testing? Because it's coming, my friend.

If you haven't passed through deep waters, it will come! And death comes to all, God's Word makes that very very plain: It's appointed to man once to die! Thank God for this precious Word, a light to our pathway when we tread a perilous journey, and we come to the waters of death and we have Jesus Christ.

It seems like He gives a special dispensation of grace and glory and blessing when we need it. We don't have it beforehand, but when we come right up against it, why there He is, and He'll meet you. When the time comes there'll be this special dispensation of grace and blessing and comfort. I'd often sing to my husband, stand over his bed and sing -- I don't have a beautiful voice, but the hymns were beautiful -- and he'd love that verse in "How Firm a Foundation."

Fear not, I am with thee
Oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy god
And will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee
And cause thee to stand
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent
hand.

-- And how he has upheld us! How the glory has been in our hearts because we've seen God's Word proven so true, that when we come to the waters they would not overflow us.

And when through deep waters
I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not
overflow,
For I will be with thee
Thy trials to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest
distress.

-- I want you to know Jesus Christ because He'll be your only comfort in such a trial.

You know, life doesn't have any purpose without Him and life never comes to its fulfillment without Jesus Christ in your heart. He says that He came that you might have life and have it more abundantly, and how true that is!

It's such an abundant life when you have Him. Why don't you, right now, get ready for just such a thing as my husband has passed through? And then you can have all the peace in the World, and you don't have to fear death.

God's Word says that there are people that all their life they lived in bondage to the fear of death, then all that fear is taken away. I found this little poem in daddy's Bible, written by a little Chinese girl.

Afraid of what?

To feel the Spirit's glad release?

To pass from pain to perfect peace,
The strive and strain of life to cease?

Afraid of what?

Afraid of what?

Afraid to see the Savior's face,
To hear His welcome, and to trace
The glory gleam from wounds of grace?

Afraid of what?

Afraid of what?

A flash, a crash, a pierced heart?

Darkness, light, oh Heaven's art.
A wound of His a counterpart.

Afraid of that?

Afraid to enter into Heaven's rest?

To serve the Master, blessed

From service good to service the best?

-- No, he wasn't afraid, and you won't be afraid either, because you'll know that He'll be with you.

Though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He says "I will be with you." He'll be with you to comfort: His rod and staff will comfort you. Oh, won't you take Jesus Christ as your Savior right now? Something might happen tomorrow!

Many things that have happened today to other people can happen to you tonight or tomorrow, and you wouldn't be ready unless you have taken Him as your Savior. There's no other name given under

heaven among men whereby you can be saved.

I want to close by saying that never has God's love proved so great, never His mercy so sure, and His grace so abundant! And I'm praising Him with all my heart for the fulfillment of His Word, and for His faithfulness. God bless you. He's still on the Throne and prayer does truly change things.

THE EXTRA ALLOWANCE

(Program 99)

50:15 SAYS, "CALL UPON ME IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE, AND I WILL DELIVER THEE AND THOU SHALT GLORIFY ME." I wonder if you are ever away from home among strangers, and you suddenly find yourself without cash because of some unexpected emergency that has taken your reserve? I had that experience when I first attended the Southern University far from home. And those about me were all strangers. I got so distressed I couldn't sleep, I was so frightened. Suddenly I thought, "Why, I'll write my father!" Truly I should have been more careful and I should have had plenty, but he would understand. Oh, what a relief when I made that decision. "I'll ask my father." -- He's helped me many times before and he'll help me now. During the days it took for that letter to reach home and the answer to come back, I had perfect rest and assurance. I had asked for an extra allowance, but I knew it would come. Of course it did.

DID YOU EVER ASK GOD FOR AN "EXTRA ALLOWANCE"? He says, "Call on me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." The day of trouble, we've all seen those days when sudden trouble sweeps down upon us and our own strength gives way. Resource failed. We looked around for help but there was no way out. But then we looked up and thought of this extra allowance in the day of trouble.

WE KNOW WHAT IT IS TO HAVE HIS HELP AND STRENGTH FROM DAY TO DAY, WE DEPEND UPON THAT AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR IT.

BUT THIS THAT GOD IS SPEAKING OF IS SOMETHING BEYOND THAT. This is the extra, for the extra-ordinary, extra strength when there's extra weakness. -- Extra wisdom when the need is so great; extra supply when there is extra need; extra grace to bear the extra strain; and extra love to deal with the extra unlovely one. We turn

to our Heavenly Father, and just like a loving father He gives the extra allowance. It's just sort of a special dispensation as it were, of whatever we need at that particular trouble at that particular time.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIS WORD SAYS THAT HE PROMISES TO BE WITH US IN TROUBLE? Psalms 41:15. I heard someone say, "God has promised us to be with us in trouble, but He never promised to free us from trouble." Oh, that person did not read this verse very carefully, "Call on Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee." He says He will deliver out of the trouble.

WE SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLES AND GOD CAN'T IMMEDIATELY FREE US FROM THEM BECAUSE WE OURSELVES ARE NOT READY TO BE DELIVERED, some lesson to be learned. But when you get back in fellowship with Jesus and obey God's Word, and then you call, He will deliver. I wonder why someone is always trying to whittle down these promises until there's only just a little old toothpick to lean on; or water then down until they're so weak they're meaningless?

SURELY GOD WAS WITH DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN, BUT HE ALSO DELIVERED HIM OUT OF THE DEN, and God was with the three children in the fiery furnace, surely, in prison, but He delivered them out of prison also. Don't you let some old doubter keep pricking you with a lot of little doubts until you have no faith left to ask your Father for this extra allowance. I know you won't always be delivered immediately, as I said. I've seen a time when I was in trouble with the Lord, and I was so under condemnation about my failure that I couldn't call that moment, but when I got right, and on praying ground, and began to call in my trouble, He delivered me and the extra allowance was mine immediately.

THIS TIME OF TROUBLE IS ALSO CALLED IN GOD'S WORD, "THE TIME OF NEED." If your hearts condemn you not, God's Word says, we have boldness to call for help. You know the World offers such strange help in the time of trouble, such odd remedies.

THE OTHER DAY I HEARD OVER THE RADIO, "DANCE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY." Well, I'd often heard about smiling your troubles away, but that was a new one! "Just keep smiling and smiling," they sing. But how are you going to smile when you've nothing to smile about! And how are you going to dance your troubles away, especially if you've got afflicted feet like some people! Another one tells you, "When in trouble, don't look down, just keep looking up, keep looking up." -- But they don't tell you what to look up to. I read another one: "When in

difficulty, look for something pretty every day, and don't miss a day, or it won't work." Well, that's a pretty little cream-puff to lean on when you're staggering under some great difficulty. Here's another one: "When in trouble, do something for everybody every day. That's all there is to it. Just try it, it'll work." Well, I believe in doing something for somebody every day, but oh, in the time of deep trouble, that isn't going to get you out of that trouble.

THESE ARE STRANGE ANCHORS FOR THE TIME OF STORM.

I remember when I was in unbelief and a helpless invalid. Someone who had less faith even than I did kept telling me to "hold on, just hold on." But that's the trouble, I didn't have anything to hold on to! Oh, what frail, frail anchors the world offers, what frail things to lean on. But thank God the Christian doesn't have just something to hold on to, the Christian has someone to hold on to!

GOD'S WORD SAYS, IN PSALM 26:1, "A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE." Jesus is always there, always ready to fulfill His promise. Hebrews 13:5 and 6 says: "He Himself hath said He will in no wise fail thee. Nor will I in any wise forsake thee, so that with good courage we say, the Lord is my helper."

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCHOR LIKE THAT IN A TIME OF STORM? Do you have Someone like that that loves you that you can hold on to? -- That can deliver you, absolutely deliver out of your trouble as this verse says? I was telling a young man the other day, "Son, you're going to meet the Lord someday, you'd better get on speaking terms with Him." Then I told him this story:

ONE DAY MY CAR GOT STALLED ON A LONELY ROAD. I was quite desperate when suddenly I remembered that not too far away lived a former friend. I say former because I had neglected this friend. I admired and loved her, and really longed to see her and her family, but I couldn't bring myself to walk up to that door and ask for help in my trouble when I had neglected her for so long. I just sat in the car trying to get up courage, but I never did go to that house for help! And when you neglect the Lord, neglect reading your Bible, don't take time for prayer, it's pretty hard to call on Him in the day of trouble. For as this verse states, you don't have the boldness, because you are under condemnation. (Note: Which verse? -- Not clear.)

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED THE LORD SOMEDAY AND NEED HIM DESPERATELY, BETTER MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM NOW. Better get in touch today, you will some day want to write home for the extra allowance. Ask Him right now to forgive your neglect. He will

forgive and restore the joy of Salvation. To the one who's passing through a day of trouble, which is like a night of despair, this verse is for you:

"THE LORD WILL BE A REFUGE IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE."

-- Psa.9:9. Won't you fly to that refuge? Don't put it off, don't try to bear it alone. He wants to deliver you in this, your day of trouble. Let's pray about it right now: "Jesus, we come to Thee and we ask You for grace to bear the troubles, but not only for grace, but we do pray that if the heart of this one is right with you, if they're really hungering after Thee and seeking Thy face, be merciful, Lord. We pray also you give us courage and strength for the requirements of this day. Bring to our remembrance the admonition, "Today, whatever you do in word or in deed, do all to the glory of God." -- 1Cor.10:31. Bless each one according to their special need, and we'll praise thee anew with grateful hearts.

HERE'S A LITTLE POEM IN THE SWEET WORDS OF A SONG FOR THOSE OF ACHING HEARTS:

WHEN YOUR HEART IS ACHING, TURN TO JESUS,

He's the dearest friend that you can know,
You will find Him standing close beside you,
Waiting peace and comfort to bestow.

There's joy for every blighting sorrow,
Sweet relief for every bitter pain,
Jesus Christ is still the great physician
No one ever sought His help in vain

Heart aches, take them all to Jesus
He will take your heartaches all away.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS. HE'LL CHANGE THAT HEARTACHE. Remember, He's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

FAITH TO CLAIM PROMISES

(Program 43)

Greetings and the Lord bless you and make you a blessing. Now a few Verses of Scripture, and this is in the Book of Colossians, the 4th Chapter, and Paul is speaking. He is a prisoner here and in the jail with him is a man by the name of Epaphras, who is a pastor, and Paul is writing to the church of which Epaphras had been pastor. And Paul says,

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently for you in prayer, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." Now let's remember that the writer of these words was a prisoner, and yet he's thinking about this church.

Paul turns to Epaphras and asks him if he'd like to send some word to the church at Colosse, and then Epaphras of course sends his love. Then Paul continues telling them that he agonizes in love over the Church, and that he prays for and is so burdened for them in prayer.

And what was the main thing that this pastor prayed for that church?: that they "might stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." You know, that tome is one of the most wonderful passages in the Bible on the Will of God.

God's Will is what God desires, what He plans, His choice for us. Our will is what we prefer, what we choose and plan.

When our will is in perfect harmony with God's Will, there is perfect peace and Heavenly rest. But when our wills clash with God's Will, there's disharmony and constant unrest and dissatisfaction. Now this subject is vital because all of God's dealings with us are determined by the attitude of our will towards God's Will. Someone asked me not long ago,

"When you want something from God, do you command Him to give it?" I was shocked, but before I could answer, this man said, "You know, the Scripture says (God speaking), Command thou me." No, I answered, I don't command God. I feel too unworthy to have such an attitude in calling on the Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe, a High and Holy God, though He has stooped to save, bless, and answer prayer for me.

I want above all things to have God's Will done, and only He knows what is best for us. And then this party contended and said, "But you wrote a book in which you said by different steps and chapters that

we must take a stand of faith for what we want and be very definite about it, importunate, reach out with appropriating faith and expect the answer, holding on until the answer comes."

That's all true, but there are some passages he must have skipped when he read that book, for the whole chapter in closing is just a yielding to God's Will, and a number of times in that book there's repeated this passage from 1Jn.5:14 and 15, "And this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His Will, He heareth us."

"According to His Will!" When you go to God for the desire of your heart, the attitude of your heart must be, Thy Will, Lord, Thy will be done above all else. If your heart's right with God and you're seeking above all else to be pleasing to Him, this is the attitude of your entire life!

He knows the attitude of your heart! But you've got a right to claim His promises, to accept them at their face value, because they are His Will for you or they wouldn't be in the Word of God. He says, "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

He also says, "Delight thyself in the Lord" and He will give thee the desires of thy heart." -- Now what are you going to do about such promises as this? They're right there in the Word of God and He says He will give thee the desire of thy heart.

Why are all those promises there? A child of God that is truly surrendered to God and knows His Word will rightly divide the Word of Truth, and you'll know God's Will. Now here's another Verse for you in Romans 12:1.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this World but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect Will of God."

And remember, a delayed answer to prayer doesn't prove that it is not God's Will for you! I've been praying five years for something, and I'm assured by his Spirit it's His Will, and I'll hold on for the answer that is for His Glory, until He tells me Himself that it's not to be. I'll hold on until God tells me Himself, "No." But I believe God's going to answer that prayer.

You know, there is a weak sort of faith that always wants to leave God a little loophole, and themselves an excuse for their weakness of faith, and they always repeat over and over, "Well, it may not be God's

Will," or, "I don't like to ask for it. I'm afraid to ask for it because it might not be God's Will."

But did you ever stop to realize how many times He tells you to ask? To ask and receive, to call upon Him and He'll answer? What are you going to do with all these promises? What are you going to do about them? In 2 Peter, God's Word says, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these we might become partakers of the Heavenly nature."

No, I wouldn't command God, or demand, but claim the promise for my heart's desire, put it in His hands by importunate whole-hearted petition and leave it with Him, knowing He'll do that which is best for me. God grant you the will of God in your life. Not just submission to His Will, but a step higher: acquiescence and delighting in the Will of God.

As Jesus said, "I delight to do Thy Will, O God."

Ill that He blesses is my good
And unblessed good is ill,
And all is right that seems most wrong
If it be His sweet Will.

There's no greater comfort than to remember that when you're living in the center of God's Will, nothing can ever happen to you without God's permission. GBY! Keep on praying and looking to Him. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

FIVE MINUTES LONGER!

(Program 82)

I cannot tell the
depths of love
That moves the Father's
heart above,
My faith to test, my
love to prove.
But someday He'll make
it plain to me,
Someday when I His face
shall see.
Someday from tears I
shall be free,
For someday I shall
understand.

We're taking a Scripture from Hebrews 12:12 and 13, "Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

You've often heard us say that prayer changes things, but someone wrote that prayer didn't change things for them. They said they tried it a few times and then they gave up! Well, later I learned that this one didn't give God time to answer prayer, they didn't hold on for the answer.

You know, time is sometimes a very important element in getting answers to prayer. Someone has wisely said it takes God time to grow an oak, or even to make a rose. Sometimes it takes time for God to answer. I want to impress that, for there are many reasons why prayer cannot be immediately answered.

I know it's hard to understand, but like the song says, "Some day we'll understand," many of the laws and principles of prayer and much of why we didn't get some of our answers. But this I certainly do know,

Many times prayer would have been answered had we held on just a little longer, if we hadn't let discouragement make us give up before we had prayed through to victory. It was not that God has refused us the answer, but we gave up before the answer came!

There is a fixed determination in real faith that stands this test of

waiting, and there are those like Jacob of old who say, "I'll not let thee go unless thou dost bless me, Lord!" And they get down to wrestling in prayer, and search their hearts to see if they're meeting God's conditions.

And they search God's written Word, until their faith is strengthened, and they hold on and press on, regardless of every obstacle, with a dogged determination that won't be denied.

And they don't heed discouragement and weariness, but they just fight a little longer and just hold on a little longer. It's this "holding on a little longer" that makes the difference in how some people get answers to prayer and some do not.

It's this "a little longer" spirit, that fights on regardless of appearances or discouraging words. It isn't that their battle is any less severe than ours, but they wouldn't stop fighting, they just would not give up or give in to the enemy.

The Duke of Wellington who conquered Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, said it wasn't that British soldiers were braver than French soldiers, but that they could be brave five minutes longer. The victory was determined by holding on a little longer.

Anything wonderful can happen in that little margin of time when you don't give up but keep on believing and keep on praying. Robert Browning said as he faced death, "One fight more, the best and the last!"

If we would sometimes just put up one fight more against the Enemy who's trying to defeat us and discourage us, and just hold on the five minutes longer! Dr. Frederick Harris described this spirit in these words: "Often the deciding issue in any contest is not when one is outnumbered, but where and when one stops fighting.

"The final score is determined by a struggle that is pushed for just five minutes longer, to be sure in that five minutes you give God a chance rather than accept defeat. It's a decision, just a venture to hold on in spite of appearances and consequences."

George MacDonald declares: "The sight of a man's back is sometimes one of the most pathetic things. It often means that someone was within sight of victory when he turned around." -- As the old hymn says,

"Almost cannot avail, almost is but to fail!" Christ's greatest victory, as you know, was in Gethsemane. God's Word says in that scene that He "went a little farther!" I wonder if we couldn't go a little further in prayer? Hold on a little longer and be a little more

determined about it?

The question is, where was it that you gave up in discouragement? When was it that you quit -- That you quit expecting the answer and you settled down to defeat? A.B. Simpson, my favorite writer, said this about the Verse of Scripture in Hebrews 12:12 and 13.

"This describes the fixed determination that every life must have if it's going to be victorious and successful. We are too easily turned out of the way, we become spiritually lazy. We want something very much, but we don't want it enough to get right down desperate, wrestling in prayer, or in earnest continuous searching of God's Word."

The Lord has said, "No man stirreth himself to call upon Me" (Isa.64:7), and God is not stirred because we are not stirred! And Christ's story of the importunate prayer!

You remember it was the lengths to which the man outside was willing to go which made the man inside open the window and give him the bread that he asked for! And so this Scripture says, "Lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees, lest they be turned out of the way, but rather let them be healed."

This is God's Word of encouragement to lift up the hands of faith and confirm the knees of prayer. Is your faith tired and relaxed? And have your prayers lost their force and effectiveness?

The figure in this Scripture is a very striking one, because we do become timid at every obstacle, and we are tempted to walk around and not face it, we take the easy way! I don't know what it might be in your case, but God is ready to meet you and God is ready to heal!

Don't walk around it some other way! There are many ways of walking around emergencies, instead of praying straight through! Is there some sacrifice to be made, some obedience demanded, some Jericho to be taken, some prayer that is hanging far up?

Perhaps it is a physical trouble that's only half healed, and you're just walking around it, and not facing up to it at all, so far as prayer and God's spirit is concerned.

So God's Word says, "Lift up the hands that hang down" -- march straight through the flood! The waters will divide, the Red Sea will open, the Jordan will part, and the Lord will lead you through! He can't fail His Word, God is God and He's true to His Word. He's still on the Throne and I assure you that prayer does change things! Amen.

FIXED DETERMINATION

(Program 109)

God bless you! Welcome again to Meditation Moments. Sometime ago I found in my scrapbook these words. So many times we close our programs, I think almost with the words "God is still on the throne and prayer changes things!" And someone had written and said, "Well, I don't find those words in the Bible." No, you don't but they're certainly Scriptural and express a truth that needs to be burned on the tables of every heart.

For if prayer does change things then we ought to devote more time in prayer for all about us there are so many many things that need changing. Just think, if prayer does change things and you really believe that, what would happen? If prayer does not change things then let's quit praying. But let me say it again, if it does change things then let's go about it and change those things that are hindering us, our service, the things that worry and things that defeat us. If prayer changes things then let's change them.

But someone answered after we had talked about that, "I prayed and things have not changed!" Well, then this little talk is just for you. Years ago we used to hear a very common expression amongst Christians such as, "I'm going to pray through on this thing!" Or they'd ask each other, "Have you prayed through about this?" Praying through meant that while praying you had received a definite assurance that you had been heard. To such a one, prayer was a conversation in which God had a vital part. It was not only a matter of expecting to be heard in prayer but the definite conviction that the still small voice of God would speak assurance in their heart. This was called "praying through." I know if you're a real Christian you felt that assurance of times. You just felt like you didn't need to pray anymore. There was a sweet assurance that God had heard. I found this in the Sunday School Times one day, "Praying through might be defined as praying ones way into full faith so that one has the assurance from God that not only has he been heard but he becomes actually aware of receiving by firmest anticipation in advance of the event the things which he asked for.

How many times in God's Word we read of those who prayed through. Oh, I love to read the Psalms and oh, I get such a thrill in my

soul when David emerges from prayer and he comes out with those expressions of assurance. The Lord hath heard my prayer. When he went to prayer he was almost in despair at one time from some great trial but wasn't very long before he came out declaring a great assurance these words, "The Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping." And another time he comes back from prayer with the words, "Verily God hath heard me. He hath attended unto the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God which hath not turned away my prayer nor His mercy from me."

And then in the 6th Psalm he comes also with the sweet assurance, "The Lord hath heard my supplication. The Lord hath received my prayer." Oh, I've told you many times how years ago I was injured in a terrible accident which left me a total invalid for a number of years. Well, I can't talk about that story now but I want to rest upon your heart that it was this fixed determination, this praying through we're talking about that brought the fullness of faith for the deliverance, the great deliverance that came into my life and which brought me even to just such a microphone as this into serving of the Lord. Through Jesus Christ and our precious rights on Calvary you can have the promised fulfilled.

God has promised. You can say, "And I'm going to have it. I'm going to see it through. I'm going to have this fixed determination. I'm gonna hold on until the answer comes." Oh, don't give up! Don't give up! How much do you want the desire of your heart? Are you willing to meet this condition, this fixed determination or are you going to let little discouragements make you give up, little obstacles block your way to victory or are you going to listen to what people say that frustrate you?

Oh, there are many ways of meeting a crisis but the only real way by Scripture is to pray straight through them. Recently talking to a friend whose situation I knew well I said, "I don't believe God said 'No' to your prayer. You just gave up for the Word says, 'In due season you shall reap if you faint not.'" May your faith be strengthened as you think of the faith healers of old who marched about the Jericho Walls until they fell and who faced the Red Sea undaunted until it opened, the Jordan parted. Take these promises and march straight through the difficulty saying like the saints of old, "I'm determined that nothing

shall keep me or cheat me out of whatever thing that Christ has paid for on Calvary."

Oh, I know I've said that to you before but I say it again because it's a precious thing to remember. I'm determined that Satan shall not cheat me out of one thing that Jesus Christ paid for on Calvary. Pray through, my friend, with this fixed determination that you're not going to give up. There are many reasons why God does not immediately answer. He says, "In the day you call upon with a whole heart I'll answer." You want it enough to get down to wrestling in prayer and to continue searching until God answers. God bless you! He's still on the throne and prayer does change things.

FORGETTING THE PAST!

(Program 20)

God bless you! We greet you again with the old-time greeting:
The Lord bless you and make you a blessing and use you in His Service. We want to say from all of us that we do wish you a wonderful New Year and that you will have a sweet fresh revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ in your soul, and that God's blessings shall attend you every step of the way! You surely have our prayers.

Now as we stand before the portals of the New Year, we don't know what's in store for us, what it's going to bring! And I'm glad of that, aren't you? Glad we can't pull aside the curtains of the future and see what is in store!

But there's one thing we do know, and this is that we can leave behind the past with all of its cares and frets and its pains and heartaches and mistakes and blunders. Isn't it wonderful! -- Forever in the past, beyond our recall. We can't undo one single act and we can't un-say a word that we have said.

All that the past year holds of wrong or right, this regret or sorrow is in the hand of God's Almighty love! But thank God, if we truly trust the Lord Jesus Christ, if we have completely yielded all into His hands, He can bring honey out of the rock and sweet waters out of the bitter desert of the past, no matter what it was.

He can give you in this New Year beauty for ashes and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, joy of the morning for the woe of the night! All this is promised in His Word, and how we delight to know that He'll do this! -- That we are His! (Isaiah 61:3)

And trusting Him, he says that "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord, to them that are called according to His purpose!" So all of this in the past -- if you're truly yielded, if you're utterly surrendered, if you're truly His child -- all this to "them that love the Lord, who are called according to His purpose" -- He can make it all work out for good!

And all the rest of that is in the past, save for the beautiful memories that will linger sweet and tender. There are some wonderful memories of last year. But the principle thought we want to bring to your heart is that this past is gone now! I have nothing at all to do with it!

It was mine, but now it is God's, because we commit it into His hands: Every day of the last year is past beyond our reach and we

should leave it there! God has them in His keeping and we should not go back and be tormented with regrets or let the Devil put any condemnation upon us about anything in the past. Susan Coolidge wrote these words,

The past is now a part of forever,
Bound up in a sheath which God holds tight.
With glad days and sad days
And bad days which never
Shall visit us more
With their bloom or their blight,
Their fullness of sunshine
Or sorrowful night.

-- Yet how many people claim they're trusting God, yet they worry about the past, the blots and stains on the pages of the past! They never rejoice in the fullness of God, in that He has said that He has blotted them out. (Isaiah 43:25)

If you're a Child of God and came to Him repentant and confessing about any of those mistakes that you made this last year, and you ask forgiveness, then you certainly mustn't go picking around in the past and bringing out again things that the Lord has covered with His precious Blood, covered with the Sacrifice of Calvary!

Because He says of your past sin, "I will remember them against you no more!" God doesn't even remember them, why should you? -- Much less worry about them! But oh, how the Devil loves to accuse the saints of God about their past, because he wants to keep them under condemnation!

Now you don't want the Devil to have victory in this matter, do you? You don't want to yield to him in this thing, so that he can have you continually under condemnation when God says,

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." When you keep going back and picking out in the past and regretting this and that and weeping over things that you can't help, just remember that Verse in Isaiah 1:18,

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, and though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." -- Oh, there are wonderful promises along that line! -- Sins are all washed away "Down at the Cross where the Savior Died." -- You know, that, to me, is one of the most wonderful old songs, "Down at the Cross where the Savior Died," and I know it brings back memories to you.

Someone has written this poem, and I can't say that I agree with

them:

If I could only find
The road to yesterday
I'd ease my heart of many a load
That burdens me today.
Recall the words so harsh, unkind,
Kiss clean the stabs I made when blind,
Plant love for hate --
If I could find the road to yesterday.
I'd write the page with cleaner pen
And wipe out yesterdays,
Repent and turn and walk again
The road to yesterday.
With wiser heart I would retrace
The stains of sin, and wrong efface.
My tortured soul seeks means of grace
To re-live yesterday.

Now as I said, it's beautiful poetry, there's fine rhythm there and beautiful phraseology! But I couldn't agree with that because I don't want to find the path to yesterday! -- And surely you don't! It says, "I'd write the page with cleaner pen and wipe out yesterdays!"

But you can't wipe out anything! Only God can cover, and when He sees you through the Blood of Calvary, that is what makes a difference! It isn't God's way to go back and retrace the past: You can't re-live that past, and who wants to return to the past when the future is so bright with wonderful promises?

When I think about this year, I think about all the promises of God that we can claim, and how bright the picture can be! What wonderful things can happen: Miracles of faith because His Word is unchanging! -- God's Word is still there for us to grasp, His personal promises to us!

And with all of those promises there, how can we want to go back to the past, retrace the past, and "walk again the road to yesterday" as the well-versed poem said?

The cross of Christ with outstretched arms stands blocking the way to the past. And because of the penalty paid for your sins, the Bible says, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." -- That's Philippians 3:13 and 14.

Forget those things which are behind! Forget them! Press on toward the mark for the prize! You can't make the sands in the hour-glass run backwards, and if you had the wealth of the whole World you can't retrace the path to the yesterdays, as the poem said, you can't go back!

There is no redemptive price for that past, but there is redemption for you! He's redeemed you and you're clean from all the past! What a pity if we carry the burden of the past when the Lord paid such a price to lift that burden and set us free! And what is that price?

"He paid it all, all to Him I owe" -- I think there are no more beautiful words than the words of the little song, "For All My Sin." If you're truly repentant, surely this poem or the words of this song will touch your heart, confessing your sins to Him and yielding your life fully in His hands.

With one strike of His nail-pierced hands, He wipes out all that awful guilt by the Cross of Calvary:

It was His love for me
That nailed Him to the tree
To die in agony
For all my sin.
For my own guilt and blame
The Great Redeemer came,
Willing to bear the shame
Of all my sin.
Oh what a Savior is mine
In Him God's mercies combine
His love can never decline
And He loves me.
To Calvary's Hill one day
The Lord was led away
None else the price could pay
For all my sin.
He on the Cross was slain,
Yielding His life in pain
And He felt the bitter strain
For all my sin.
Was ever love so strong?
Was ever crime so wrong
When Jesus suffered long
For all my sin?

He saw my greatest need,
Became my Friend in deed,
Through Him I have been freed
Of all my sin.

Wonderful, wonderful! Whosoever will may come to that very Cross of Calvary and leave his sins there.

Just one little drop of that blood can cleanse the blackest past! I can remember some time ago when we were holding a meeting in Roseville in California, a young man came into the service -- The Hall was on the main street in Roseville -- and he was just out of Folsom Penitentiary.

And he just couldn't believe it was so easy as that, that God would cleanse his past, just on his confession of sin and his asking the Lord to come in his heart and his taking Jesus as Savior -- it was so hard for him to believe.

He kept talking about all his sinning! It was just too great a thing to believe that God could cleanse that awful past, but that night he wept openly and gave his heart to God and confessed that Jesus Christ is his Savior.

Christ lifted that load and forgave that man who had been a criminal: cleansed his heart and gave him a freedom he'd never known. I saw him often after that when he came to visit.

He could never get through talking about the mercy of God and how God had rid him of the torment of the past, and he would repeat some of the words: "My yesterdays so filled with guilt and shame, my yesterdays are gone, O praise His Name!"

I wonder if there is anything more wonderful than the miracle of forgiveness? Is there? Is there anything more glorious than that? -- The assurance of having your sins forgiven, that you're clean? It's for all of us!

He died for all of us! All you have to do is just take it, receive Him as your Savior, accept His forgiveness. Come confessing your sin.

"He is faithful and just to forgive your sin and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness." -- All unrighteousness! He cannot fail His Word and He has promised this. "Hath He not said it and will He not also do it?" God bless you.

GOD'S CURE FOR LONELINESS

(Program 86)

Lonely days
And lonely nights
Filled with despair,
Cause me to long
For someone to care.
Then I heard Christ say to me,
This promise I've made:
Lo I am with you
now and forever,
Be not afraid!
So I've never been lonely again.
I've opened my heart's door to Him,
I'll brush away the tears
Forget my foolish fears,
I'll never be lonely again.

This precious song, "I'll Never Be Lonely Again" brings us to our thought for tonight: "There is a mystery in human hearts, and though we be encircled by a host of those who love us well, and are beloved,

"To every one of us from time to time there comes a sense of utter loneliness, our dearest friend is stranger to our joy, and cannot realize our bitterness. There is not one who really understands, not one to enter into all I feel.

"Such is the cry of each of us, in turn, we wander in a solitary way, no matter what or where our lot may be. Each heart, mysterious even to itself, must live its inner life in solitude.

"And would you know the reason why this is? It is because the Lord desires our love!" In every heart He wishes to be first, He therefore keeps the secret key Himself to open all its chambers and to bless with perfect sympathy and Holy peace, each solitary soul which comes to Him.

"So when we feel this loneliness, it is the voice of Jesus saying, 'Come to Me.' And every time we are not understood, it is a call for us to come again.

"For Christ alone can satisfy the soul, and those who walk with Him from day to day, can never know a solitary way. And when beneath some heavy cross, you faint and say, 'I cannot bear this load alone!', you say the truth! Christ allowed it purposely, so heavy that you

must return to Him.

"The little grief which no one understands conveys a secret message from the King, entreating you to come to Him again. A man of sorrows understands it well. In all points tempted He can feel with you.

"You cannot come too often, or too near, the Son of God is infinite in grace. His presence satisfies the lonely soul, and those who walk with Him from day to day, can never know a solitary way." -- And Jesus speaking in John 16:32 said these words,

"Ye shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." Wonderful Words! "I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." -- I have been amazed lately to hear so many that talk of loneliness.

There are two burdens expressed more than others, sickness and loneliness, and now we deal with loneliness. People who have an abundance of everything, and have people all around them, and yet they live in utter loneliness at times.

There is a story of a young man, who, planning to take his life by leaping from a hotel window, knocked a Gideon Bible off the table as he moved towards the window. In the fall the Bible opened, and curious to see just what it said where it opened, he read this very Verse,

"Ye shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." -- His wife had left him, and it seemed that that passage was a direct message to him, and he sat down and read it over and over: "yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me."

Wanting to know more about that Father, he read other passages, and read on and on into the night. And it was such a wonderful thing that happened, both his life and soul were miraculously saved!

This is one kind of loneliness, when loved ones are taken away, and the home and heart seem so empty. And loneliness after all doesn't have a great deal to do with old age because many young people have been terribly lonely and homesick when among strangers away from home. However, there is a loneliness of old age, when the life companion is gone, and old friends, so many have passed away.

Once in a launderette I was trying to write a letter but a very talkative elderly lady was pouring out her heart and her life-story to a woman by her side. Later, after this woman had left, I said to the listening friend, "Your friend surely enjoyed talking to you!" And she answered,

"She's not a friend, I never saw her before, but she seemed so terribly lonely and said she had no one to talk to, so I thought I could

do a little good by just being a listener until she emptied out her heart." I wonder if you ever did that for some lonely person?

But the loneliness Jesus speaks of in that passage is the loneliness of leadership, and He knew just what that meant. And there are men today who will not give up their convictions, and they're being ridiculed and rejected because of it. Jesus knew what that meant.

God's Word says, "Many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." (Jn.6:66) -- There's the loneliness of being misunderstood. There are many other kinds of loneliness that can happen to almost anyone.

There is a deep longing in every heart for someone to understand and share their interests, and solve their problems and sympathize with them, to enter into their joys and triumphs, sorrows and defeat. Well, let us ask the question:

Why is there this deep craving to be understood? Why is there this intense longing to have someone fully understand us? We ask this question because it is true that no human being will ever fully understand you. No living mortal can ever enter the deepest recesses of your mind, your heart and soul.

Always there is a locked door where no one can enter but yourself. If this is true then, has God made a mistake of some kind, that He'd leave such a void in our make-up? He's made provision for other hungers of the life, is the soul to be unsatisfied?

Is this longing for true satisfaction to be left unfulfilled? I want to answer that, and let it sink deep into your heart. God knew that when you found human love and sympathy so lacking you'd seek Him, for God Himself is the answer to the fulfillment, only He Himself can fill the longing heart.

You'll never be satisfied without Him! Until He fills your life you'll never be free from loneliness. God knew that this sense of isolation, of not being understood would drive you to Him, we're just made that way.

God's Word says, "Christ is a satisfying portion," and He'll satisfy every longing of your heart. It's real! Millions today testify to that. God is great enough and big enough to fill your soul!

Let Him come into your lonely heart and take over, and then you can say as Jesus said, "I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." -
- God bless you.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

(Program 19)

We find our Scripture for this meditation in Lamentations Chapter 3. And that's where you find the words that you hear so much these days in the song:

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" And Jeremiah is saying, "This I recall to mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul, therefore will I hope in Him.

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." -- No wonder we say then,

Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Great is His faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies we see.
All we have need of, His hand has provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord, unto me.

Notice the words he said, "This I recall." -- It is a grand thing to wait and recall to mind God's past faithfulness! I love that Verse, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." You meditate on His past faithfulness and the terror will go out of your spirit and you will walk in victory to the strains of that verse in Hebrews 13:

"For He Himself hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that with good courage we say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear." -- So the prophet here lets his meditations gather round the times the Lord did not fail him, and he says, "This will I recall to mind; This will I recall to mind."

In the next Verses he says he will quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord and he assures his heart that the resources of the Lord will not be exhausted in the hour of great trial, or of real testing. He says, "The Lord will not cast off forever," that though He will allow grief, "yet will

he have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.

"For He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." Then over in the wonderful Verses in 119th Psalm, beginning with the 73rd Verse, it speaks again of God's faithfulness: "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me. Give me understanding that I may learn thy commandments.

"They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in Thy Word. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness has afflicted me. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be fore my comfort according to Thy Word unto Thy servant.

"Let Thy tender mercies come unto me that I may live, for Thy law is my delight." Then in the same Psalm David goes on to say, "Quicken me after Thy loving kindness, so shall I keep Thy testimony. Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven.

"Thy faithfulness is unto all generations. Thou hast established the Earth and it abideth. They continue this day according to Thine ordinances. Unless Thy law had been my delight, I should then have perished in mind affliction.

"I will never forget Thy precepts, for with them thou hast quickened me. My soul fainteth for Thy salvation, I hope in Thy Word. Mine eyes fail for Thy Word, saying: When wilt thou comfort me? I am become like a bottle in the smoke, yet do I not forget Thy statutes." -- But note this Verse especially,

"Thy faithfulness is unto all generations" -- It's so precious when you read of His faithfulness again and again and again, all through His Word! Turning now to the 36th Psalm, beginning with the 5th Verse:

"Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains, Thy judgments are a great deep. O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is Thy loving kindness, O God! Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings."

How it brings out the great faithfulness of the Lord! Especially in this 5th Verse: "Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the Heavens, and Thy faithfulness reacheth up unto the clouds." -- Now you can see in this verse that David, like the prophet Jeremiah, meets persecution and disappointment through his enemies, and he cries out in this wonderful prayer.

Jeremiah was exalting the faithfulness of the Lord, and now David is lifted up in the Spirit until he cries also, "Great is Thy

faithfulness," and goes on and on up to a grand crescendo in this passage, "Thy faithfulness reaches unto the clouds."

The moment of supreme testing should be the moment of divine illumination, when you find with positive assurance that the resources of God are sufficient and unfailing for your every need because of His great faithfulness.

Summer and Winter, Springtime and Harvest,
Sun, Moon and Stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me.

And now in closing, in the 89th Psalm David waxes so eloquent about the Lord's faithfulness that he cries aloud here, "The Lord is my defense. I have laid help upon one that is mighty!

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, with my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations." -- You say, "I have at times been so faithless I can't have faith and confidence the Lord will come to my help." But God still forgives! He cleanses and restores! Come to Him today and confess! He loves you and longs for your fellowship again.

He has not turned His face from you: you turned your face from Him, and if you turn back, remember He says, "I will in no wise fail thee!" And in Timothy he says, "Though we are faithless, He remaineth faithful."

He has promised to make known to you His faithfulness, for He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things! Great is His faithfulness! Lay hold of it today! God bless you.

GOD'S INTOLERABLE COMPLIMENT

(Program 37)

The other day two books came to me in the mail from two different sources. They were both on the subject of suffering but a direct antithesis of each other. Because they had come in the same mail and from such different persons I was peculiarly interested. This was a strange coincidence!

The one author treated the subject of suffering from the standpoint of utter submission, that because God had allowed suffering to come, it must henceforth and for ever be accepted as a burden to be borne in patient yieldedness. He then set forth all the benefits to be derived from suffering, which were many, it was a splendid treatise on the subject and absolutely true.

But he never gave one thought to God as the great deliverer, who, when the lessons are learned, would then be willing to set the captive free and heal the sufferer. No, the sufferer was always left, always in his suffering, and because of it constantly more saintly in character, that was true, but never to be delivered, and that's the way the little book ended.

The other book on suffering took exactly the opposite from this one that I just told you about, and dealt with it as an oppression of the Devil, according to the Scriptures that Jesus went about everywhere doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil.

This writer then majored on the thought that God always wants to deliver, that His great desire is to set the captive free, release the suffering, heal the body, and that just as quickly as possible! Now these books on the same subject but exactly the opposite in thought made me have a great deal of thought over the matter.

There was so much truth in each one that I couldn't discard either, yet how could this be, you'd say? Always there are coming these questions even in our mail: Does God sent this upon me? Someone writes this week, "Is this the will of God for me?"

"If God has let this come upon me then doesn't He want me just to bear it patiently, accept it sweetly, learn submission and be content in whatever state I am in, and not try to get any deliverance, and not ask God to lift me out of it?" -- To all these questions it would take a dozen such programs as this, it is impossible now to answer them all.

But standing between these two books I received, I want to answer just two questions only. The first is that god does allow

suffering in order to deepen the spiritual life, to clarify the vision -- that is, to see ourselves as we really are. He does allow it in order to grow character.

God is much more interested in growing character and soul power than He is in growing a new lining in your stomach or new tissues somewhere on your body. However, lest I do not have time to say it later, He is interested also, as His Word so surely proclaims,

He will in the end deliver you when you have learned the lesson, or you've gotten the blessing He wants you to have, or you have grown the grace that He's so interested in your having. Some time ago there appeared an article in the *Readers' Digest* called "Turn Your Sickness into an Asset," written by Dr. Lewis Bisch.

He makes this comment: "Sudden illness has unhinged your knees, brought you limply to bed and make you a horizontal citizen of the sick room and an unwilling initiate in the fellowship of pain. At first your reaction was to rail and fret and resent bitterly such untimely interference with life's routine. But later you learn that your illness is conferring substantial benefits upon you."

Now this was written by a doctor, mind you, a very fine physician, and he ends the article by saying, "Any serious illness should be regarded as an opportunity to gather dividends that health can never bestow.

There is introspection and self-analysis throwing the searchlight upon your inner self, until you're humbled and cut down to your real size. Only when the way straightens and the gate grows narrow do some people ever discover their soul, ever discover God." -- Now that doctor who has dealt with so many who are ill wrote those thoughts.

Well, we might have put this in other words and said that pain and suffering are instruments in God's hands for loving correction, because He loves us too well to leave us to ourselves without the wholesome chastening of His grade. But pain is not an unmixed evil, but has a ministry to serve and lessons to teach.

It supplies a needful discipline by means of which the soul is purified and patience and forbearance are strengthened, and it gives opportunity for God Himself to reveal His sustaining presence and sympathizing love.

The Father God of all mercy and comfort is never nearer His child than when that child needs His help the most. 2 Corinthians 1:4 says, "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them that are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we

ourselves are comforted of God."

At times God seems to leave us alone in suffering and sickness, and we're left dangling in mid-air, that we might know how weak we are in ourselves, how weak are the foundations of human confidence that we so often rest upon. There isn't time to say more about this, but I want to answer the other question.

I believe when the lesson is learned, that God wants to heal you. I believe it's His Will to do so. He wants to heal you. I believe that His Word is full of promises and examples along this line -- how could it be otherwise?

I know that the healing for your body is in the Word of God, for I've searched it diligently for many years. It's for today, it's for you now. I believe it also because of so many testimonies of Godly people that have been healed.

He says, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." -- Take hold of God and His promises today! He's the same yesterday, today and forever. Learn the lesson and then call for deliverance. God bless you and answer your prayer. Amen.

GOD'S WILL!

(Program 39)

God bless you indeed. This is Grandmother speaking and reading from God's Word, precious Verses of Scripture about this Rock of our Salvation. God's Word says here in Matthew 11:27 (Jesus speaking),

"All things are delivered unto Me of My Father, and no man knoweth the Son but the Father, neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls,

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." -- I want to repeat that last sentence, Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I'm just reminding some of these that write in about how very heavy their burdens are, that He has promised to take that upon Himself.

He's promised to take your heavy burden and lighten it and give you rest, in this passage of Scripture. you ought to read that over and perhaps even commit it to memory.

I was reading about a Christian blacksmith who had a great deal of affliction, and he was challenged by an unbeliever to account for the reason why a Christian should have such affliction. His explanation was this: I don't know that I can account for these things to your satisfaction, but I can to my own.

I am a blacksmith, and I often take a piece of iron and put it into the fire and bring it to a white heat. Then I put it on the anvil and strike it once or twice to see if it will take temper. If I think it will, I plunge it into the water and suddenly change the temperature. Then I put it in the fire again, and again I put it in the water. This I repeat several times.

Then I put it on the anvil and hammer it and beat it and rasp it and file it and make some useful article which will do service for many many years. If, however, when I first strike it on the anvil I find that it will not take temper, I throw it into the scrap heap and I sell it at 1/2 penny a pound.

Now I believe my God and Father has been testing me to see if I will take temper. He's put me into the fire and into the water -- I've tried to bear this as patiently as I could, and my daily prayer has been, Lord put me into the fire if You will, put me into the water if You think I need it,

Do anything You please, only don't throw me into the scrap heap!
-- You see, dearly beloved, those of you who have these burdens and testings and trials and afflictions, God is working with you, you're worth His working on! He considers you worthwhile. And this man continues this way:

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands passing over and over again. The short hand is the hand of discipline, and the long hand is the hand of mercy.

Slowly and surely the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each stroke, but over and over passes the hand of mercy, showing how there's 60-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline and trial God gives.

Both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great unchanging heart of a God of love, fastened to the pivot of the solid Rock. You know, this little poem is such a blessing to my heart today:

"I cannot But God Can."

O balm for all my care,

The burden that I drop

His hand will lift and bear.

Though eagle pinion's tire

I walk where once I ran,

This is my strength: to know

I cannot, but God can.

I know not, But God knows,

O blessed rest from fear,

All my unfolding days

To him are plain and clear.

Each anxious puzzled, "Why?"

From doubt or dread that grows,

Finds answer in this thought,

I know not, but God knows.

I wonder sometimes if many of these burdens we carry are perhaps caused by our not carrying our side of the yoke I just read you about: My yoke is easy, my burden is light. But we're so sure the burden is heavy and the yoke is not light! Our Lord surely does not fail to carry His part of the yoke! In fact, He puts His shoulder under the heaviest end of the burden.

We want so much to have the promises fulfilled, but we don't look at both sides of the promise. You take the promise, "Delight thyself also in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart," in Psalm 37.

We set our minds on the desire of our heart and keep mentioning that to Him, but what about our end of the promise?

What about our side of the yoke? "Delight thyself in the Lord? -- This is the condition of the fulfillment of that promise. Do you really delight yourself in the Lord? Or is it kind of drudgery, His work and His Will and reading His Word? So often we quote the promise:

"Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass." -- Then we get our mind on how God's going to bring it to pass, and when will He bring it to pass, and we look at our faith to see if our faith is big enough to bring it to pass,

But we think very little about the words "commit" and "trust!" We don't commit it utterly to Him and go about our business with that sweet utter trust, and we don't take our side of the yoke: Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust in Him.

Let's read His precious promises over and note the provision, note our part of it. There's the precious promise, "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." -- Then we concentrate on the many good things we desire, especially that thing of the present we're wanting so much, and our heart and mind may not be so much on our side of the yoke.

We're just thinking about God taking His side, but the "walking uprightly" is what we should fasten our attention upon.

Every promise in the Word has a condition, we've said that so many times! I want to repeat it again, Jesus says, "Take My yoke upon you," but we just don't want to do it, we want to have our way about it and we want Him to carry the whole share of the burden, and we're not even willing to keep our part of the contract. So often we hear the promise,

"All things work together for good," but no they don't, beloved, not for some people! That promise is only to those that love the Lord and who are called according to His purpose.

Do we put the emphasis where it belongs? The loving of God? Why, that's part of the first and great Commandment! And you can't expect all things to work for good if you don't love the Lord the God with all thy heart and soul. Then take this promise:

"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." -- But we ask people to pray to have faith, and we try little tricks of the mind to encourage our believing, but God says it comes by reading His Word.

Read the Word of God and all these things will fall into line, and

God will so bless your soul, and your life will become so rich in really deep spiritual things. He's still on the Throne and prayer will change things for you.

GOING ABOUT DOING GOOD

(Program 91)

I walked today where Jesus walked
In days of long ago,
I wandered down each path He knew,
With reverent steps, and slow.
Those little lanes, they have not changed,
A sweet peace fills the air,
I walked today where Jesus walked,
And felt His presence there.
I knelt today where Jesus knelt,
Where all alone He prayed,
The Garden of Gethsemane,
My heart felt unafraid,
I picked my heavy burden up,
And with Him by my side,
I climbed the hill of Calvary,
Where on the cross He died.
I walked today where Jesus walked
And felt Him close to me.

You know, I never think of that song, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked," when I don't think of this Verse of Scripture in Acts 10:38. And the words are these, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him." Wonderful Scripture.

You know, I heard a story once and -- it's a long time ago, maybe I can't get every detail -- but I know it was told that the story was a fact, of a newsboy who had been hurt so badly in an accident, and another little newsboy came to see him and asked if he wanted anything. He said, "Yes, I wish you'd go to the bookstore and get me that book about the man that went about everywhere doing good." He didn't know just who the man was and how to ask for it. It was a Bible. And so the boy

asked the man at the book store there, and he told him that was the Bible, and Jesus was the One who went about doing good.

And so he read and read that wonderful Bible that was put in his hand. At last he wanted to do good like Jesus, and so he would copy off little Verses of Scripture and there in the attic room where he lived, he would pull his maimed body over to the window and then drop those Verses of Scripture down on the pavement.

One day a very wealthy man picked up one of those little Verses. He saw this scrawny hand reach out from that window and drop this note, and he hurried over and picked it up. And on it was this Verse of Scripture, about Jesus going about doing good, and God was with him. He thought about it a good deal, and he went up and found this little boy, this little crippled boy, and they became fast friends, and the man gave his heart to the Lord through the boy's testimony.

Then one day he came to him, and he said, "You know I've got good news for you. I'm going to take you out to my beautiful home, and take you out of this tenement house. And out to my home." And he said, "You'll have a room all your own and we have servants there, and all the good things to eat and it'll just be wonderful for you." And you know, this boy said, "Well, I'll think it over Mr. Hatfield, and you come back tomorrow and I'll tell you, whether I'll go or not."

The next day Mr. Hatfield came back, and Jimmy said to him, "Well, I want to ask you a question about your home. Are there any people that walk under the window there where I would be?" And Mr. Hatfield said, "Oh no, it's very quiet there, beautiful terraced lawns, there's no one that walks under the window." Do you know what little Jimmy said? He said, "Well, I'm sorry, I couldn't live anywhere where people don't pass under my window." And he never did go, he stayed in that poor district and in that little room.

Oh, how wonderful that there's people that will make any sacrifice that they might go about doing good, just like Jesus. And if we're going to walk where Jesus walked, we're going to walk where we can do good for other people. Now that's rather a trite saying, but that wonderful Verse says, He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. Like someone asked the little boy: "Is your mother at home?" "No." "Well where is your mother?" "Well, I don't know just where she is, but I know that wherever she is she's doing good, because she always helps people." What a wonderful thing to say.

But do you know that God's Word says that whatever you do in word and deed, do all to the glory of God. And while it's so wonderful to

be doing good things, really good things for the Lord, yet we must be very careful that it is for the Lord, and we're not just depending on our good works. I think you hear that a good deal on the radio, don't you?

Years ago I saw a colored man working out in the yard, and he looked so hot and kept wiping his brow, and called him to the door and I gave him a nice tall cold drink, and I said, "You know, I live down south," and we had colored friends whom we loved down there, and I said, "After all, the southern people, many of them love their colored people." And then he went back to work, and after a while the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "You didn't give Me any glory, you didn't give that drink to him because you were a Christian, and you loved the Lord, you didn't give it in Jesus' Name."

And you know, the Word says that if you give even a cup of cold water in Christ's name, that there shall be a blessing for you. So I called him back in again and told him, and used that Verse of Scripture.

However, God's Word says it's not of works, it's not of works. And this we want to impress. So I'm going to read you this Scripture in Ephesians, the second chapter, wonderful Verses these are. "But God who is rich in mercy for His great love wherein He loved us, even when we were dead in sin hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace are ye saved." -- not by your works! "And He hath raised us up together and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding richness of His Grace and His Kindness towards us. For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast."

Oh, isn't it wonderful that God made a plan, because it would be so unfair any other way. Some people have had a good background and good parents and they're just naturally good. Others have had bad backgrounds and wicked parents, and it would be so unfair if it just would be our good works that could save us. But God in the wonders of His Wisdom had a plan to which everybody had to come the same way, and that is through the shed blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, His sacrifice on Calvary. We have to come that way. Not of works, I'll read it again: "By grace are ye saved, not of works, lest any man should boast." But it's by the grace of God.

And so if you're going to go about doing good things, and nice pretty little deeds just to get a little glory to yourself, there will be no reward laid by in Heaven. It has to be in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that's the only way you can be saved. "There is no other

name given under heaven given among men whereby you can be saved."

God bless you and keep you and make you a blessing. And everywhere you go, may you go about doing good works in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

"GOOD PEOPLE" OR BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS

(Program 111)

WE HEARD A NUMBER OF TIMES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THAT WAS ABOUT SOME BOY OR GIRL WHO WAS A DELINQUENT. They'd been in some serious kind of trouble, or many even in trouble with the law. I heard folks say, "Well, he was always such a good boy. He never gave any trouble. He was getting along in school, he went to Sunday School some of the time..." Now, I don't know just how much some of these went to Sunday School. They never do say how much, that is, but I'd be interested in knowing that.

JUST THIS WEEK, THIS SAME THING HAPPENED. -- A boy, only 16, for no reason whatsoever, climbed a hill and leveled his rifle on passing motorists, carefully aiming at each one. Three were killed and a number were wounded. Then the papers came out with this statement of his parents, and they said, "We never had any trouble with Michael. He was a good, quiet boy. He went to Sunday School. We can't understand how this happened."

BUT YOU KNOW, ONE IS LEFT WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THIS IS PERHAPS NOT A CHRISTIAN BOY that was brought up in Sunday School, but just someone who attended once in a while. (This is a?) case in which the news media inferred that the boy was a Christian boy and constantly went to Sunday School, a boy that had committed an atrocious crime. But I became interested and found out afterwards that the boy had joined a social club in a church, but he had never been a committed Christian. He had never really known the Lord Jesus Christ, and of course was never a born-again child of God.

IN THE CASE OF THIS BOY, HE HAD GIVEN NO TROUBLE AT HOME, was a junior in high school, a fairly good student, he had a nice home and fine parents. Yet one night he disappeared, took his mother's car, a hundred dollars and his rifle, and only 150 miles from home, he

wrecks the car, then fled to a nearby hill, and without cause at all began to level that gun on motorists. -- Right below the highway he was killing them. When the police closed in on him, he turned the gun on himself and took his own life. Tragic!

I WANT TO BRING A LITTLE LESSON OUT OF IT: Now over and over again I've heard people asking, "How could a boy of that type do such a thing? How?" Well, you know, the Lord said the heart of man is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things. That's the human heart without the Jesus reigning in it. And if the Lord isn't Lord over the life, the heart is just that way and will stay that way.

NO WORDS COULD EXPRESS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIFE THAT IS OUTWARDLY WHAT THE WORLD CALLS GOOD, GOOD IN CIRCUMSPECT THAT IS, AND A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD and led by God's Spirit, walking in fellowship with God. There's all the difference in the World between those two lives, no matter how good that person seemed to be.

GOD'S WORD SAYS THAT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON, CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN. It's one thing to be shown in Sunday School or church that there is such a Light, but quite another thing to step out in that Light and walk in that Light in obedience to God's Word.

GIVEN ADEQUATE TEMPTATION AND ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY AND ADEQUATE POWER OF THE DEVIL BROUGHT TO BEAR ON A LIFE, THE HUMAN HEART IS SO WICKED WITHOUT CHRIST'S HELP, why a person is capable of doing most anything. You know, we're living in the days when demon power is rampant all over this old world, and they're attacking and attempting on every hand. We also have an abundance of dainty, polite preachers who do not think that such things should ever be mentioned in refined churches. The Word of God doesn't fail to say a lot about it, to mention it many places, and

IT STATES QUITE CLEARLY THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A WARFARE AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS. Satan knows that His power is threatened by God's power, and that when God's power is manifested in the life of a true child of God, that he has to contend fiercely against that child of God, and he does try to break down that life and that faith.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT THOUGH WE ARE IN A

WARFARE, THAT WE'RE IN A VICTORIOUS WARFARE FOR JESUS CHRIST, Who won on Calvary. That's why it's called the "good fight of faith." We are in a fight, but it's a good fight of faith because our Captain has won and we're on the winning side! There's a Scripture in Ephesians 6:12:

FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES. So you just let a boy or a girl, no matter how good they are, let them be tempted, and by human estimates I'd say that they're good -- remember I'm talking about the human heart -- let them come up against this warfare without the weapon that God has provided and without the armor that God's Word speaks of in the sixth chapter of Ephesians, to put on the whole armor of God, and they'll be helpless in this battle against Satan and the demons of Hell.

THE WONDERFUL PART ABOUT IT IS THAT EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO HAVE THAT ARMOR. The real Christian has been given all the armor and might weapons that save. The most powerful weapon in all the world is prayer, and then all the promises of God to back you up, to strengthen and empower, to give that victory. Oh, thank God for that blessed Scripture that says,

"GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD." Say it over and over again when you're tempted and when you think about those verses of Scripture and when you think about those verses of Scripture about Satan coming in like a flood, that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the World, and then we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

GOD'S WORDS SAYS, "HE ALWAYS CAUSETH US TO TRIUMPH THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST." He always gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Satan cannot overcome the child of God that has yielded his life fully to the Lord. He cannot do it; he has no power against him if he's a fully yielded dedicated Christian, because his life is hid with Christ in God, the Word tells us so. In Colossians, the third chapter,

"YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD." God has promised that there's no temptations over you, that has overtaken you, that you will with that temptation be able to make a way of escape. Oh, that's when it's so wonderful to be a Christian. You don't fight with human

weapons, you don't go out in your own strength. That's where Christianity makes a victorious contribution by giving you a marvelous ally who comes to the rescue in every time of temptation.

GOD'S WORD SAYS, AND I REPEAT AGAIN, "WHEN THE ENEMY COMES IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF GOD WILL RAISE A STANDARD AGAINST HIM." Oh, there's where the Christian has this mighty advantage over the unsaved person. They would be just as weak in the natural. They may have just as evil tendencies in the natural, but when they're fully yielded to God, when they've turned their life over to Him, God orders that life and they have divine guidance and they walk in His Spirit. Then God's there to help, and He does come just as He promised. He does come in. He does do for you what you could not do yourself no matter how hard you struggled.

WHEN YOU COME TO THE VERY END OF YOURSELF AND STAND BEFORE HIM HELPLESS, CONFESSING YOUR EVERY HUMAN EFFORT HAS FAILED, that's just when He comes to your aid and gives you the strength and takes you through. Oh, isn't it wonderful when you think that we have such an ally as that. -- That the Lord is ready to help us any time, anywhere, under any temptation He's going to make a way of escape. This wonderful secret, Christ in you, the hope of glory, has been such a blessing to me so many times.

MAY GOD REVEAL IT TO YOU IN ALL ITS FULLNESS AND THERE IT IS, "CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY," no longer the disappointing failure. After even when you grit your teeth and clench your fists in your determination, your self-effort, and your self-confidence that you're not going to do certain things, or that you will live such a life by sheer force of your strong will, but then you have to simply and humbly confess that you've failed. You have to let Christ Himself come and abide. Then, when He comes in and does this and He says that, He gets the victory. Amen. God bless you. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

GREAT FAITH

(Program 89)

We've talked to you before about the different degrees in faith, and today we go to God's Word to see what Jesus said about "great faith," who has "great faith," and what are the elements of "great faith."

We deal today with only one instance where Christ spoke of great faith. Now this chapter is one of the most wonderful and inspiring in the Word of God. It's one of my favorites and has been a great inspiration to me. You find it in Luke 7:1 to 10. We'll study it as we go along, but it opens on this wise:

"Now when Jesus had ended all His sayings in the audience of the people, He entered into Capernaum and a certain centurion's servant who was dear unto him was sick and ready to die. And when he heard of Jesus he sent unto Him the elders of the Jews beseeching Him that He would come and heal his servant."

Now this chapter from God's Word is precious because of one particular sentence, and we're going to note what that sentence is in just a moment. You'll note here that it says that Jesus marveled.

Well, it's been hard for me to visualize the Lord of lords marveling at anything, but here it tells that this man's faith was such that Jesus marveled at it. It was a great faith, Jesus said so. Only twice does it say that Jesus marveled at anything. And while this time it was at great faith, the other time it was at unbelief at His miracle-working powers.

You know, if Jesus marveled at something, it's worth our taking account of it and seeing why. Now the first wonder here is the man himself, this centurion, for he was a wonderful man. He was a Roman, not a Jew, a subject of the Imperial Caesar, and a citizen of Imperial Rome, and in that place a slave is just a cattle, simply a thing among their possessions.

Usually a centurion was pretty hard, a toughened soldier, cold of heart, but this centurion loved his slave. Now that's one of the outstanding things in the first place, a marvel in itself. And the second wonder is that he should send the elders of the Jews to beseech Jesus to come and heal his slave, for the Jews hated the Romans because they were under great oppression from the Romans. But when he asked these elders of the Jews to carry this request to Jesus they quickly went because they loved him. The centurion was a magnanimous man, and he had built the Jews a synagogue.

We don't know how, but he had evidently come into the knowledge of God through Judaism, and had been big enough to overlook their bigotry and narrowness as well as their hatred of his own idolatrous nation. This was all very unusual and Jesus in His omniscience saw it all, and the Scripture said, "Jesus went with them."

His heart went out to this man who loved a slave, who built a synagogue for the Jews, and he had faith enough in God to ask the Jews to beseech Jesus to come and heal his sick slave, and so He turned about, Jesus the Christ, and went with these Jews towards the home of this Roman centurion.

Now I want to pause long enough to say that Jesus has this same compassion towards you and towards me. He is just as willing to come to you as He did to this man. He's the same Savior, and He knows how unworthy you feel also, for that's what the centurion said, "I am not worthy."

Now to continue with the Scriptures, "When He was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him saying unto Him, Lord, trouble not Thyself, for I am not worthy that Thou should enter under my roof, wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto Thee, but say the word, and my servant shall be healed." Now here is the marvel of this verse to me, where it says, "But say the word."

Now we continue reading, "For I also am a man daily subject to authority, with soldiers under me and I say to this one go, and he goes, and to another come, and he comes, and to my bondservant do this, and he does it. Now when Jesus heard this He marveled at him and He turned and said to the crowd that followed Him, I tell you not even in all Israel have I found such great faith. And when the messenger which had been sent returned to the house of the centurion, they found the bondslave who had been so very ill, was thoroughly healed." God's Word says, "and he was healed."

Now to me the marvel of this man and this passage lies mostly in these words: "Speak the word only and my servant shall be healed." Oh, such confidence in Christ's Word! That was quite enough for him, just Christ's Word. He said, "You don't have to come under my roof, Jesus, You don't have to come in the presence of my servant, why, Your word has such authority, all You have to do is just speak the word, and it's done."

Oh, would to God that we had that confidence in the Word today. It's the very same Word, it has the same power. Do you have this kind of faith in God's Word? If you find a promise in the Bible that fits your

need, then I tell you, you have the authority to claim it, and finding it there faith should take hold automatically, for "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Is your faith such that you can say, "God has said it and it's true. It's so because God said so." The centurion had great faith because he was standing only on the Word of God. Just as if he said, "Lord, Thou Lord hast unlimited power, so just speak the word and my servant will be healed." In the 107th Psalm we read, "He sent His Word and healed them."

Oh, pin your faith on God's Word. Millions have done so, and it has never failed them. We can have the same faith as the centurion, if we believe absolutely God's Word. That it is the divine Word, the living God.

And if we come also with the same humble attitude, because great faith is always humble and God's Word says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty Hand of God, submit yourselves unto God, He giveth grace to the lowly, He resisteth the proud," and many more admonitions. It's along this path of humility in lowliness of soul that the King of Glory rides in victory into your soul.

Here's a wonderful verse: "To this man will I look, to him that is humble and of a contrite heart, and who trembleth at my Word." Now perhaps this is why some have not had their answer to prayer, because Christ comes in where there is humility, and this is surely the reason some are not saved, because humility precedes salvation. If you're too proud to pray the penitence prayer, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner" and then truly repent of your sins and accept what the precious Word says, that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, if we're too proud to humble ourselves to say that, then we can't be saved. Do you believe that? Well, that's God's Word. God cannot lie.

If you confess your sin, He is faithful and just to forgive you your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. If you believe the Word, then He does forgive you and cleanse you, doesn't He? No matter how you feel, it isn't how you feel about it, it's what God's Word says about it. And you know I'd like to follow that along every line of life. Mentally, spiritually-spiritually most of all -- and physically! It isn't what I feel, it's what God's Word says when I take a Promise, and I'm standing on that Promise, I'm going to believe it against all contradictory circumstances and feelings. God speaks the Word, do you accept it? This is faith, this is how you get saved.

Jesus marveled. Jesus marveled. Midst all the unbelief how sweet was this voice of faith to Jesus. This voice when the centurion spoke this. It was like a voice from Heaven, as if the gates of Heaven swung ajar for a little moment and let a strain of Heavenly music through.

It can be the same for you. Tell Him that you believe His Word. Say it over and over again, "I do believe Thy Word, I do believe Thy Word. Just speak the Word, Lord, and it shall be done." And the unbelief in your heart shall be muzzled.

What He wants is faith in His Word. This is what drew Him to the centurion, and the centurion's servant was healed. Christ spoke the Word and it was done. The very same Savior. "According to your faith so shall it be done to you. All things are possible to him that believeth." So this is great faith, when you can say, "Speak the Word only, and it shall be done." This is great faith.

And now that wonderful old song, "Sing them over again to me, wonderful Words of life, let me more of their beauty see." Oh, I love that old song, sing it along as we play it and say the words.

"Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful Words of life.
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful Words of life.
Words of life and beauty,
Teach me faith and duty,
Beautiful Words, wonderful Words,
Wonderful Words of life.
Christ the blessed one gives to all,
Wonderful Words of life,
Listen now to the loving call,
Wonderful Words of life
All so freely given,
Wooing us to Heaven
Oh, beautiful Words,
God's Words, wonderful Words,
The Words of the living God.
That wonderful Bible gives you,
Wonderful Words of life,
Sweetly echo the gospel call,
Wonderful Words of life.
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful Words of life.

Jesus, the only Savior for ever
To us these wonderful Words,
Wonderful Words of life.
Beautiful Words,
God's Word, wonderful Words,
Wonderful Words of life."
Remember, God's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

(Program 41)

We have been asked sometimes why we speak so much about the Lord's healing. Well, I don't wonder that you ask that question if you're not familiar with the Lord's healing yourself, but I could answer that there are many reasons.

Of course, one principle reason is that God's Word is just full of healing! The ministry of Jesus Christ was so filled with it! Page after page in the Word is about His healing the sick and examples of it. Like the nobleman's son, and the woman who touched the hem of His garment.

I don't see how some could ask the questions that they have asked if you've been reading God's Word like I have thought you were reading it! I think also that I like to talk about it a great deal because I believe it so glorifies the Lord. I know that those who have been wondrously healed have been people who have walked very close to the Lord: they've had a touch of His Spirit and they have found Him so real.

It makes Christ so very real to you when you depend upon him for physical things and you make Him your Great Physician. -- Now that doesn't mean at all, and I want to make it clear again, that doesn't mean at all that one cannot be healed by a doctor! I believe in doctors. I believe that many doctors are even Godly men. And I know that there have been many thousands of people that doctors have brought through to health, and have been a great source of blessing.

I believe also that there is such a thing as the mind bringing about certain kinds of metaphysical healing, I believe that. I believe there's healing by nature where one obeys the laws of nature, and then you're healed. But I wonder if you've ever thought about those dear souls that the doctor has told there's no hopes for them?

I wonder if you've ever thought about those that have had to face it, that without something miraculous happening, that it's the end of everything for them, that death is sure for them? I wonder if you've ever thought about them and had pity and mercy upon them? -- Because that was my case.

I came to the end of everything that man could do. The doctors told me they couldn't do anything more for me at all, and so I turned to the Lord Jesus Christ after my husband had brought me to the Lord, and I was born again. Then I took Him as my healer and He did what no man can do.

Then I believe it because I've seen so many many people wonderfully healed and go on living in health and usefulness for the Lord. I have read also of many wonderful miracles of healing. God's Word is a miraculous Book anyhow! I don't see how you can read it and not believe in miracles!

Christ's a miraculous person! The Bible is a book about a miraculous person, and if you take the miraculous out of the Bible, It wouldn't be worth the paper that It's written on, because as I say, "It's a miraculous Book!"

If you know Jesus and the pardon of your sins, if you know Him then as your healer, it just means that you've laid on Him just that much more of your inheritance, that's all. In the last analysis it's just a little more of Jesus Himself, to take Him as your Healer.

Someone has said that divine healing has its foundation in the cross, its authority in the Scriptures, its operation on the Godward side through the Holy Spirit, its operation on the manward side through prayer, faith and the name of Jesus; its continuation through the life of Jesus, its chief end the glory of God, and its object to call attention of unbelievers to the Christ who saves.

God's Word says, "Skin for skin and what will not a man give for his life," and it is certainly true, because I've known people that never would have gotten the Lord if it hadn't been that they came seeking healing. I can remember at a meeting years and years ago, an infidel who had ridiculed our coming there, and he'd made all sorts of sarcastic remarks about a woman speaker, but you know, he was stricken with cancer.

When we went back there the next time, he was seeking help which no man could give him, no one could help him, his case was hopeless. And so it was through that physical need that he sought God's help, and he was saved! He was truly born again, and thank God, he

was healed also. You must begin with God's Word.

Without the Bible, you're surely at sea as to what God's will is along any line. You must believe the Bible to not merely contain the Word of God, but to be the Word of God! And God has honored It above all His Name, and you make no mistake when you do the same.

If we do not believe that all Scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable, then God's message to our heart and life will be meaningless. Now, there's so much Scripture that's about the Lord's healing, surely you accept it along with the rest? And God's Word says, the Lord Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith.

The Bible declares Him to be the Son of God with power. Faith appropriates Him as such, and the Holy Spirit reveals Him to the trusting heart, and every blessing originates in the Cross! Soul blessings have never been abrogated -- why should you think the bodily blessings would be so?

Someone has said there are two streams of blessings that flow from the cross, one for the soul, the other for the body, even as David said: "who forgiveth all thine iniquities, and who healeth all thy diseases" -- two streams of blessing flow down through all the apostolic era.

This being true, then when did God reveal it to be His will that one stream should cease to flow and the other should go on? He began to both do and to teach! -- Well, when did His operation cease? Jesus intended the development and increase of His Ministry through a promised Pentecost.

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do, shall he do also and greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto my Father." Jesus did not save three thousand in one day, but Peter was instrumental in so doing, that was one of the greater works!

Let's not ignore the first part of this text, "The works that I do shall ye do also" -- Souls' needs come first, I think you know that, you sure know we believe it, that's sure! But atonement made provision for your bodily need too: then why not have what belongs to you?

Luther was right in saying the miracle of grace in the heart is far above any physical miracle, but along with this he assigned the bodily miracles their proper place in the development of faith. Won't you do the same?

If you just have the Gospels short of the miracles, it would present a Christ short of power, a Savior in Name but not in fact. You look up to Him for yourself today, He's so willing, He's so loving, He's

so gracious, willing to touch you. -- I love this old song:

There comes a wondrous message

When my hopes are growing dim,
I can hear it through the darkness,
Like some sweet and far off hymn,
Nothing is too hard for Jesus,
No man can work like Him.

When my frame is worn with sickness,
And with tears my eyelids swim,
I can hear the promise ringing
Like some sweet and Heavenly hymn,
Nothing is too hard for Jesus,
No man can work like Him.

And when my way is cloaked in darkness

And my foes are fierce and grim
Still it sings above the conflict
Like some glad victorious hymn,
Nothing is too hard for Jesus,
No man can work like Him.

And when my heart is crushed with anguish
And the waters reach the brim
Faith can hear the mighty chorus
Like some mighty battle hymn,
Nothing is too hard for Jesus,
No man can work like Him.

Oh, let us claim the mighty promise,

Let us light the torches dim,
Let us join the mighty chorus,
Let us swell the glorious hymn,
Nothing is too hard for Jesus,
No man can work like Him!

-- And that sweet old song:

Keep on believing

Jesus is here,
Keep on believing,
There's nothing to fear.
Keep on believing
This is the way,
Faith in the night
As well as the day.

-- keep on believing! Hold on! Don't let anyone discourage you, keep your eyes on Jesus, keep your heart buried in His precious Word.

Remember, His hand is at the helm of the Universe, Divine Sovereignty reigns! He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

HAPPINESS

(Program 105)

Welcome again to Meditation Moments and the dear Lord bless you as we so often say the old-fashioned blessing 'God bless you and make you a blessing!' Sweet is the precious gift of prayer, to bow before Thy throne of grace to leave our every burden there and gain new strength to run our race, to gird our heavenly armor on depending on Thee, Lord, alone and sweet the whisper of His love when conscience sinks beneath its load that bids our guilty fears remove and point to Christ's atoning blood. All them to sweet indeed to know God can be just and gracious too. Now so often we have spoken to you regarding taking God at His Word and believing utterly the promise of God, trusting in them and expecting God to bring them to pass. In fact, one of our favorite promises is this "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust in Him and He will bring it to pass. And you know the other one, "Delight thyself in the Lord and He'll give thee the desires of thy heart." Well, I do want to say though, so definitely something that has to be said I guess over and over again. There must be obedience if we're going to get the answer to prayer. So many have felt like God is so merciful and God is just like a great bit kindly Grandfather, He'll wink at certain things in the life and just pass over it. You know God won't pay any attention to it and He loves me so much. But, beloved, I was reading an article the other day by a Mr. Kasen. It read something like this -- this is just an excerpt from it. It was a lengthy treatise on the subject of how one gets joy out of life and he said that everyone is after the same in life, they want happiness, which some call a good time. Just to have a good time seems to be the purpose of life to some people. Unfortunately, most of us blunder and make a mistake in what a good time really is in our lives and nearly over before we find out what a good time really is and how to have it. At first when we are children we think that a good time means lots of fun and not much work, do as we like and getting something for nothing. Many folks discover after a

while that this is a silly notion that leads only to mischief. Eventually after having plenty of troubles we learn that success does not mean grabbing everything we want, does not mean idleness. It takes a long time to learn that lesson, that finding happiness you have to go about it in the right way or you'll never have happiness. Now I agree with Mr. Kasen on one point particularly and that is that this hunt for happiness is one which almost every human being is engaged. I make the exception of some deeply spiritual saints of God who don't make a quest for happiness but they found it just the same. Now to many lives it's really the Holy Grail and if they miss finding happiness they feel that they have missed the supreme purpose in life, rich, poor, learned or ignorant, poets and philosophers, all are in the quest and we find them at last beside life's roadway oh so disappointed and many are so heart-broken because they failed to find this happiness they have searched so hard for.

I read you some time ago when we were speaking along this very line that poem of Ella Wheeler Wilcox that "I Lost the Road to Happiness." How true that is. I'm not gonna repeat the poem here cause we used it just recently. But it asked the question "Does anyone know I pray, I was dwelling there when the morn was fair but somehow it wandered away. I sought rare treasures and scenes of pleasure and ran to pursue them when lo I had lost the road to happiness and knew not whither to go." J. Gould, the American multi-millionaire said that he lost the road to happiness and when he was dying he said, "I am the most miserable devil on earth!" Wealth didn't help him find happiness. Lord Beauchamp, famous and wealthy both, he wrote "Youth's a mistake, man is a struggle, old age is a regret. I've never found happiness!" Alexander the Great who conquered the known world and you know this story so well, but he said before he died, "There are no more worlds to conquer!" His conquest didn't lead him to any real joy. He said, "I never found it." Lord Byron lived a life that's full. Oh, what pleasures he had so far as worldly pleasures are concerned. But he said, "The worm that cankered and only grief are mine." So he never found it pleasure, not found in wealth. But those are trite things to be saying (?) because you've heard that many times before and you know that. But where then can one find happiness? And you might ask me have I found it. Yes, I've found happiness and yet I don't own any property, I don't have a big bank account, I don't have youth anymore but I do have supreme happiness. But where is happiness generally found? Oh, if you'll just take your Bible and read it and obey God's Word you'd find

that happiness is found in plain old-fashioned obedience to God because every man that was blessed under the ministry of Jesus Christ was blessed in the path of obedience. Joy is always the aftermath of obedience God's Word says, "If ye know these things happy are ye if he do them." You know a will yielded to God brings such rest of spirit and the heart that's right with God has such joy. A mind that's stayed on God has such perfect peace. God says so! Someone has said that perfect peace would be perfect happiness. If we have perfect confidence in the one we are obeying that's reasonable for if the heart's right with God and you are walking in obedience to His Word He can then fulfill to you all His wonderful promises and you can't help but find happiness and many people think they're unhappy because of the conditions and circumstances around them. But, no, the unhappiness is really because of what's wrong in the heart. When the heart's wrong all is wrong because you are at war with yourself. You're out of harmony with God. Christ did not teach that the quest for happiness should be abandoned but rather in all His teachings He strove to direct man to the right way to find happiness.

Jesus Christ believed in and taught much about joy, real happiness, but He made it very plain that there were wrong ways of pursuing it. Every phase of human longing for happiness, this wrong pursuit of it was one of the world's greatest problems that Jesus had to solve. Jesus said, "I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice and your joy no man taketh from you." That's John 16:22. Now He said, "No man taketh from you," no man, no condition can take that from you. Jesus said, "I will see you again and ye shall rejoice and your joy no man taketh from you." I repeated that because it's such a wonderful verse. And He said, "Ask and receive that your joy may be full." He promised that one of the first fruits of the Spirit would be joy. Oh, there's so many Scriptures along this line you couldn't even begin to quote them but won't you know that this joy which Christ spoke is something far far beyond what the World calls happiness. This is an inward joy. This strong confident message of happiness runs triumphantly all through the Word of God but always Christ set forth the fundamentals of happiness which would reveal to the World that they were on the wrong path to happiness but just to strive for it is a goal itself. I said you never would catch up with it. It isn't something from the outside that you could grasp and pour into heart. It springs up from when the heart is right with God. It's a God-given miracle resulting from yielding absolutely to the Will of God and putting life

utterly at God's disposal. Oh, won't you read His Word and find out what He wants you to do and then obey that. Have you been obeying? If you're miserable and distraught perhaps you didn't obey that He told you. What about disobedience? If there's one thought, a way of happiness to you, is this an unthought of way? Does it seem unreal that you can find happiness in making Jesus Christ the master of your life in implicit obedience? Well, tens of thousands of today testifying that they found it there and you can also. God grant that the perfect happiness of perfect obedience will be yours until you can say as Jesus said, "I delight to do thy will, O God." God bless you, Beloved! Amen.

HE SATISFIES COMPLETELY

(Program 73)

When your enemies assail, and your heart begins to fail, don't forget that God in Heaven answers prayer. He'll make a way for you, and will lead you safely through. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

Greetings, and welcome again to Meditation Moments, and the dear Lord bless you. We love again that old time greeting, the Lord bless you and make you a blessing for others! I think I mentioned this some time ago, how many letters we receive from people who are lonely. And I chose this verse for our Meditation today, John 16:32. It's Jesus that's speaking, and He says,

"Ye shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me." I think every single Christian can say that, just like Jesus said it. "You can leave Me alone, others can leave me alone, and yet I'm not alone, for the Father is with me." As I say, I've been amazed to find in my mail so many letters that tell of loneliness. There are two burdens expressed in these letters that is, more than any other kind of distress or burden, and that's sickness and loneliness. And this very verse deals with the latter.

There are people who may have an abundance of everything, and have folks all around them and yet they are living in this utter loneliness. I think I told you some time ago, I'm not sure, the story about a young man in one of our hotels in Los Angeles who was planning to take his life, and he was going to leap from the hotel window, but as he was moving to his objective of leaping out the

window he stepped up on the table and knocked off the Gideon Bible. In the fall, the Bible opened and curious to see just where it had opened he read this very verse. "Ye shall leave Me alone: yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me." You know, his wife had left him and friends had forsaken him because of certain things, and it just seemed like a direct lesson, a message to him.

He sat down then, taking the Bible, he read it over and over and many other passages at the same time. And he read those words, "I am not alone: for the Father is with Me." And then he read on other passages about the Father, and he turned to the back of the Bible and looked up the passage about the Father. Well, the story ends beautifully because both his life and his soul were miraculously saved! You know, as I tell you this, a little poem comes to mind,

 "Is the night closing 'round you, or the shadows dark and long,
 Well ask Jesus to come close beside you, and He'll give you a new
sweet song.

 And He'll give it and sing it with you, and when weakness lets it
down,

 He'll take up the broken canes and blend it with His own."
You know I like that part where it says, "He'll give it and sing it with
you...and blend it with His own."

He'll take over in every avenue of your life! The Lord Jesus Christ will do it! He's promised to do it, it has been proven so, He'll stand at the controls to guide you and He'll live His life through you, and that's true! He'll blend it with His own! Isn't it wonderful! You think about a passage like this in John 16:32, that is so true and we can claim it for ourselves! You know, this story about this young man, leads me to think of something that happened in my own life some time ago.

I had lost my loved one, just a year tomorrow since my husband went to be with the Lord, and perhaps that's why I'm talking about this subject on this particular meditation. And I was lonely, in a sense, very lonely at first, but never the kind of loneliness that the World talks about, not that kind of loneliness. It was just a long companionship of 54 years, and then suddenly the ties are broken, and that partnership is there no longer. But the kind of loneliness the World experiences, I've never known about such a thing, since the Lord Jesus Christ came in my heart, because He's always there. And I always feel His presence there. That's one kind of loneliness -- when loved ones are taken away and the heart and the home seem somewhat empty, but there's also the loneliness of old age. But I don't think that some people think that

there's more loneliness in old age than at any other time, because after all, young people away from home and among strangers get mighty lonely and homesick; they really get so homesick that they're ill sometimes! But it is hard when the life companion is gone, and old friends have passed away. So much of our recent mail told of friends that had gone away, and in so many of these letters they spoke of this loneliness.

One day, when I was in the launderette trying to get a letter written, pass the time away, a very talkative elderly lady was pouring out her heart and all of her life story to the woman by her side. And later I said to this listening friend, "Your friend surely enjoyed talking to you." And she answered, "Well, she's so lonely and she has no one to talk to. And I thought I could do just a little good by being a good listener until she emptied out her heart. She was so lonely." You know sometimes it's a wonderful thing just to be a good listener for some lonely heart.

But the loneliness that Jesus speaks of in our verse here, is the loneliness of leadership! We have a few leaders today who, because of being true to their convictions, they are being rejected and they are being ridiculed. Jesus knew this rejection, for John 6 tells the story, "Many of His disciples went back, and walked with Him no more." (Jn.6:16.) That's the loneliness of being misunderstood. Then there's the loneliness of defeat, like Elijah under the Juniper tree, when he wished he could die, and he was certainly lonely. He was being pursued and rejected. (I Kgs.19:3.) There are many other kinds of loneliness, it can happen to almost anyone.

There's such a deep longing in every heart to be understood, and to have someone share your interests, and help solve your problems and sympathize with you, someone that can enter into your joys and triumphs, your sorrows and your defeats. You know, perhaps you wonder why there is this deep craving to be understood. You have sometimes such an intense longing to have someone that fully understands you.

Perhaps you might ask a question, like someone did, that you can't understand why no human being can ever fully understand you, no living mortal seems to be able to enter into the deepest recesses of your mind, your heart and your soul. There always seems to be, in the end, a locked door where no one ever can enter but yourself. Well, that's just about true. If this is true it's because God has made us that way! He made us a living soul that only He can understand and only He

can enter into that close companionship.

We're His masterpieces and do you think for one minute that He'd leave us with some void in our make-up that can't be filled? No, He's made provision for that hunger also! He's given provision for all the hungers in our life; bread for the body, knowledge for the hunger of the mind, love for the hunger of the heart. Now, is the soul to be unsatisfied? Think about it a moment. Would God leave the biggest part of a man to be unsatisfied? Ah, no!

This longing for true understanding is to be fulfilled, and that's one of the biggest parts of God's plan. He knew that when man would find human love and sympathy so lacking, that then he'd turn to Divine Love and sympathy for fulfillment. They'd find they could find no fulfillment any place else. It's just God Himself Who's the answer, He's the only fulfillment. He Himself feels the longing, and He'll fully satisfy. He will, if you'll give Him a chance! God made you for Himself, and not until He fills your life will you be free from that loneliness.

When He fills your life, you'll never have the same kind of loneliness again. He knew that this sense of isolation, of not being understood, would drive you to Himself. You're just made that way. Only God Himself can ever fill your soul. God's Word says, "Christ is your satisfying portion." And God, as I say, made you that way, so that only He could fill your soul, and this would drive you to Himself and He'll satisfy every longing of your heart! Oh, this is true! It's real!

Millions today are testifying that they never found satisfaction until they found Jesus Christ. God is great enough, and big enough to fill any soul and give complete companionship, ideal, perfect friendship. He's verily God, and the lack that you feel, this incompleteness, is the cry of your soul for Himself. And to the Christian I would say, God's Word stands true, and if you're lonely, Christian, it's because you're not drawing close enough to the Satisfying Portion, "Christ, your satisfying portion!" You have all of these wonderful promises in God's Word, with God Himself backing them up with His Power, His Truth and His Love.

If you as a Christian have such a longing that's unsatisfied, it's because you're not living in the Word, and close enough to Him. Oh, I would say to the one that doesn't know Him, let Him come into your lonely heart and take over. Then you can say, as Jesus said, "I'm not alone, the Father is with Me." (Jn.16:32.) He's your Father, your Heavenly Father -- why don't you turn your lonely heart to Him? This, as I say, is His way of drawing you to Him. It's only a manifestation of

His love and of His longing for you. He's yearning in deep sympathy and understanding for your companionship. Oh, make friends with the Lord Jesus Christ now, and you'll never have the same desperate loneliness again. In closing, there is a little verse that I love:

"There is a mystery in human hearts
And though we be encircled by a host
Of those we love as well, -- and are beloved, --
To every one of us from time to time,
There comes a sense of utter loneliness;
Our dearest friend, a stranger to our joy,
And cannot realize our bitterness.
There's not one who really understands,
Not one to enter into all I feel.
Such is the cry of each of us in turn.
Each heart, mysterious even to itself,
Must live its inner life in solitude, without the Lord.
And when beneath some heavy cross you'll faint and say,
'I cannot bear this load alone:'
Well you say the truth!
Christ allowed it purposely;
It's so heavy that you must return to Him.
The bitter grief which no one understands
Conveys a secret message from the King,
Entreating you to come to Him again.
For those who walk with Him from day to day
Never never find a solitary way."

Oh, give Him a chance at your heart. Let Him come in and share that wonderful companionship that He offers to you. Lord Jesus, bless each one that listens, and help them, Lord, we pray Thee, to so open their hearts and turn their whole life over to Thee, that Thou canst come in and utterly fill any emptiness there. Jesus, we ask it in Thy Name. He's still on the Throne, and prayer does change things.

HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

_(Program 61)

I am a stranger here
Within a foreign land,
My home is far away
Upon a golden strand.
Ambassador-to-be
Of realms beyond the sea,
I'm here on business
For my King!

Our citizenship isn't here! And there is a wonderful Scripture about this in the 3rd chapter of Philippians, beginning with verse 7:

God's Word says, "But what things are gain to me, these I count as loss for Christ." -- Paul was saying that all things were just nothing, he counted them loss! They weren't worth anything compared to that which he received in the Lord Jesus Christ!

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

"And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;

"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, neither were already perfect, but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." -- Now we go on to the portion that I especially want to mention, in verse 17:

"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as you have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction and whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

-- Now let's mark that sentence, "who mind earthly things," because we are going to say something about that: "... who mind earthly things, for our citizenship is in Heaven from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:

"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." And in 2Timothy 2:3 and 4 we find also these words: "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." -- So you see, the Word tells us that no good Christian soldier entangleth himself in the affairs of this life.

Some years ago I did not have my citizenship in this country because I had married a Swede who had been born in Sweden, and who didn't have this citizenship. It was during the days of the war, and if you married one who was an alien, you became an alien! Though my people had been born in this country! My great-grandparents and all!

Yet that made an alien of me, and every month I had to send in where I was, and account for myself because I was "an alien!" It was such a ridiculous situation and I can tell you it was most embarrassing! And it took me some time to get that citizenship.

It was then that this passage became such a comfort to my heart, that my citizenship was in Heaven! "For our citizenship is in Heaven," Philippians 3:20. -- And I want to comment on this for just a wee bit.

Some time ago I found myself one night paying a real price and sacrifice to sit up and hear through a late program. It was regarding one of our national crises, I think at that time it was in Africa.

I wanted to be well-informed, and more and more I found myself trying to keep up with as many phases of that situation in Africa, not realizing until this particular night that it was telling on me spiritually!

I was getting so entangled with the affairs of this world that it was taking the keen edge off my spiritual life! Though I wasn't doing anything worldly, except just trying to keep up with the news, to be well-informed so I could converse intelligently with other people.

But I found myself trying to keep up with so many phases of the mess this old world is in, and I couldn't do it without worrying and feeling almost in bitterness sometimes, and in some frustration because of the world condition! So it was on this particular night, of this late program, I just had it out with my soul.

I'm not saying anything against being well-informed! But with information that is needful and can be used for God's Glory, that's different! I want to be a good citizen and do all I can to help my country, but first of all, let's remember this passage, that our

citizenship is in Heaven!

As the song says, "we're here on business for the King," and our real citizenship isn't here! You cannot be true to that Heavenly Citizenship and have so much time absorbed with the affairs of this world, even with the present world crises!

If we really believe our citizenship is in Heaven we'll not become so attached to this world, nor absorbed in every little news about each tragic condition! Because its fears drive us to tension, its troubles cause us loss of time and sleep, and time that we could spend in prayer.

Beloved, there are so many of the world to tend to the world's affairs! Our time and strength and money must be cast on the side of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the side of things eternal!

Our attitude as a citizen of Heaven is to be detached from this world, not attached to it! Not to be conformed to this world, though we be well-informed in some ways, but we are to be transformed by our living in the things that are eternal, and in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and living upon His Word!

We must have a deep realization that we are living for eternity and not for time, and our Heavenly citizenship can never be put in a secondary place. There was never a day when spiritual matters could be so easily put in a second place, met with some silly little excuse, like I was making, that the things of time are taking our thoughts and our energies.

Men are not facing up to eternal facts with moral issue like they did, they have no sense of values, their comparisons of values are forgotten today! I don't know just how to express it the way I long to, but eternal things call so earnestly today because the Lord is needing every soldier, and that soldier cannot entangle himself in the things of this world.

We can't thoughtlessly give ourselves to the temporal because we are defeated spiritually by all this hubbub about us! If we could but see the events of life framed up in the ultimate results that they lead to, what a change there would be in our lives and in our sense of values.

God help us that we might keep the divine perspective clear! Is there someone reading this that is content to lose a soul because they're so occupied with the temporal that they have no time for things eternal?

Philippians 3:20 states that our citizenship is in Heaven, "from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." -- Are you looking for Him?

Are you really looking for His coming as He has promised? Or are you looking at TV so much and looking at the news and all these other things so much that you don't think much about His coming, and your affections are not set upon the things that are above, but they are set upon the things that are on the earth?

God's Word says in Colossians, "ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God" and "Set not your affections on the things on earth, but on the things that are above." And Hebrews 13:14 states, "We have here no continuing city, but we look for one to come."

Maybe there are some Christians who have said like the disciples of old, "Yes Lord, I'll follow! I believe these things, I will follow Thee and these things!" But beloved, it's going to take some real action on your part.

You're going to have to live in God's Word and take a definite stand before others, and witness for the Lord Jesus Christ! Won't you accept the Word of these Scriptures and believe that in Him you can have a supply of His strength and His wisdom, to take an active part in His Service, in the affairs of the heavenly Kingdom where your real citizenship is?

God's Word says, "He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." -- That's where your life is! There is a little verse that says,

"Taste and see that the Lord is good!" -- If you'd just taste, by giving Him a chance to work in your heart! You'd need only a taste to make you long to know Him better and live more in His Word! He wants to help you! He longs to solve your problems and lift your burden and comfort you! Keep looking up! He answers prayer.

HOLD ON!

(Program 10)

CHAPTER 10, VERSE 35 BEGINS: "CAST NOT AWAY THEREFORE YOUR CONFIDENCE, WHICH HATH GREAT RECOMPENSE OF REWARD." For ye have need of patience that after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise." That's a wonderful Scripture! We've found it a number of times before but it's one of my favorites.

YOU'VE GOT NEED OF PATIENCE THAT AFTER YOU'VE DONE THE WILL OF GOD YOU MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE! You will receive it! "Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them which draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WORDS THAT YOU ARE NOT TO "CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE." And it does have great recompense of reward because God will not fail, He cannot fail. -- And if you keep confidence and don't just throw it away -- JUST THINK OF ONE GIVING UP AND THROWING AWAY THEIR CONFIDENCE just as God is getting ready to answer prayer! You search the written Word of God and you'll find so many times that He mentions this word "Confidence." I've been amazed at how many times it is in God's Word.

YOU HAVE OFTEN HEARD THE SAYING, "PRAYER CHANGES THINGS." Someone wrote recently saying, "Prayer didn't change things for me. I tried it a few times but I gave up before very long." Later I learned that this one didn't give God very much time! From what she told me afterwards she didn't hold on even for a little while!

BUT SHE JUST THREW AWAY HER CONFIDENCE WHEN THE ANSWER DIDN'T COME RIGHT AWAY. When I think of those who held on for so many years! I heard the most wonderful testimony of a man that had been for years a convict. It's an amazing story of the Grace of God -- 30 years a drug addict, 17 years in prison, 3-1/2 years in solitary confinement.

NOW HE IS PREACHING AND HE IS SO FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD and he's doing a wonderful work and absolutely healed from that habit and delivered from the life of sin, and is being used of God! And his little wife testified and she said,

"YOU KNOW, FOR YEARS AND YEARS I HELD ON." Just think

of holding on for 30 years! She said, "I didn't know just how long it would take God to work this in his life but I was content to believe and wait, and I knew that God would answer prayer.

"THERE WERE MANY YEARS THAT TRIED MY SOUL AND I SOMETIMES QUESTIONED why God didn't answer sooner, but I made up my mind that I was going to hold on till the answer came." This man has written a book along this line, and I read those words from that book of his this little woman held on.

ARE YOU HOLDING ON FOR SOMEONE? IS THERE A LOVED ONE THAT HASN'T YIELDED? "All during his years in prison" she said, "I prayed for him and held him up, taught my children to respect him, and I knew God would meet us." Well it does take time. It takes time for God to do many things!

YOU REMEMBER I SAID TO YOU ONCE IT TOOK TIME FOR GOD TO GROW AN OAK and even to make a rose, and this is certainly true regarding prayer. There are many reasons why prayer cannot be immediately answered. I know it's hard to understand -- some day we will! But this I do certainly know,

MANY TIMES PRAYER WOULD HAVE BEEN ANSWERED IF YOU HAD DONE LIKE THIS LITTLE WOMAN DID, just persevered and not "thrown away your confidence." If you had not let discouragement make you give up before you had prayed through to victory, you would be living in joy of that answer today.

IT ISN'T THAT GOD HAS REFUSED, BUT WE GIVE UP BEFORE THE ANSWER COMES. As A.B. Simpson said, "There is a fixed determination in real faith that stands the test of waiting." -- There are those like Jacob of old who say, "I will not let thee go except thou dost bless me." And they just get down to wrestling in prayer and search their heart to see if they are meeting God's conditions so they can get the answer!

THEY SEARCH HIS WRITTEN WORD UNTIL FAITH IS STRENGTHENED! They hold on and press on with dogged determination and won't be denied regardless of what the obstacles are. They don't heed discouragement or weariness but they just fight on, and they have that confidence that God is going to meet them.

IT IS THIS HOLDING ON AND NOT THROWING AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN HOW SOME GET THE ANSWERS AND SOME DO NOT! It is this spirit of great confidence that God will meet if we will believe Him and trust and just grip the horns of the altar and fight on regardless of appearances or the

discouraging voices about us.

IT ISN'T THAT THEIR BATTLE WAS ANY LESS SEVERE THAN OURS BUT THEY JUST Wouldn't STOP FIGHTING! They just would not give up! The Duke of Wellington who conquered Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo said that it wasn't that the British soldiers were braver than the French soldiers, but they just wouldn't give up, they fought on.

THE VICTORY WAS DETERMINED BY THAT HOLDING ON, and holding on, anything wonderful can happen in that little margin of time when you do not give up but keep on believing and keep on praying!

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER! GOD HEARS! And it might be in that little time that you hold on that will be just the time when God will meet you.

"THROW NOT AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE WHICH HATH GREAT RECOMPENSE OF REWARD!" God bless you.

HOW TO BE RID OF DOUBTS!

(Program 14)

God bless you and greetings to each one. Welcome to Meditation Moments and our meditation this morning. I am sure it is going to be a help to some that need it so much, as we were blessed in our own hearts as we read this Scripture from James the first Chapter. And I am reading from the Amplified New Testament.

"Consider it wholly joyful my brethren whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fallen to various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith brings out endurance and steadfastness and patience.

"But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work so that you may be perfectly and fully developed with no defects, lacking in nothing.

If any of you is deficient in wisdom let him ask of the giving God who gives to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly without reproaching or fault-finding, and it will be given him." Now mark this Verse because it is what we will talk to you about:

Only he must ask in faith, it must be in faith that he asks, with no wavering, no hesitating, no doubting." -- Now the Word is saying that you must not doubt when you ask God for something. We continue with this wonderful Scripture in James 1: "For the one who wavers, hesitates, doubts is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind.

"For truly let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything he asks from the Lord. For being as he is a man of two minds, hesitating dubious irresolute, he is unstable unreliable and uncertain about everything he decides."

Now this seems rather harsh at first when you think about it. It says for he that hesitates or doubts let not him imagine that he will receive anything that he asks from the Lord: he will not receive anything! I say, that does seem a little hard,

But when a real study of God's Word is made regarding doubts, you will see how serious it is to doubt God's Word! Doubts nearly cost Elijah his life when he fled to the desert in fear when Jezebel swore to kill him. Because of Sarah's doubting Ishmael was born and generations his tribes caused trouble, even to this day! Because of doubts Moses lost the high priesthood, and oh there are so many examples in God's Word!

For forty years the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness and died in the desert because they doubted God's promises regarding the Promised Land. Jacob fled his home and had to spend many years in toil for Laban because he doubted. His mother Rebekah also doubted the promise of God. And because of doubts Hezekiah paid needless tribute to Sennacherib: That wonderful story about the robbing of God's treasury and the temple, and bankrupt the whole realm because of doubt.

And you know the story of Peter so well, how he nearly lost his life by doubting. As I say, there are so many instances, wonderful stories about this very problem, in God's Word. All of these in the end had to throw themselves on the Lord for deliverance and He did deliver them when they repented and when they turned right-about-face from their doubting.

But they all had to pay a severe price for doubting. And yet there are those with all this, who do not see the awful sin and danger of doubting God's eternal Divine Word! There are doubts as to forgiveness of their sins, doubts as to God's love for them. They doubt God's care,

And they are kept in unrest and misery and even uselessness in service because their fellowship with the Lord is broken by their doubts. They don't think about turning really away from the Lord or turning back, but they will doubt His promises and the assertions He has made to His own children!

Many even believe that doubting is inevitable, that is' just part of the Christian fight of faith: It's just a little part of the warfare that we have which has to be borne just as you would bear any other trial. But no! You don't have to doubt! There is perfect victory to be had over all doubts!

Doubts are of the Devil and you don't have to accept them! Mother used to say, "You can't keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building nests in your hair." -- And you can't keep doubts from coming as temptations to you at times, they will present themselves to you, but you don't have to accept them! You don't have to invite them in and mull over them.

You can through Jesus Christ's power have deliverance and be absolutely free of doubting. Maybe we can help in some way by suggesting how one can be rid of doubts. -- But first let me tell you who a doubter is.

Someone has said a doubter is one that wants some more reliable proof that the promises of God are true than the simple Word of God:

they want some other reliable proof than God's Word, that is. Another said a doubter is one who is in spiritual rebellion against God.

A doubter is one who doubts the truthfulness of God and thus they really defame God's character. Now here is a proof of this in God's Word. God's Word says, "He that believeth not God hath made God a liar." -- That's pretty serious isn't it? God's Word also says,

"Many entered not in because of their unbelief." Remember again, we have quoted these Scriptures so many times, but it's "Faith is the Victory," "Without faith it is impossible to please God!" "This is the victory that overcomes the World, even your faith." -- With all these admonishings you can see what a sin it is to allow doubts to companion with you.

How then is one to overcome them? Oh, there is so little time for this, you will have to forgive, we can only give just a few suggestions! -- And it has to be an aggressive warfare!

First of all, you can get rid of doubts by a deliberate act of your will to refuse to accept the doubts! Turn from them immediately when they present themselves to you. Don't tarry over them! Don't think them over! Turn from any doubt at once! Make it final. Make it definite!

Second, remember that any doubts as to your standing with God and His Love for you and His care over you, His provision for you, are all attacks of the Devil, the Enemy of God who is trying to discourage and dishearten you and turn you away from God.

Any thought that God is indifferent toward you, that He has forsaken you, comes straight from the Enemy himself. The Word says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." -- And doubts will flee if you will do this. This denial of doubts though, will have to be definite and emphatic or it won't do any good.

Then begin to quote passages of reassuring Scripture, I always so this! Sometimes when I have gotten up in the morning and the life looked rather blue and it was a dark sort of a taste in the mouth, and you know how you've felt sometimes like you sorta didn't want to put your feet to the floor!

I just begin quoting wonderful passages of God's Word, they are so reassuring! I don't have to take time to quote them, you know many of them. Some of them are my favorites: "God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which you are able to bear, but will with every temptation make a way of escape that ye may bear it." And Isaiah says,

"Fear not for I am with thee, be not dismayed for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, I will help thee, yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Oh, that's far better than any cup or coffee to get you started in the morning! And how we need it today! I was saying to relatives as we drove along tonight,

"I don't see how the World gets along with all the pressure there is upon hearts and all that's happening: this with Cuba and this with Russia and all the threats and now all of this that is coming to pass so far as the next meeting in the United Nations is concerned.

"I wonder how the World bears it all without the comforting presence of the Lord Jesus Christ?" -- It is so wonderful to be a Christian in this day and hour. And that's a wonderful Verse to be given today, Isaiah 41:10, as he says, "He will uphold thee." And then he says in another place in the 42nd Chapter,

"I will not fail thee, be not discouraged, I will hold thee by the right hand, saying unto thee..." isn't that wonderful? We haven't time to read it all. But so many of these promises you can repeat them over and over.

"Then there are assertions of faith. Just say, "Father you have never failed me, You will not fail me now!" There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou art still with me, Lord. you promised never to leave nor forsake me." In this way you lift up a shield of faith against any doubts.

Never argue with your doubts! Don't argue with the Devil! He'll put such an argument to hurt your faith! Like Sophie the scrubwoman said, "Don't let the Devil finish his sentence. Just slam the door in his face even if you have to cut the end of his nose off!"

But most of all dearly beloved, turn all your doubtings over to Jesus! Just as you have handed all else to Him, make an absolute surrender of your doubts to Him. Tell Him all about it and put it in His hands as you take the stand against them. Your stand must be positive though! Say, "I will not doubt again!" Make it a definite transaction!

As you do this, Christ will begin to work in you His will and His good pleasure. Through His power you will find yourself saying, "Lord, I do trust Thee for this and for that. I believe Thy Word. I will not doubt. I trust Thy promises. Thou art my Friend, my Savior and my Deliverer. I put my trust and faith in Thee." How true that Verse of Scripture,

"When the Enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise a standard against him." Commit this battle to the Lord, the

Loving Christ, who loves you so, and rely fully on His faithfulness.
Remember the battle is His also.

"I will not doubt

Though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken mast and sails.
I will believe the hand which never fails,
From seeming evil, worketh good for me.
And though I weep because the sails are tattered
Still will I cry while my best hopes lie shattered,
'I trust in Thee.'

I will not doubt though all my prayers return unanswered
From the still white realm above.
I will believe it is an All-Wise Love
Which has refused these things for which I yearn.

"And though at times I cannot keep from grieving,
Yet the pure ardor of my fix believing
Undimmed shall burn: I will not doubt.

Oh, God make this my faith
Like some staunch ship that can brave every gale.
So strong its courage that it will not quail
To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.
Oh, may I cry though body parts with spirit
'I do not doubt!'

So listening worlds may hear it with my last breath,
'I will not doubt, I trust in Thee.'"

We thank Thee Father for Thy tender Love and care. We seek now
for those that have asked help from Thee, and ask Thy blessing upon
them. Keep them, Lord, kindle fresh faith in their hearts for
deliverance: have mercy on them.

Grand that they may draw closer to Thee and make our testimony
such that it will be a blessing and comfort to them. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord we ask. Amen.

God is still on the Throne and prayer changes things

HUMILITY

(Program 47)

WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU ON A WONDERFUL SCRIPTURE ABOUT HUMILITY. There is a little song called "Keep Your Eyes on Jesus," and that's the only way in the World that you'll ever keep from the terrible sin of pride, and to keep in a humble spirit.

THERE IS NO GRACE MORE NEEDED IN HUMAN BEINGS THAN PERFECT HUMILITY! We're the weakest and poorest and blindest of any order of intelligence, and our bodies are made out of dust, our breath is in our nostrils, and our spiritual and mental nature is deprived!

WE'VE GOT THE WEAKNESSES OF THE EARTH AND THE INFIRMITIES OF ANIMALS, and I almost said, the depravity of demons! And we come into the World so very helpless! If there's a race that ought to be humble and not have any pride or vanity, surely it is us!

IN ORDER TO SEE OUR NEED FOR HUMILITY WE HAVE TO LOOK AT OUR OWN NOTHINGNESS, and just think of how all creatures, it seems to me at least, excel us. There's hardly any animal or bird or insect that cannot in some particular way excel me, either in speed or beauty or song or hardiness or docility! Some trait that makes me as a creature feel my inferiority!

WHEN I LOOK ABOUT ME AT OTHERS, AND HOW MANY TIMES I'VE WOUNDED FRIENDS and grieved loved ones, and made so many mistakes, I wonder that I could have any pride whatsoever!

IN THE MIDST OF SOME OF THESE FACTS, TO HAVE ONE ATOM OF PRIDE OR SELF-ESTEEM or resentment or cruelty or hard-feelings towards any of our fellow beings, seems to me to be just the grossest of sins! -- And I know that some of you feel the same!

AND WHEN I THINK OF THE GRIEF THAT WE CAUSE OUR LORD, our precious Heavenly Father and the blessed Holy Spirit, it surely behooves us to sink down into real nothingness.

ALL PRIDE OF ANY FORM COMES FROM THE DEVIL, it comes right out of the pit of Hell, and could we always just remember that, perhaps it would add to our humility that we're talking about.

WE WOULD NEVER SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN INJURED OR WRONGED BY ANYONE; we would never be unkind or severe or impatient with the faults of others if we could see ourselves as God sees us: take a good look at ourselves and see us as we really are!

IF WE SINK CONSTANTLY INTO OUR OWN NOTHINGNESS, THEN GOD CAN BEGIN TO USE US. God's Word has so many Scriptures on this: "You're dead and your life is hid with Christ in God." -- But we're not hid as much as we should be!

PRIDE MAKES US WANT TO BE SEEN AND WANT TO SHOW! But humility is such a sensitive plant that it has to be hidden: You breathe on it and it disappears, you drag it in the open or you boast of it at all, and it's gone.

IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE WHO HAS RISEN WITH REAL HUMILITY, because He was so very, very humble! I want to read a few Scriptures along this line. There are so many that as I went over them it seemed they were endless! Now God's Word says in Phil.2:5-9:

"HAVE THIS MIND IN YOU, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO EMPTIED HIMSELF, taking the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death. Whereunto God highly exalted Him."

OUR BROKEN HEARTS AND EMBITTERED LIVES OF WAR AND BLOODSHED AND JEALOUSIES, ALL COME FROM DEVILISH PRIDE! And I feel that if we see ourselves as possessed of all these, these jealousies and selfishness, it would make us ready to accept a higher Power, and look to the Lord, to turn our eyes upon Jesus and find the life that's revealed in Christ Jesus, and empty ourselves as He emptied Himself!

WHAT IS ATONEMENT BUT HUMILITY? HUMILITY IS THE VERY ROOT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: counting ourselves as nothing, that God may be all and in all. And any hasty judgments, or a lack of love, or indifference to the needs of others, or a sharp word, come most often, I think, from lack of humility.

THAT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST CHARACTERISTICS OF JOHN, the forerunner of Jesus Christ. They asked him, Art thou Elias? And he said, No, I'm only a voice! He might have boasted that he'd baptized many people and he was son of the great priest Zacharias, but he said, "There comes one after me, mightier than I, the latchets of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. (Jn.1:27)

"HE MUST INCREASE AND I JUST DECREASE." -- AND THAT'S THE WAY IT MUST BE WITH US! We must decrease and Christ must increase, or we'll never be highly exalted! He that humbleth himself shall be exalted, but he that exalteth himself, God's Word teaches that he will be brought low.

I WONDER IF WE'VE BEEN DECREASING OF LATE? OR HAVE WE BEEN TRYING TO GET SOME HIGH PLACE in life or some great position? Not long ago a man rebuked a friend of mine who was traveling abroad: He said, "Please call me by my title!" And three times in one evening he rebuked him because he didn't call him by his title!

GOD'S WORD SAYS SO DEFINITELY THAT "HE THAT IS GREATEST AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE AS THE LEAST, and he that is chief as he that doth serve, for I am among you as he that serveth." Remember, that as water seeks the lowliest place, just so, the glory and power of God flows in the humblest, lowliest hearts. This is real nobility in God's Kingdom!

OH, THAT WE MIGHT HAVE THE DETERMINATION TO HAVE THIS SWEET HUMILITY! IT IS A SENSE OF ENTIRE NOTHINGNESS which comes when we see how truly God is all in all, and which makes way in our lives for God to be all and in all. God bless you, and remember He's still on the Throne and prayer will change things for you, especially if you humble yourself in His hands

IF I GAINED THE WORLD

(Program 90)

If I gained the World but lost the Savior
Were my life worth living for a day?
Would my yearning heart find rest and comfort,
In the things that soon must pass away.
If I gained the World, but lost the Savior,
Would my gain be worth the life-long strife,
Are all earthly treasures worth comparing,
For a moment with Christ-filled life?

Greetings in Jesus' name, and the Lord bless you and make your life a real blessing to others.

And now if you have your Bible with you turn to Matthew, 16th Chapter and the 24th Verse: "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole World and lose his own soul. Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul. For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father, with His angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

You know, this song that Charles Smith just sang, speaks of gaining a World and losing a Savior. Oh, it's quite true to the Word of God, for the Scripture says, "What would it profit a man if he gain the whole World and lost his own soul?" Of course the answer is, such an exchange would be a complete loss, for it would be an eternal loss of a very priceless possession.

But how can you judge the value of the mortal soul? God valued it so highly that He gave His own Son to redeem it. And those redeemed by His own Son value it, for its great capacity for joy and fellowship with God, the sweetest experience in all the World, and the price paid for it by Jesus Christ, and then the everlasting quality of the soul.

On the other hand God's Word says, "the World passes away, and the fullness thereof," so it isn't any great loss to lose what you can't keep anyhow. Besides, no one ever owned a large share of this World, in comparison to the whole World, the richest man has owned only a tiny parcel, and the greatest conqueror only conquered a very small portion. Even though Alexander wept because there were no more Worlds to conquer, my, what a miserable death he died! Yet anyone

that reads the testimonies of the richest men in history will soon find that owning the World was not very satisfying. Such miserable cries of dissatisfaction came from these disappointed hearts.

So anyone listening in that's not a Christian, and has a love of the World, and it's the love of the World that's keeping you from the saving of your soul, through the Lord Jesus Christ, oh, we plead with you to listen again to the Word of God, "What would it profit you if you gain the whole World and lose your own soul?"

Well, I want to say just a word to the Christian particularly. I want to challenge you to stop for just a moment, for the World can creep into your heart, and crowd Christ out: The little useless things, little things that are so unnecessary, putting the emphasis in the wrong place and taking time for things that are of the World, giving attention to material things more than to fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and the reading of His Word.

You can soon -- oh, the Devil is so tricky -- you can soon crowd Christ out. But the World never satisfies, you're saying. But we want to exalt for a moment our precious Lord Jesus Christ, by saying how wonderfully satisfying He is. If nothing else satisfies you, if you still have that emptiness, that aching void in your soul, listen to this verse, "Jesus Christ is a satisfying portion." And millions have testified that this is so, that He has satisfied every desire of their heart, that when they knew nothing but the World's work and the World's wages, and didn't find any satisfaction, Christ came into their life, and there dawned upon their darkened soul a light, oh so wonderful. As God's Word puts it, "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ."

But you, the one listening in that has never known Him, He knows that you do not care about Him, He knows just what you are, yet He humbles Himself, and stoops down to the level and pleads with you to come. He says, "Come unto Me, hear and your soul shall live." Isn't it wonderful that you're still alive and God is giving you another chance? That you're still in the place of hope and you still have the opportunity to meet the Savior.

He says in another Scripture: "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear My voice and open the door I will come into him and sup with him and he with Me." Oh, if you could only realize dimly what a satisfying portion Jesus Christ is, you'd just leap to accept the invitation, God grant that you'll not leap too late.

For as sure as you're there listening to this invitation, and we're

telling you from God's Word, just so sure, the judgment date is coming, and in that hour you'll know too late that He was the Bread of Life that could have utterly satisfied your hunger, and instead you spent your all for that which satisfied not. And you'll know then that He was a fountain of living Water but you refused to come and drink of that which would satisfy your thirst. And you'll remember how people pled with you and in this verse: "Incline your ear and come unto me, hear and your soul shall live." (Is.55:4). His Word says, "This is life eternal, to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

Oh, so many times in His Word He pleads for you to come. You ask how to obtain that which satisfies, the springs of life that will never dry up? -- Just for the asking. Tonight there, wherever you are, by your radio, get to God, accept the gracious invitation. He says, "He that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." Note again, the 6th and 7th Verses here in this Chapter, God will have mercy, oh, how He loves you and how He longs for you to come.

Now I'll read another verse of this song,
"Had I wealth and love in fullest measure,
And a name revered both far and near,
Yet no hope beyond, no harbor waiting
For my storm-tossed vessel I could stree[?],
If I gained the World and lost a Savior,
Who endured the cross and died for me,
Could then all the World afford a refuge
Whither in my anguish I would flee?"
There would be no place to flee too.

Fly to Jesus, He waits for you. Oh, He'll cleanse and forgive and satisfy, and He's still on the Throne and prayer does change things.
Amen.

Remember, God's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

IMPORTUNITY

(Program 67)

Someone wrote in and said they couldn't find "prayer changes things" any place in the Bible. Well, it's not in the Bible, but it certainly is Scriptural! God's Word teaches that, and it expresses the Truth. It's a Truth that needs to be burned on the tablets of our hearts.

And if prayer does change things, then how we ought to devote more time in prayer! There're such needs about us, and so many things that need to be changed! But if prayer doesn't change things, then what's the use of praying? We might as well quit praying! But we know that it does change things. Oh, we've seen things changed by prayer!

What victories we've seen won by saints who really knew how to pray! And we can change things that worry and defeat us! Let's pay the price, and let's really pray and get through to God! Well, you answer, I prayed, but things have not changed sometimes.

Give God time! We used to have an expression: "I'm going to pray through." -- You used to hear that a great deal amongst Christians, and it means importunity. There is a Scripture in God's Word, in Luke 18:1-8, where this word is used.

"And Jesus spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint." -- Now there's our trouble, isn't it! We do faint, we don't just hold on until we get the answer! -- And Jesus said, "There was in a city, a judge which feared not God, neither regarded man, And there was a widow in that city and she came to him saying, avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while, but afterwards he said within himself, though I fear not God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she wear me." -- Now listen to the last of this:

"And the Lord said, hear what the unjust judge saith, and shall not God avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long time with them." -- Why, the Lord is saying, this widow by her continual coming got her answer to prayer. Then the Lord says, well, if that could happen with this unjust judge, shall not God avenge His own who are crying unto Him day and night?

And there you are with this importunity that God's Word speaks of. And here's this other passage in Luke 11: 5-9 "And Jesus said unto them, which of you shall have a friend and shall go unto him at midnight and say unto him, friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me and I have nothing to set before him.

"And he from within shall answer and say, trouble me not, the door is now shut and my children are in bed with me. I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend,

"Yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." -- Now remember it's the Lord Jesus Christ that's speaking here, and let me repeat it:

Though He wouldn't give to his friend just because he was his friend, but, Jesus said, "because of his importunity he will rise and give him as he needeth." -- And dearly beloved, this isn't just some little weak simpering sort of a coming to God and asking for something!

This is an asking that's got boldness behind it and importunity in it and a seeking and a knocking! "For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."(Mt.7:7) -- That's the Lord Jesus Christ Himself speaking here.

This importunity can be defined as a way of one's praying into a full faith, until you come to the assurance that not only has God heard you, but you yourself become actually aware, by a firm anticipation, that the things you ask for are going to come to pass!

How many times in God's Word we read about things like this. And I've given you wonderful passages along this line and there are many others in God's Word, to show you that you must hold on!

You just can't throw a little prayer in a hurry and then complain that God doesn't answer! There must be a waiting upon the Lord, there must be a giving God a chance! It takes time for God to answer prayer! There are so many Scriptures about your waiting for the Lord. That doesn't just mean waiting on Him in prayer -- that is, praying for some time before Him, -- but you're waiting, giving Him some time to answer.

In Isaiah 25:9 it says, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him and He will save us. This is the Lord, we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice." And in Psalms 112:7 it says, "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings because his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord."

This man's heart is fixed! The Psalmist here is not just saying a little prayer and then forgetting about it and never expecting the answer! But his heart is fixed, he's trusting in the Lord to meet him! God's Word says, "His heart is established and he shall see his desire" -
- Wonderful Scripture!

I love to read the Psalms! I get such a thrill in my soul when David comes back from a season of prayer with this wonderful assurance that God has heard him. He said, "The Lord hath heard my prayer." (Ps.66:19)

Sometimes David went to prayer almost in despair from some great trial, but then he comes back from having had this talk with God, and he said, "The Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping." And in another place it says, "Verily God hath heard me, He hath attended to the voice of my prayer." (Ps.66:19)

Beloved, you'll have to come to that place where you have prayed with such perseverance, with such importunity, such "holding on" in fervency until there comes the assurance to your heart that the Lord hath not turned away your prayer. As the Psalmist says: "He hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me." (Ps. 66:20) And in Psalm 6:9 "The Lord hath heard my supplication, the Lord hath received my prayer!"

When you pray like that, holding on in such earnestness, such desperation as that -- That's what God's Word says, "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Ja.5:16) When you have a fixed determination like that, and you hold on like that, then the answer is going to come!

How much do you want the desire of your heart? Are you willing to meet God's conditions? -- Or are you going to let little discouragements make you give up, and little obstacles block your way to victory?

There are many ways of meeting crises, but the best way is to pray straight through to the heart of God! Hold on my friend, victory is on the way! God says so, and He has promised to answer!

"In due season ye will reap if ye faint not." (Gal.6:9) "Throw not away your confidence which hath great recompense of reward!" (He.10:35) God bless you. He is on the Throne and prayer does change things!

IN THE GARDEN

(Program 65)

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet, the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me,
Within my heart is ringing.

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own!
And the joy we share
As we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

I've often wondered what would have happened in the garden if the disciples had fought off their lethargy and held on in prayer as Jesus asked them to? Just what would have happened? I think this is one of the most pathetic sentences in the Bible, where Jesus said,

"What, can ye not watch with Me one hour?" -- And I wonder if He doesn't speak that to some of our hearts today as we have time for so many non-essentials, but we can't give Him one hour in prayer for the furtherance of His Kingdom and fellowship alone with Him.

We can't criticize His disciples, for some of us get sleepy before even 15 minutes have been spent in prayer! And one reason for this is that we greatly underestimate the importance of prayer, the power of prayer. Prayer can bring to pass everything that God has promised to do in His Word. -- I want to say that again:

Everything that God in His Word has promised to do, prayer can bring to pass! Just think of that for a moment. Prayer can bring to pass everything that God has promised! What glorious possibilities that opens up and what marvelous things could be accomplished!

I just wonder what might have been accomplished if the disciples had stayed awake with Jesus and prayed on with Him through that hour? For one thing, we read later that when He was led away by the soldiers, the disciples all fled. What a tragic bit of history that is, that they all fled.

They fled just when He needed them the most! What a terrible record for men who had walked and worked with Him and sat at His feet hearing His Words and watching His miracle-working power! I believe that if there in the garden that night they had determinedly

fought off that drowsiness and prayed on and on, the record would have been different. It might have read that they stood by Him through it all, faithful to the last.

And I wonder how the record might read of our lives and accomplishments, if we would fight off our indifference and laziness and lethargy and determinedly pray on and on till the very last, until we get the things that we're praying for. Why do we let go so soon?

Why do we let doubts crowd in, and give up so easily after trusting for just such a short time? God has spoken and He's promised! It's God, our God that has promised, and He's Almighty God, and He will fulfill His promises, to the last jot and tittle He will fulfill them! Why don't we hold on and trust God? Why do we get so lethargic?

He says to our hearts also, "Can you not watch with Me one little hour?" -- And where is the unswerving faith that holds on with such tenacity, and cries, "Though He slay me yet will I trust Him," and then to trust on and on in our Gethsemane? For I know as David said, "I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance."

Do you hold on like that and say amidst your Gethsemane, "I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance," (Ps.42:5) no matter what the outward signs seem to be? -- That glorious little "yet" in that verse! "I shall hold on in this little hour of trial, I shall yet praise Him. I shall yet see that for which I had believed God!"

If they had prayed on there that night and stayed on with Jesus, prayed through, faithful to the very last, I believe that the sweet fellowship there would have been so wonderful for the Lord and such a comfort for Him in His great trial. The Word tells us that He sweat drops of blood through the pores of His skin.

It could have read that they had such a glorious prayer meeting that Christ was greatly comforted and made ready for the suffering, made ready for the sacrifice of the Cross, through their fellowship. But they didn't, they didn't. Although He had pled with them and said to them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. Abide here and watch with Me." -- That's Matthew 26.

But they didn't watch with Him. What of us? I've been searching my heart, I wonder if you will search yours! Have we watched with Him in this crisis hour of our World's history, with Godless ideologies on the forward move, crime on the upsurge and unbelief so bold?

Have we truly been faithful in prayer and prayed through? Or can He say to us, "Can't you watch with Me just one hour?" -- Maybe we're rather like Peter, following the Lord afar off. That's another thing that I

believe would have been different if they had watched with Him that hour.

I believe it's possible that Peter would have not denied the Lord! He would have been alert and on his guard against the Devil's devices, for an hour of prayer puts one on guard and brings such a closeness to the Lord and you just can't follow "afar off."

Wonderful things would happen if we would really give ourselves to prayer, to truly draw nigh to God and hold on with persevering faith and earnestness!-Wonderful things would happen!

Is there something you've been asking the Lord for in little hurried breaths of prayer, restless and hurried? Wanting to pray but not wanting to take time from other things, just "things" especially, half your mind and heart in the prayer? Of course you've not had the answer to your prayer!

I think of these verses every time I get careless in that way, I like to take them and go into the garden alone, go "a little farther" (Mat.26:39). It says of Jesus, "He went a little farther." We need to go a little farther, don't we? He went a little farther and fell on His face.

And if we would go a little farther in prayer, and fall on our face before the Lord, and call with a whole heart, it would be as the promise in this verse here, "In the day that ye call on me with a whole heart I will answer thee."

Remember what He said of Mary? "One thing is needful and Mary hath chosen the good part which shall never be taken away from her." (Lk.10:42) -- Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the Lord say that to you? "You've chosen the good part. These other things can be taken away, but that's something that can never be taken away from you." -- Here's the last verse of this wonderful song, "In the Garden":

I'd stay in the Garden with Him,
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go through the voice of woe,
And His voice to me is calling.

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share
As we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Won't you watch with Him one hour, and see He answers your

prayer, and see the change in your life, and see souls saved? God's anointing rests upon you, His blessing. Prayer will change things my friend, prayer truly will change things. God lives today! Let prayer change things. God bless you.

INFLUENCE

(Program 102)

Here in Acts Chapter 5, verse 14,15, it says, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Inasmuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them." That was the influence of Peter's life, that the very shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. But it wasn't just Peter and his personality, it was because he was like the Master, and more like the Master we would ever be.

"More like the Master I would ever be
More of His meekness, more humility,
More zeal to labor,
More courage to be true,
More consecration for work He bids me do.

"More like the Master, is my daily prayer,
More strength to carry crosses I must bear,
More earnest effort
To bring His Kingdom in,
More of His Spirit the wanderer to win."

There is a story in God's Word and it's one of the most remarkable miracles. It was when Elisha died and there was this distinct difference in the attitude of the people of Israel, because the outlying tribes who had been friendly began to invade the country in little marauding bands. It was on the occasion of one of these raids that a miracle was performed that was very strange. We read in God's Word how the Israelites were walking along the highway carrying the body of a dead companion. They didn't use coffins in those days, and the corpse was wrapped in bandages and cloth.

So this band of Israelites was carrying the remains of a friend to

his burial place when they suddenly discovered that a band of Moabites was upon them. No sooner had they noticed this band, than they turned about to see where they could throw this body because they couldn't run so fast and get away from the Moabites, still carrying this heavy dead body.

So they thought of the resting place of Elisha which was nearby. In those days they sometimes made graves in the side of a hill or a cave. And so by rolling the stone away, they quickly threw the body of their dead companion into Elisha's resting place, and no sooner had the body touched the bones of Elisha, then life came back into it and their companion was completely revived! (See 2Kings 15:20,21.)

The miracle was unique among Bible miracles because it was not done through the medium of a live person, but just a dead body touching the bones of one who has passed on long before. I believe that God saw fit to work this miracle, strange as it is, in order that it might be brought to the people of that day and even to us today -- the memory of Elisha's faith and his devoted, Godly life. Thus God honored this prophet.

It's a wonderful thing, to think that a dead man's influence can do so much, that even a dead body touching his dead bones should make that body spring to life again. There was a time when I really ridiculed that story, but I believe it now with all my heart. I've seen God do some mighty things, and I know nothing is impossible with Him.

The spiritual significance of this miracle is one that should be a blessing to us all, for God would have us know through this, that the influence of a good man or woman lives on long after their death. This is true of great leaders, be it in the political, national and religious realm -- they still live in the influence they have in our lives today. They have not ceased to live, though they've been buried for many years.

The Godly parents that some of us had, we still feel their influence upon our lives. -- Or some Godly teacher you had when you were young, still holds an influence over you. You still feel the influence of their life long after they've gone.

There's an important question to ask ourselves in regard to this Scripture in 2 Kings and to this one in Acts about Peter, whose very shadow was so strong, his power with God so great, that even his very shadow falling over the sick could heal them.

The question is: Is the life we are now living such a character that after we are dead, men will be influenced for good by us. What a blessing it is to have such a Godly character that long after we are gone,

those who touched our lives will be influenced to do heroic deeds in service for God. Does our influence even now cause those about us to have faith in God, and be encouraged to live right? Are there some of us who are making it harder for those in our home to live right, and easier for those in our home to do wrong?

I visited a home the other night where the husband is an alcoholic. He was making it so hard for the children to do right. The little child in the home had picked up some evil words that had dropped from the father's drunken lips, and the wife was discouraged and heartbroken. It's a awful thing to make it harder for people to be good. What bitterness to contemplate in the dying hour, that your influence made it harder for other to do right.

Take the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man in torment, lifted up his eyes and begged that someone warn his five brothers, that they should not come to that place of torment, as he remembered that all his life his influence over them had been evil. (See Luke 16:19-31.)

It's a terrible thing to have someone stumble over you into hell. If you don't care for yourself, reckless of your own salvation, then for Eternity's sake and the Name of God and for your own peace of mind, don't be an evil influence in the home over your children and make it hard for your wife to do right. Don't hold back another soul from God because of your evil influence.

There a story about a man who was passing through the city of Cromwell and he was angry because he couldn't get a drink on Sunday and couldn't get into any store there. He said, "How come I can't get a drink in this town, and everything's closed up tight here on Sunday?" A man standing nearby answered, "I can tell you! An hundred years ago a man by the name of John Wesley passed through this town." Just think of an influence that lived all those years!

Someone was telling me something the other day which reminded me of something I'd heard years ago about Gladstone, that someone had told a, I would say, smutty story (that's what we called it in days gone by) in the presence of a group that knew Gladstone. This man turned around to the one who had related the shady story and said, "I dare you to tell that in Gladstone's presence!" Just think of having a name and influence like that! They knew they would not dare say anything like that in Gladstone's presence.

So it can be with you, that you can have such an influence. For though we be dead in trespasses and sins, we can be revived to

righteous and Godly living when we are brought into personal contact with Jesus Christ. You'll never be all that you might have been until you come in touch with His reviving Power. Throughout all these centuries, men dead to goodness, men dead to all that was honorable, have been completely changed by coming into contact with the Power of Christ.

If you who are unsaved and discouraged about your sinful condition, if you'll just bring yourself into the close magnetic touch with Christ, He'll bring life to your soul and set you free from every evil habit. His Divine Power will live in you, and your influence in this World will be only for good. You've tried everything else. Why don't you give God a chance? Let others see Jesus in you.

"While passing through this World of sin
And others your life shall view,
Be clean and pure, without, within,
Let others see Jesus in you.

"Your life's a book before their eyes;
They're reading it through and through,
Does it point unto the skies,
Do they see Jesus in you?

"Oh, what a joy it will be at the set of sun
In mansions beyond the blue,
To find some soul that you have won,
Because they saw Jesus in you.
Keep telling the story, be faithful and true
Let others see Jesus in you."

Do others see Jesus in you? God's still on the Throne, and prayer will change things for you.

IT'S SO BECAUSE GOD SAID SO!

(Program 8)

GOD WILL LEAD YOU ALONG IF YOU'LL LET HIM! If you'll listen to His Word and if you'll be obedient and follow that leading, God will lead you along. The Word of the Almighty God cannot fail, you can depend upon it.

WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THAT, I CAME INTO A SPIRITUAL ALERTNESS and I saw that through the years the Bible had never been a living, vital thing to my heart, but rather a sort of a combination of creeds and doctrines and wise sayings and printers' ink.

I HAD NEVER KNOWN THE POWER IN THE WORD OF GOD nor believed at all that it could bring to pass miracles by its very Creative Power!

I DON'T KNOW WHY IT WAS THAT SOMEONE HADN'T TOLD ME THE TRUTH OF THESE THINGS! But suddenly a deep conviction dawned on my soul that God could not fail His Word. I true, God said it and it's true!"

I HAD KNOWN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND MUCH OF CHURCH ORGANIZATION BEFORE THIS TIME, but I'd never really believed God's Word, nor had I met Christ personally. My experience with the church -- well, I had been a little disappointed with the particular church I was in. It seemed tediously humdrum with any power.

IT WAS THROUGH A LITTLE TRACT FOLDER THAT WAS PUT IN MY HAND by a Gospel preacher that I came into the most glorious experience! Oh, excitingly wonderful! It brought into my life unbelievable victory and complete healing of my sick body.

GONE WAS THE UNBELIEF AND THAT SENSE OF FUTILITY AND DISAPPOINTMENT, and there arose in my heart an unnamed hunger. Christ came into my life to fully satisfy! When that conviction dawned upon my heart I was a total invalid, utterly helpless, given up by a number of physicians.

BUT I HAD BEEN NEWLY BORN AGAIN NOW AND MY FAITH HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED TO LOOK TO THE LORD to restore my health and to raise me up. I was really blind at that time -- had been -- to the way of faith, and I felt I must have some evidence before I could believe -- which is really walking by sight and not by faith!

I HAD BEEN PRAYED FOR FOR MY HEALING, AND I HAD WAITED FOR GOD TO LET ME SEE SOMETHING to prove He had

heard and answered, because for me then to see was to believe, which of course isn't the right way! The World says see and you will believe, but the Bible says, believe and you will see!

IT WAS AT THAT TIME THAT GOD BROUGHT CERTAIN SCRIPTURES TO MY MIND to show me that I must believe simply because God said so. And soon that faith came into my heart, simply on what God's Word said, not by anything I saw or felt.

I BELIEVED GOD HAD HEARD OUR PRAYERS, AND HE HAD ANSWERED! And I believed that He had reached down and had healed me! And it was so, simply because God said so, and that was enough.

MY HEART LEAPED WITH JOY, and when the realization came, that moment there was born something in my soul which has never changed from that day to this: An abiding, unshakable faith in God's Word. Again and again lying there so helpless I had whispered over and over, "It is the Word of God, it cannot fail. It's God's Word and He cannot lie."

I SEEMED TO SEE THIS MARVELOUS WORD OF GOD JUST MARCHING DOWN THE CENTURIES of time, indestructible, infallible, inexhaustible, unchangeable! What a joy came into my heart as I realized I had such an anchor to hold on to! There was in my heart the substance of things hoped for, the belief in things not seen! -- Heb.11:1.

SO FAR AS GOD WAS CONCERNED, I BELIEVED THE WORK WAS DONE, FOR WE HAD MET HIS CONDITIONS and there was His Promise very plain and sure, that He would not, could not fail His Word, and I was not going to doubt that Word.

WELL IT HAPPENED! IT HAPPENED JUST AS HE HAD PROMISED, EXACTLY! And I was completely healed! Yes, that was many years ago and I have lived these many years to serve Him, and still on the firing line! From that day to this I have never doubted the power of the Word of God! John 6:63 says,

"THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT AND THEY ARE LIFE." When we come into that realization -- that there is power in what God says in His Word -- then we have hold of the truth that makes all things possible! Numbers 23:19 says,

"GOD IS NOT A MAN THAT HE SHOULD LIE, NEITHER THE SON OF MAN THAT HE SHOULD REPENT: Hath He said and shall He not do it?" -- Take that to your heart! Whatever the need is in your life right now as you are reading, just hug that to your heart: Let it quicken your faith! Don't care what people say, or how the World is

living around you!

THAT'S THE WORD OF THE LIVING GOD! God said it and so it's true. "Hath He said it and will He not do it?" -- He will do it for you! The Scripture continues this way: "Or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?" -- Isn't that wonderful! God has spoken and He's going to make it good!

DON'T LET THEM SHAKE YOUR FAITH! DON'T YOU BELIEVE ANY OF THE DOUBTS the Devil puts in your mind. "Hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?" Well God made it good in my case and He raised me up off that sick bed? I had been an invalid for five years!

IT'S THE FAITH THAT CAME IN MY HEART, THAT BECAUSE GOD SAID IT, IT WAS TRUE! In 1Kings 8:58 God's Word says, "There hath not failed one word of all His good promises." -- Well, He's not going to fail in any of them for you! That burden you carry today, cast it upon Him.

NOT FAILED IN "ONE WORD!" NOT JUST "ONE PROMISE," BUT ON "ONE WORD" OF ALL OF HIS GOOD PROMISES He has not failed! In Psalm 89:33, "He will not suffer His faithfulness to fail!" And then He says in another place, "I will not fail you nor forsake you!" Oh God grant that His Word will have a pre-eminent place in your life!

WHEN YOU'RE OBEDIENT TO THAT WORD, HIS BLESSINGS WILL BE Poured OUT! When we yield ourselves to His Word He does guide! He leads His dear children along just as He promised He would. So He led me along step by step just like He will you:

"THOUGH SORROWS BEFALL US AND SATAN OPPOSE

God leads us along.

Through grace we can conquer and defeat all our foes,

God leads His dear children along.

Sometimes through the waters and some through the flood,

And some through the fire, but all through the Blood.

Some through great sorrows, but God gives a song.

In the night season and all the day long."

GOD WILL LEAD YOU ALONG! IT IS HIS WORD, HE HAS PROMISED TO DO IT! When you yield yourself to His Word He will guide your life daily and faith will spring invincible and then you'll shout triumphantly also, "It's so because God said so. What He has promised He is able also to perform!"

SAY IT OVER AND OVER TO YOURSELF, "WHAT HE HAS

PROMISED HE IS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM!" And if you are not a saved one -- why do you carry the burden of sin? In 1John 1:9 it says:

"IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND CLEANS US FROM ALL

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." Then why don't you confess your sin? God will keep His Word! He'll not fail His Word! It's so, He will cleanse you from all unrighteousness! He says,

"IF THOU WILT CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH CHRIST IS LORD, and believe in thy heart God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." -- Rom.10:9. Don't you want to be free from the burden of sin? And have peace come into your heart and let God lead you along? Lead you all the way?

HOW WONDERFUL TO HAVE SUCH A POWER TO LEAD YOU ALONG! And He'll keep His Word! He will not fail you! You will be a new man or woman.

"IT IS SO BECAUSE GOD SAID SO!" Amen?

* * * * *

SOMETIMES IN THE PAST I'VE HAD TO ASK MYSELF, AM I WHERE GOD CAN MEET ME? Am I on praying ground where I can truly expect God to answer my prayers? I believe He's so willing, and I do not say this lightly. I believe God's willing to answer prayers, to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think, as His Word says, but there are conditions to be met!

A VISITING FRIEND WAS TELLING ME OF THE HARD PLACE HE HAD GOTTEN INTO financially, that is, not able to collect much of what was due him. He was really murmuring about it. Then he added, "I do know God's able to prosper me and make Malachi 3:10 come true in my life." Malachi 3:10 says, "I will open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing there's not room enough to hold."

WELL, IT TOOK SOME COURAGE FOR ME TO ASK HIM THEN, "BUT HAVE YOU FULFILLED YOUR PART OF THAT BARGAIN?" For you only quoted half of that verse, it says, 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in My house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts.' And then of course it goes on to say,

"I'LL OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN AND POUR YOU OUT A BLESSING, there will not be room enough to hold it!" Then his wife spoke up and said, "No, we haven't done our part. He always makes the excuse that the government got the part that he would have given to the Lord!" -- Well, all this doesn't change the verse any, does

it?

IT'S THERE AND IT'S TRUE! It's God's Word and you can trust Him to utterly fulfill it. It is so because God said so!

HE STANDS BEHIND EVERY PROMISE IN THAT WORD WITH ALL HIS POWER. And that power enables Him to fulfill His Word and His love makes Him yearn to give you the desire of your heart, and His truth won't let Him fail His Word, and His mercy stoops down to the level of your need. William Olney expresses it this way:

"I WILL NOT THEREFORE MINIMIZE MY PRAYER

But make it large as all the promises!

Since God is willing thus to bless,

No less an answer would I share!

Alas for my small faith

Compared with what He saith,

Therefore, hencewith shall prayer be heard

From me according to God's Word.

I will request as long as I shall live,

All God has shown His willingness to give,

As all the love and power His truth declares,

So faith shall make the measure of my prayers!"

-- And you know that brings to mind that precious old song:

'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

Just to take Him at His Word,

Just to rest upon His promise,

Just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.'

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,

Just from sin and self to cease,

Just from Jesus simply taking

Life and rest and joy and peace.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,

How I've proved Him o'er and o'er

Jesus, precious Jesus,

O for grace to trust Him more!"

-- From Hebrews 6:15 we read, "And so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." And I like this from *Mountain Trailways*:

"GOD'S WORD IS AS FULL OF PROMISES AS THE HEAVES ARE FULL OF STARS, and all of them are payable upon demand according to the conditions named. They are made freely and they are paid fully. Spurgeon calls the book of God's promises "The Checkbook of the Bank of Faith.' We do not have checkbooks for an ornament or for meditation, but for use!

"A PROMISE OF GOD IS GIVEN TO BE PRESENTED AND PAID IN FULL. The believer's capital for the King's business is all lodged in the Lord's treasury and the only way to secure it for use is to make daily drafts upon the unfailing supply.

"GOD WRITES NO NAMES UPON THESE PROMISES, ONLY CONDITIONS UPON WHICH THEY WILL BE HONORED. Put your name in, fulfill the conditions and draw upon God for all He promises! Now some promises are payable upon demand" -- now this fits in with our Scripture in Hebrews, "And so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promises" --

"SOME ARE PAYABLE UPON DEMAND, OTHERS ARE DATED FATHER ON. But a long-term promise of God is as sure of payment as one payable on demand! Be sure of the time limitation of God's promises, and if delayed, look at your dates!" And then he makes this statement, "The possibilities of prayer are bounded by the promises of God." I want to repeat that:

"THE POSSIBILITIES OF PRAYER ARE BOUNDED BY THE PROMISES OF GOD." -- You know I take God's Word literally, and because of this I've sometimes had to stand out against leaders who try to spiritualize so many things in the Word of God. Just recently I was visiting with relatives in the church where the pastor was teaching the adult Sunday School class, and the lesson was from the Book of Genesis.

HE BEGAN TO TELL US THAT THIS VERSE DIDN'T MEAN WHAT IT STATED, and that verse wasn't to be taken literally, and the next verse wasn't to be accepted as a fact, that it was only meant as a sort of a picture, just a picture, an underlying truth.

IT WAS JUST THE UNDERLYING TRUTHS OF THESE VERSES THAT COUNT ANYHOW, not that they were just things that really happened! Soon I couldn't stand it any longer for the sake of strangers

visiting there, so I said to the pastor,

"WELL, MY FRIEND, JUST WHERE DO YOU DRAW THE LINES BETWEEN WHAT'S TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY AND THAT WHICH IS NOT?" How are we going to know what's to be spiritualized and what we're just to accept as a fact of truth?" Well, he tried to answer but in the end he got so confused and then he said there wasn't any definite rule, that it just took "lots of wisdom and judgment."

I ASKED HIM, "DO THE LITTLE CHILDREN AND VERY YOUNG IN THIS CHURCH HAVE THAT KIND OF WISDOM and judgment that they can differentiate between that which is a fact and that which we are just not to take as any truth at all, but just a spiritual thought?" -- What do you think he answered? He said, "Of course it's not the best to teach these things to young people."

I MENTION THIS BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I TAKE GOD'S WORD AS THAT WHICH REALLY HAPPENED, I take it literally. I'd love for you to read one of my books and then you'd know just how literally take God's Word and how truly I believe all this. When the conviction first dawned on my soul that God could not, would not, fail His Word,

I SAID OVER AND OVER AGAIN, "THIS IS THE WORD OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD, IT CANNOT FAIL, you can depend on it." Put your finger on a verse, some promise, and say, It's so because God says so!

WHEN THIS REALIZATION CAME IT BROUGHT WITH IT A LASTING UNSHAKABLE CONFIDENCE in the Word of God, because at the time it came to me I was a total invalid, utterly helpless, given up by physicians!

BUT I HAD BEEN NEWLY BORN AGAIN and my husband had taught me just newly the way of faith. Oh how wonderful it was when I found out that Jesus Christ was the same yesterday, today and forever! Now that was many years ago, but from that day I've never doubted the power of the Word of God!

6:63 SAYS, "THE WORDS I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT AND THEY ARE LIFE!" And when we come into this realization of the power there is in the Word of God, then we have hold of the truth that makes all things possible! -- And the all things" came to pass with me! God answered prayer and raised me up and I've been over 45 years in the work of the Lord.

MEDITATE ON THESE VERSES, "GOD IS NOT A MAN THAT HE SHOULD LIE, neither the son of man that he should repent, hath

he said it and shall he not do it! Or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?" That's Numbers 23:19. And 1Kings 8:56, "There hath not failed one of all His good promises!" And Psa.89:33, He "... Will not suffer His faithfulness to fail!"

TO ALL OF YOU HE SAYS, "I WILL NOT FAIL YOU." -- God grant that His Word will have a pre-eminent place in your life! When you're obedient to the Word His blessing will be poured out; when you yield yourself to His Word He'll guide your life daily and faith will spring invincible, and you can shout triumphantly,

"IT'S SO BECAUSE GOD SAYS SO! WHAT HE HAS PROMISE[D HE IS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM!]" -- God bless you and make it very real to you. He's still on the Throne and prayer will change things.

JUDGE NOT

(Program 118)

Greetings and welcome again to Meditation Moments and may God's richest blessing rest upon you. I like this song to be used of God. I think that's the desire of every Christian, is to be used of God but oh, may God search our hearts and help to remember that it can't only be just a willing spirit to be used but there must be a yielded loving spirit and a loving tongue to sing, to speak, to pray. Oh, there's some that could be so wonderfully used of God but they hinder their usefulness and they hurt their testimony because of a critical judging spirit and oh, how much God's Word has to say about that. I think we should be a little thoughtful about the way we criticize others for exactly what you give will be exactly what you receive, the Word of God tells us. We'd better be a little hesitant about judging, better have mercy on that person for the Word states so clearly in Romans the second chapter, "Therefore thou art inexcusable whosoever thou art that judgest. For wherein thou judgest another thou condemnest thyself. For thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things and thinkest thou this old man that judgest them which do such things thou doest the same that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearings and longsufferings not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Oh, I can say amen, that's such a wonderful verse and that we must not despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance and long-suffering with ours that we turn right around and criticize the other one. God's Word says again, "So speak ye and so do as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he will have judgment without mercy that shows no mercy." So we'd better judge by the law of love, hadn't we? That's God's law, because we don't show mercy. This Word says here that He'll not have any mercy upon us that show no mercy. The next verse is even more sobering, I think, Romans. 2:1 and 4. "Therefore thou art inexcusable old man for wherein thou judgest another thou condemnest thyself and thou doest the same things." I repeat for emphasis but we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth. Now this is God's Word that we're reading. We are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them that commit such things and then it repeats against, "And doest the same

shall thou escape the judgment of God?" It just shows that there's such an awful thing to bear a grudge or critical spirit or having a hatred at all towards another dear one. "Despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering to you?" It should lead you to repentance and ask God for forgiveness for judging and criticizing the other person but not (hoping?) to bear a grudge or have such a critical spirit. It's so far better to forgive and forget the injustice. (?) there's been done against you. Why it's much better to forget and forgive than to have the condemnation of God upon you and these verses make it very plain, don't they, just what the reaping's going to be. Oh, don't take vengeance into your own hands. Don't hit back, don't let bitterness creep into your heart. God's Word says, "Beware lest any root of bitterness be found in you." We talked about that not too long ago. Beware lest even a little root of bitterness be found in you. You now God'll take care of that person in due time if you leave the matter in His hands. In Deuteronomy 32 He says, "To me belongeth vengeance and recompense. Their foot shall slide in due time." Just give God time. He'll tend to that person. You'd better rather pity and love that one for they're going to need pity when they fall in the hands of an angry God who has said in Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved avenge not yourselves. But rather give place unto wrath for it is written 'Vengeance is mine and I will repay saith the Lord.'" I know sometimes you just feel like you have to do something about the wrong that's been done to you or some slandering that you suffered, the cruel words that have been flung at you. God seems awful slow sometimes, doesn't He, take a hand in the thing and you just feel so tempted to take it in your own hands and hurt that person in some way they've hurt you and you want to bring your own vengeance on them. But you'll only hurt yourself and you'll surely disobey God and get out of His will and fellowship and that makes things I've said very much worse. God's Word says over here in Matthew the 7th Chapter, "Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged and with what measure ye mete and shall be measured to you again. Why beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, 'Let me pull the mote out of thine eye' but behold a beam is in thine own eye?" Well, the Lord knows all about it and He speaks with a great deal of finality here about your forgiving. You have to forgive that person no matter how unfair it has all been. And oh, sometimes it is so unfair. Some things are so unjust and we'll say, "Well, it just isn't just. It isn't fair. It isn't right."

Well, it wasn't right what they did to our Lord and Savior and they've crucified Him over many times and then at last on the cruel cross and we have been crucified with Him God's Word says. "The servant isn't above the master." He bore these things and He bore them so quietly, led as a lamb to the slaughter, He opened not His mouth and the sheep before his shearers was dumb. He didn't answer back or hit back. God's Word said, listen now, "If ye forgive not men their trespasses neither will your father forgive your trespasses." You now I found it a wonderful help when I pray the Lord's Prayer sometimes when I'd come to that part where it says, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us." If I just put the person's name in there and if I just say that John or Jenny or Jim. Forgive me my trespasses Lord as I forgive Jenny her trespasses. For, I read it again, "if ye forgive not them neither will your father forgive your trespasses," Luke 11. Matthew states it thus, now the book of Matthew, "So likewise shall your heavenly father do also unto if ye from your heart forgive not every one his brother his trespasses." Oh, this I know, that you can't do it of yourself. It just isn't in the nature of man. It isn't and how foolish we are to try over and over again to do these things and to live this life in ourself and when in any self efforts whatsoever it's got to be the Spirit of Christ working in and through you. It surely is true what Paul said, "It's Christ in you the hope of glory. No longer I that live but Christ that liveth in me. The life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God that loved me and gave Himself up for me." How true it is that which He said, "I can of myself do nothing." Oh how true! Just take the whole problem and lay it at Jesus' feet and tell Him all about it then possibly commit it to Him and leave it with Him and He'll begin to work. This is what the World needs to see, God's love manifested through His born-again children. This is a true test of discipleship for it says in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." But this is God's love working through you. It's not a natural love. It's if you yield all to Him. It'll be a miracle if you can love that person, a miracle of God's grace, yes, but this is His promise to you. It's a law of love and He waits to help you. How wonderful it'll be when there'll be no veil or cloud between you and Him and when the indwelling Holy Spirit can work out through you the full purpose of His will and His plan for your life. And that's exactly what'll come to pass when you yield it all to Him, put it in His hand. Oh, may the peace of God give you a real baptism of love and peace and rest in your heart.

JUST A CLOSER WALK!

(Program 22)

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more.
Guide me gently, safely o'er to Thy Kingdom's shore,
Just a closer walk with Thee.

Precious song! If you have a problem today, a great need in your life, maybe your problem is like this dear woman's problem who has just written in to us. She said,

"I have done all the things you have suggested and read all the books, but everything is just the same! And I have talked and talked to God for hours about my need, just poured out my heart, but I've had no answer. What do I do now?" Shall I tell you what I told her?

I could tell from the rest of her letter that she had done all the talking, but she hadn't done any listening to God! So I answered and said,

"Stop talking and listen for a while! Listen to God's Word! Be still and let Him speak to you. When you get quiet and wait on Him, there will come a prompting from Him in a still small voice." Someone has also called it "A Divine Oughtness," that is, an impression that you ought to do a certain thing. He'll answer! The answer's there for you, and God will speak!

When we've been talking to you about keeping on seeking and keeping on knocking, we didn't mean to keep on talking and talking and asking God with a multitude of words, and an insistence in talking it out with Him! A little word by Martha Snell-Nicholson:

Sometimes I do not even pray in words.
I take my heart in my two hands,
And hold it up before the Lord.
I'm so glad He understands.
Sometimes I do not even pray in words.
My spirit bows before His feet,
And with His hand upon my head,
We just hold communion, silent, sweet.
Sometimes I do not pray in words,

For I am tired and long for rest.
And my heart finds all it needs,
Just resting on the Savior's gentle breast.

So we didn't mean for you to keep on asking, with so much talking and insistence on expressing yourself in words, but to keep on believing and keep on expecting and waiting! Waiting for God to answer! Oh, the answer's there, God will answer! You know, prayer in its highest meaning is not pleading with God or demanding things, but it is communion with God, throwing your whole being open heavenward, Godward, and waiting for the divine response.

If you have prayed and had no answer yet, no answer's come and it seems as if when you pray, the Heavens are brass and He's been deaf to your pleading cries, remember this:

No earnest sincere prayer to the heavenly Father has ever gone unanswered or been unnoticed. But it is also true that God has His time for all things in working out His purposes! And God has strange ways of disciplining His intercessors and prayer warriors, and that takes time. -- Give God time!

Time is a great clarifier: it reveals, after continued prayer, things that are wrong, that we didn't see at first at all. If God had answered prayer when we first prayed, what a blessing and mighty miracle would have been denied to some in God's Word, especially to Daniel!

If God had answered the prayers of the three Hebrew children before they went into the fiery furnace, what a lesson to us all would have been lost! If God has immediately answered the cry from Christ's lips to "let this cup pass" from Him--but I don't even dare suggest that!--I just continue with this thought: There are many instances in the Word of God where it took time for God to work His own purposes before He answered prayer, but answer He did, and with greater blessing and victory for the suppliant than would have been had He sent the answer immediately! God's Word in Matthew tells a story in the 15th chapter, of this woman of Canaan.

You remember she came for her daughter. Her daughter was grievously vexed with a devil, and she sought Christ's healing power. And God's Word says that "He answered her not a word." I repeat it, "He answered her not a word."

"Then His disciples came out and besought him, saying, send her away, for she crieth after us. And He said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then she came and worshipped to Him, saying, Lord help me. And He answered and said, It is not meet to

take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs.

"And she said, truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from the master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour!" -- And yet at first He answered her not a word!

The words "God hath appointed a day" often come to mind, and while that does have to do with the Judgment Day, yet it is significant that He does appoint a day for certain things.

And God has an appointment with you for that answered prayer! And He'll not miss that appointment either! Andrew Murray once wrote: "Our great danger in this school of the 'answer delayed' is a temptation to think that after all it may not be God's Will to give us what we ask.

"If our prayer be according to His Word, and under the leading of the Holy Spirit, let's not give way to any fear that it isn't His Will." Let's learn to give God time! God needs time with us, let no delay shake your faith!

Faith holds good that each believing prayer helps to ripen the fruit and bring the final victory a step nearer: first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear; this believing fills up the measure of prayer and faith known to God alone. It conquers the hindrances of the unseen world and it hastens the end.

Child of God, give the Father time! He's long-suffering over you, and He wants the blessing rich and full and sure! Give Him time while you cry day and night. Someone has truly said,

"Some prayers have a longer voyage than others, but they come with a richer lading at last!" Men and women of old held on to the promises with a tenacity that said, "I will not let Thee go except thou dost bless me."

Hold on, dearly beloved, hold on! Trust God, keep seeking! Don't give up! The answer's there and His promises are for you! He's still on the Throne, and prayer will change things for you like it has for others.

THE LADDER OF FAITH

(Program 32)

If we are to climb up the ladder of faith to the great and mighty things God's Word promises us, and spoken of in Jeremiah 33:3, where God says, "Call upon Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things ye know not," the ladder must first rest on a very firm foundation.

That foundation is the Word of God, and the two legs of the ladder are: God's faithfulness, for He'll never fail His Word, and His power, that enables Him to fulfill His Word. The first rung of the ladder is "cleansing of heart," for in reaching out for what God has for us, we must approach Him with a clean heart.

The second rung of the ladder of faith is "knowledge of God's Word," and this is so vastly important! For faith is born in the heart by knowing God's Will for you. Many times people say, "Oh, pray that I can have faith," but God's Word tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. (Rom.10:17.)

As you live in the Word of God, faith comes instinctively, and as you learn God's promises, a conviction is born in your heart. One of our great leaders wrote thus: "Live in the Word of God and faith will come automatically."

Have you got a real hunger for God's Word? Or do you just nibble at it once in a great while when something reminds you of it? His Word says, "I found thy Words and I did eat them."

Some people want everything God has to give them, but they're not willing to take the time to read what God has to say about them and about it. Faith is born by reading God's Word because there we find if we've got the right to ask for certain things!

Read His promises, commit them to memory, they're put in His Word for a purpose! As Peter says, "By them ye might become partakers of the Heavenly nature," that is, of His Holiness. The promises in the Bible are real!

I've found them so practical: I've proven them so many times! I wish I had time to tell you about it, I know it would strengthen your faith! But it was not always so. I can remember so well in the university that I was attending.

We were studying the poetry of the Bible and having as our lesson the 23rd Psalm. And I recall the way our modernist teacher brought out the beauty of the poetry of the Bible.

But not once in all those lessons did he even hint that the promises of the 23rd Psalm were real, or could be appropriated for practical living! He never even hinted that the Lord, as a real shepherd, would lead us, that His Word and His Will for us would truly become green pastures.

Neither did he even intimate that we could walk with our shepherd through life, and He would bring such peace in our everyday walk that we would indeed be led "beside still waters."

So the 23rd Psalm was just beautiful poetry to me in those days, and, I might say, a picture of a lovely rural scene. -- And many a Christian today treats the promises of God as if they were just that, not to be appropriated, not to be put into practical use, but just lovely poetry.

But there are riches untold for us, physically, mentally and spiritually -- Spiritually most of all, of course -- if we would take hold of them! But we must lay hold of them! But there they lie in the Word of God, unused by so many, just beautiful poetry, lovely literature, the Bible. Oh what a pity that is when we know what God could do if we'd really trust Him, really believe His Word.

To very few people there comes a deep realization that there is real life in the Word of God, life that means quickening. If you're sick in body, this Scripture will mean a great deal to you, I love it: "The life of Christ shall be manifest in your mortal body." -- And that life is in God's Word.

When a farmer sows a seed, it's buried in the bosom of Mother Earth and warmed there by the great sun-lover. Likewise, when the seed is given to a human mother by the father, it's warmed by the mother and brings forth life, because there was life in the seed. It's the same in the spiritual realm:

Our Father God gives us seed of His Word, and it's warmed by the Holy Spirit and it brings forth life because there is life in the seed, God's Word! -- There's living, vibrant, abundant life in the Word of God!

Other books have lots of pages and words but there's not life in them like in the Word of God. I know how familiar this Scripture is to you, but did you think of it in this light?:

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst men." -- This verse speaks of Christ the Living Word, God manifest in the flesh, the Word coming to Earth and wrapped about with human flesh. The Bible is the

written Word, Christ was the Word manifest in the flesh, but they're one and the same.

And when that Word grows in your heart, that's life, and it quickens spirit, soul and body. God grant that you will so fill your mind with God's Word that the spirit of truth will make you impregnable against any lies of the Devil! And God grant that in your hour of any trial you'll not waver, but steadfastly hold on to God's promises until the victory is gained.

The victory is for you, my friend! Believe the Word of God against everything! May God give you the courage to stand on His Word against every doubt, and with determined importunity hold on until the promise is fulfilled and you have the desire of your heart.

The last hour that you hold on to the promise is unyielding faith may be the very hour that brings the victory! Live with it and faith will grow until you can live by the Word of God.

Teach us to pray, Lord,

Teach us to pray,

Thou art our pattern

(-- you find that pattern in the Bible --)

Thou art our pattern

Day unto day.

Thou art my surety

Now and for aye,

Teach me to pray, Lord,

Teach me to pray.

-- God bless you. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

LITTLE PEOPLE

(Program 113)

IN LUKE 19:17, GOD'S WORD SAYS: "JESUS SAID UNTO THE FAITHFUL SERVANT, WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT." Now, He didn't say "good and successful servant," He said "good and faithful servant." "Because thou hast been faithful in a very little, I will make thee ruler over many."

THE WORLD FAMOUS PREACHER, DR. JOLLET, MADE THIS COMMENT: "PEOPLE WHO ARE FAITHFUL IN THAT WHICH IS LEAST WEAR VERY RADIANT CROWNS. They are the people who are great in little tasks. They win triumphs amid small irritations, scrupulous in the ruddy roads of drudgery. They are as loyal wearing aprons in the kitchen as if they wore purple and fine linen in the visible presence of a king. They finish most obscure bits of work as if it were to be displayed before an assembled Heaven, by whom is the Lord of light and glory. Great souls are those which are faithful in that which is least."

I WAS READING TODAY ABOUT MOSES, SO FAITHFUL IN TENDING SHEEP ON THE BACKSIDE OF THE DESERT, BUT GOD WAS WATCHING. And He seemed to be a nobody then, sheep-herder, but there is was he learned humility, and how he learned to become a nobody. But mark it, in that place of obscurity, where he was a nobody, is right where God spoke to him and chose him to become a great leader for the next forty years. God made him as the Scripture says, "ruler over many." He was faithful in the small place, in the little things.

MAYBE YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE A NOBODY, JUST A SHEEP TENDER. I know many mothers, sometimes with a college education, now tending a flock of little ones for years. Sometimes she's just a nobody and hidden away in the Home. So remember this Scripture, Luke 19:17, if you're faithful in the little things, He'll make you ruler over many. Now the Words "very little" in this verse, it says faithful over a very little thing -- "because thou hast been faithful in a very little." Jesus knew that there's more self-sacrifice in little things than in the great because there's no glory from the world in these little hidden places.

SO IF YOU BELONG TO THAT LARGE GROUP OF HIDDEN, HUMBLE PEOPLE, DON'T DESPISE YOUR SMALL PLACE, but do every little thing as unto the Lord and not unto man. Your reward will

be greater than all those who received the glory of the World and the praise of man. But remember the verse, that's a wonderful verse out of God's Word, He chose service as unto the Lord and not unto man.

NOTICE HOW MANY TIMES IN THE BIBLE GOD STOOPS DOWN AND USES LITTLE PEOPLE. It's most remarkable when you go to study. There was a little maid in the house of Naaman who was instrumental in Naaman's healing. There was a little servant who later warned Naaman, that if God had asked him to have done some great thing, he would have done it. You remember the story, don't you? These were not names such as[?] Elijah, but they were ones chosen by God to trigger the great event that took place. With Naaman and with Elijah, they're the ones that, as the world says, started the ball rolling.

OF COURSE, WE DO NOT MEAN "LITTLE PEOPLE" IN GOD'S SIGHT, or little people from the Christian's standpoint, but this little nobody in the world's sight. You've known some of them, those hidden lives, so little seen or heard; oh, how God loves to use a humble one. He stoops down and lifts up to your notice the widow's mite, and the cup of cold water, and Mary's box of spices, and the lad with the loaves and fishes. Just so, you do what you have to do for the glory of God, it makes not difference how little it is; He'll take it and bring the mighty increase.

AS HIS WORD SAYS, "WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR IN DEED, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD." That's what makes it big in the end. Someone has said, "If you can't do big things, then do little things in a big way by doing them in God's Spirit, in His name and for His glory, and they'll surely be big things then!"

SOME OF THE GREATEST THINGS I'VE EVER HEARD HAVE FALLEN FROM THE LIPS OF UNKNOWN, OBSCURE PEOPLE. Some of the sweetest prayers you'll ever hear will fall from the lips, not of some great pulpiteer but from the unknown saint in the prayer meeting, or the dear, old grandmother at the bedside of some suffering one. I've heard those prayers that have gone straight to my heart, these humble ones.

IF GOD WANTED TO USE YOU FOR SOME GREATER TASK IN THE FUTURE, this is the schooling He'll put you through. -- That is the humble, insignificant task, the unseen, the unheard; for it's there that you develop the capacity for greatness.

YOU'LL DOUBTLESS ALSO HAVE TRIALS AND TESTINGS TO TAKE THE PRIDE OUT OF YOU AND TO BRING YOU TO A PLACE OF HUMILITY, WHERE HE CAN USE YOU. I fell across a sweet, little

poem today that blessed my heart when I was reading about "Second Fiddle." Someone had written -- I don't know who -- but it said to play the part of the second fiddle (that's the second heard place, the humble place) it's necessary for the harmony and life, but it's the most difficult of any instrument to play. It's hard to play second fiddle.

ONE OF THE TRAGIC LIVES THAT THE BELIEVER MAY BE GUILTY OF, IS THAT CHARACTERIZED BY ONE WE READ ABOUT: "He loveth to have the pre-eminence among you." That's from God's Word, "He loveth to have the pre-eminence among you."

ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF ANDREW WAS THAT HE GRACIOUSLY TOOK THE PLACE OF SECOND FIDDLE TO HIS BROTHER. Who hasn't heard of Martin Luther? But not many know about Philip Melancthon, his great second fiddle. Henry Ford said one time, "Whenever you see a bushel of apples, remember, it takes a lot of little apples to hold up the big ones on top." That's true of life, isn't it?

DID YOU KNOW THAT ALL HAVE THE PLACE OF PUBLIC NOTICE, THAT WE'RE JUST AS ESSENTIAL TO PRESENTING THE WORK OF OUR WITNESS TO THE WORLD? Now I'm talking much about you second fiddles, these that play second fiddle. It's there that sometimes you learn to play first fiddle. Elisha was the servant to Elijah, taking care of his bodily comforts, but when Elijah was taken to Heaven, Elisha became the prophet of the Lord. So was Mark, whose service for Paul and Barnabas was very much like the service of a valet, but later he was sent from the ministry, and the Lord used him to bring us the second Gospel.

THE CLEAR TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD IS TO HIM THAT HATH SHALL MORE BE GIVEN. If God's choice for you is the place of unseen and unnoticed service, do let the knowledge that He takes notice of your humble place be your comfort. "God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love." -- Heb.6:10. Though you feel so hidden and so in the background today, just pray that you'll be faithful in the few that He has given. For God's Word says He divides to every man severally as He wills. -- 1Co.12:11.

YOU FEEL THAT YOU CAN DO SO LITTLE FOR THE LORD, AND YOUR LIFE IS SO INSIGNIFICANT BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU'RE OF LITTLE USE. I want to impress you that the greatest, largest, most important work in all the world is open to you, that's the ministry of prayer, looked upon by the worldly as insignificant, yet it's exercising this greatest power in all the Universe. God could not give

you a greater place.

THAT WHICH IS LITTLEST IN THE SIGHT OF THE WORLD IS GRANDEST IN GOD'S SIGHT, and it's at your command, and you're to bow your head to God's command. This which is littlest in the sight of the world I say, is greatest in God's sight, and this place is at your command, you can have it. Not many people want it. In His Word, God Himself says, "He looked and found no intercessor."

DO YOU FEEL THE WORLDS' NEEDS TODAY? DO YOU HEAR THE CRIES FOR HELP AND COMFORT? Do you have compassion on the sinner and his emptiness and misery without Christ? Oh, put your ear to the bosom of Mother Earth and listen to the fettered, shackled feet, and tell them gone is oppression. If you really can pray, then Luke 4:18, Jesus says, "He sent me to release captives, to deliver the oppressed, the down-trodden, the bruised, the crushed, broken down by calamities -- so many of these the Lord is speaking of, by prayer you can help set these free, lift burdens and bring Christ to a bewildered, frustrated, sin-stricken world. There's a big place for you, a really great place, and it's open to you.

IF YOU'RE BED-RIDDEN, AN INVALID, IF YOU'RE HELPLESS IN A WHEELCHAIR, ONE OF THE AGED ONES IN THE OLD FOLKS' HOME, even the dying in the hours of borrowed time you can pray. What a great ministry can be yours. Someone's waiting for your prayers now. Let's bow our heads and have just a wee word of prayer:

"JESUS, WE DO THANK THEE FOR THESE THAT CARE ABOUT OTHERS, these that are so interested in the sick and the suffering, the sinful, that they do take time out to pray. We know, Lord, that you never ask of us a service so complete that leaves no time for resting at Thy feet. And this waiting and of expectation, You count a service most complete. Dear Lord, we ask Thee to lay the ministry of intercession upon these that feel that their lives count too little, that they have such a small place. We pray that Thou wilt lead them to a place of prayer, many, because of this little suggestion and our prayer. In Jesus' name we ask it, amen. God bless you, and remember, He's still on the Throne and prayer does change things.

LONELINESS

(Program 101)

In John Chapter 16, verse 27, Jesus said, "Ye shall leave me alone, and yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me." Such wonderful words: "I am not alone, for the Father is with me." I've been amazed in recent years to find so many, many lonely people. Multitudes of people who have an abundance of everything as far as life's concerned, things to satisfy, yet so many who complain of utter loneliness.

I live in a little town by the sea shore, an ideal home place for the old people, many of whom drive about in these little electric cars. There are no curbs at the corners and that's for their convenience so they can cross the street with ease and get up on the sidewalk. I've noticed in the eating places some whom seem so alone. One old man said one day, "I moved here because they say 'hi' to you when they pass you on the street, and the waitress smiled at me." -- Such loneliness in old age that even a smile meant so much! Well, that's one kind of loneliness, the loneliness of old age, when the life companion is gone, or old friends have passed away.

Then there's the loneliness of leadership, when because of conviction one is opposed and rejected. Jesus experienced that, and in John Chapter 6 we find these words, "Many of His disciples went back, and walked with Him no more."

Then there's the loneliness of defeat. Elijah knew this, when under the Juniper tree he wished he might die because he was so pursued.

There are other kinds of loneliness, it's something that may happen to anyone through changed conditions -- loss of loved ones and so forth. But the fact remains that a Christian doesn't have to walk alone for Jesus, for Jesus said, "I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

Before I knew the Lord, years ago I was traveling in Europe, and one day I found myself standing on the sidewalk in London, not daring to move, for a dense fog had enveloped the city. It was so dense that I could not see to move without danger, and so I stood there with hundreds teeming about me, bumping shoulders with some, but still feeling all alone. It's a frightening loneliness amidst throngs of people, and in those days before I found Jesus, I'd often feel that inner sense of loneliness that would strike terror to my heart.

But I can truly say that I've never felt that since Jesus came into

my heart. Even on strange foreign soil, under very odd circumstances, when I was caught in the trap of a revolution, I felt Christ's presence near, and His sustaining promises undergirding me with strength and courage, and I had no fear then.

Some of the loneliest people are those who are constantly surrounded by many others, yet they feel that not one of the others understands them. -- That is, the real person whom they are, and they long to share with someone their interests and problems, to sympathize with them. But it's true that even your life-long companion, your closest friend, does not really know you, does not really understand you after all, because in every life there's a locked door or two where no one enters but yourself. There is a sonnet about two lives with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one. But someone once wisely said, "You watch, somewhere along the line they will be moments when those two hearts will beat only as a duet."

So why then is there this deep craving to be understood by someone? Why is there this intense longing to have someone enter into what we feel of joys and triumphs, sorrows and defeats? For when we climb the heights of exaltation, there is no one who can fully enter into our emotions. -- And in the depths of sorrow, some tears are always shed alone. Why is it? Why is there this cry for someone to fully understand us, to truly know us?

Why is such a cry always in the soul of Man? Has God, Who made us a living soul, made some mistake, in this, His masterpiece -- Man? Has He left some void in our makeup? He's made provision for every other hunger of life -- bread for the hunger of the body, knowledge for the hunger of the mind, love for the hunger of the heart. Has He then left the soul unsatisfied? -- This longing for true understanding unfulfilled? Has He left this loneliness of ours unanswered? Well, there is an answer to these questions.

God made you for Himself, and He knew that this very sense of isolation, of not being understood, would drive you to Him. God Himself is the answer, the fulfillment. And only as He Himself fills that longing will you ever be satisfied. He made you that way, He made you for Himself, and not until He fills your life will you ever be free from that loneliness. He's put a little sign on the table of your heart which read, "Reserved for Me." He knew that when Man found human sympathy so lacking that he would seek for the Divine.

"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." -- Heb.4:15. Christ Himself is touched with your every longing. As He enters your life, He becomes your satisfaction. God's Word says so, "Christ is a satisfying portion." He'll satisfy every longing of your heart.

Christ is verily God, and God is big enough, great enough to fill any soul, and He's complete companionship, ideal and perfect friendship. This lack which you feel, this incompleteness is a need of your soul for God. He Who made you is the only One Who can fill every part, every avenue of your life. There's no need to ever be lonely. Jesus said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee, for lo, I am with you always." -- Heb.13:5; Mat.28:20.

You need not be discouraged, for you have all these wonderful promises in God's Word, with God's backing them up, with all His Power, Truth and Love. Let Him come into your lonely heart and take over, and then you can say, as Jesus said, "I am not alone because the Father is with me." Turn your lonesome heart to God. You're hungering for God, and this is His way of drawing you to Him, a manifestation of His Love and longing for you.

Some time ago a young woman wrote us, saying, "I've a hard time thinking of God as you do. I always had the intense feeling that He's angry with me, as if He is some severe judge Who has His face turned away because of my failures. -- Or a hard taskmaster, just waiting to pounce on me with His judgments." What a pity, when He says He's loved you with an everlasting love (Jer.31:3), when He's yearning in deep sympathy and understanding for your companionship. Make friends with Jesus today.

"Friends all around me are trying to find
What the heart longs for by sin undermined.
I have the secret, I know where 'tis found,
Only true friendship in Jesus abounds.
All that I need is in Jesus
He satisfies, joy He supplies.
Life would be worthless without Him,
All things in Jesus I find."

"Is the midnight closing around you,
Are the shadows dark and long?
Ask Him to come close beside you,
And He'll give you a new sweet song.

He'll give it and sing it with you,
And when weakness lets it down,
He'll take up the broke
And blend it with His Own."

I like that part so much, "He'll blend it with His Own." He'll take over every avenue of your life, stand at the controls, guide you, live His life through you and blend it with His Own.

"I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus,
That I found in Him a Friend so strong and true.
I would tell you how He changed my life completely,
He did something that no other friend could do.
No one ever cared for me like Jesus,
There's no other friend so kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and sadness from me.
Oh, how much He cares for me.

"Every day He come to me with new assurance,
More and more I understand His Words of Love.
But I'll never know just why He came to save me,
Till some day I see His blessed face Above.
No one ever cared for me like Jesus,
There's no other friend so kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and sadness from me.
Oh, how much He cares for me."

Remember this: God lives, and prayer does change things

LOVE FOR OTHERS

(Program 5)

IN LUKE 23, THE 34TH VERSE WE HAVE THESE WORDS, "THEN SAID JESUS, FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." You know, it strikes me so forcibly that so many of the expressions from the Cross were expressions of His wonderful love! He prayed for His enemies when He said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do," in the hour of their triumph over Him,

AND OF THE SHAME AND SUFFERING WHICH THEY DELIGHTED IN SHOWERING ON HIM. Yet He poured out His love in prayer for them. This is a call to everyone who believes in the crucified Christ to do likewise!

HE SAID, "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU and pray for them which persecute you." Do we really do that? You know the law of the Master is the law for the disciple! The love of a crucified Jesus is the only rule for those who believe in Him!

THEN THAT NEXT EXPRESSION OF LOVE, "WOMAN BEHOLD THY SON, AND BEHOLD THY MOTHER." THE VERY SAME LOVE THAT CARED FOR HIS FRIENDS! Jesus knew just what the anguish must be in the heart of his widowed mother, and He committed her to the care of the beloved disciple John.

SO IT WAS LOVE FOR THE ENEMY AND LOVE FOR HIS OWN. Even so, we who are disciples of Christ must not only pray for our enemies, but prove our love to Him by loving those who are about us. Do we?

"VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE, TODAY THOU SHALT BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." THIS WAS LOVE FOR THE PENITENT THIEF. He had appealed to Christ's mercy to remember him, and what an immediate answer he got to his appeal!

SO WHETHER IT WAS THE LOVE THAT PRAYS FOR ENEMIES OR THE LOVE THAT CARES FOR FRIENDS OR THE LOVE THAT REJOICES OVER A PENITENT SINNER THAT WAS BEING CAST OUT BY MAN, IN ALL CHRIST PROVED THE CROSS TO BE A CROSS OF LOVE:

THAT THE CRUCIFIED ONE IS THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF A LOVE THAT PASSES ALL KNOWLEDGE. You know, with every thought of what we owe to the love of the Cross may God help us prove

that the mind of the crucified Christ is our mind,

THAT HIS LOVE IS NOT ONLY WHAT WE TRUST IN FOR OURSELVES, BUT WHAT GUIDES US in loving others and our loving intercourse with the world about us.

I LIVED FOR SOME TIME ONCE WITH THE MOST UNLOVING PERSON, who was so perfect in the social graces and really never did a single thing that had anything of any rudeness in it, and read the Bible continually -- was just perfect in church attendance,

BUT HER WHOLE LIFE WAS JUST AN ICICLE OF COLDNESS. There had been a resentment there, and that resentment had turned into a life-long grudge for a certain person. It just seemed to drain all the love out of that life and she never seemed to do anything in real love.

I THINK I TOLD YOU THE STORY ONCE -- and so often when I think of that person it reminds me of it -- of the little boy that was in the Orphans' Home and very wealthy people came to take him because it had been decided that he could go with them.

THEY BEGAN TO TELL HIM OF WHAT HE WOULD HAVE, WHAT WOULD BE HIS POSSESSIONS in their home. And how some day he was going to have a real live pony, and how they would get him a watch that was his very own, and all the different things.

BUT HIS LITTLE HEART WAS HUNGRY FOR JUST ONE THING. When they got all through with the possessions that they would give him, and what they were going to do for him, he looked up with appealing eyes and he said,

"CAN YOU SPARE A LITTLE BIT OF LOVING?" -- And I used to think, as I had to abide in this home for a while, of this particular woman, "Oh, can't you spare just a little bit of loving?" -- Because I was going through a great trial myself at that time.

YOU KNOW, LOVE, CHRISTIAN LOVE, IS SO SURELY OF GOD! Human love has its weaknesses, but Christian love is a Divine, God-given thing. You will find that in Romans 5:5. And 1 Peter 3:8 says:

"FINALLY, BE YOU ALL LIKE-MINDED, COMPASSIONATE, LOVING AS BRETHREN." A Divine brotherly love will just bind Christians on one solidly united family. And Jude 1:21 says, "Keep yourselves in the love of God."

AS LONG AS CHRISTIANS WALK IN LOVE THEY WILL ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER. But Satan has got many tricks, and he tries so hard to draw a Christian outside the

bounds of love, and he will do it if he possibly can.

A CHRISTIAN ALWAYS GROWS SPIRITUALLY WHEN HE WALKS IN LOVE! If you want to grow spiritually, just walk in love and continually try to practice the very love of Christ in your heart. But when a Christian starts to criticize, and loses his loving spirit, he stops growing, for he is no longer walking in love.

A CHRISTIAN HAS TO WATCH AND PRAY. Not watch and criticize, but watch and pray! Satan is the author of this resentment, and these grudges and this unloving spirit.

AND THOSE THAT DO WRONG, BELOVED, THEY DON'T NEED CRITICISM, THEY NEED PRAYER AND THEY NEED LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVE. God's Word says in Romans 12:10, "In love of the brethren, be tenderly affectioned one to another, in honor preferring one another."

SOME THINGS MAY STOP, BUT LET IT NOT BE TRUE OF LOVE! IT IS THE SPARK OF LIFE and without it Christianity is really dead. In Hebrews 10:24, God's Word says, "Let us consider one another, to provoke unto love and good works." And may I just add this: That love begets love!

ONE PERSON WALKING IN LOVE WILL ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE! If you'll only show love, someone else will catch the same spirit. It's such a catching thing, the love of Christ in action! And it spreads from heart to heart. God's Word says in 1Peter 3:8,

"ABOVE ALL, BEING FERVENT (THAT IS WARM-HEARTED) IN YOUR LOVE AMONG YOURSELVES, FOR LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS." Love doesn't walk about talking about the mistakes of others! This Scripture tells that love covers with a veil of silence the mistakes of others.

THINK OF THE GOLDEN VEIL OF SILENCE ABOUT OTHERS' FAULTS, THE LOVE THAT COVERS THE FAULTS OF THE BRETHREN! God bless you. He is still on the Throne! Amen.

MAN'S HEART

(Program 26)

Welcome to Meditation Moments, and again the old-fashioned greeting, the Lord bless you and make you a blessing. As I'm sitting here in the heart of Los Angeles and praying about this message, this meditation that we're to bring to you, not very far from where I am there is this terrible situation, this rioting that really is just like anarchy! It's more like a war than anything I have known since War-days !

I've been sitting here reading the 140th Psalm about the violent man, because we are living in an age of violence. This has been a terrible situation here--Rebellion so vicious that you couldn't conceive of it unless you had seen some of the things that have gone on here.

The brutality of it has been a terrible thing. Just a few moments ago the announcement came that a mother was sitting with her two children out in the front yard to enjoy a little of the breeze, because it's such a hot day, and a sniper killed the one child and wounded the other child!

Cowards have been shooting in the dark and not even allowing the firemen to get to the fires, and trying to stop them from driving the fire trucks, and so the snipers would try to kill the firemen! It just seems impossible that such things could take place!

A hundred million dollars of destruction and burning buildings! One entire block of stores burned to the ground. Up to this time there have been 28 that are dead and nearly 700 wounded. Most of the big markets in this area have been burned, and now even the food problem is acute because of the food spoilage.

Well, how can these things be? How can they come to pass in such an age of enlightenment? Let me read this passage first from God's Word in this 140th Psalm: "Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man. Preserve me from violent men which imagine mischiefs in their hearts. Continually they are gathered together for war.

"They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent: adders' poison is under their lips. Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked. Preserve me from the violent man, who have purposed to overthrow our goings. I said unto the Lord, Thou art my God, hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord.

"O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, Thou hast covered my head in the day of battle. Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the

wicked. Further not his wicked desire lest they exalt themselves. As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them.

"Let burning coals fall upon them, let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again. Let not an evil speaker be established in the Earth."--And I pause here at that verse, because last night on the television I heard some most evil things that were said, and the arguments that came as a result of all this awful thing that's taken place. And then that verse closes with these words, "Evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him."--And I'm quite sure that God will fulfill that verse! Some of these so violent, surely they are going to reap that which they have sown.

"I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted and the right of the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name, and the upright shall dwell in thy presence." I heard so many excuses made for this riot, for which there was no excuse whatsoever.

One excuse from a certain group was that they were hitting back because of police brutality! (And the poor police, I might say, if you ever saw a group of them that worked hard and in a dangerous, dangerous situation! This awful disrespect for the police!) It's only a rebellion against the law and order, and that's part of the anarchy that comes from these hoodlums and gangsters that perpetrated this thing, because they're really a great part of this.

It's not from the group that you think whatsoever, but there were in the city at this time a vicious element. Well, I might say that this is a rebellion against the old established order of things. And as you read in God's Word, how true it is that there will be a time when men shall "wax worse and worse," God's Word says.

We wonder about things getting better, and we hear about the great society ushering in so much that's better, and some people are looking for Utopia! Instead of that we seem to be moving into an age of violence, just like God's Word tells us that these things shall happen in the Last Days.

This is a rebellion in the heart of men against the old established order of things, against constituted authority, and it's found today in every avenue of life! We've seen it a great deal amongst our teenagers, and we listen to much of it, and we hear it over the air and on television. Some of this violence is even depicted in the movies!

You listen to the music of today! Sometimes it sounds like someone has tripped over the lid of Hell and let some of the rebellion

from there just sound out! Music from the jungle!

The beat of jungle savagery is really in some of our music today, and it shows forth this very rebellion against law and order and the old constituted order of things!

And the same in art! I remember my trips to some of the art galleries, how perfectly amazed I was at some of the cubist art and the surrealism and all. The first time I ever saw it, I thought one of them was an unfinished painting. It was so ugly and distorted, and it hadn't a bit of beauty about it! So much of the art today is something like that.

I went to the Indian art exhibit some time ago in Long Beach. I couldn't understand any of it, and I couldn't see anything beautiful about so much of it, and it looked like some of the paint was sticking to the canvas against its own will! And in this surrealism and this cubist art there is this very spirit of rebellion against the order of things.

And in literature! The pornographic literature so prevalent today, and so much ugliness and atheism! It's so rarely you run across a real good book that's sweet and pure and uplifting!

Some Christians won't look at anything but the news and something scientific, something of that kind, but if you happen to let the program stay on a little longer, you can't help but see some of the violence today! Why, it looks exactly as if it comes from savagery !

Now may I just bring this thought to your own heart, because we have so little time on this program: Don't you see that when you are rebellious towards God, then you also are a rebel in your own heart?

When God has told you to do certain things, and when He speaks to your heart, it's always for your own good. God wouldn't tell you to do something unless it was for your good, unless it was that which would not only please Him, but that which would reap a rich reward for you in the future, as you follow Him.

But when there is rebellion in your heart, then it's just part of this that we've been talking about. I t's just a little taste of this which went on in our city in the last few days, in this terrifying violence that came to pass here.

When you refuse to listen to His voice, and you want your own way, that's some of the rebel that's in your heart! You know there isn't any place for compromise today, you have to be on one side or the other.

There cannot be any conforming to this rebellious violent world. T here can be no conformity! We have a number of times quoted the verses of Scripture which some of you know so well, "Be not conformed

to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."
And the lines are so clearly drawn! I know in some places people have tried to erase that clearly defined line that separates the conformity and the trans formity. You can't do it! The lines are gray there in some lives, but if you're a real Christian, as I say, that line of demarcation is clearly drawn: you're either on the one side or the other today, because in this age of violence and this age of unbelief, when men's hearts are seemingly turning against God in so many cases, why, you see that you become a part of this thing!

They look for the causes! Some try to lay it to police brutality, others try to say that it's because of conditions among the people in the ghettos, and that they've never had a chance, and this and that and the other.

But the trouble is that it's just the heart of man, which God's Word says is desperately wicked! And it is desperately wicked! And your only hope is to yield that heart utterly to the Lord Jesus Christ. Your only hope to keep from having a rebellious heart is just to yield absolutely in a full surrender. You know what surrender means to a soldier: Just throw up your hands and give up completely. That's what the song is about! There's one verse that says,

I work so hard for Jesus,
I often boast and say
I've sacrificed a lot of things
To walk the narrow way.
I gave up fame and fortune,
And I'm worth a lot to Thee.
Then I heard Him gently say to me,
I left the Throne of Glory,
And counted it but loss.
My hands were nailed in anger
Upon the cruel Cross.
Now we'll make the journey,
With your hand safe in Mine,
So lift your cross and follow, follow Me.

And that's the only safe place! And the reward! I can tell you what a reward it is, and how He will bless your heart and give you peace and rest! Obey Him, listen to His voice! Do what He bids you. God bless you.

THE MANSION JUST OVER THE HILL

(Program 132)

One day the well-known songwriter Ira Sankey passed a humble house, somewhat run-down, and asked the little girl who was sitting outside of the house if she lived there. She replied, "Yes, but my father is building a nicer home for us just over the hilltop!" -- And this was the inspiration he received for his well-known song, "I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop":

"I'm satisfied with just a cottage here below,
A little silver and a little gold.
But in that city where the ransom will shine,
I want a gold one that's silver lined.
I've got a mansion just over the hilltop,
In that bright land where we'll never grow old,
And someday yonder, we'll never more wander,
But walk the streets that are purest gold.
Don't think me poor, or deserted, lonely;
I'm not discouraged, I'm Heaven bound!
I'm just a pilgrim in search of a City,
I want a mansion, a harp and a crown!"

Some years ago there was a great fire out on the Pacific coast, in California, which ravaged many of the finest mansions there, many of them at the time worth \$50,000, some hundreds of thousands of Dollars, and even a few a half a million Dollars! It was a terrible catastrophe. And in thinking about it, I can't help but wonder:

How many of those who had such mansion there also had a mansion over There in the Father's House? I'm sure that many of the 400 who lost their homes, that there were some of them who have a mansion over There. But there are others, and some of those in the entertainment world, to whom life's just a round of pleasure and selfish living. But perhaps there were some during that inferno, who thought of the mansion over There. One man told of how this was the second time he had lost everything. Many people explained, "I've lost everything; all is lost."

Of course, that is according to how you look at Earthly possessions. If the heart and soul are set upon Earthly possessions, then when you lose them, all is lost. If there has been a misplaced

attention -- the emphasis in life on just things, home and possessions -- then when the loss comes, the hurt and the tearing loose from such things you love is something terrible. But it's because the emphasis has been in the wrong place, on the temporal instead of the eternal.

Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." -- Mat.6:21. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." -- Jn.14:1,2.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures on Earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt" (and I might add, "and fire burns), "and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." -- Mat.6:19-21.

What do you treasure most? Where is your treasure? Have you laid up treasures in Heaven? You may be poor and yet have treasure in Heaven. This is not a question of poverty or riches. It's a question of: Have you laid up treasures in Heaven?

I don't think God puts any premium on poverty, nor do riches shut the door of Heaven, though Christ made it very plain that it's hard for the rich to enter. He Himself said, "How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God." -- Mark 10:24. Yet we've known some wonderful Christians who are rich. It is possible! It's just according to where you put the emphasis, and whether you put God first. But notice He says, "How hard is it for them that trust in riches." That's the word -- "trust." It's where you put the trust, the trust in riches.

In Luke 12:16-21, the rich man with many barns was called a fool because he was not rich towards God, not because he had riches. In calling him a fool, the Lord said, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God." There's the crux of the whole matter: "Not rich towards God."

Joey Brown told of his lovely home burned to the ground, and with it his scores of trophies -- almost 100 of them. He had lost them all. He prized them so highly because he wanted to leave them to his children and his grandchildren. But Joey can leave them a better heritage, and so can you and I! -- A better heritage than such trophies!

We can leave them eternal treasures, instilling into them faith in God and confidence in the blessed Book of God, and all the joys of real

Salvation through Jesus Christ, so they'll be rich toward God and have a mansion in Heaven!

I've been searching my own heart, to see if I'm deeply, truly rich towards God. What about searching your heart? Are you putting your emphasis on the right things? -- Eternal things? Or are you putting your emphasis on material things, occupying all of your time and thought with the material? If so, then you're not rich towards God. You're not laying up treasures in Heaven.

Paul said, "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." -- Phil.3:8. Can you say amen to that?

May you have a mansion over There! He wants you to! He loves you, and He's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

THE MEASURE OF FAITH

(Program 59)

In Hebrews 10:23 we have these words: "He is faithful that promised." -- And Dr. Edmund says this: "Did you ever cash a bad cheque for a stranger? I enquired of a manager of a local supermarket, after he had cashed the cheque of my predecessor at the register. 'No I never did,' he said, 'for I never look at the cheese, I look at the man. If I can trust the man, I take his cheese!'"

And I thought, what a lesson in faith! Look at the Maker of the Promises, then there can be no question as to their absolute validity! Who makes the promises in God's Word? -- and there are thousands of them in the Bible -- God does! And His Word says, "Acquaint now thyself with Him and be at peace, thereby good shall come upon thee." (Job 22:21)

To know God is to be sure that he keeps every promise made! As David Livingstone said, "The Bible is the Word of a Gentleman." -- Abraham knew God and "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith." I love this verse! This is one of the verses that the Lord gave me when He so marvelously healed me when I was such a total invalid, and God stooped down and touched me and instantly healed me.

"Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, being fully persuaded that what He had promised He was also able to perform." (Rm. 4:20-21) Sarah received her Isaac because she "judged him faithful who had promised." -- Then James 1:6,

"Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" -- that's the insistence of Scripture -- "for a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." A personal acquaintance with the Almighty, with our Father God, a close fellowship with the Faithful One, will certainly encourage us to trust His trustworthiness!

When skies are brass
And though we pray, no answer comes,
And when our day is filled
With pain and grief and care,
Sometimes we wonder,
Is God there?
And does He hear us?
Does He know the pangs we suffer?

And if so,
Because He is Omnipotent
And we so weak
And our small strength spent,
Why not reach down His mighty hand to help?
-- Could we but understand His ways with us! Could we but know what
God is doing for us now! Oh child of His, why should we know?

He's the potter,
We the dust,
Shaped by His hand,
Can't we just trust?
Trust enough that He,
the perfect One,
Will finish what He has begun?
The Master Artist's Own design
Worked out in lives
Like yours and mine.
The Shepherd knoweth
What is best
For that small lamb
Upon His breast,
And tenderly the Father feeds
And nourishes the child He leads.

Some day we shall raise our voices in praise, in swelling
symphonies of praise, because we could not bear it yet to know what
God is doing for us now! In Romans 12:3 we find the words, "God hath
dealt to every man a measure of faith."

Don't say you don't have any faith, for God's Word says you do!
Every man has a measure of faith! Many people don't use their faith,
and if you don't use it, just like the muscles of your arms, when you
don't use them, they become flabby.

Faith is a very simple thing, but you've got to keep on exercising it
and then it will grow. Some people think of faith as something very
mysterious and far beyond their reach. Others think of faith as a
peculiar gift that you're born with, and you have it to a great degree but
others don't have it!

Someone said, "some people are born with such faith, but though
I struggle and struggle to have it, I don't think I'll ever attain to it!" --
That's a strange conception of the nature of faith!

The principle of faith and the operation of it is so simple that even

a child can grasp it! It's not through scholarly analysis that the deepest secrets of God are ever revealed! Not to the wise and prudent! It is to the simple soul. As Jesus said, you become as a little child.

It's to those that just dare to take God at His Word! Do you dare? Just dare to take God at His Word. It's often some little nonentity, or even, as I say, a child, who pushes right through all the arguing and doubting, and puts the great intellectuals to shame as he reaches out and takes from God the fulfillment of some promise that the intellectual doesn't seem to be able to grasp.

These humble little people who just take God at His Word with such an utter dependence on the veracity of the Lord, just seem to be saying with their very soul, "Amen!" to everything that God says. -- You know, faith is not some wonderful sensation, a glorious feeling! It's an entirely different realm from sight or sound!

God has given us five senses: feeling, seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling. When we taste something sweet we have the evidence it's so because our taste is given us as evidence. No matter what anyone else says, we know it's sweet, we have the evidence. This is true regarding all of our senses.

In the spiritual life, God gives us faith to witness to us of spiritual things, in the spiritual life, just as our five senses bring evidence of temporal things. We accept what our five senses tell us, just so we accept faith as the evidence, and it brings it to pass and makes real to us all that we take by faith! Matthew 8:13 says, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee."

Faith is the evidence that we have the thing that we ask for! Now you know in the social world that faith is the principle that binds families; it cements friendships in the business world: faith is the foundation of the commercial confidence in business! Is it strange then that this same principle applies in the spiritual Kingdom?

Just as an unseen force of attraction holds the material world together and the unseen principle of confidence holds the financial world together, just so the unseen law of faith is the underlying force which holds the spiritual world together.

Just recently I saw such a wonderful answer to prayer when faith was exercised! A little woman had come to the door of our cottage selling something, I don't remember what it was. But just at the same time she came, the Rev. Gardner, a friend, came to call upon me.

He had just come in through the front door when the pastor of the little church around the corner knocked on the back door, and here

we were, four people brought together: I didn't know the woman who had come to the front door, and she was suddenly stricken very very ill.

I asked the two men, both ministers of God, to pray with me for her, and so we prayed earnestly, and one of the pastors put his hand over her head, and suddenly she looked up with the strangest look after we had ceased praying, and she said,

"You know, this is a miracle! The most wonderful thing has happened!" She said, "I got suddenly so very ill and dizzy, I felt I was going to faint. I've had awful headaches. I've always had them, and I was having the most terrible headache, and I haven't been able to move my head to the right side!

"Now see how I can move my head? And my headache's gone!" -- And that woman has never had a headache since then; she's never had any of that stiffness in her neck since then!

Now, it isn't so much that wonderful healing that I want to mention, and how instantly God took care in that case, as the fact that God in His mercy brought these people all together! The two ministers came unexpectedly, they didn't know each other. I didn't know the woman: but God had it planned for us to come together, just like that.

I was telling that to a group one afternoon, and there was a scientist in the group, and he said with some disgust, "You don't mean to tell me that you really believe that God stoops down to a little group of people like that?"

"That God was so interested that He'd bring one pastor in one door and another in the other, and then bring this woman in there -- and that He was that much interested in one human being? I don't think that woman was that important to God!"

I said, "well I believe it! And I'm just as important to God as that one little sparrow that Jesus talked about, that 'not one sparrow falls but the Heavenly Father knows it!' Do you know that even the hairs of your head are numbered and the Lord knows what the number is?" Then I continued:

"You are talking about the atom being an active creative force in the Universe! Well, faith is in the spiritual world as an active creative force which produces effects and brings mighty things to pass just the same.

"Mix together three things: sincere prayer, simple faith and the power of God, and you've got a mightier force than the atom! Just because faith isn't in the natural realm or in the realm of sense, it isn't any the less really active in the Universe." -- I don't think he was

convinced at all, but I want to tell you that I'm convinced, beloved.

The law of faith is just as real, just as practical, as any of God's other laws! Take this verse and believe it, won't you? Just take it into your heart. God's Word says in Romans 8:2,

"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes me free from the law of sin and death." -- The law of sin working in your soul, the law of death: sickness working in your body.

You can be free by this law if you only believe! Won't you trust Him? Won't you take hold of His promises and honestly thank God from the bottom of your heart that He's heard you? By faith accept His promise. You can be sure that your faith is sufficient for Him to work in your behalf.

God bless you and help you to reach up and really believe Him and really trust Him for the need of your heart. He's still on the Throne, and prayer will change things!

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTIANITY

(Program 78)

One sat alone
Beside the highway begging,
His eyes were blind,
The light he could not see,
He clutched his rags
And shivered in the shadows
Then Jesus came
And bade his darkness flee.
When Jesus comes
The Tempter's power is broken,
When Jesus comes
The tears are wiped away,
He takes the gloom
And fills the life with glory,
For all is changed
When Jesus comes to stay.

Greetings and welcome to Meditation Moments. May God wonderfully bless you, and again we say may He use you with His great blessings for others.

I cannot but God can
Oh balm for all my care,
The burden that I drop
His hand will lift and bear.
Though eagle's pinions tire,
I walk where once I ran,
This is my strength to know
I cannot, but God can.
I know not, but God knows.
Oh blessed rest from fear,
All my unfolding days
To Him are plain and clear.
Each anxious puzzled 'why?'
From doubt or dread that grows,
Finds answer in this thought:
I know not, but God knows!

Christianity is such a miracle all 'round! To me it shall never cease to be a marvel, the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ! And no matter what angle you look at Christianity, it is always a miracle, the most amazing, amazing miracle!

And I've just stood on the outside and watched lives that we have dealt with and that have come to us sometimes for prayer, and watched God transform those lives! I've seen many of them and it ceases not to be such a marvel to me!

Because a man becomes a new creature by receiving the life and nature of God. There are so many Scriptures to illustrate this: Colossians 2:13, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (make alive) together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses:"

We have been made alive together with Him! And Verse 12: "Wherein also ye are raised with him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." -- And so in the mind of the Father, we are made alive with Him, that's what happens in this transformation that takes place when there comes a new birth, this wonderful new creation.

When He was made alive in the Spirit, we were made alive in the Spirit! That's the legal aspect of the new creation. This becomes a reality to us when we personally accept Christ as Savior and confess Him as Lord. -- The life of God comes into our spirits and recreates us.

"And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" Ephesians 2:1. It's a miracle of Christianity, an actual new creation.

I remember years ago hearing it told and it was a real story, it truly happened, about a Christian minister in Los Angeles, and into their home they sometimes took young people and helped them and encouraged them.

And there came to that home a girl who had lived in the very depths of sin, but there came a day when this wonderful man of God and his wife, felt that she had been there long enough, and that she should make room for someone else now that she was a new creature in Christ Jesus, forgiven and cleansed; that they should make room for someone else who needed them more.

So this girl took a position as a chamber-maid in a hotel. She was getting along beautifully, but they had not seen her for a long time. Before she left this home she said to this pastor,

"Brother Eldridge, I'd like to know, can God change my face? He's

changed my heart, He's changed my life, can He change my face? The marks of sin are still on my face, and I don't want to ever go home to mother until my face is changed and doesn't show the sin."

Then Brother Eldridge told her about people he'd known whose faces really did change, through all the changes of their lives God brought a complete change. It was about 8 months after that that he was up just sitting on the balcony on the mezzanine floor of this hotel, and here was this young woman dusting.

And she walked up to him and spoke to him and he didn't recognize her. Again she mentioned his name, but he didn't recognize her, and she threw up her hands and she said, "Oh, I'm going home! I'm going home to mother!"

"God has changed my face like He changed my life!" -- Well so many times it is such a complete miracle, such a complete transformation: changing the lives, the loves, the habits, even the face of some. For the Word says again, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin." (Eph.2:1.)

There is a wonderful Scripture in Hebrews 9:26 also -- because I do believe that He that hath borne our sins has also born our diseases:

"But now, once at the end of the World hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifices of Himself." -- He puts sin away that you might be born again, become a new creature, that the sin nature which had held you in bondage to the Adversary, shall be eradicated and the nature of God should take its place.

Now you are in God's family and of the righteousness of God. Hebrews 10:38 says, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Now I believe there is no escaping the fact that if He dealt with the sin problem, that He deals with the sickness and disease problem: that He bore our sicknesses and our disease. God's Word in Isaiah 53:10 says, "It pleased the Lord to bruise him; He hath put him to grief." Well what does that mean?

We also have these Verses, "He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not." Then it goes on to say, "Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." And at the last Verse,

"He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." -- (Isa.53:10,3,4,5.) -- Matthew 8:17 says, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by

Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Our infirmities: Those little mental quirks, the things that make it disagreeable and unpleasant, many of them are infirmities of the mind. But just the same how we do need that healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ! And it's all included in this miracle I'm talking about! And I say this to those who are sick and suffering: He's still on the throne and prayer changes things!

THE MIRACULOUS

(Program 120)

"It took a miracle to put the stars in place.
It took a miracle to hang the World in space.
But when He saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle of Love and Grace."

This precious song "It Took a Miracle" brings to memory Grace Noel Crowls wonderful little poem "The Miracle." It goes this way so precious:

The pain has ceased, oh heart, somewhere.
We met the Master on the way.
It may be that we marked Him not amid the multitude today.
But it was Jesus, for behold, the old old pain is gone
And lo a miracle no less than that upon the road to Jericho,
No less my heart we leap to meet the joy His healing fingers hold.
That he who caught the glad sweet light across Judea's hills of
old, oh Master,
Thou whose love still keeps Thee pitiful, I bow to Thee.
My wistful tired heart is filled with this strange wondrous miracle
ecstasy.
I thank Thee that we still can find Thee close along the old earth
way,
That risen, yet somehow somewhere we met Thee on the road
today."

I can't understand how anyone can help but believe in miracles when the Bible is such a miraculous book and when you meet some of these great intellectuals here contending in sort of an academic style and the supercilious language that the passing of the Apostolic era, why the miracles passed away and the fact and expectation of miracles was

not to be in the church anymore. Well, it only took two elements for the working of a miracle in the Early Church.

The power of God and the faith of man. Surely the power of God hasn't changed of course. The Church has changed some and our faith has changed some but it's just the same whenever true faith of some humble believer meets the power of God there still can be a miracle and it's happening all the time. You know God's faithfulness to His Word has absolutely involved Him in the performance of miracles, because they are necessary to accomplish what God has promised.

Oh, the Bible is such a supernatural revelation and reveals the supernatural and acts of the supernatural God, therefore it's a supernatural book and that's one reason you have to read it so much to have faith and it has such a miraculous affect upon our lives and its transforming power and that's why we say so many times, Oh, read your Bible and live in the Word. God's Word says, "I found Thy Words and I did eat them."

You know one thing I can't understand how it is that anyone can read the newspapers today and see what's taking place in this World and yet they will not have faith in God's Word for God's Word is certainly showing forth prophetic power of the Word of God, the fulfillment and present-day events and the very things that are happening are shown right in the Word of God.

You know faith in the Bible creates faith in the miraculous. God and His Son Jesus Christ and faith in the Christ in the Bible makes for faith in the testimony of all the disciples and it just goes on and on, for real faith believes in the changeless Christ and His power brings the same results today as it was with those disciples and you'll find wherever real faith is manifested you can find real miracles. Christ Himself said, "The works that I do shall ye do also and greater works for I go unto the Father." That's John 14:12. Why then is it strange that Christ in answer to prayer will do just the same today? Is that strange?

In Jesus' last instruction to His disciples He said, "These signs shall follow them but believe in My name they shall cast out devils and they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Why is it strange then to expect miracles along God's real believers? Jesus also

said that verse we repeated so many times, "All things are possible to him that believeth."

Well, are we wrong then to assume that miracles are not in evidence in the Church today it must be because of the absence of faith and not because Christ or His promises have changed in the very least. Is it hard for you listener to believe that Christ can manifest His power today? Is it hard for you? Oh, I tell you if you live in that Word, if you'll eat that Word as God's Word says and just give it a chance, trust the promises, utterly build your faith upon them you'll see things come to pass far beyond the things of the natural, it'll be in the realm of the supernatural.

The chief business in the Church is in the field of the supernatural, the Church is still the custodian of the same divine forces and power with which the eleven used to turn the World upside down. The Scripture said of them, "These are they that turn the world upside down." Those 11 humble unknown men had such confidence that the supernatural power was at their command that they dared to lay siege to even the whole Roman empire and shook it to its very foundation.

Can you doubt then? Oh, I pray that God will help each one of us to recapture our sense of the supernatural and have the confidence in the reality of divine power in the blessed miraculous Word of God. Now, not only is all this a conviction but I can truly say it's been a blessed experience for many years in my own life in things material and physical as well as spiritual to trust God to work a miracle when some desperate need arose like in 2Chronicles. I wish I had time to read it.

Oh, I don't say dear ones that it always happens but God has answered prayer in that way more times than He's ever kept us waiting or said no. 2Chronicles 16:9 says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong. To show Himself strong in behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards Him." His compassion, willingness, faithfulness is just the same. Why, in behalf of any needy trusting child He yearns to see faith and meet your needs and He assures you that He's no respecter of persons.

Put your utter faith in Him, trust Him now in faith in Jesus Christ and whole-hearted surrender to Him. You're in a position to

claim His promises and utter confidence. Claim this one that He can work a miracle for you also. Listen to it carefully, Romans 8:32: "He that is God spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not with Him also freely give us all things." Oh, His power is just the same today and for you. No respecter of persons, remember. Yes, He's still on the throne and prayer does change things.

MOSES FORSOOK EGYPT!

(Program 33)

Welcome again to Meditation Moments: God bless you and give you a profitable day. A day lived in the consciousness of God's presence is bound to be profitable!

Now you've often heard the expression: "the cold gray dawn of the morning after," and that's what it is for some this morning, the morning after election night.

I'm sure there are many like myself that are glad this stormy battle is over, but there are many also who are disappointed today. Your choice for president didn't win, but others are delighted because they worked hard and the man of their choice won. You know, as I watched and listened the last few weeks I couldn't help but note the motives behind the choosing of candidates.

With some it was a selfish motive, with others it was a well-informed conviction that his choice was the man best qualified for such a high place. And such a choice should have been made only after one was thoroughly informed about all the issues involved, and then deliberately and seriously thinking it over, and praying as some have done, then to have voted.

You know, choice at some critical period in life is always a serious thing! A young man called me this week for an appointment. He wanted prayer and counseling about marriage. He felt that his decision would determine his future happiness and usefulness. He was torn by conflicting motives. He loved her intensely but she was not a Christian. He is a Christian and he felt that his decision might also determine his eternal happiness.

The poised scale quivered between human love and the Love of God. And at last she averred that she would never be a Christian, and so the scale turned on the side of duty to God and he made his choice. -

- He took God alone. But you know, it's sweet that at the last love did speak out these words, he told her, "I'll go on to my mission field alone, but I will always wait and pray, knowing God can change your heart."

Another young man came against an even greater choice. This was many years ago and you've read about it in God's Word, and I consider he's one of the greatest characters in all history, Moses. You know, Solomon was known for His great wisdom and Isaiah for his vision, David for his Psalms and Peter for his zeal,

But Moses was great because of the choice he made. It was such a mighty decision! We read here in the 11th Chapter of Hebrews where his name is enrolled among the heroes of faith in God's Honor Gallery: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the children of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ's greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." -- Isn't that a wonderful Scripture! You read that 11th Chapter of Hebrews today if you have a chance.

Moses, who had as a babe been drawn from the bulrushes by Pharaoh's daughter, was reared in her father's palace. There was such wealth, and every luxury! But when he came to age he had to come face-to-face with the king, who challenged him to make a choice. Now he must choose to forsake his own people because he was the son of Jochebed, and the blood of Levi flowed in his veins.

He was a Hebrew, not an Egyptian, and Pharaoh demanded that he declare himself now: will he cast his lot with his alien mother and be true to Egypt and wear the crown of the Pharaohs? Or will he choose his own people? Oh, what a crisis hour it was for this young man Moses! Just picture this time as he climbs to some high place and looks at the lights of the palace as they twinkle out from the imperial city!

The palace with all its riches and beauty, the things that he had been used to all his life. Then he looks south at the pyramids, and as he did so he saw the glow of the brick kilns where his own people, slaves of Pharaoh, were making bricks.

And as they dragged half-starved, and moved at the sound of the slave-drivers whip, Moses' heart burned within him. They were his people, and the same blood ran in his veins. And then, they were also God's people.

But if he chooses to be one of them he must forget all the comfort and luxury he has always had, wear the hated garb of the slave and

renounce forever the only mother he'd ever known, Pharaoh's daughter. But he made his choice and he chose, as God's Word says, "to suffer affliction with the children of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

Now these pleasures of sin spoken of here in the Bible were more tempting than appears by this mere statement, that he refused to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, because Egypt was at that time the most attractive spot on Earth. Her granaries were bursting with grain and the wealth of the World poured into her treasury, and Moses was heir to it all.

From the possessions of the mightiest empire on Earth he would have to turn to just slavery! And Moses was wise. He had been educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians! He knew exactly what such a choice would mean and he wasn't turning that way through any ignorance of just what it meant.

But he was not only educated and wise, but he was far-sighted, and that's what I really want to talk to you about: this far-sightedness, this willingness to sacrifice for the future gain. For God's Word says, "he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." In other words, he knew that the pleasures of sin were only for a moment, and the future recompense of God's reward was for all eternity.

He believed that without God's favor, a millionaire is only a pauper! Now, it was said of Christ, "though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor." And this is the choice that Moses had to make.

The choice that Moses embraced entailed poverty and suffering and terrible humiliation, but he'd rather be the least of God's children here, without an earthly crown, and wear a diadem forever over there.

And so he took a stand with God's children that he might stand with them before the eternal king over there. Oh, what a choice! That's why his name's enrolled here in God's Gallery of Fame, in this 11th Chapter of Hebrews where it says, "By faith Moses...By faith Abraham...By faith Sara..." and so on: you know the Chapter and his name is there, shining amongst them.

In 2 Peter 1:9, it speaks of a people who are blind and cannot see afar off. So many are like that today when they make their choices, they can see only the present. They sell out the future for the present.

They're blind to the reward that would have been theirs if they had sacrificed the present for the future, and so many are blind spiritually to the great recompense of reward that God has.

They have spiritual nearsightedness of the soul. Standing with

Moses on the steps of the palace it looks like a foolish choice, but standing on the Steps of the Throne of God over There, as Moses looks back, what a wise, what a glorious choice it was!

He became one of the World's greatest leaders: he led a strange band of people on a long journey, but oh, what a story it is! His name has gone down in history and men today rise up and call him blessed, and his influence reaches to this very day. I wonder about your choices today? -- Myopia is a disease, it is an affliction of the eyes. It is a Greek word, "myopia," and it means nearsightedness.

I wonder if you have spiritual myopia? You're not far-sighted, or you're living mostly for the present and you don't keep your heart and eyes on the great recompense of reward. The Lord says if we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him.

Are there pleasures of any kind that are blinding you to that far look where there is the great recompense? The realities of eternity are pleasures for ever more! God who loves you has made great plans for you and for your life. Are you making your choice? Does the time come some evening when you could read your Bible, but instead of that you just look at some ungodly television program?

In the morning, when you could start the day with a real season of prayer in the presence of God and get His leading for the day, do you just sleep a little longer? They're little choices it seems, but oh, they're big after all! And myopia does take over, you're not far-sighted!

Better to sacrifice now, dearly beloved, and then glory afterward. God loves you and God has planned so much, so very much for you. Won't you take His Way? Live in the Word, trust Him to work in all out for your good and His glory.

Make your choice! He's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things and will change them for you

OLD AGE AND VICTORY

(Program 66)

Song: Jesus Led Me All the Way

Someday life's journey will be o'er
And I shall reach that distant shore
I'll sing while ent'ring Heaven's door
Jesus led me all the way

Chorus:

Jesus led me all the way
Led me step by step each day
I will tell the saints and angels
As I lay my burdens down
Jesus led me all the way

If God should let me there review
The winding paths of earth I knew
It would be proven clear and true
Jesus led me all the way

And hither to my Lord has led
Today He guides each step I tread
And soon in Heav'n it will be said
Jesus led me all the way

-- A precious message in that song! And the best of it all is that it's true, that the Lord has led us all the way!

Someone asked me the other day, "Why do you so often tell your age?" -- Well, I think it's wonderful how the Lord has led and kept me through so many years! I'm in my 80th year, and I'll tell it again!

I like to shout it from the housetops because it does glorify the Lord, what the Lord has done. It's such a miracle when I was such a pitiful invalid in bed for about 5 years -- the broken back and all that happened to me -- and here the Lord has led all the way so wonderfully!

I wouldn't fear old age if I were you, some of you that are so

fearful about it and you think that old age brings all sorts of troubles and inconveniences and is so miserable! Life as a Christian has been gloriously adventurous, excitingly wonderful, unbelievably victorious at times, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

But I do confess that without the Lord life would have been tediously humdrum and filled with disappointments and failures. I've talked to so many people that are just haunted by a sense of futility and they're restless and they have an unnamed hunger because they don't have the Lord and they don't have real faith in God.

How many people do you know, especially of older people, that have radiant, joyful faces? So many faces of the old people that you pass by on the streets are fear-ridden and unhappy, and the reason for that is their lack of faith in God. They don't have an anchor in the time of storm, they don't have the Lord to trust in!

So there isn't joy upon the face because the joy isn't in the heart. I think I told you once about what Gypsy Smith said, he talked about a dear old saint of God, a dear old mother in Israel that he had had fellowship with in the Lord. He said that Jesus just shone out on her face, that her face was like "an old cathedral lighted up for evening worship!"

Sometimes we meet some of the old people that are like that, they have such trust in God and they testify to the wonderful victories along the way and their experience in life: It's because they have believed the Lord! They say, "He is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"

"The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps.27:1,2) -- I don't even fear the years! Come what may, I'm in God's hands, He's a loving Father, and I know that all things will work together for good to them that love God! (Ro.8:28) What a glorious standard to live by! It's like Raymond Richy used to say, "It just gets gooder and gooder all the time!"

I found this little poem which I would truly say is my testimony:

I'm not looking for the sunset
As the swift years come and go.
I'm looking for the sunrise
Of the golden morning glow.
Where the light of Heaven's glory
Will break forth upon my sight,
In the land that knows no sunset
Nor the darkness of the night.
I'm not going down the pathway

T'ward the setting of the sun,
Where the shadows ever deepen
When the day at last is done.
I'm walking up the hillside
Where the sunshine lights the way
To the glory of the sunrise
Of God's never-ending day.
I'm not going down, but upward
And the path is never dim!
For the day grows ever brighter
As I journey on with Him!
My eyes are on the hilltops
Waiting for the sun to rise,
Waiting for His invitation
To the Home beyond the skies!

Jesus talked about faith and chided the people of His day of having so little faith. Sometimes we see how fearful people are and how they even fear the years that are coming upon them. God doesn't change with the years. The Lord's just the same and His promises are just as true!

His promises are just as much for one who's old as they are for one who's young! He remains ever the same! God's Word says, "O faithless generation, how long must I be with you?" -- Jesus chided the people of His day of having so little faith. Some people are so worried about the cares of life, and Jesus spoke to them,

And said, "O ye of little faith, your Father knows you have need of these things." -- When the years come upon you, He'll know what your needs are just the same as when you were young and full of life and vitality. None of the promises are changed at all! The verse "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" works just as well at 80 as it did at 18!

Jesus was surprised at the lack of faith among His own people and at the remarkable faith of foreigners like the Roman Centurion or the woman of Syrophenician, when His own people had so little faith! Oh, I'm amazed sometimes at the lack of faith I meet amongst the dear ones that have been Christians for so long!

In times of supreme test, God has revealed Himself, and I find Him so real that I can just shout with absolute confidence, "I know in Whom I have believed!" (2Tim.1:12) -- In sudden emergencies, in prolonged trials, oh, He so fulfills His Word, and the promise in this

verse "I will in no wise fail thee." (He.13:5,6)

"For He Himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, nor will I in any wise forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what men shall do unto me." -- It's a declaration of confidence! Then comes this question, what shall men do unto you? "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rm.8:31)

And so in sudden emergencies and trials that are sometimes prolonged, God fulfills His promises just the same as He did in youthful days. He's saying, I will not fail thee in old age. When you are in the midst of great stress, just keep courage! I'll not in any wise forsake thee! -- And He means it for you!

Why can't you take it personally? That's the God that we know, that we have proven year after year under all conditions, and He's standing ready at this moment to meet you in any trial that you're passing through. He's speaking to you now! All those who feel that they can go no further unless their loads are lightened or they can feel God's healing touch upon their sick bodies: This is for you.

God if faithful. He has said it: "In thy manifold mercies thou Me not!" (Neh.9:19) -- No matter what your age, no matter what the trouble, you are a peculiar concern of the Lord's at this very moment. You are the one that He's longing to reach.

"Come unto Me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Mt.11:28) -- You are His peculiar care at this moment. Dear Jesus, bless and comfort and answer prayer. Amen.

ONE THING BEFORE ALL THINGS

(Program 85)

You remember the story of the father who had the afflicted son, in Mark 9. This son had been brought to the disciples but they could do nothing for him. Then you remember that the man said to Jesus, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us."

And Jesus replied, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."(Mk.9:23) -- Now this thought, "All things are possible," that just seems to stir the heart with the grandest hopes, and the mind leaps to high visions of mighty miracles and great achievements and manifestations of God's power!

"All things are possible!" That just opens such vistas of possibility, doesn't it? Because of something I'm going to say that might be taken contrary, I want to fully assure you that I believe that. I believe that all things are possible, and they are possible to you; but God's Word says,

"But one thing is needful," and the one thing needful has to come before the all things that are possible! There are so many disappointed people who have rushed into the presence of God and demanded the "all things" before they had met the requirement of the "one thing" necessary.

This one thing is a humbling thing in comparison with the vistas of power and possibility when the door of hope swings open on the all things. "But one thing is needful!" You can't neglect the one thing needful and climb up some other way to a God-blessed, empowered ministry.

There are some workers who have just sacrificed everything, but they have an unfruitful ministry because they didn't realize that it takes the one thing needful to make the all things possible. You can't neglect the one thing needful unless you first do the thing that Jesus spoke to Mary about, Mary and Martha. He said to Martha, "Thou art troubled about many things."

And of Mary He spoke in this way, "She hath chosen the good part," the one thing that cannot be taken away from her. This He said of Mary, not because Mary was any better than Martha, we don't believe that, we believe that Martha loved the Lord dearly.

But Mary had chosen eternal things that never disappoint, that never fail. Martha had her mind on things not needful: "What shall we eat, and what shall we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed?" --

What is your choice today?

Some will say, "This thought of all things being possible, that just thrills my soul, I want more faith so I can grasp for the all things! Faith is so wonderful, think of what faith can do! All things are possible! You can hardly conceive all things are possible to him that believes!"

Well, we believe it too! Many times my own heart has been lifted up and thrilled as I've seen faith bring to pass the all things. But I'm ashamed to confess that numbers of times I've reached for the "all things" and grasped only emptiness because my plans were frustrated and hopes were blasted, because I didn't put the "one thing needful" first: To sit at Jesus' feet and learn of Him! And that is what this whole Meditation is about:

Don't reach out for the "all things" until you first sit down with Jesus and partake of the one thing. If you had asked Martha if she took time to pray and talk to her Lord, she might have answered, "Why certainly, a few minutes here and there."

Like so many of us, just the ragged minutes that are left over: Not time that is definitely planned, when there are no distractions. We try to crowd so many things into the temporal space that would fit one thing!

Mary didn't, she took the one thing needful and put it in its rightful place, and that's first. Like Paul said, "This one thing I do." -- That's why Paul was such a great man: The one thing needful came before the all things that were possible with him.

I do say beloved that it's true, this "all things" opens a door of hope for everyone, that includes you and your need at this time! Don't let me hurt your faith in that! You can't exclude the particular thing that's your particular need, no matter how hopeless it looks, for the Word says,

"All things are possible to him that believes." -- So often I think of those who have some chronic illness for many many years until they've sunken into a state of conscious helplessness, and they just simply endure, they've no real expectancy at all.

There is just no fight left in them for they've accepted their affliction as just part of them, something to live with, but God says all things are possible! How many times have I seen this Verse bring release and victory when the conditions have been met!

What are the conditions? "If thou canst believe." -- And how are you going to believe? You'll only believe by living in God's Word! I've seen some real miracles. I have to believe it, for my own life has been a

miracle of God's grace and healing power! But there has to come this "first thing first!"

You have to live before God in the one thing that's needful, before the all things that are possible. You have a need today? God wants to supply that need, He says so. God will not fail you. Your door of hope swings open on this Verse, this wonderful Verse.

Do you believe? Is faith strong to take hold of the promise you need? It'll grow strong only as you learn of God and read His Word, give more time to prayer and seek Him -- the one thing that's needful. Beloved, we are living in dangerous times, live in prayer, there is a great ministry for you there. God bless you.

OUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

(Program 124)

When I was with my husband during his declining time when he was ill, I would visit him at the hospital, and I would watch those dear lives there in the waiting rooms, and those in their beds. I would think of all the suffering, the human suffering. Some of those dear ones, especially the very aged, lie there day after day, and it went into weeks after awhile. For a month I visited the hospital, and no one ever came to see them. I'd look into some of those poor drawn faces, their children never cared enough to come. And then I'd see them draw the curtain about a life, and after awhile that bed was empty -- but nobody ever came. It was all too much for the Chaplain whom I got to know quite well.

Then I would look out through the windows of the tall hospital, out to the highway where cars were rushing back and forth, and I would think about poor lost humanity -- so many who are sorrowing, so many with broken hearts. How much they need the Father's mercy, and how much the Lord needs us, as lower lights, to keep burning. There in the hospital this hymn would come to me, which I would sing sometimes to my husband, sitting at his bedside:

"Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His Lighthouse ever more,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.

"Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing,
For the lights along the shore.

"Trim your feeble lamp, my brother,
Some poor sailor, tempest tossed
Is trying now to make the harbor,
And in darkness may be lost.

"Some poor fainting, struggling seaman,
You may rescue, you may save.

Let the lower lights be burning,
Send a gleam across the wave."

That wonderful old song coming to my heart made me long so sometimes that people would catch a vision of service for others.

"When the Son of man shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the World:

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.'

"Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee? Or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? Or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee?"

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." -- Mat.25:31-40.

God has entrusted us with some sacred responsibilities, certain things which have to have the first attention in life. Lots of things are demanding our attention, so many things are happening on the stage of life today. The calls are multitudinous, and there is so little time for them in the mighty rush of time.

We have to face the issue, of what is the greatest outstanding purpose of life. God's Word tells us that, first of all, it's to work out our own salvation. -- Phil.2:12. But after that it is the salvation of those around us, the furtherance of God's Kingdom. These are the sacred trusts and they have to be put in the rightful place.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." -- Mat.6:33a. Oh, how trite that may sound to us, we hear it so many times. But the first things for us as Christians are those which are eternal, not temporal. But so often God is set aside and the merest trifles are attended to before those two outstanding purposes in life: Your own salvation and the care of the souls about you.

These two great realities of life are eternal purposes, but so often they're set in a secondary place. As someone aptly put it: There's a

misplaced attention, a false priority. The emphasis in life is put in the wrong place.

There was an older woman from Valparaiso, Indiana, who took a trip from Valparaiso to Chicago, Illinois, which was arranged by the president of Valparaiso, as she had always wanted to take that trip. Afterwards, the conductor related that during the trip, the woman, fussed with her handbag and her little satchel all the way to Chicago, trying to arrange things -- adjusting a little pillow she had brought along for her back, and fussing about, never looking out at the scenery. She had always talked about wanting to see what it looked like on the road between Valparaiso and Chicago, and the president of Valparaiso had tried to meet the desire of her heart.

But she didn't deal with the main purpose of her trip at all. She forgot what it was all about and just fooled around with those little, inconsequential things. It was a misplaced attention, a false priority. The emphasis was in the wrong place. If we think temporal things have not had priority in our lives, quietly and sincerely, perhaps we ought to go over the past month, the past week, and meditate on how much of the temporal rather than the eternal has occupied our time and thought.

We sing we are pilgrims and strangers in this World, but I tell you, beloved, we don't act like it a great deal. No man is a great man, no woman is a great woman, unless they have a sense of values. If we keep from doing the better thing because we're so occupied with things that are so secondary, then God's going to have to judge us. That's what the Scripture is about, He said, "I was sick, and ye visited Me not." -- Mat.25:43b.

There are great possibilities in your life, there's such promise in your life, and you have all the resources of Heaven at your command. What a blessing and joy you could be in your neighbor. We're going to have to give an account of what we might have been, because God's going to judge us by what we might have been. He's going to judge us by the life that we might have lived.

God's going to ask some day, "What kept you from doing these things?" What kept you from these things which should have been put first?" The World is so full of opportunity, and eternal things are calling so loudly today. The need is so very desperate.

We are the lights along the shore, Christians are the lower lights. The Upper Lights up There are God, His Son -- Jesus -- and the Holy Spirit, but we are the lower lights. Nobody else is going to tell them if

we don't. No one else will call on the sick and those in prison and give them clothing if we don't.

A man came to our door the other day, was brought by for us to talk to by someone who picked him up on the highway. He was 60 years old and no one had ever presented him with the plan of Salvation, no one had ever talked to him about Jesus.

If we fail in the supreme task of life and make others shipwreck of the great purpose of life, which is our salvation and then the salvation of others, and we come to the end of the road and offer God trifles instead of the great immortal purpose of life, what is our judgment going to be?

We have at our command the remedy for all the World's ills, the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Lord, forgive us and cleanse our hearts from adversities which cause us to accept secondary things and which keep us from fulfilling our mission in life.

Your attitude may be. "Let the World and need be forgotten. Let someone else win the lost souls and the millions starving for the Light. Let them starve, it isn't my business. Little children in cruelty and darkness -- let come mighty issues, let come death, let come judgment. I'm occupied with things of self and things that please me to do." God help us and forgive us and cleanse us from all this, in Jesus' name! Any door of service for the Lord is a great service. God bless and keep you. He's still on the Throne and prayer will change things for you.

OUT OF THE DEPTHS

(Program 122)

"I'm following Jesus, one step at a time
I live for the moment, in His Love divine.
Why think of tomorrow, just live for today,
The pathway is narrow, but He leads me on.
I walk in His shadow, my fears are all gone,
My spirit grows stronger,
Each moment, each day,
For Jesus is leading each step of the way."

One of the oldest cries in all the World is in Psalms 130, where king David cried: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. I wait for the Lord...and in His Word do I hope." -- Psa.130:1,2,5. Always at some point in its progress, the human race has cried out for help. And it continues to cry aloud, even today amidst all these troubles and heartaches and pressures of today -- people are just at their wits' end corner.

Religion to some has come mostly to mean just creed, and the World distrusts creeds and these moderns, and they dislike emotional upheavals. But they know, beyond all argument, that somehow, somewhere, God is there and can answer prayer, and they're looking for those who can pray for them and someone who can give them help.

People want a great deal more than we realize. People say it's so hard to reach people today. Well, hearts are awfully hungry, and sorrow is very deep. Trouble is rampant today; and incredible as it may seem, the greatest theme and popular discussion is the one theme which will attract men of every station, and that is God. Most people will stop and listen.

There's a spiritual dimension in life today because of the troubles through which this nation and other nations are passing. There're some new spiritual values, and it's going to grow more and more. God's Word says times shall wax worse and worse (2Tim.3:13), and amongst those who are in distress and want to find God, this hunger is going to be increased.

"Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee," David says. And over the smaller sounds of greed, hate, fear, egotism and all the troubles, comes up that same cry, out of the depths. -- Up from the market

places, places of business, the parties and banqueting tables of the rich, and amongst the poverty-stricken. Out of the depths they're crying out for God today.

Nothing else in the World is going to meet that need and comfort hearts except for Jesus to walk right into those hearts. More than ever before, this World is at it's wits' end and out of the depths they are crying for help.

People know when you can help them. It's been said that thirsty hearts never come to a dry well. But if you are where you should be with the Lord, and you're really shining for Him, your light will so shine that others will see your good works and know that you're able to help them. They'll know it.

Many have hungry hearts and are seeking God. Do you care? Do you care about others? The larger numbers who are crying out of the depths are the millions who are so fearful because of things that are coming upon the World. Is your faith and trust such that when people are so afraid, you can give them hope? Are you in the place yourself, where you can allay their fears and quote the promises to them that God has put in His precious Word for those who are fearful?

In all the annals of history, men have never been more afraid than they are right now, because of the peril that is recorded upon the Earth at this time, like the greatest famines, pestilences, earthquakes, droughts, hurricanes, disasters, depressions, hatred between nations and the wars that are taking place.

All these things have been before, but never as they are now, they have never approached the dimensions that we've seen in this day. I'm recalling these things to your mind, because these are the things which are causing people to be so fearful, and many are just trembling with fear. Men have departed from the true and living God, and peace of mind has departed from them. That's why their cry is so hard, so strong.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:6-8 that in the Endtime these things would grow in intensity and in frequency, and that time has now come. Every harvest ripens quickly and intensively at the end, and we have now entered the very rapids of the Endtime. Everywhere and in every social strata, thinking men know fear now -- men who have never known fear before. God's Word says of the Endtime that there will be "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the Earth." -- Lk.21:26.

But people are seeking. Some of them don't know what they're

seeking, but they are seeking, and this gives you, as a Christian, such a wonderful opportunity to tell of your Salvation and the change that Jesus can make in their lives, because they haven't got any other answer to the World's needs, nor their own. They're looking for an answer, and you can show them that the Bible contains all their answers and that Christ is the only Answer to their problems, needs and questions.

Some will listen, and there are those who will listen who never would before. In desperation people will seek, they want a way out of these depths. "Out of the depth" they will cry, the Scripture says. In desperation people are seeking a way out, and you've got to know how to show them the way, you must have the Scriptures ready. Have you committed them to memory? We must commit those Scriptures to memory, mark them in our Bibles and be ready to give an answer to these who are so desperate. "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you." -- 1Pet.3:15.

A well-known commentator told me that on his half-hour program the other night, that he took just 20 seconds out of that half hour to mention something about God. But when his stack of mail came in, there were more comments about that 20 seconds than any other part of the program. He said, "I believe people are hungry, weary and in need of consolation. I believe they are more interested in God and immortality and peace than they are in anything else. I make this statement in defiance of a wide-spread motion to the absolute contrary. I believe that Christ is the Answer, that He sways more hearts, answers more problems, develops more virtues, brings more rest, peace, joy and satisfaction than all other influences, and that His promises never to be dishonored lies our only hope." -- That was a famous commentator who said that!

Men are so desperate today that they're ready to take what you have to say to them. They see no way of escape or human resources, they can't find any way, there's no visible help. But we lift our eyes to Him Who made Heaven and Earth, and He can help us save and share His peace in this time of Earth's present adverse conditions.

This is the opportunity that faces us! What a wonderful place the Christian stands in today! Guarded round about with the armor of God's Love and power, God is going to open a path through the Red Sea! He's our God and He's still on the Throne and prayer will change things!

PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

(Program 129)

"Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.
Open my ears that I may hear
Voice of truth Thou sendest near.
Open my mouth and let me bare
Gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine.

In 2 Kings, Chapter 6, there's that wonderful story where there was camped about the city of Dothan the army of the king of Syria, the crowd was so great, and Elisha was there in the city with his servant.

The servant couldn't see anything but the enemy's men, horses and chariots, but Elisha saw that God was with them. "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, 'Alas, my master! How shall we do?' And he answered, 'Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.'

"And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see.' And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." -- 2 Kings 6:15-17.

Isn't it wonderful when the eyes are opened that see God working, the eyes are opened to see that the Lord is with us! When we get through all the fear, mistrust and doubts, and see the face of the Lord! We know that greater is the Power that is with us, than all the enemies of fear and distrust that are against us. "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the World!" -- 1Jn.4:4b.

We're living in a terrible day of fear! We are afraid what Russia will do with its military and scientific superiority. We're afraid of economic crash and depression. We're afraid of the tensions in some remote sects of the World, that they'll unite in a global war.

White men fear the rising tide of color, and Asiatics are afraid of Western domination. Americans are afraid of Communism (for which I don't blame them at all -- if you were in Miami, like I was in the last few months, you'd understand that). Russians are afraid of America, and everybody's afraid of nuclear destruction.

In the meantime, we all have our individual fears, our own little set of private fears. Perhaps yours are not like someone else's, but nevertheless, fear is so dominant. Some people have more than others, but everybody knows what it's like to be afraid.

Over one hundred year ago, a Methodist minister named William Taylor arrived in San Francisco. He was caught up in the midst of the gold rush, at the time that city was a bustling center of paganism. There was no church in which William Taylor could preach, and no congregation waiting to hear him. But there were so many people in the city and such a great need, so he stood on a barrel on a busy corner one Sunday morning and shouted, "I have good news!"

###The people asked, "What's the good news?"

###"I have good news for you this morning!" he replied, and brought them the Good News of the Gospel.

Well, I have good news for you, too, that Jesus Christ came into the World to release us from our fears. One of the very first messages that the Angel brought was, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." -- Luke 2:10. That's the formula that the Lord gave.

He told His disciples that they were to be unafraid, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." -- Jn.14:27b. And then He added, "This is My commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you." -- Jn.15:12. There is a secret to getting rid of fear.

Love is a greater emotion than fear, and it can cast out fear. God's Word says so! "Perfect love casts casteth out fear." -- 1Jn.4:18a. Jesus said to "fear not, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." -- Lk.12:32. So it's not necessary to have any fears whatsoever if we trust in God Who promises to see us through.

They used to say of the Puritans, that they feared God, so they feared nothing else! We, however, have lost our fear of God and are afraid of everything, it seems! He who has a God Whose laws he respects and Whose Will he seeks to do, has such a mighty sense of security! And it's only as you're in close touch with God, and have perfect love for Jesus, that all the fear is cast out!

Fear is faithlessness. A man who is afraid believes he has no protection, no security. He's aware of no strength beyond his own, so when he's confronted with a threat that appears greater than he can handle with his own resources, he has no recourse but fear. The heart doesn't have room to embrace both fear and trust at the same time. No heart can do that. When one goes in, the other goes out!

Years ago, Dr. Thomas Chalmers, a famous Scottish preacher, was riding in the seat beside a stage coach driver when he noticed one of the horses became a little nervous. The stage coach driver flicked his leg with the whip and the horse settled down. Dr. Chalmers asked, "Why did you do that?" and the driver answered, "Well, yonder's a white stone, and every time we passes it, that there horse shies. So I touch him with the whip to divert his attention." That set Dr. Chalmers to thinking, and he went home and wrote that wonderful book that became so World famous, "The Exquisite Power of a New Affection."

When you have the New Affection of the Jesus Christ, and that wonderful Love comes into your heart for Him, you live in His Word and love it, and your love for Him personally grows so great. There's nothing more stimulating, more real that swings into the center of our heart's tensions than the Love of God, and it can drive out all other concerns and fears.

I'm not belittling fear and pretending that it's a simple thing, but trust in God and don't be afraid. It's not simple, but perfect love will case out fear. I'm not willing to settle for any easy faith and some superficial answers for this. You have to live in the Word of God, you have to claim the promises, you have to lay hold of those promises and practice the presence of God continually!

Perfect love for Jesus Christ will leave no room for fear, because you're not trusting in your own strength, you're not trusting in your own protection, you're not trusting anything of the natural, the things that you can lay hold of in the material -- the human and the natural.

You're trusting the Power beyond your own! -- And therefore you have the perfect love that casts out all fear. There are so many wonderful verses along this line! So many in God's Word speak of this deliverance from fear, this overcoming Power of Jesus, this love of God and love of His Word, this wonderful love for Jesus. Go to Him, press through everything until you see His face!

He says, "See My face." Seek His face and tell Him of your love for Him, and He will reveal His Love to you, and fear will be gone! God bless you.

PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH CHRIST

(Program 72)

Greetings in the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the Lord bless you and make you a blessing. I want to talk to you about our conversation and fellowship with Jesus Christ.

If I were asked what the thing is that the World, the flesh and the Devil try the hardest to prevent us from getting, I would reply, "Conversation with Christ, really talking to the Lord Jesus Christ!" I know this from my own experience, and also of other people. A quiet, unhurried fellowship with Jesus Christ, alone, and then waiting to hear what He has to say, this is what every Christian needs every day, but is something that some of us only get once a month or maybe seldom still, -- never with others.

Now I wonder when you last talked to the Lord Jesus Christ; just had a real personal conversation with Him? Oh, it's so easy to go to church, and it's so easy to listen to prayers, and join in with them, it's easy to sing to Him, to pray with others, or to think that we're doing so because we feel refreshed and helped by it. But why should it turn out that it is a mistake of ours to imagine that we are actually conversing personally with Him at those times, when really we are only talking or singing to be heard by other people, and ourselves! What if it should, I say, turn out that way? I feel anxious with people who only pray in churches, or those that only pray in prayer meetings, or when others are present.

The danger is that if you don't converse with Him alone each day, you suddenly wake up to the fact that you and your Savior are sort of strangers to each other! It'll be a terrible surprise to you, that nothing should remain of all the work on which you spent your life. The words, "Without Me you can do nothing" (Jn.15:5) are sometimes forgotten by us. And that certainly is true, so far as prayer is concerned, if it's just in public and with friends, and in a meeting here and there.

He meant that you should have talked to him continually about everything you do, and everything you care about. You should have been always conscious of His sympathy and oversight and working. But instead of that, you talked to men and women and makeshift with their sympathy and advice and help, and they're so awfully human! He meant you to have told Him your anxieties, and He would have ended them! But when you only consult with friends, why, matters will just

get worse and worse. (He meant us to have asked Him for light about that doctrine which you could not understand, and when you just go to books and get it explained, why you'll become more uncertain than you were before.) But He would have satisfied you if you had gone to Him personally.

He meant you to have confessed to Him that secret thing and He would have forgiven you and cleansed you, but when you only confess it to a companion you will never get relief. He meant you to have asked Him personally how much money you were to give away, but you settled that yourself, and perhaps you didn't settle it right. He would have been your Counselor about the profession you chose and the situation you accepted, the servant you engaged, the books you read, the fellowship you formed, -- but you chose other counselors or did after your own choosing, and that's why the end result was a failure! Oh God grant that you'll talk to Him, to Christ, your personal Friend and Counselor. Conversation with Him will make all the difference in the World! I want to ask,

Is Jesus your personal Friend or not? Do you talk to Him personally about all these things? Recently a young husband came back to the empty house where he had spent happy days when first married, but the wife had left him over some petty quarrel. And this is what he said, that he went back to that emptiness, and he pinned little slips of paper in every room, hoping that when she came back for her things she would see them, because, he said, it was all emptiness without her presence there. And on those slips of paper he put those very words, "Without you here it is all emptiness." Well, she did come back and her heart was touched.

But I can pin that sign on every creed and doctrine and ordinance and on every church, "It's emptiness without You, dear Lord," it's all empty without Christ Himself. For Life itself is but one long round of anxiety without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And so I just wanted to say over again what perhaps I've said numbers of times, it's only as you come into this personal relationship that you'll have peace for your troubled soul. And so in prayer: It's this fellowship with Him, this personal conversation. John Oxenham wrote these wonderful words:

"Not what, but Whom, I do believe,
That, in my darkest hour of need,
Hath comfort that no mortal creed
To mortal man may give; --

Not what, but Whom,
For Christ is more than all the creeds,
And His full life of gentle deeds
Shall all the creeds outlive.
Not what I do believe, but Whom!
Who walks beside me in the gloom?
Who shares the burden wearisome?
Who all the dim way doth illumine,
And bids me look beyond the tomb
The larger life to live? --
Not what I do believe, But Whom!"

Isn't that wonderful, and isn't that true? Not what, but Whom! It isn't what church, it's Whom! -- It's Christ there, if you meet Him there, if He's exalted there. But you say, "I can't feel His presence and I really want to. I don't seem to reach Him," you say, "But I want to." Bishop Simpson once said, "Reach up as far as you can and God will reach down the rest of the way." Oh, isn't that true! He says, "Seek Me and ye shall find Me." (Jer.29:13.) And you read His Word and call on Him, He says, "Call upon Me and I will answer thee." (Jer.33:3.) I know that this is true because out of deep darkness once, I called, and He answered, He never turns away a seeking soul. And so I want to read just a wee bit of a poem here, that's so precious to my heart. It comes from an old hymn,

"In the secret of His presence how my soul delights to hide!
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learned at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go.

When my soul is faint and thirsty, 'neath the shadow of His wing,
There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a fresh and crystal spring;
And my Savior rests beside me, as we hold communion sweet;"
That's a conversation with Jesus that I'm talking about,
"If I tried I could not utter what He says when thus we meet.
Only this I know: I tell Him all my doubts, my griefs, and fears:
Oh, how patiently He listens! and my drooping soul He cheers:
Do you think He ne'er reproves me? What a false Friend He
would be,
If He never, never told me of the sins which He must see.
Well, would you like to know the sweetness of the secret of the
Lord?

Go and hide beneath His shadow: this shall then be your reward;
And then where'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting
place,

You will bear the shining image of the Master in your face!"
And so it's in the secret of His presence that your soul shall delight to
hide, and that secret conversation with the living Christ will be the joy
of your life.

I wish I could assure you that He never turns away a seeking soul.
Someone listening who has never met Jesus Christ, might say, "Well,
give me something to lay hold of, something concrete, something I can
see, and I'll believe on Jesus." Well, He answers that cry with these
words, "Only believe." (Mk.5:36, Lk.8:50.) And if you will, you will
quickly find something to lay hold of and you'll see also it's wonderfully
concrete and real.

But the Lord Jesus Christ must first be received by faith, then will
come the glorious assurance of salvation, but it will be forever hidden
to you unless you reach out towards Him and believe that He is what
He says He is. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that
He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," it says in Hebrews
11:6. To believe is to see! -- And I want to show you, beloved, that He
will reveal Himself.

The quickest, surest way to come into the sweet fellowship of
God, is just to confess you're a sinner and call upon Him for mercy,
accept His terms for salvation, and then your rebellious, unbelieving
nature will be empowered to recognize the claims of Jesus Christ, and
take God at His Word! God's Word says, "Therefore being justified by
faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." That's
Romans 5:1. And "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not
the Son of God hath not life. (1Jn.5:12.)

Oh, you want to really live? You say you want life in abundance?
Well God's Word says He came that ye might have life and have it more
abundantly. (Jn.10:10.) Without Him, you're forfeiting the only real
and lasting joy there is in this old sin-cursed world, and added to this
He gives you eternal life. Won't you give Him a chance to show you
what He can do? Won't you commit your all to Him and let Him make
out of all the frustrations and failures, a life of victory and satisfaction!

Give God a chance, won't you? God bless you indeed. If you will,
oh, what a change there will be in your life

THE POWER OF POSITIVE SPEAKING

(Program 58)

I'm going to talk to you for a little on the power of positive speaking! In Numbers 21 there is an account of how God sent fiery serpents among the people because they murmured, and many times in the Old Testament, God's Word tells us of how God had to punish the people because they murmured.

I recently visited in a home where there was a pitiful invalid bound to a wheelchair by her crippled condition. We had a long talk about the things of God and His Love, and His promises, and His willingness to fulfill those promises, and through all of this I watched for some indication that her spirit was entering into what I was saying regarding faith, and especially God's faithfulness.

But evidently her mind was just on herself and her suffering, for every once in a while she would inject something about her condition, about the symptoms of the disease, and said it was slowly taking her life. She even made the statement that she'd be "tied to that wheelchair until she died": Just get worse and worse, she said!

Never have I tried harder to get some little word of praise or hope or faith to come from human lips, than I tried with this dear one! But it was of no avail! It was only complaints and murmuring!

At last under the pressure of God's Word which I read to her, she opened up her heart, and out of her lips flowed such bitterness and resentment that I wondered it hadn't killed her long ago!

There was a son in the home who drinks and he doesn't help with the finances, but does take full advantage of all the privileges of the home, especially the food, though he doesn't help pay for it. I had known for years that she carried this resentment toward him, but I never dreamed it was so deep and so terribly bitter.

As I sat listening to this tirade of resentment, my mind went back to years ago before this awful disease had taken hold of her, and I recalled how that even then she was always complaining, always worrying, and always negative in nearly everything she said.

At that time I talked to her about this and I thought of this little poem in connection with her, way back then I thought about it, for I've known her since girlhood. Perhaps it will fit some of you?

Worry worry worry

She knew worry was a sin

But each night she'd worry worry

Till her loved ones all were in.
Worry worry worry,
It was like a funeral pall,
If they climbed up on a ladder
She was sure that they would fall.
Even at the hour of midnight
She would steal from bed to bed,
Listen to the sleepers breathing,
Making sure they were not dead.
If they sneezed they had pneumonia,
If they coughed it was TB!
Till the very air about her
Got as blue as blue could be.
Late from school, why she'd get frantic,
Surely they had been kidnapped!
Every tumble brought her running
Positive their bones had snapped.
Every stray dog had the rabies,
Every tramp was a criminal,
Till at last it seemed it really
Wasn't safe to live at all!
When they were out in traffic
Her alarm was so extreme
That one night she slept exhausted
And she dreamed a worried dream.
Dreamed that God had grown impatient
With His child who worried so
For He personally managed all
That happened here below.
Dreamed He took her loved-ones
So she needn't worry any more,
They were all safe in Heaven,
None were left to worry for.
In her dream she was sobbing,
"Even though my worries cease,
Lord, I find I cannot bear,
It's such an empty, bitter peace!"
When she woke they were still round her,
All her children and her John,
Did it teach her? Not a lesson!

Happily she worries on!

-- And that certainly is true about this dear one! Now, this tragedy is nothing to be spoken lightly about.

When I was talking to her, I kept thinking of how great is the power of positive speaking: When we come out with God's Word in such a positive way and repeat It after Him and say, "God says it and I believe it!"

I am certainly not furthering any repeating of empty jargon, or simply clinching a mental attitude by vain repetitions! I mean, when you say, "This is the Word of the Almighty God and it cannot fail. I can depend upon it!" And, as I so often say, it's so because God says so! -- Then you'll know the power that's in the Word of God and that it can bring to pass miracles by Its creative power!

It is the Word of God and it cannot fail! Put your finger on some verse right now, some sweet promise, and say, "This is the very Word of God, and it is so because God said so!" Now, do I believe that such an attitude can affect the physical condition? Yes!

And I believe that such negative speaking can also affect the physical condition! I've read to you before from God's Word, "Whoso keepeth his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble," and this verse, "He that would see long life and many days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile." And this one is a favorite of mine: (Pray.18:21)

"Life and death are in the tongue." -- Yes, God is saying death can be in your tongue! And I do personally believe that the roots, that is the results of negative speaking go right down into the physical being. I don't know how, but I've seen it happen a number of times. I can't logically explain how it takes place, I'm no magician!

BUT I know that positive speaking regarding God and His Word and what He would do for you, does quicken the mortal body. Just recently when dealing with a lovely character, and she recognized the absolute truthfulness of God's Word, I asked her, after there was a prayer for her to be healed,

Now can you say, "By His stripes I am healed"? -- God's Word says, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and by His stripes we are healed." Can you make this positive statement because you believe His Word, "By His stripes I am healed"?

She said, "Oh yes, God said it and it's true! By His stripes I am healed!" And her face brightened up and she began to quote other

promises in this positive personal manner. -- Was she healed? Yes, she was healed!

Meditate on these verses, "God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that he should repent: Hath He said it, and shall He not also do it? Or hath He spoken it, and shall He not make it good?" -- Isn't that wonderful? In I Kings 8:56 it says,

"There hath not failed one word of all his good promises." And Ps.89.33, "He will not suffer His faithfulness to fail."

And to each one of you He says, "I will not fail you." And you can make a positive declaration and say, "He will not fail me! He will not suffer His faithfulness to me to fail!" -- Oh, God grant that His Word will have a preeminent place in your life!

When you are obedient to the Word, His blessings will be poured out. When you yield yourself to His Word, He'll guide your life daily and faith will just spring up invincible, and put a real shout in your heart!

Will you accept the comfort of these scriptures and believe that in Christ you can have a supply for every need of soul and body? And will you just look to Him and repeat after Him in His Word these wonderful sayings, and say, "It's for me!"

Positively claim them and positively declare them in His precious name, by His power. Amen. And remember, God's still on the Throne, and prayer does change things.

POWER IN THAT NAME

(Program 121)

Have you ever wondered why we pray in the Name of Jesus? I'd like to talk a little while on Acts 4:12: "Neither in their salvation in any other: for their is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." This is Peter speaking here to the people who had just seen the lame man healed at the gate of the temple. (See Acts 3:1-10.)

Here in Chapter 4, the Sanhedrin is commanding the Apostles not to preach in Jesus' name any more, hoping that way they can put down this new movement, this new religion. All through this passage there is continual reference to "this Name" and "His Name" and "that Name."

There is something very significant about using the Name of Jesus and virtually important for us, for by the right use of Jesus' Name there is opened to us doors otherwise closed and possibilities of victory untold! -- Limitless resources!

There's power and authority in this Name! I've spoken along this line a couple of times before, because it's a subject very close to my heart. I believe so definitely that it's the only Name that can give you entrance into the presence of God, to quickly move His hand in your behalf. Never was there such a power vested in any Name, and when you use that Name with authority, things begin to happen!

You may question: "Who has the right to use that Name, that unlocks these doors of Heaven and moves the Will of God? Do I have the authority? -- Am I effectively using the authority?" Sometimes I wonder if the very defeat that we are suffering today and the spiritual weakness and physical sickness we go through is because we don't realize -- or at least rightly use -- the authority we have in Jesus' Name.

You do have authority! You have authority in the Name of Jesus because God has given it so us! To come to the realization of that authority and to use that Name is something that should be pressed down upon every heart, because of what it can do for you, and the change it can bring about in your whole life!

God's Word says, "His Name shall be called 'Jesus'" (Mat.1:21; Lk.1:31), and in none other is there salvation, for "Neither in their salvation in any other: for their is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." -- Acts 4:12.

We come to the Father in Jesus' precious Name because that's

our only access to the Throne of God! -- Jesus Christ, our Intercessor. We must come in His Name! We have no merit of our own to come to the Father, so we need to come through the price that He paid on Calvary. "Nothing in our hands we bring, only to Thy cross we cling."

I would say that most people who are reading this right now believe what I'm talking about, and believe the Scriptures: "Wherefore God also highly exalted Him, and gave Him a Name which is above every name: that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things on Earth, and under the Earth; and that every tongue should confess Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -- Phil.2:9-11. "God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son...being made so much better than the Angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent Name than they." -- Heb.1:1,2,4. But have you gone further than that?

-- Have you come into the full realization that you have a great deal of authority and power in the use of this Name? The early disciples realized that. They realized the omnipotence and faith that would do wonderful things as they used the power that was invested in them through the Name of Jesus. And they used it with a dare and a faith that really puts us to shame today. They believed that they had a legal right to the use of that Name, and it wasn't a question of faith for them, but of obedience, in using that authority that God had given them.

"Whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." -- Jn.14:13. That's a striking, thrilling, tremendous statement! "Verily, verily I say unto you, if you shall ask anything of the Father in My Name, He will give it you. Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." -- Jn.16:23,24b. Those Words are from the very lips of Jesus Himself, and note that the words "faith" and "believe" don't occur in these scriptures. They simply set forth a fact, that you've got a legal right to the use of that Name and that this authority is given to the individual born-again members of the Body of Christ. -- They now have this power of attorney and use of that Name.

What is the power behind this Name? What's invested in this Name? Well, Jesus said to His disciples, "All power (authority) has been given unto Me in Heaven and in Earth." -- Mat.28:18. When you come to the Father in that Name, that authority comes into your hands.

Jesus became the Master and Ruler of the Universe and He despoiled principalities and powers and made a show of them openly, in triumph over them, so He is undisputed Victor over sin and the

Devil. He is the only begotten Son of God. -- God, manifest in the flesh.

All that is invested in that Name belongs to us, and He gives us unqualified use of that Name. He said, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." -- Jn.16:24. As you come to the Father, if your heart is right with Him, and you're walking in fellowship with Him, use this authority, as you praise and worship Him. Use it for your every need.

That Name has lost none of its power, and you have a legal right to all the grace, might, power, blessing, healing and life wrapped in the Person of Jesus Christ, Who bore that Name. Ask now, in His Name! Ask in Jesus' Name, that your joy may be full! Amen? God bless you, in Jesus' name

PRAISE and THANKSGIVING!

(Program 55)

Today our meditation is along the line of thanksgiving, and I found a little poem by L.A. Tubbs that really took hold of my heart, it's so true! He says:

I've been countin' up my blessin's,

I've been summin' up my woes,

But I ain't got the conclusion

Some would naturally suppose.

Why I quit a-countin' troubles a'fore I had half a score,

While the more I count my blessin's I keep a-findin' more and more.

There's been things that weren't exactly as I thought they'd ought to be,

And I've often growled at Providence for not a-pettin' me.

But I hadn't stopped to reckon what the other side had been:

How much o'good an' blessin' had been thickly crowded in.

For there's been a rift of sunshine after every shower of tears,

And I've found a load of laughter scattered all along the years.

If the thorns have pricked me sometimes, I've good reason to suppose

Love has hidden often from me 'neath the rapture of the rose.

So I'm gonna still be thankful for the sunshine and the rain,

For the joy that's made me happy,

For the purgin' done by pain.

For the love of little children,

For the friends that have been true,

For the guidin' hand that's led me

Every threatenin' danger through!

-- Now I wonder if we can just have a prayer together of real thanksgiving?

Our Father God, we thank thee for all your mercies and blessings, for the strength you have given to bear the burdens of the way. We do thank Thee for faithful friends that have made life brighter, and for life itself with its wonderful opportunities for service and worship, for our material comforts, and the measure of freedom that we enjoy.

But most of all we thank Thee for the gift of Thy Son, and spiritual blessings which are ours through His sacrifice. For the joy and peace we have through fellowship with Him, for the fruits of the Spirit

through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

For all this rich heritage, we offer up praise and thanksgiving! With grateful hearts we thank Thee for the privilege of prayer and sweet Communion with Thee. For all this, our hearts are grateful, Lord, in Jesus' precious Name.

I have been reading and studying some of these wonderful passages about praise, but I think that my favorite is in Psalm 50:23, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright, will I show the salvation of God."

This could be rendered, "Whoso sacrificeth thanksgiving glorifieth me." -- You know, from the latter part of that verse it just seemed like David wanted to do something great for the glory of His Name, but here we see that the offering of praise glorifies the Lord!

So if you feel like you haven't been able to do something big for the Lord, why, just begin to praise Him, and that glorifies Him more than anything else! You begin to praise Him and then there comes a rift through dark clouds of difficulty and trouble that you're going through.

God's Word says that when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the enemy! If you begin praising Him, and if you have not begun before, He will begin to work wondrously in your life!

Many times the Lord can't begin to work while we keep pleading and praying, but if you'll just turn the current towards praise instead, He'll make us more than conquerors over the difficulty!

By the help of God you'll decide to take the attitude of victory and just praise Him for the victory beforehand. God is going to work! I know, because so many times I have gotten down in a hard place and pled and prayed, but when I began to praise the Lord by faith, then came the victory!

I wonder if you've been complaining and murmuring instead of having a grateful spirit and praising the Lord? Remember what happened to the children of Israel when they murmured! A man said to a friend of ours, "I stay at the clubhouse more and more because my wife goes around mumbling her complaints and I get so tired of hearing her complain!" Yet that very woman was doing certain service for the Lord in her church!

But she wasn't serving with gladness, and only joyful service is acceptable to the Lord! God's Words says,

"The joy of the Lord is our strength!" No wonder such a woman is worn out all the time: her own spirit of complaining saps the vitality!

God's Word tells us:

"God hath anointed him above his fellows with the oil of gladness." Well, that same oil is for us! Does your spirit show and your face advertise that you have been thus anointed? Again God's Word tells us that He will give "beauty for ashes and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; and you shall be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified." -- Now that's a wonderful verse!

Do you have the spirit of heaviness today? God waits to give you gladness, if you'll take up the garments of praise and just begin to thank Him for what He is and what He's done for you! He begins to work for you when you begin to praise Him!

You say you don't feel like praising Him? Well, praise Him by faith alone and you'll soon feel like praising Him! God's Word says in Deuteronomy 28:47 and 48:

"Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart for the abundance of all things, therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger and in thirst and in nakedness, and in want of all things."

You'll notice that although the word praise or thanksgiving isn't mentioned, that's exactly what it's covering here, and God makes it very plain that because they had failed to serve the Lord in that manner, although He had provided all kinds of good things for them,

He'd be obliged to teach them a severe lesson and take the good things from them, because they didn't have a thankful spirit! God help us to have a truly praiseful spirit, and He'll prove to you that He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

PRECIOUS PROMISES

(Program 3)

PETER, THE FIRST CHAPTER, BEGINNING WITH THE SECOND VERSE SAYS: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

"ACCORDING AS HIS DIVINE POWER HATH GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS that pertaineth unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

"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." It's this fourth verse I particularly want to call your attention to.

THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, "YE KNOW THESE THINGS," the things we just read. But Peter says he wants to stir up, "Stir you up by putting you in remembrance" of them. This fourth verse is so familiar, but I pray you'll really be stirred by being put in remembrance of some things.

THESE EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES HAVE BEEN A THEME OF MINE THROUGH ALL THE YEARS as we have continually proven them and found them so dependable, so real. So often I have marveled at the willingness of God to back them up readily; that is, when we meet the conditions.

BUT YOU MUST MEET THE CONDITIONS! I want you to remember that though there are all these promises, yet God expects you to meet His conditions.

BUT THESE PROMISES DO WORK, BECAUSE GOD HIMSELF IS BEHIND THEM with all His Power and ability. I say ability because man isn't always able, as you know, to fulfill his promises, but God is able! I love those words, "God is able!"

GOD'S WORD SAYS THAT HE IS ABLE, AND ABLE TO DO EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT YOU ASK OR THINK! Don't every let anyone limit your faith! God stands behind that promise that you have chosen in your hour of need, and He'll not fail you!

NO WORDS ARE PUT INTO THE BIBLE ONLY FOR EFFECT. WHEN GOD SAYS, "CALL UPON ME AND I WILL ANSWER THEE," BELIEVE IT, because it is from the mouth of God Himself! The mouth of God has spoken! Today, this day, now, the very Words of God are

tingling with supernatural power to be released by the touch of your faith.

HOW IS YOUR FAITH? I say, how is your faith! If you will answer one question, I can tell you how your faith is!

IF YOU HAVE BEEN READING GOD'S WORD FAITHFULLY, earnestly, daily, with an open heart and mind, if you have, your faith is strong and active.

"FOR FAITH COMETH BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD." So says the Word of God. Don't ask friends to pray that you will have faith, just get back to God's Word! Read it and read it and you'll have faith. God says so!

DID YOU EVER HAVE A FRIEND UPON WHOM YOU COULD UTTERLY DEPEND? WHO WAS ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL to you when things were going wrong? Such friends are so few, but oh, how we value them! Someone has said,

"THERE IS A STRANGE BOND THAT LINKS A MAN TO THAT WHICH HE HAS FOUND TO BE DEPENDABLE and true. There is a tie that really binds you to the one you can depend upon in stormy weather."

JUST SO, ANYONE WHO HAS TRIED AND TRUSTED THE PROMISES IN THE BIBLE WHEN THERE WAS NO OTHER HELP, no hope, nothing to lean on in the dark hour, has found them to be utterly trustworthy, and has come through the storms with such a love for God's Word! Do you doubt about this?

IF THESE PROMISES ARE NOT WORTHY OF UNCONDITIONAL LIMITLESS TRUST, THEN THE GOSPEL OF THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD IS A MYTH, a fabric of untruths! But we know through experience that we can put limitless trust in every Word, rest our full weight upon them! Take God at His Word!

WHEN THE TROUBLES AND TRIALS COME, instead of letting them grow and grow like Jonah's gourd,

GET YOUR BIBLE AND FIND A PROMISE AND CLAIM IT IN JESUS' NAME, AND STEP OUT UPON IT! Here is one that is surely too big for me to comprehend, but I often claim it! "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son." -- John 14:13. And here's one even so much bigger:

"CALL UPON ME AND I WILL ANSWER THEE AND SHOW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS WHICH YE KNOW NOT OF." - Jer.33:3. No wonder the Word calls these promises "exceeding great and precious!" Remember, God's Word says that they are exceeding

great and precious, that they might bring you into that place.

GOD'S WORD MAKES IT VERY PLAIN, but I want to read it from His Word: "That ye might be partakers of the divine nature." -- That's why they are so very important.

ALL GOD ASKS IS SIMPLE FAITH THAT YOU TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD AND ACCEPT THEM AT THEIR FACE VALUE! You know, many modern scientific-minded people think it utterly ridiculous and impossible to take these promises literally, seriously and cash them into the Bank of Heaven and get what we ask for! In the plant of the a factory there is a sign that reads,

"ACCORDING TO RECOGNIZED AEROTECHNICAL TESTS, THE BUMBLEBEE CANNOT FLY because of the shape and weight of his body in relation to his total wing area." But the bumblebee doesn't know that, so he just goes ahead and flies and flies and flies anyhow!

SO IT IS, THAT IN SPITE OF ALL THIS PHILOSOPHICAL REASONING, there are those of trusting and child-like faith who are daily doing things that doubting intellectuals say can't be done!

THEY DARE TO TAKE THE PROMISES FROM GOD'S WORD JUST AS THEY ARE, APPROPRIATE THEM FOR THEMSELVES AND ACT UPON THEM, and they are getting the most wonderful answer to prayer, and problems solved, and needs met. You see, the bumblebee is flying nevertheless!

SO LET THE PHILOSOPHERS TANGLE THEMSELVES UP IN THE WEB OF DIFFICULTIES and intellectual doubts, trying to explain away our rights to accept these great and precious promises,

JUST THE SAME, WE'LL WALK RIGHT IN AND ENJOY THE FULL RICHES OF THEM ALL! THEY ARE THERE FOR YOU! GOD MEANS THEM PERSONALLY FOR YOU!

IT IS SO STRANGE THAT IN THIS AGE OF MYSTERIOUS, POWERFUL, INVISIBLE FORCES of atomic energy, that we should doubt the power of a Mighty God, in His supernatural workings in answer to prayer!

I HAVE JUSTIFICATION FOR SPEAKING THUS BECAUSE MY LIFE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO CONSIDERATION OF THIS, and all the accumulative evidence has been that these promises are real, they are workable, they are practical!

GOD WILL NOT FAIL HIS WORD! IT'S SO BECAUSE GOD SAYS SO! God will keep His Word! And here are those precious words of a song I have sung so many times as I stood on the promises of God:

"HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION, YE SAINTS OF THE LORD

Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
FEAR NOT, I AM WITH THEE, OH BE NOT DISMAYED,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.
AND WHEN THROUGH FIERY TRIALS THY PATHWAY
SHALL LIE,
My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, thy gold to refine!
HE WILL NEVER FORSAKE THEE, MY FRIEND.

THE PROMISES OF GOD

(Program 83)

Dear Son,

A happy New Year, and mother's favorite greeting, a sincere God bless you. Here at home we've been following with keen interest everything that concerns you and the other men. The numbers that are being sent abroad, the movement of all the troops, the keeping of the truce, and everything.

I've said it so many times it must get trite, but I always want you to know, you're never out of our thoughts and always on our hearts. I hope it gives you some real comfort and hope to know there is much prayer going up for you every single day. The knowledge we are praying won't give you much assurance or hope if you believe what you told me about in your last letter.

You remember you said, if I recall it rightly, that your friend there says that prayer can't change things at all. That it doesn't change anything. And he said that when your time comes you'll just go, that's all. If a bullet or shell is meant for you, you'll get it, and nothing in the World can stop it, especially prayer. If that's your time to die, you'll just die. Well, son, that's what we call fatalism!

But I know from definite experience that prayer does change things, and there are many things in the Bible -- God's Word tells of how prayer changed lives, and many lives were spared. Hezekiah prayed and God gave him 15 extra years of life. Moses prayed and God spared Israel, thus sparing many lives. God was going to wipe out the city of Nineveh completely but when the city of Nineveh repented and prayed, God spared the entire city. Oh, there are so many instances of this, that is, God sparing lives in answer to prayer in the Bible, I mean, of course, I couldn't possibly begin to mention them all. I believe God daily spares lives in answer to prayer and changes many vital situations in that way.

I know He spared my life that way. I was given up by a number of physicians as a hopeless case and they stated frankly that they could do no more for me, but in answer to believing prayer, God worked a miracle! That was many years ago and God is still working miracles for those about me. And every minute He's answering prayer, and I can tell you of so many instances.

Now let's reason a little along this line. Why would all these wonderful promises be in the Bible if they didn't accomplish anything?

What are they in there for? If they don't change the situation, why would God say He would do so and so if you'll pray, and He'll give you so and so if you'll pray, and He'll change such a situation if you'll pray? There are promises that the Lord will keep you, and will lead you, save you, heal you, guide you, deliver you in time of trouble and supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.

And all this is at your disposal if you'll use the means God has given you to obtain these things. And that means to call on Him and just ask Him -- and that's prayer, because that's just what prayer is, is asking God for whatever your need is. It says He will supply your every need according to His riches in glory.

You know, many modern scientifically-minded people think it's utterly ridiculous to take the promises of God's Word literally, seriously. You know, isn't it strange that in an age of mysterious powerful invisible forces such as we have today as radar and television, atomic energy and jet propulsion, that we would doubt the power of a mighty God and His supernatural working in answer to prayer. It seems if ever we should believe it's today!

Well, so it is that in spite of all this philosophical reasoning, there are those of trusting and childlike faith who are daily doing things and getting things from God through His power, well, such as the doubting intellectuals say can't be done. And these people are daring to appropriate these promises, taking them just as they are in the Word of God and acting upon them, and getting the most wonderful answer to prayer. Problems solved, and their needs met, well, I say, just let the philosophers tangle themselves up in the web of difficulty and doubt, trying to explain away our rights to accept these promises just as they are, but we're going to walk right in and enjoy to the full all the riches God has promised us.

You don't have to comprehend the greatness of the promises or understand how they work. All God asks is simple childlike faith and to reach out and apply them. And you can do that in the midst of the hottest battle, in the midst of trials in the barracks, any place, with someone that's not pleasant to have to be with, and someone that makes it miserable for you there in the field. Oh, what a marvelous privilege we have as Christians.

Well, of course, because we're lifted up through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God with everything that's powerful and Holy and true -- and with such a tie as that I wonder why we hesitate to trust God. With so much talk of space today, let's not forget with all the

myriads of celestial bodies held in place by His power, there's never been a mishap in the skies, no accidents, although they move with such terrific accuracy and such great speed.

Oh, why not just trust the promises over here in 2nd Peter, and in the 1st chapter, there are these words: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. Through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" And now here's the Verse I want you to get, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises." Isn't that wonderful! "Exceeding great and precious." (2Pt.1:2-4)

You know I can never forget the day when it dawned upon me, I would say, that the promises were real, a fact! That the promises in the Bible were practical and could actually be applied to my everyday needs. It was quite a revelation, I can assure you. I had been taught the Bible since earliest childhood, but I'd never realized that God meant exactly what He'd said in His Word. And that He made it so plain and that the promises are so important, so very important, because this brings us into sweet contact, personal contact with the Lord.

I wonder, did you ever have a friend upon whom you could utterly depend? Who was absolutely faithful to you when things were going wrong? Oh, such friends are so few. But oh, how we value them!

Someone has said, there is a strange bond that links a man to that which he has found to be dependable and true. There is a tie that really binds you to the one that you can utterly trust to stand by in stormy weather. Do you wonder then that anyone who has tried and proven the promises in God's Word and found them unfailing and absolutely trustworthy, should feel that strong bond of confidence?

Oh, many of our fighting men who have had no hope and nothing to lean on in the dark hours have found that this is true! That God has not failed in one of all His good promises. That's a Bible quote. "He has not failed in one of all His good promises." (1 Kings.8:56) Well, no wonder we've come through the storms with such a great love for God's Word.

I tell you son, you couldn't tell some of these praying mothers who have been on the stormy path for so many years, sickness of little ones, and some times tragedies in the family -- and they've had marvelous answers to prayer -- these dear praying mothers, you couldn't tell them God doesn't answer prayer!

Now if these promises are not worthy of unconditional, limitless

trust, then the Gospel of love and grace of God told about in the Bible is a myth. This is either fact or fiction, this is either true or false.

Well, I know through long experience that I can trust God's Word. God's Word says, "For I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." (2Tim.1:12)

Oh, when the battle gets hot and the trials come, find a promise from God's Word, get down in your Bible and claim the promise, in Christ's Name, and instead of getting frightened or expecting the worst, step out upon the promise and God will meet you -- simple childlike faith! Walk right up to the Throne of God and with utter confidence in His Word, ask and receive. And walk away with the desire of your heart!

Don't let those fella's tell you that prayer doesn't do anything, doesn't do any good, that when it's time to go you go. Well God can change things. I no longer wonder at the miracles of God! I've come to know more and more that it's so because God said so.

Now, why not right now, get your Bible and get alone with God and do some seeking of God. There's a way out! God will show you that way. Have a good talk with the Lord alone and pray for us here at home. We need prayer too, we have our trials and difficulties, but we know that prayer changes things.

Remember son, from Taps to Reveille, and Reveille to Taps, we pray for you here at home -- Mother.

PUT UP THY SWORD!

(Program 44)

In a letter I received this past week, the woman writes this way: "I have been so harassed by a certain person, and I get so resentful and I want to hit back so badly, because they're so unjust to me, and I only get victory intermittently.

"Satan defeats me over and over, and it's so hard to take it, and I can't let go of such traits of irritability and resentfulness and the wanting to hit back. I might as well be frank and tell you that this person I'm at swords point with just burns me up! They hurt me and disappoint me and I resent it, and I get so resentful that I just feel like I want to get even with them. I want to show them up in some way.

"I'd love to have a spirit of love for them and to be impervious to all these hurtful things, which in the natural are so annoying and keep me out of the victory, and cause my prayers to be so ineffectual. So I'm writing to you there, that you'll please pray. I do want the victory and to have a true spirit of prayer."

"You know, that's a very hopeful case, the woman that's written this letter, and do you know why? Because she realizes her condition and she knows she has a wrong spirit against this person, just as wrong and hateful as the spirit in which they have done these things to her.

I wonder in your own life if there is someone that's unjustly hurting you, even wronging you, and there's not any real cause for it? Does it seem that at times it's impossible to overcome because your personalities seem to clash, and it just grates on you and irritates you?

If so, what are you going to do about it according to God's Word?" I want to tell you something that happened to me. Sometime ago I was compelled to live with someone, they were working in our home at that time. Someone that was so crude and so rude and they had such a temper, and they would flare up at the least little thing.

They didn't like to be told to do things, and it was a constant trial, and was such a bitter trial! And a number of times I just wanted to dismiss them and tell them what I thought about them: I did have that spirit!

But at last I began to draw close to the Lord in the matter, and to throw the whole burden upon Him. I realized that my identification with Christ made it possible for me to be rid of such a spirit, because He says that it's "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" He says that Christ liveth in me!

And if Christ lives in me, then he could overcome such a spirit, and I wouldn't want to talk back, I wouldn't get so hurt over this thing! Well, at last I came utterly to the end of myself, and threw myself on the Lord, and I said,

"Lord, it just isn't in me to get complete victory and to love this one as I should, the old nature rises up, but Lord, Your nature and Your love and Your Spirit can overcome." -- And I committed the whole thing into His hands so definitely, so utterly, that do you know, there was the greatest change in that person?

Then one night I was thanking the Lord for changing them, because it was such a wonderful answer to prayer, it was really a miracle! And I was thanking the Lord, and the Holy Spirit whispered to my heart -- and I thought it was just a little sense of humor on the part of the Lord.

He said, "Well, I changed you a little bit too, not only changed them!" And that's exactly what will happen. So what are you going to do about these according to God's Word? Well, here are some Scriptures. God's Word says, "Recompense to no man evil for evil," Romans 12:17. And, "Who when he was reviled, (speaking of Jesus) reviled not again." 1 Peter 2:23.

"See that none render evil for evil unto any man," that's in Thessalonians, "See that none render evil for evil unto any man," and, "be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." -- Oh, those are precious admonitions from God's Word!

Overcome evil with good? How? -- By showing that you love them. Do them some special favor, take the initiative and go out of your way to tell them of some good thing about them! Maybe his heart is hungry for love, or maybe that woman is wanting someone to talk to her and love her. There's surely some trait that you can admire?

I had a friend that used to pray for one who was an enemy, and he wouldn't say the Lord's Prayer just the way it went, but he said, "forgive me my transgressions as I forgive So-&-so," and he mentioned the name of the person. Now in the natural you would revile again, it would be tit for tat and hatred for hatred, spite for spite.

But the Christian life is not to be lived in the natural, You've been born again and old things are passed away, and all things are become new, so says the Word of God. And you're a new creature in Christ Jesus. And if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

Well, what is the spirit of Christ? -- When he was reviled, he reviled not again! His very words on the Cross: Father, forgive them,

they know not what they do," speaks of this Spirit. Note that He turned to Peter, who had cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.

He said, "Put up thy sword." And then He put the ear back and healed that ear. I'm sure you have read that story. Say this often to yourself when you have that feeling of resentment, of hitting back: "Put up thy sword, put up thy sword!"

So God's way of getting the victory is always to overcome evil with good. This was the message of the Cross, and this is the way of the Cross, this is the only way evil can be defeated, this alone will reconcile you to that jarring personality, that one so unjust in their treatment, who taunts you.

This will bring you into fellowship with Him and it will win in the end the love of the very one that you can't get along with! This was God's way! He gave His Son for the sins of the World, but they beat Him and broke His body and pierced Him through.

But God took the very blood that they shed and flung it like a scarlet banner across the World and on it He wrote, "I love you. I have loved you with an everlasting Love." Amen. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

REAPING

(Program 87)

In the still of the night
Jesus comes to me.
As I listened
He whispered so tenderly,
Mourn thou not
for the day now gone,
Fear thou not
for the coming dawn.
So I rolled every care
on His gentle breast,
And there came to my spirit
a hallowed rest.
With Jesus near
I had no fear,
In the still of the night.

We had been on a tour and working for the Lord, and there was one thing that I particularly noticed on this tour, in places that I went, where I hadn't been for years. The Verse of Scripture that you find over in Galatians chapter 6, Verse 7:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." You know, places where I had gone years ago, that I saw that they were failing God, and they were giving more time to things not essential and the things that were materialistic. I went back to visit some of these places and I saw how the reaping had surely come. How that they were now reaping from the lack of spiritual things, and there were problems in the home.

And then on the other hand, I visited a home up in Sacramento where we had stayed during a revival meeting years ago, and this dear family where we were guests -- they had had the little prayer meeting in their home -- had invited all the folks there, and that was the benign of a church that's there now, and their children are in the Lord's work. One young man was singing so beautifully in the choir, and the other working for the Lord, and all the children saved and true to God and really dedicated to the cause of Christ. And I thought how wonderful that those parents were reaping from that early teaching they gave. And while they sacrificed so much to have that home of theirs open to the outside and to those prayer meetings, that the children were getting the

benefit of the Gospel and now the reaping time had come. And they were having this blessed experience of seeing their children all so devoted to the Lord's work.

And then I was also involved in the work amongst young people that were picked up off of the skid ways. In San Francisco I spoke one day, in an audience there, there were only about perhaps 50, 60 or 70 people in the audience but in that very group there were 10 narcotic addicts under the age of 16, and four prostitutes under the age of 14. These Christian workers had gone out on the streets and picked up these boys and girls and brought them in. This was their particular work.

And as I heard the stories from the lips of some of these boys and girls and how they had come from broken homes, or how their parents were drunkards and there had been such a lack of God in their home, and here was the reaping in these young lives. Oh, surely it's true that if you sow to the flesh you shall of the flesh reap corruption, if you sow to the spirit you shall reap life eternal and you are gonna reap eternal things.

And all the way on the trip this thought kept coming to me, how true God's Word is. You know that everything you do comes back sometimes, somewhere, even every word you fling out comes back someday, and I think sometimes even our thoughts come back upon us -- thoughts are things after all.

It seemed uncanny sometimes as I traveled about to see how the law of sowing and reaping works and how surely God fulfilled that Word. That's the way of the law of spiritual gravity, just so the law of retribution is fixed as surely as that. Whatsoever man casts out, it returns again on his own life. If he throws out in the world a little kindness, it returns after many years as a blessing. If he casts forth a curse, it comes back to him a greater curse.

I saw in El Waco, Texas in our home there, a wonderful mother who had prayed for years for her children. And they had slipped away, some of them, into dark paths once and awhile, here and there, but she kept praying so earnestly for them. And now, as I visited there, she was telling me how gradually each one had come back. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Pro.22:6), God's Word says. And here I saw it truly come to pass there in that home. She kept talking about the wonderful children she had and how they cared for her. Well, my reaping may come one way and yours will come another, but as surely as we live, whatever we do comes

back to us.

I visited a historian in the North, a college man, a university man, just super educated, and during the days of War he had slipped away from God. He had had wonderful Christian training but he had turned his back upon the Lord for awhile. And now he was having the reaping, there had been years that he hadn't been as he should have been and hadn't walked with God. And there he was, he had just lost everything. He'd lost his family. He had lost his business. He'd failed in business and there was such a sadness about him, his eyes had such a story to tell.

Well, it's just the same, dear beloved, on the other side of the picture, where one so truly garnered, one really lives in the Word and one testifies and witnesses for the Lord. Oh, what a precious reaping there is.

I traveled for awhile, most of the trip, with my son's family in a big cruiser, and some of you who are listening know him, and he has brought up those children to witness for the Lord. And they are wonderful Christians, everyone of them. It is just a joy to be with them. They were happy all the time and would break out in singing, and were always praising the Lord. It was really a wonderful experience to be with such a group.

But the reason those children are that way is because the parents, years ago, spent much time teaching them the Word of God. Sometimes their father would take entire evenings, I've known him to, week after week, take evenings giving all of himself in the Bible study to those children. And no wonder now they are witnessing Christians and that they are giving of themselves to the Lord, every one of them really dedicated, consecrated Christians.

And then I noticed that someone here to whom I had spoken kindly, I had given Scriptures, I had dealt with them years ago and how that came back to my own heart. Now isn't that wonderful? That we are able to be so encouraged and how we can have such joy as this that when we fling out the Word to them and comfort hearts, that it comes back upon our own lives with God's blessing and the sweetness in hearing them say, "You were a help to me, you were a blessing to me when I needed help most." Kind words spoken years ago gather momentum in your life and perhaps today you are reaping love and gratitude from what you sowed years ago.

Well, I noticed that when the parent is irritable, impatient and is unkind and so very critical of a child, why, they get back from the child

irritability and impatience. It is the seed that the mother and the father sowed and they are getting the reaping.

I met a young man on a trip that I had known years ago, who had had some faith in God but he had lost faith. And I talked to him and he told me that he began to lose faith when he began to read the type of literature his father had kept in the house, a type which led only to the loss of his faith in everything. You know, that is pitiful that a parent will keep that kind of literature around the house so that the young person could get a hold of it. And now the father is heartbroken because the young man has become an unbeliever.

And in those meetings I talked about there, where they'd picked these young people up off the street, I talked to a young girl with a reckless, independent spirit. She had continually been playing near the danger line and with companions that were out even late at night and on joy rides and now she had been picked up by the police. There was such a horror when there was retribution in that life. And all those things had gathered momentum and they had come back upon her now, and her little white face showed how surely the reaping that God had spoken of had come home to that heart. And then she confessed that often her mother would leave her just with a baby-sitter and would go to some bar.

You know beloved, God's Word never fails. God's Word is true. And I don't know any better way to close this thought than with this, reading this passage from God's Word. Every single Verse here could be a sermon in itself. It is the 6th chapter of Galatians, from which we took the Verse we are talking about.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness: considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 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."

Oh, if we could only see the future and see what a reaping will come and how surely God's Word will be fulfilled in this law of reaping,

this law of retribution, how careful we would be about what we say, what we do, and whether we live with God and whether we walk with Him. God bless you. He's still on the Throne. Prayer does change things.

RENEWAL!

(Program 53)

In the secret of His presence
How my soul delights to hide!
Oh how precious are the lessons
Which I learn at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me,
Neither trials lay me low,
For when Satan comes to tempt me,
To the secret place I go.

"When you pray, go into your most private room, and closing the door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you in the open." -- Now the secret place of prayer is also a place of renewal, that is renewal of the mind.

12 speaks clearly of this in verse 1, and I read this also from the Amplified Version, for it adds clarity to the verse: "I appeal to you therefore brethren, and beg of you in view of all the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies, presenting all your faculties as a living sacrifice, devoted and well-pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service."

Out of the wonderful cluster of truths in this chapter, we take one little nugget of gold, that is the sentence, "the renewing of your mind," for there is no place where the mind can be so fully renewed as alone with God in the Secret Place.

When you come aside from temporal things which distract and harass you, and there in the presence of God you put your mind on the things of God, His majesty and Glory, then the transforming power of God begins to work.

We are indeed transformed by the renewing of our minds! Now this is vital because it is in the mind that sin is first conceived! The Devil attacks us first in our thoughts: This is the door through which he finds entrance! But thank God we can close that door! You have found

as I have, that in the hard places, amidst severe trial, the Devil tries to put discouraging thoughts in our mind.

The one who has not learned the secret of the renewing of the mind instantly will, as God's Word says, "faint in his mind." Here's the verse: Hebrews 12:3, "Think of Him and consider Him so that you may not grow weary and faint in your mind." -- Because that's where we faint first, and become discouraged.

It's no use to talk victory, using cheerful words, and think thoughts of defeat and discouragement, as some do. In our mind is the door through which the Devil finds entrance: If that's true, then we can by an act of our will, take our minds off such thoughts and put them on God and the many wonderful things He says to you in His Word!

It's vital that you have certain Scriptures memorized so that you can quickly wield the Sword of the Spirit when the Enemy attacks! And soon you will be lifted out of dark discouraging thoughts and feel this transforming power renewing your mind.

The one who has not learned to thus renew his mind when he sees his thoughts are pulling him down cannot claim the promise in this verse, that he shall "prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." -- That's a tragedy, because it's a tragedy not to know God's Will for your life.

So when the Enemy comes with evil thoughts of any kind, and you slam the door, stay your mind on Christ and the truths of Scripture, then the uplifting and transforming power promised in this verse will give you victory over every ugly thought, and you will partake more and more of the Divine Nature.

As you form the habit of thinking God-ward from His Word, thinking God's thoughts after Him, gradually, according to 2Cor.10:5, this will be fulfilled: "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

It is the Word "Christ" that makes all the difference in this verse! Last year I visited in the home of a woman who was deep in the study of Science of the Mind, and she was constantly struggling to think positively, but was always being defeated in her positive thinking.

She reminded me of the little boy whose mother told him at long last that if he did not sit down, she would punish him. Well, he sat down, but soon he said in a rebellious voice, "I'm sitting down all right, but I just want you to know that I'm standing up on the inside!"

Well, this dear woman would put on a veneer of control, but

inwardly she would be boiling! She wasn't a Christian, and when she gave up her negative thinking she had nothing factual to tie into.

She did not have Christ to help her, nor all the wonderful truths of God's Word to think on. -- What an advantage the Christian has! -- She was exalting her mind above the mind of God. Not this verse again:

"Casting down everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." -- Now I believe in positive thinking, and there is a science of the mind, but there is no Salvation or Eternal Life in either!

God's Word says there is no other name given among men under Heaven whereby we can be saved, and in none other is there Salvation! Meditate upon these Scriptures! David said, "Thy testimonies are my meditation." And 2Cor.11:3, "But I fear that as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted from wholehearted sincere pure devotion to Christ."

At first it is not easy to deliberately, by the act of the Will, put your mind on God, His Word, His love, His truths. But gradually, by the principle of repetition, the thoughts will be brought into captivity to Christ.

Remember, God never asks you to do what can't be done! He never never asks us to do what we're unable to do! This is His Word, and His Word is true. God cannot lie! His Word stands unchanging, everlasting, steadfast, the blessed Word of God.

God says it and it's so because God says so! Let's have a word of prayer about it: We thank Thee, Father, for this precious Word of Thine, so wonderful in Its helpfulness, so true! We pray that Thou wilt quicken faith for Thy blessed Word that when we will read it we will know that it's God that is speaking, and Its truths will take hold of hearts.

We pray, Lord, that nothing in our lives shall be exalted or lifted up above the mind of God, but we might have that mind in us which is also in Christ Jesus, until at last we can say with the Psalmist, "Thy law I love, and I meditate upon them even in the night watches." -- God grant it, Father. We ask Thy blessing upon each one.

God bless you and make you a blessing and keep you in these days. And remember, He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

ROCK OF AGES

(Program 56)

God bless you as we fellowship together! I want to thank God for the privilege of coming to you in this way! Any service for the Lord is a privilege, but this is one of the greatest because it is so far-reaching!

We've tried so hard to keep our message to the Gospel only, we have given hardly any time at all to the needs of the Work. We've rarely ever mentioned the finances, we so long to use all the time for your encouragement and for God's Glory!

Perhaps you wonder why one would be willing to appeal like this to support such a work? What is the motivation behind it if they don't get anything out of it for themselves? -- In fact have to give toward it themselves? Why does one keep on and on year after year? What's the motivation behind it all? Behind the sacrifice? Why would people do things like that?

Well, I know why! They're so dedicated to God and want to sacrifice for His Cause! As for myself, I want you to know that years ago when a helpless invalid without hope and without God, I found the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.

Then He healed me and raised me up in such a miraculous way that I've had one great over-powering desire to tell others that He is so real! That God is real and His Word is true, and that He'll do just what He says He'll do in that wonderful Word of His!

It is real, and it's all so because God says so! It works! And I long to tell others that, just like someone came and told me. I seems you'd give your very life to let people know that every promise in that Bible can be taken at Its face value!

The living God, our Father God, stands behind His Word with His Love and His mercy, His truth and His power, and you have such a yearning to let people know that, you just want to give more and more as the years go by.

For you have learned that there isn't any real joy anywhere except in being right with God and in fellowship with Jesus Christ. And there is nothing in all the Word as satisfying as serving Him and seeing lives transformed through His power!

If you want to have real joy, just tell the good story of His Love and His mercy and healing power to someone, and see their lives transformed, and the joy will come in your heart! It's like the song we used to sing:

Sweet Savior mine! So full, so free,
Thy pardoning Love has been to me!
Were I possessed of boundless store,
My heart would long to yield Thee more.

The World is not apart from Thee,
Sweet Savior mine,
And crusts are kingly fare for me
Since I am Thine.

My life, my all to Thee I give,
Sweet Savior mine, for Thee to live!
Can I withhold the trifling deed, the paltry gold?
Oh no, Lord, at Thy feet I fall,
Sweet Savior mine, I give Thee all!

-- And that's the cry of your heart.

As you learn to know Him better, you long to give more and more
as the years go by, because there's such joy in the Christian walk with
the Lord Jesus Christ. More and more you love His Word; and these
verses from the Psalmist, I would say they are my testimony. Listen to
them as we read them.

If you're discouraged or you're sick in body or weary in soul, take
these verses for yourself: Listen carefully as He speaks to you through
them: "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? Though an
host should encamp against me, my heart will not fear, though war
should rise up against me, in this will I be confident. (Ps.27)

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." -- And that rock is Jesus Christ! I hope you know that old son,
"Rock of Ages Cleft for Me!" Some of the new ones are beautiful, but
these old Gospel songs are so precious:

Rock of ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee,
Let the water and the blood
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure!

-- But the thought I wanted to bring from this is, and you find it in the
second verse:

Could my tears forever flow,
Could my zeal no languor know,
These for sin could not atone
Thou must save and Thou alone,
In my hand no price I bring
Simply to Thy Cross I cling!

And that's the way you have to come for Salvation, That's the way you have to come for healing! If you are sick in body, or if you are suffering, the Lord will do for you just what He did for me! Oh, how I remember that day, it still throbs my heart, the thrill of it all! How He answered prayer and so marvelously healed my body.

They tried to tell me that the Lord doesn't do that today, but that the Power manifested then was just to usher in His ministry and to open the Gospel dispensation! But He's doing it just the same today, and you come the very same way! If your tears could ever flow and your zeal never languor know, that couldn't bring you this from the Lord!

You just come through the Rock of ages. You come through the price that Jesus paid -- simply to the Cross you cling, that's all. your heart right with God and your sins washed away in the Blood of Calvary, you can come to Him, and He's so willing!

He said He was wounded for your transgressions. He was bruised for your iniquities. The chastisement of His peace is upon you, and yet He says in that very same passage, By His stripes we are healed! Then you find over in the 103rd Psalm, and the little word I want to impress in closing here is that it's "all." He said:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases." -- Ps.103:2&3. -- And that includes the very thing which you have right now, I don't care what it is!

God said all and He means all! -- Then there's another very wonderful "All!" He says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." -- Ps.34:19

I don't care what your trouble is right now or what that suffering is, just take that little word right there, that "all": And that includes that trouble right now, or that sickness, that suffering, that affliction.

"He delivereth him out of them all." -- Then in Mat.8:17 you find these Words: "That it might be fulfilled which is spoken by Esaias the prophet saying, Himself took our infirmities and bare our sickness." -- That's a repetition from the Old Testament, but up here further It says, "He healed all that came to him."

He healed all that came to Him! That includes you, doesn't it? He went through the kingdom to heal the sick. It says in Luke 9: "He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And they departed and went through the towns, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere."

Oh, this unchanging Christ! If you'll just confess your faults! As it says in James 5:16, "Pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." -- God bless you and help you and give you the faith, strengthen your faith, to reach out and touch Him today. Amen! He's still on the Throne and prayer does surely change things.

THE ROYAL ROAD TO HAPPINESS

(Program 60)

There's a melody Divine
Deep within this heart of mine
Since Christ has taught me harmony.
There's music in my soul
Since He has had control,
He giveth perfect peace and victory!

God's Word says, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (Jn13:17) -- A verse of Scripture that has such a world in it we couldn't begin to exhaust it! The little word "happy" and the little word "do" mean so much in this passage. -- Some time ago I was reading an article in a magazine, and this is just an excerpt from it:

"Everyone is after the same thing in life, and that is happiness. Just to have a good time seems to be the purpose of life to some people. Unfortunately most of them blunder until their short lives are nearly over before they find out what a good time really is.

"At first, when children, we think that 'a good time' means lots of fun and not much work, to do as you like and get something for nothing. But many folks discover after a while that that is a very silly notion and leads to mischief, spankings and stomach-aches.

"Eventually, after having plenty of troubles, folks learn that success and happiness does not come from grabbing everything we want, that happiness does not mean idleness and chocolate creams! But it takes a long time to go about it in the right way to find it."

Well, every real Christian knows this, and I certainly agree on one point, that happiness is one of the things that almost every human being wants.

Of course, consecrated, deep saints of God don't make a quest for happiness, but they find it just the same! And I hope I can convince you of this. Happiness is to many lives only a holy grail, that if they miss finding, they feel they've missed the supreme purpose in life!

But that isn't the supreme purpose in life! There's a little poem by Ella Wheeler-Wilcox called "I've Lost The Road To Happiness," and it goes something like this:

I've lost the road to happiness,
Does anyone know it, pray?
I was dwelling there
When the morn was fair,

But somehow I wandered away.
I saw rare treasure
And scenes of pleasure
And ran to pursue them when lo,
I had lost the road to happiness
And knew not whither to go.

-- Now I take the liberty to paraphrase the next verse:

Have you lost the road to happiness?
Oh, I can lead you back,
Take the road marked 'obedience',
To the right, up God's own track!

So where can you find real happiness? -- Well, it's found by obeying God! Strange to say, the mother of happiness is just plain old-fashioned obedience, and every man that was blessed under the ministry of Jesus Christ, was blessed in the path of obedience!

Joy is always the aftermath of obedience! God's Word says, "if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." -- I want you to remember that verse: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." It's true!

A will yielded to God brings you rest of spirit; a heart right with God brings joy, and a mind stayed on God brings peace.

Perfect obedience would be perfect happiness if we had perfect confidence in the One we are obeying! Isn't that a wonderful thought? And so true! It's reasonable too, for if the heart is right with God and you're walking in obedience to His Word, then He can fulfill in you all of His wonderful promises, and who could help but find happiness then?

Many people think they are unhappy because of conditions and circumstances around them, but that isn't it, it's because of what's wrong in the heart! When the heart is wrong, all is wrong. They are at war with themselves because they are out of harmony with God.

Christ did not teach that the quest for happiness should be abandoned, but that you must find the right way of finding it! Christ believed in, and taught happiness, but He made it very plain that there are wrong ways of pursuing it.

He knew every phase of human longing for happiness and that the wrong pursuit of it is one of the World's greatest problems that we must solve. Jesus said, "I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man will take from you." -- That's John 16:22.

He said, "ask and receive, that your joy may be full." (Jn.16:14)

And He promised that one of the first fruits of the Spirit would be joy! There are so many Scriptures along this line to prove that joy comes to a real Christian that I haven't time to mention them all! There are far far more than I can tell you about in the time I have right now.

But this kind of joy is entirely different from the gaiety the world calls happiness! And this confident message of happiness runs triumphantly all through the Word of God, so don't think that when you become a Christian it's some long-faced affair, all fenced in and hard and dark!

Christ always set forth the fundamentals of happiness, and told us that we should have joy, to "ask and receive, that your joy may be full." And He would reveal to the world that they are on the wrong path to happiness if they just strive for happiness as a goal in itself, because that's just to chase a shadow and never catch the substance at all!

It's not something from the outside that you can pour into the heart, but rather it springs up from within the heart as a God-given miracle resulting from yielding to the Will of God, and putting the life utterly at God's disposal! Is this an unthought of way of happiness to you?

Does it seem unreal that you can find happiness by making Jesus Christ the master of your life in implicit obedience to His Will? Well, tens of thousands of people are today testifying that they found happiness in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ! He can do it for you! He wants to do it for you!

Are you dissatisfied, distraught and frustrated? Why don't you give God a chance at your heart? Before you again start up some wrong trail to find just another dead-end of dissatisfaction or frustration, why don't you read God's Word? You'll find there what is the Will of God for you.

You'll find God's way! Remember that Christ Himself, when He was here on earth, constantly set forth that there was no blessedness equal to the blessedness of obedience. Is it strange that God can fully satisfy your soul? Oh, He can! He's still on the Throne!

THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL

(Program 108)

God bless you and make you a blessing as our usual greeting for Meditation Moments and we're so glad that you're tuning in. Will you bow your heads for just a wee word of prayer?

Father, we thank Thee for the privilege of speaking about Thee. We thank Thee for Thy precious Word that we shall enlarge upon. We ask Thee, Lord, that Thou will give openness of mind and heart to the things that Thou hast laid upon our heart to say, in Jesus' name, amen.

You know it's something of a tragedy isn't it when there's such a wonderful balm. Oh, such a provision for the needs of dear ones that we say so little about it that we don't have such a sacrificial spirit in getting the Word out, when there's such transforming power with the Lord Jesus Christ and yet we're so silent about it. I want to talk just a little bit about that for a few moments.

Every morning before I get up there's a few things I say to the Lord. I go through the 23rd Psalm and I say the Lord's Prayer and I always say the 1st Psalm and then 11th and 12th Chapter of Hebrew. I go through quite a number of Scriptures that bless my own heart and seem to prepare me for the day. But this particular Psalm I want to read it to you, this first Psalm, and I think that most of you may know it perhaps memorized it long ago but this first verse:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. ... (quotes till end of chapter.)"

Now those words "nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." You know, so many radio programs today there's scorning of the things of Christ and seems like nothing is sacred anymore and so much of the news is slanted towards the liberal and modernism and Communism and some of the leaders that we'd expect so much from it seems as if they're on the side that isn't the side of Christ or of blessing for this nation and just let any honest-hearted person attempt to accomplish something worthwhile and immediately there's suspicion thrown upon them or jeers at least, let any woman begin a work of mercy and love for the unfortunate and she's criticized and condemned by others and any other church member that will stand up and lay hold of a worthy

piece of work that no one else seems to be interested in and then many will instantly protest he's trying to run the church. There's so much criticism for those that are taking a stand for the Lord.

In the major I can understand why some people do not want to be outspoken for the Lord Jesus Christ. They come to a place where they are fearful and they don't sit themselves in the seat of the scornful but they're afraid of these scornful ones and the ones that will ridicule and some of the greatest people of the ages in history have been scorned for their stand. I think Washington was probably the most eminent ruler the United States ever had and was so loved and when he was leading the ragged Continentals at Valley Forge and oh, their feet were bleeding, their bodies were hungry and there were those that were sitting at home in comfortable chairs by blazing fires and they criticized him. They said, "Why he's been twice a traitor!" and Washington has authorized the robbery and ruin of his own party and you know the story of Abraham Lincoln where one nationally known editor even wrote that Lincoln ought to be hanged, that he betrayed the people and he was a cancer on the body politick.

And there is a lot of criticism and it does make it hard for people to testify today and to witness to the power and the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ or to stand on the right and they'll be called everything from an extremist and the fringe of lunacy, an extreme fanatical rightist and all. I will say that even public servants pay a dreadful price for the privilege and honor of serving even their country and true, every Christian who strives to faithfully bear witness for his Lord is gonna pay dearly for his courage and his fidelity. Peter declared long ago, "Know this, there shall come in the last days scoffers walking after their own lusts. Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour."

Now the paths of service are crimson with the blood of suffering, hearts have been broken and hopes have been blessed and souls are needlessly wounded by thoughtless cruel ministry of those that are willing to occupy front seats among the scornful. These people that sit on the seat of the scornful that jeer at God's people and make it hard for one as I say to testify to witness to the things of Christ. Oh, I love those words in the Psalm, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth at the seat of the scornful."

It was the same though for the Lord Jesus Christ and when He was a national hero and was the idol of the multitude but when the

curtain rang down on His ministry men of religious bigotry and political malice, unsheathed the sword of hatred and they deserted Him and at his arrest all of His disciples fled for their lives. At the cross there was but one of His chosen apostles that dared to stand by and when He died he left on earth 11 cowards it seems to me and one traitor[?].

You know, Paul, the one with the pulsing heart. He was the controlling mind of the Early Church. You remember when he said in His hour of direst need, He said Demas has forsaken me having loved this present world and has departed and Crescens is gone and Alexander the Coppersmith did me much evil. That my last trial no man stood with me. All men forsook me." The majority of Paul's friends weren't able to face the lions and the swords of the firing martyrdom. They clung tenaciously to their seat and among the scornful.

They have been many cowards in our time also. I've had some experience along this line so often long ago. A young woman that had been greatly blessed in the ministry and God had healed her marvelously and she went to tell someone about it and she said, "Oh, I just had the most marvelous doctor and he did such a wonderful work," and then she added in a whisper, just a bare whisper to this party. Said, "Of course the Lord helped a little," she said. But she said it in a whisper, "But of course the Lord helped a little."

Well, I turned to her and I said, "You did have a good doctor but," I said, "you've got a very jealous God and the Lord healed you through the prayers of all your friends and I prayed for you desperately and I said, "The doctor helped a little and the Lord did the work and true the doctor did help some but the Lord did the work." And she was ashamed it seemed of this.

A friend complained of the blasting of a certain program and I said, "Did you write in or protest?"

She said, "Oh, goodness no! They would've published my name and my letter." Well, those that stand against Christ and the things that you believe they don't mind having their names published."

Sitting one time in the parlor car of the Southern Pacific Train a Christian woman and I knew the conversation between 3 people took on a vitriolic tone towards the Bible and towards Christ. She couldn't stand it any longer and stand up and left. She never said one word of protest, she gave the least witness to her faith before those people. You know, there's something tragic about that when we've got so much to witness to and we let those that sit in the seat of the scornful put fear

into us. It's an awful thing when you think that when we have so much to witness to and such a wonderful Lord and there can be such transformation in these lives and yet we don't tell'm about the (balm?) that there is in Gilead. You know, we used to sing a hymn in Sunday School I think I've quoted to you a number of times:

"Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone.
Dare to have a purpose true
And dare to make it known."

Oh, I wish that some unsaved one listening in right now would have the courage to trust God for your salvation and then help us stand out for His truth, declare your allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ right now. Do you have the courage to do that? Oh, what a changed life you would have. What a witness you could be for the right and for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word says, "I say unto you, joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repents than over 99 just persons who need no repentance." Oh, God help you to have courage to stand up for the cause of Christ in this dark day. Oh it's needed so very much and surely you owe the Lord Jesus Christ that much loyalty that you'll not listen to the scornful or sit anywhere near the seat of the scornful. God help you to have the courage to speak for Him. He's still on the throne and prayer will change things for you.

THE SECRET PLACE - RENEWING YOUR MIND

(Program 31)

Welcome to Meditation Moments and a hearty "God bless you." The Lord make you a blessing. We go again into the inner chamber of prayer. you remember that in this series of "The Inner Chamber" the secret place where we meet God alone in fellowship and meditation, we have repeated each time the key Verse, Matthew 6:6,

"But when you pray go into your most private room, and closing the door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you in the open." -- You know, out of all these verses, we take just one little sentence, "the renewing of your mind." And we're going to take it from this Verse:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this World, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom.12:1-2.)

So we have here this little jewel, "The renewing of your mind." -- For there is no place where the mind can be so fully renewed as in the secret place of prayer alone with God. When we come aside from temporal things that distract and harass us, and there in the presence of God we put our mind on the things of God, His Majesty, His Glory,

The transforming power of God then begins to work in us and we are transformed by the renewing of our minds! Oh, it's vital, because it's in the mind that sin is first conceived and that doubts are first brought about.

The Devil attacks us first in our thoughts: that's the door through which he finds entrance. But thank God we can slam that door shut! You have found as I have that in the hard places of trial, the Devil tries to put discouraging thoughts in our mind, and the one that has not learned this secret of renewing the mind will, as God Word says, soon faint in his mind.

In Hebrews 12:3 we find these words: "Consider Him that endured such contradiction...lest ye be weary and faint in your mind." - That then is the secret! That's where we first faint, we become discouraged. It's no use to talk victory and use a lot of cheerful bright words, and think thoughts of defeat and discouragement.

If our mind is the door through which the Devil finds entrance,

then we can by an act of our will take our mind off such thoughts and put them on the Lord and His truth and His Word! It's so vital that we have certain Scriptures memorized so that we can quickly wield the Sword of the Spirit when the Enemy attacks us!

And soon you'll be lifted out of the dark discouraging thoughts, and actually feel the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ renewing your mind. Try it! When the Enemy comes with these discouraging doubting thoughts, slam the door! Stay your mind on Christ!

The Scriptures, the uplifting and transforming Scriptures, and the power that God has promised will give you a victory over very ugly doubting thought! And as you form the habit of thinking God-ward from His Word and thinking His thoughts after Him, gradually 2 Corinthians 10:5 will be fulfilled:

"Casting down every imagination and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Now please note that it's the word Christ that makes all the difference in this Verse. Last year I visited the Home of a woman who was deep in the study of science of the mind, and she was constantly struggling to think positive: Positive thoughts. But she was always being defeated. Well, I've met a number like this.

This woman would put on a veneer of control, but inwardly sometimes she was so angry she was boiling! -- She wasn't a Christian and when she gave up her negative thinking she had nothing to hold on to, she had nothing factual to tie into.

She didn't have Christ to help her, nor all the wonderful Scriptures of the Bible to think on: what an advantage the Christian has over that! Yes, I do believe in positive thinking,

But she was exalting her mind above the mind of God! Note that verse again, "Casting down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

So I say, there is a science of the mind but there is no salvation or eternal life in it! God's Word says there is no other Name under heaven given among men whereby we can be saved, and in none other is there Salvation! You've got to give people something to tie into, something to hold on to, and something very positive to think about,

And what is more positive than the living Word of the living God? You'll never know God's Will for your life unless you are transformed

thus! -- Well, I might say the controlling of your mind, but God's Word says here, the renewing of your mind, but you can control it through Jesus Christ's help.

John Brown said, "We need someone to write a book about the lost art of thinking." Many people go through life without a thought of ever getting alone, much less getting the mind of God. This can never be accomplished in the tumult of the World.

Never can you find the mind of God on the streets of social life, or in the Hobby Shop! Getting hold of God has to be done where there are no distractions: that's why He says to go into your most secret place -- or your closet, as in some translations. This has to be deliberately planned, it cannot be done in leftover parings of time.

The great giants of faith all through the ages deliberately shut themselves off from everything for a while, alone with God until faith came to a white-hot focus and they got through to victory!

David said, "Thy testimonies are my meditation," and then in 2 Corinthians 11:3 it tells us, "I fear lest as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted from whole-hearted and sincere pure devotion to Jesus Christ."

In closing, let's repeat what the Psalmist said, "I hate vain thoughts but thy law do I love, when I meditate upon it in the night watches."

At first it isn't easy to deliberately by an act of the will put the mind on God, His love, His truths, but gradually as you yield to Him, then by the Spirit -- the principle I might say of repetition -- the thoughts will be brought into captivity to Christ.

And remember it's the "Christ," it's Christ that counts! Not just some system of thinking, and not some science of the mind, but Jesus Christ and all His teaching. God never asks us to do what we cannot do! This is His Word and His Word is true, it will accomplish just what He claims it will.

He's never failed in one of all His good promises. God cannot lie! His Word stands unchanging, everlastingly steadfast, the blessed Word of God. God said it! The Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe said it!

It's so because God said so! Remember, He'll do it for you. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

THE SECRET PLACE - VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION! -1-

(Program 15)

The place where we find the guidance of the Lord is in the Secret Place of prayer, and we've called your attention a number of times to Matthew 6:6,

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee." -- We have talked about the place of prayer being a place of solace and strength and a source of victory over temptation,

But it is also a place where God gives you His leading, where He tells you what turn of the road to take, what path He wants you to tread: It's where He tells you just what He wants you to do. When Jesus called His disciples to Him and gave them their first public teaching in the Sermon on the Mount,

He gave them to understand that prayer was a vital part of the new Kingdom that He had come to set up, and that we must have a solitary place where we can be alone with God, some fixed spot where we can meet Him daily: There He promises to meet us.

This Secret Place alone with God is called the "inner chamber": It can be anywhere, but it must be a quiet time alone with God. Someone wrote some time ago, "Prayer seems such drudgery to me!" -- I can't see how that can be, when it is so comforting and made so attractive by the very presence of God!

God is in the Secret Place of prayer and it's so filled with His Love! It's love that awaits you there, no matter how weak and sinful you've been, or how hard your heart, or how little your faith. This is His invitation to you, telling you that He is waiting for you in the Secret Place of prayer.

If you could just make this your thought as you come, "He waits for me, He pities and loves me! It's not what I bring to Him, but what He waits to give me, as my Father, that's what counts. It's my Father, the Infinite and everlasting God that wants to meet me there in prayer."

To shut the door and pray to Him in secret! -- How marvelous! So Jesus taught His disciples that this is where He would be found, that He waited for them there!

I would say you can count that one a fool who thinks they can

stand against the temptations of today or get the leading of God for what He wants them to do, without seeking His help in this Secret Place.

You know the World tempts! And the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life come against you with such force, the only way you can overcome is by God's help through the victory of faith and the shed Blood of Calvary! For there Jesus Christ overcame the Enemy and all power in heaven and on Earth was given into His hands.

Only through that power can we overcome the temptations of Satan! It's only by the sacrificing Spirit of God that is come down upon us in the Secret Place of Prayer that we can, as God's Word says, "have power over all the power of the Enemy." It's there in the Secret Place that the Lord becomes a wall of fire around us and we are able to resist temptation.

It is there that we are able to find exactly God's pattern for our day, or for our life. You can't confront your fierce Adversary alone! God's Word says, "When the Enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of God will raise a standard against him."

But you have to be in touch with the Spirit of God before you can confront such an adversary! You get that touch in the Secret Place of Prayer where His Spirit empowers you. Someone has said their temptations in life were just too great! Well, too great for whom?

Of course they are too great for you! But not for the God who waits for you to strengthen you in your time of need. It's only by His help that anyone can resist temptation, you were never supposed to resist it alone: That's why you need to get in touch with God so much! Because you can't have the victory in yourself!

God gave His Son to die in our stead for our sins, but not only for that, but to give us victory over sin! God said, "It's not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." -- Of course you can't stand against temptations alone, there has never been one who could!

This help is found in prayer and fellowship with God in the Secret Chamber of Prayer. The strength of the Enemy of your soul is so strong that you can't think to go out into the World to stand against him and the pressures of all Satanic powers of this atomic(?) age in human strength, it's impossible! -- In human wisdom, impossible!

You are going to be disappointed and utterly, tragically defeated if you try! Only God's power can do this! Why go so ill-equipped when God offers in love just what you need? Why choose the human when you can have the Divine? Why struggle in the natural when you can

have the Supernatural?

It was never in God's plan that you should do otherwise than look to Him for strength, look to Him for His leading, for Him to pilot you and help you. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." Therefore, He points us towards God-given strength and we are helpless without it. That is why the Secret Place of Prayer is so important: Because there you get equipped and put on the armor of God to stand in the battle.

The arm of flesh will fail you, my friend, you dare not trust in your own! Put on the Gospel armor, and as God's Word says, "He, the King of Glory that reigns eternally, shall empower you by His own power." -- Remember, He's still on the Throne, He never forsakes His own, and prayer changes things.

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION! -2-

(Program 40)

To him that o'ercometh
God giveth a crown,
Through faith we will conquer
Though often cast down.
He who is our Savior
Our strength will renew.
Look ever to Jesus
He will carry you through.
Ask the Savior to help you,
Comfort, strengthen and keep you
He's willing to aid you
And He will carry you through!

In this series that we have been bringing to you on "The Secret Place of Power In Prayer," we've each time called your attention to Matthew 6:6, and it reads thus, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber and having shut the door,

"Pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee." -- We've talked about the place of prayer being a place of solace, a source of strength,

Today we are going to talk about it being a source of victory over temptation. When Jesus called his disciples to Him and gave them their first public teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, He gave them to understand that prayer was a vital part of the New Kingdom that He came to set up, and that we must have a solitary place where we can be alone with God:

I know an old house on a hill,
A mountain road, a grove, a rill,
And billowed hilltops stretching far
To sunset and evening star.
I take a path through glade and wood,
Deep drinking of its solitude,
And find a spot o'er reached and still
Where peace and poise the spirit fill.
The Master's presence there is near,
The Master's plan again is clear,
And far removed from work or strife
I re-appraise the worth of life.

Yet hill and outlook, glade and wood,
The time, the place, the solitude
Hold not the secret of the prayer
The secret place of anywhere.

-- Now we have taken today for this particular Scripture, the words:

"He will not tempt you above that you are able to bear but will with every temptation make a way of escape." -- You know you can count that one a fool that thinks they can stand against the temptations of today without seeking God's help in prayer.

The World tempts! And the lusts of the flesh and the inbred lust of so many different kinds, and the pride of life, come against us, and the only way we can overcome is by God's help.

When will we learn that it's through the victory of faith and the shed blood of Calvary? For there Jesus Christ overcame the Enemy and all power in Heaven and Earth was there given into His hands. And only through that power can we overcome the temptations of Satan.

It is only by the sanctifying spirit of God that comes upon us in the secret place of prayer that we can, as God's Word says, "Have power over all the power of the Enemy."

It is there that the Lord becomes a well of fire around us and we are able to resist sin and temptation. You cannot confront your fierce adversary alone, but the Lord tells us, "When the Enemy comes in like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will raise a standard against him."

(Isa.59:19)

But you have to be in touch with the Spirit of God before you can confront such an adversary. And you can get that touch in the secret place, where His spirit will empower you. Someone wrote recently: "The temptations of life are just too great today." Well, the question is, too great for whom? Of course they're too great for you, but not for the God who waits in the secret place to strengthen you for just such a temptation.

It's only by God's help that anyone can resist temptations all the time! You were never supposed to resist it alone, that's why you need God so much, because you can't have victory in yourself. God gave His Son not only to die in our stead for our sins, but to give us victory over sin!

He said, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." -- True, the Tempter has supernatural power, but God has Divine power, and He invites you to link your human power with His Divine power which gives you supernatural power, and strength to

resist the temptation.

Of course, you can't stand against the Tempter alone. There has never been one who could resist every temptation continuously without the Lord's help, and this help is sought and found in the secret place, this inner chamber of prayer that we've been talking about.

Secretary Seward under Lincoln misjudged the strength of the South, the enemy in that day, and he told the boys of the North that the war would be over in just three or four months, but you know how it dragged out into years! He misjudged the strength of the enemy.

And if you misjudge the strength of the enemies of your soul, and think to go out into the World and stand against the pressures and Satanic powers of this atomic age in your own human strength, you're going to be tragically disappointed and utterly defeated.

I wonder why we go so ill-equipped when God offers just what we need? Why choose the human when we can have the Divine? Why struggle in the natural when we can have the supernatural? It was never in God's plan that we should do so.

Jesus said, "Without Me ye can do nothing," but He also said, "With God all things are possible!" And it is possible that God can deliver you from the temptation, and He will go with you into every single trial and temptation and not tempt you above what you are able to bear. In Matthew, Chapter 8, beginning Verse 23, we have this wonderful story which encourages faith, and perhaps we see a picture of ourselves in this story when He says:

"O thou of little faith, why art thou afraid?" "When He was entered Himself into a ship, His disciples followed Him, and behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, inasmuch as the ship was covered with the waves, but He was asleep.

"And His disciples came unto Him and awoke Him saying, 'Lord, save us, we perish.' And he saith unto them, 'Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?' Then he arose and rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm, and the men marveled, saying, 'What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!'"

If He can do that, don't you think that He can rebuke the Enemy that's tempting you and testing you in your life? If you'll just put your hand upon His and utterly trust Him, and there in the secret place commit everything into His hands, just turn your life completely over and tell Him all about it, then faith will be the victory! There's a wonderful little poem, I don't know who wrote it:

Faith is a grasping of almighty power,

The hand of man laid on the arm of God
That grand and blessed hour
In which the things impossible to me
Become the possible, O Lord,
Through Thee.

-- Wonderful, how true! With your hand in His and just trusting Him utterly, taking Him with you into every walk of life, He's going to help you get over that thing.

There's victory ahead! Someone wrote me just this last week, she said, "Things are so dark right now" -- she hardly ever writes when things are light! It always seems that there's a darkness! -- Well, praise God, the light of God's Word can shine in that heart, and there's light when the Word breaks in.

Go to the Word of God when you're tempted and tested that way! That wonderful Verse: "To him that overcometh God giveth a crown, through faith we will conquer!" -- Now those words, "Through faith we will conquer, though often cast down He who is our Savior our strength will renew, Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through. Ask the Savior to help you, comfort, strengthen and keep you, He's willing to aid you, and He will carry you through." -- I think this is precious:

Faith is believing

When all seems past hoping.

Although receiving no glimmer of light
Leaving the grieving and doubting and groping,
To those who are living only by sight.

Faith is still trusting

Completely God's promise,

When it would almost seem God has forgot,

Scorning to be a weak doubter like Thomas,

Seeking no sign nor bemoaning our lot.

Faith is believing

In God, holding securely

To that bright substance of things yet to be,

While living as purely, trusting as surely

As though our faith were a thing we could see.

-- God bless you, the Lord loves you!

It's an individual thing with the Lord, He cares for you! We've tried to make that plain so many times, that He loves you. I told you recently about someone that I was talking to that was very ill, and I said,

"Do you feel the love of God? Do you comprehend His love? Are you conscious of it?" And they said, "No, I'm not. I just see Him love other people and I feel like He loves others, but I just don't feel His love for me."

Well, that's a matter of faith! You've got to take God's Word for it. He careth for you and He's willing to help you through that temptation, if you'll just live in His Word and meet His conditions: abide in Him, let His Words abide in you -- "They that wait on the Lord renew their strength."

Then you'll have strength for the battle, as you renew your strength at his feet there in the secret place, alone with Him. I don't see how you do without Him! As we've so often said to you, "It's wonderful to begin the day that way, just to begin in the early morning to look to the Lord."

The first thing, take your Bible and get before Him and get in touch with the place of power. God's waiting for you and He is still on the Throne and prayer will certainly change things for you! And the wonderful words of that song:

God is still on the Throne,
He never forsaketh His own,
He will still care for you,
God is still on the Throne.

-- He does care for you. Amen.

SELF LIFE

(Program 80)

Once I was lost
In sin's degradation
And Jesus came down
To bring me Salvation
He lifted me up
From sorrow and shame,
Now I belong to Jesus.
Not for the years
Of time alone
But for eternity!

I believe it will be profitable to you if you'll truly meditate on these thoughts that we bring you from our heart. And thinking of our Meditation, my mind traveled back to a day before the Second World War when we were visiting in a home in the South.

The son of the family was leaving the next day for the army and we had been invited in for the farewell. "Would you like to see some of my pictures that I took on a recent trip through Canada?" the young man asked us. And as he projected the pictures on the silver screen, I watched in amazement,

For in every picture the scenery was obscured by his own image standing prominently in front of some very beautiful view. There was himself blotting out a scene in the Canadian Rockies, himself obscuring a rural scene in Quebec.

Himself so filling the picture that there was little else to be seen but self. Just filling all the pictures was himself and it was hard to find any scenery!

And so it was in all his conversation: He sang a song of self, he talked a song of self. It was a sweet melody to his own ears, but it becomes very tiresome to others.

Well, the pictures told a story that "self" had gone on this wonderful journey, and "self" was all he'd brought back! The wonders of it were lost to him because he saw only himself, and felt only himself, and cared for himself; but how different the story later on!

After the war we ran across this young life again as we visited the same territory. He had seen front line battle a number of times, and he had been severely wounded, his buddies had died by his side, and the chaplain he had loved so much had given his life in one sacrificial act of

great courage.

And out there one day in no man's land, impaled on a barbed wire fence, "self" died, and was buried for ever. After a while we asked, "Did you bring back any pictures?" "Just a few" he said, "Would you like to see them?"

And in that handful of pictures there was not one picture of himself! Self indeed had been wiped from every scene. Now, although he was a sufferer, he was active in service for others, and "self" had lost itself completely in the great needs about him.

He was a sufferer indeed, and crippled severely, but never once in our visit in that home did he mention his own need, did he ever talk of his pain, or of himself. I thought of this Verse of Scripture in John 12:24,

"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." -- It's a strange paradox that life will come out of death. Except you die, you'll never truly live, just as the paradox, except you give forth you can't truly take in.

"Give and it is given unto you." But "If you withhold more than is meet it tendeth to poverty" (Lk.6:38, Pro.11:24.) -- These wonderful Verses teach us this lesson. And so in the end of this Verse from God's Word, this last line:

"It abideth alone" -- This is the loneliness of the "self" life. If you're not willing to die, there is this loneliness. "Except a corn of wheat fall in the ground and die, it abides alone," this is why the "self life" is so stunted and impoverished.

The one who lives so self-absorbed and enwrapped, and self-pitying, with the idea that the whole universe revolves around them, they live the loneliest of lives, they indeed abide alone. And so many times they feel the utter futility of life.

Someone has wisely said that the smallest package in all the World is a man wrapped up in himself, and that surely is true! But how different the life of a real Christian, a dedicated Christian, where self has died! They've been crucified with Christ and they've been born again a new creature.

As Paul said, "It is no longer I that live, but Christ that liveth in me." (Gal.2:20) -- No more self-absorption, no more self-motives in life, but motivated by Christ within, he loses his life in larger interests: In the wealth of satisfaction from an outpoured life.

An outpoured life instead of an ingrown life! The promise is, "If it

die, it bringeth forth much fruit." This new life, the Christ-life that has taken over, will suffer for others, it's true, it will expend itself;

It will bleed for the suffering, but oh, what a harvest of fruitfulness there is! It indeed brings forth much fruit because it has germinated into communion with others, it has germinated into fellowship with God and into a self-forgetfulness which brings rest, joy and riches eternal.

If you are suffering the loneliness of the egoist, the one whose whole world is "self," the one who never gets away from himself, then take this Verse from God's wonderful Word, and ask the Lord to take you out of yourself and into Him. Seek Him, yield to Christ.

Yield all of self, present your body to Him a living sacrifice, as that Word says: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, which is holy, acceptable unto God."

And he adds, "Which is your reasonable service!" (Rom.12:1) -- A living sacrifice that He may come in and abide, living out His Life through you until you can say with Paul, "Christ liveth in me!" And that Verse in Colossians will be fulfilled in you, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Col.3:3)

This is the happy life! This is the useful life, and the life that knows no real loneliness! Now with the death of self there are heights of joy that you have never known. As the old song goes:

Lift me up and let me stand
By faith on Heaven's Tabor land.
A higher plain than I have found,
Lord plant my feet on higher ground!
I want to live above self
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled,
For faith hath caught the joyful sound
The song of saints on higher ground.
Lord lift me up and let me stand
By faith on Heaven's Tabor land.
A higher plain than I have found,
Lord plant my feet on higher ground!

And "higher ground" is the Christ life, supplanting the self life!
Out of self and into Him gives victory! Try it, give God a chance! The Lord Jesus Christ can completely change your life.

Nothing can better depict the Christian life, the life that's hid with Christ in God where it's none of self and all of Christ, than the words of

this song, and I think it so well portrays the words of Scripture in Colossians 3 -- that's one of my favorite chapters!

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. And set your affections on the things above, and not on the things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

"And when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then ye shall also appear with Him in glory." (Col.3:1-3) -- And so the Christian life is a life that's hid with Christ in God. Isn't it wonderful to have the life hid away above all the turmoil and strife of the world?

And so I say, the words of this song depict what is to me a real picture of the Christian life:

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus I come.
Out of my sickness
Into Thy health,
Out of my want
And into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin
And into Thyself,
Jesus I come.
Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus I come.
Into the glorious gain of the Cross,
Jesus I come to Thee.
Out of Earth's sorrows
Into Thy balm,
Out of life's storm
And into Thy calm,
Out of distress
To jubilant psalm,
Jesus I come to Thee.
Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever I fly on wings like a dove,

Jesus I come to Thee!
Out of the fear and dread of the tomb
Jesus I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus I come to Thee!

-- That's the life that's really hid with Christ in God, for ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God!

We don't have to worry about what's going to happen to us, when we're so firmly in His hands and our life is hid away with Jesus Christ! Are you giving God a chance? Have you gotten before the Lord recently and taken a good look at yourself and just see how you look in God's sight?

God looks down into your heart and talks to you and lets you see yourself as you really are. We are deceived so many times and we just go along, feeling as if we're all right, when sometimes we need to get right down before God and give Him a real chance.

Get a good look at "self" and see if your life is really hid away with Christ in God. Then there is the wonderful promise that we just read, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory!" (Col.3:4) -- God bless you.

SELF-PITY

(Program 54)

The Cross upon which Jesus died
Is a shelter in which we can hide,
And its grace so free
Is sufficient for me
And deep is its fountain,
As wide as the sea.

There's room at the Cross for you.
Though millions have already come,
There's still room for one,
Yes, there is room at the Cross for you!

"There's room at the Cross for you!" -- Isn't it wonderful when you think that there's room for each one of us! For He's no respecter of persons and He loves you and He wants to draw you to Himself.

There is no one any dearer in His sight than you. You are His own. You are the apple of His eye. He that touches you touches Him, He said so in His Word! You know this precious passage, but I want to refer to it for a special reason tonight: (Jn.14)

"Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in Me." This is Christ comforting His disciples, and He's telling them that He's the way, the truth and the light, and that He's at One with His Father, and He's persuading us to be at One also with Him.

"In My Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." -- Jn.14:2-4

I want to call your attention to these passages here in the 12th and 13th verses: "I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto My Father.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son." And "If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep My commandments.

"And I will pray the Father and He shall give thee another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the World cannot receive because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you and shall be in

you." -- And here's the verse I particularly want to call your attention to at this time:

"I will not leave you comfortless" -- I will not leave you comfortless! That's a passage that we need so very much today, because many of the Lord's people are passing through times of severe personal trial and testing. It's trying also when we meet people every day that are complaining of their calamities and of the World conditions.

Well, there are many things that we shall not understand until the day when everything shall be made manifest, but we know that Rom.8:28 is true! I believe it! I've seen it work so many times, that "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord." It doesn't make any difference about World conditions and wars, or the fear that's upon other people!

To "them who are called according to His purpose," God promises in Romans 8:28 that all things, everything shall "work together for good!" Of course if you view the trial that's permitted as a calamity, and you let self-pity begin to operate in your life, of course then it's very difficult for the Lord to work in your heart, and then the Devil will do all he can to bring about defeat.

Nothing makes us turn our eyes away from the Lord quicker than self-pity! We're down at once into a lower plane, the "self" plane, when we begin to have self-pity over anything that's come in our lives. The Holy Spirit is hindered in His working, and we can't see God in our experience when we begin to complain and act like we're pitiful martyrs of some kind.

The workings of the flesh begin at once and you find yourself even blaming other people! That's exactly what the Devil wants you to do! You find yourself all vexed and anxious and worried and burdened about things, and looking inward instead of upward! Then the irritation and discouragement spring up and you're so vexed and so anxious, everything seems wrong, just everything seems wrong!

You're coming under the power of the Enemy when you get into this condition! That's the strategy of Satan in these last days, he's after getting God's people, God's children, self-occupied and anxious about things, and discouraged and suspicious of each other.

He wants you to put a question mark over God's dealings: He wants to get you down on the lower plane where the Holy Spirit can't operate, and where you can't see that it's the Enemy of God, and it's not flesh and blood. He doesn't want you to see that it's himself, Satan, that's working. There's so much depression today, so much depression

all around us, but a Christian shouldn't be depressed!

A depressed Christian is just like a prisoner of war under the power of the Devil, unable to work efficiently for the Lord. He's so helpless he can't resist the wiles of the Enemy, and he certainly can't prevail for other people when he's in that condition! Now the Devil knows that, and that's exactly what he's after in every attack of this depression that comes upon you.

I think it's pitiful when you see this spirit of the World entering into the heart of a Child of God, this awful anxiety and depression, and being under such pressures. You hear people talk about being under pressure, under pressure all the time! Well, there's the Word of God just the same, God's Word hasn't changed, the Lord hasn't changed, and that's no place for a Christian to be.

You've got to refuse all such anxiety and all discouragement. You've got to definitely put your foot down and say, "I will not get into such a condition! I'm going to lift my eyes off of self and the World. -- I don't belong to this World anyhow, I'm just a pilgrim and a stranger passing through here!"

If you've got that pilgrim attitude and you keep your eyes right on the Lord and live in His Word, then you'll be doubly on the watch, and when some of these trials and testings come, you'll be like Paul: None of these things moved him, he said!

You can't get into this depressed spirit just because the World is so depressed! That is an instrument of the Devil: He's using that! Now if you find yourself that way sometimes lately, you've got to take some positive action!

Instead of creating yourself a spiritual vacuum in the negative all the time and accepting this kind of defeat, saying "Oh, I feel so depressed" -- I've had so many people say that to me: "I feel so depressed, I'm under such pressure" --

You must lift your eyes to Jesus! With all these promises in God's Word and all the wonderful things the Lord wants to do for you, insist on your rights in Christ Jesus, in the times in which you live! God's Word says in Colossians, "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God" and, "See those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. -- Col.3

Your life is hid away with the Lord and you don't have to accept that kind of defeat! Be determined! Just be determined that God helping you, nothing shall rob you of your trust in the Lord and of your stand of faith, that you're going to keep faith in Him, and you will not

let the Devil put this depression over on you!

It may belong to the World, and I'll confess that there's enough in the World today with all that's happening to bring a depression upon those that can be so depressed, but that's not for the child of God!

Can't you lift your head and say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"? That's for you! That's the place of victory!

God help you to do that, that you might be able to show to others what the Christian really is heir to, what the Christian has in Christ Jesus! It's for you, dearly beloved, there's victory for you! Amen.

"SENSE OF VALUES"

(Program 021)

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain World's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more."
In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, "In cares and pleasures,
Christian, love Me more than these."
Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thy obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all!

How true that the Lord calls us over the tumult of life's wild restless sea! Some time ago, I mentioned to you that I was sitting in a little coffee shop overlooking the ocean here, and that I was watching the boats far out to sea, and that I was dreaming of the Crystal Sea.

Suddenly, I became conscious that a man at the next table was saying something very interesting and loud enough for us to hear. His companion had asked him the question, "Why did you dismiss Henry from your office force?" And the man replied,

"Well, he had no sense of values! He didn't value life, health or money!" This began to affect my business: whenever I wanted him, he was taking a coffee break. It seemed to me he valued a cup of coffee

more than his job! And I warned him a number of times.”

I thought about that a good deal as I was meditating on it: "A cup of coffee rather than a good position." And the little sail boats kept skimming over the water just as a light wind had risen.

And I thought how many people just go skimming over the surface things of life and never have any sense of values, like the man that he was speaking of, just living off the non-essentials and the inconsequential things of life, crowding out the things that are worthwhile, and robbing them of the things that are, in the long run, really worthwhile.

No man or woman will ever be great in life or soul, if they haven't any real sense of values! I read a little article that told of a woman who ruined a dollar pair of gloves as she tried to salvage a dime from an oily driveway, and of a man who lit a dollar bill to find a quarter lost in the gutter.

You say, that's just foolish talk! Well, there is such a thing--there is such a lack of a sense of values in the world that it wouldn't be too surprising if even such extreme things as that could happen! I wonder sometimes what's the matter with our confused old world.

On a stupendous scale, we have put the emphasis on material things instead of spiritual things! I think that's what's the matter!--This fallacy has brought our generation to the brink of ruin! And no man is a real Christian who puts the emphasis on material things.

Christ's emphasis was always on the spiritual.--And what's the great outstanding purpose of life? What are we here for? Well, we've been entrusted with some sacred responsibilities, and our responsibilities are from God Himself.

But God is not first to this generation. Is He first to you? Too often He's shoved aside by some of us, and some little silly bit of uselessness is given first place.

God doesn't fit in a second place! I've said that so often, I repeat it again: God cannot fit in a second place! He fits nowhere but first, and there are certain things He has entrusted us with that fit only in a first place also. You can't put them secondarily and be right with God.

Trivial temporal things so often are put first, and God and His Word crowded into a secondary place. And if that's the case, all of life is just thrown out of balance, and the result is only disharmony and disruption and confusion. Serious things are happening to our nation, whose luxuries and soft life--you know it as well as I--have caused many to forget God, and many of our leaders are leaving God out of the

equation entirely!

First things aren't first, and how we need God, and how we need His help today, for the skies are already darkening with coming judgment! I believe only prayer can save us now, only repenting and calling on God and putting Him back in His rightful place.

I wonder, are the great realities of life in the proper perspective in your life? Have you a sense of values? Or do you let little trivialities and material things come before the reading of God's Word and prayer? Do you excuse yourself by saying, "I'm busy, I don't have time!"? Maybe you'd better question your own heart about your sense of values!

That Bible contains the very Word of God! There is life in that Word, that precious Bible, that's food for your soul. It's absolutely essential to the growth of your soul! If you don't have time for it, then your soul's going to starve, and you're certainly going to be a dwarf spiritually.

And prayer is communion with God! Without prayer you walk unempowered, in your own strength and wisdom, and the tyranny of sin will soon overtake you, and Satan will have the victory. God's Word says, "Without Me ye can do nothing." On the other hand, it says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

And that strength comes only through prayer and the reading of God's Word! You can hardly depend for that strength needed on a weak little hurried verse, or a little tiny prayer just before you hop into bed half asleep and sort of dazed! You couldn't call that "seeking first!"

I had an acquaintance who spent all of her years scraping, digging, slaving to build and decorate a little cottage where she could be comfortable for a few years, and just a few months after it was finished, she was stricken, and at her bedside she said to me,

"Time is closing in on me. There isn't any left for me, and I spent the little I had on things that have not a bit of value in the place where I'm going." She had a sense of values too late! Is it going to come too late to you? Death has a way of giving the proper perspective to dimming, dying eyes!

I wish sometimes we could see all the events of life framed in the ultimate results they lead to! What a change there would be in our lives! We wouldn't take and make such silly excuses for putting our Bible reading and prayer in the secondary place, and we'd not give ourselves to trivialities when eternal things are calling.

The one that lives for time instead of eternity has no sense of values! It happens every day that someone will say, not by their word

perhaps, but by their actions, "I just don't care about getting the mansions in Heaven, and I'm not so interested about these eternal things! Give me rather a mansion here and a crown here, with a little fame and glory here, and perhaps a few baubles here, and the favor of man and the pleasures of sin for a season, and I'll be a little satisfied here."

And the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who has offered them a robe of righteousness, a crown of glory, an eternal home among the many mansions there, is put aside just for these "other things" that really have no value! Will you bow your heads in just a word of prayer?

Our Father in Heaven, we pray that Thou wilt help us to have a keen sense of values, and the realization that we are put here to prepare for eternity and not for time, that our citizenship is in Heaven. God help us to understand. God is still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

SHOW THE WORLD A TRANSFORMED LIFE!

(Program 95)

I WAS READING THIS MORNING IN THE 17TH CHAPTER OF JOHN: "When Jesus had spoken these things, He lifted up His eyes to Heaven and said, Father, the hour is come. Glorify (exalt, magnify) your Son, so that your Son may glorify (magnify) You. Just as You have granted Him power and authority over all humankind, now glorify Him, so that He may give Eternal Life to all whom You have given Him.

"AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE: To know (that is, to receive, to become acquainted and understand) You, the only true God; and likewise, to know Him, Jesus Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah whom You have sent. I have glorified You down here on the Earth by completing the work that You gave for me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me along with Yourself and restore Me to such majesty and honor in Your presence, as I had with You before the World existed.

"I HAVE MANIFESTED YOUR NAME, I have revealed Your real self to the people whom You have given me out of the World. They are Yours, You gave them to Me and they have obeyed and kept Your Word." (Amplified version.)

THEN OVER TO THE 20TH VERSE, where He says about these that God gave Him: "Neither for these alone do I pray (it is not for their sake only, that is, that I make this request) but also for all those who ever come to believe on Me; so that they all may be one, just as You Father are in Me and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, so that the World may believe (may be convinced) that you have sent me."

I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION particularly to these two sentences here: "So that the World may believe" and then the words "that the world may know." How can we best bring men and women to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? We tell them, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." But, oh, hearts are so hard and lives so filled with many distracting interests today, it's hard even to get the attention for a moment of the unsaved. How can it be done?

WELL, I BELIEVE THERE'S NO PERSUASIVE POWER IN THE WORLD LIKE A TRANSFORMED LIFE. Show the World a transformed life and they will stop for a moment and take a look, whether it's your transformed life or someone else's.

THE FORCE AND IMPETUS OF TRANSFORMED LIVES stirs

my own heart afresh every day and whets to a keen edge my desire to keep up this work of God and see other lives transformed. Words fail me utterly when I try to describe the transforming power of Jesus, so wonderful -- every so wonderful -- in my own life.

SOMEDAY PERHAPS I CAN TELL YOU how God brought me back from unbelief. My heart was so hard and cold and I didn't believe His Word anymore. Well, there are so many lives like this that I have known.

SOME TIME AGO THERE CROSSED MY PATH a young man so steeped in sin, so lust-filled and vile that his soul was starving from near debauchery. He was an alcoholic, a gambler, a narcotic addict. Brought face-to-face with this miserably unhappy, useless life, the Lord seemed to challenge me with these Words,

"BELIEVEST THOU THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?" In other words, do you think that I can transform this life? I believe that Christ must find someone who has faith in His power to set such a captive free, someone who believe utterly that such a life can be transformed.

WELL, THE OTHER DAY I WALKED INTO A LARGE AUDITORIUM to hear this same young man proclaim this very same message of deliverance for captives. There he stood, not the same, for he was so utterly transformed, his face aglow with the Light of God, and the winsome loveliness of Christ in every act and word, as he was telling of the saving power of the Jesus. Every word was graced with the Love of God and adorned with the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHRIST HAS NOT CHANGED since He stood in the synagogue and proclaimed: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed me (the anointed One!) to preach the good news to the poor, He has sent me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to deliver those that are oppressed, those who are down-trodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity."

HE STILL HAS THE SAME POWER TO SAVE AND TRANSFORM as when He stood there in the synagogue. He still breaks the shackles and sets the captives free. Oh how wonderful when we see such lives transformed! Surely that lets the world know! And oh, how God wants so much to use you to transform lives!

I'M THINKING ALSO OF A MAN in Miami, Florida, years ago, whom we called "Old Man Jennings." He was unclean in his heart and when drinking heavily, he was none too clean on the outside. He was shackled with drink and sin, sick in body and discouraged when he came for prayer.

GOD ANSWERED THE PRAYER of those praying people, and the next time I saw that man I didn't recognize him. He was so clean outside -- and of course inside he was utterly transformed! I mightn't have recognized him, but I shall never forget what he said:

"WHY DON'T YOU ALL GET EXCITED?! Don't you see what's happened to me? I'm all changed! I don't drink any more, I don't curse, my body is clean! If God can do things like this, why don't you Christians get excited about it? Why don't you run out and shout it from the housetops?" I've never forgotten that. I wonder why we don't.

ARE WE JUST SPIRITUALLY LAZY about things; or are we doubters and do we begin to doubt that God can use us to help transform lives? Do we doubt that God can speak through our lips the Words of power that will bring about this transformation in others?

DO WE DOUBT THAT PRAYER HAS POWER? -- That if we give ourselves to prayer, lives can be transformed? Or maybe we don't see the need about us; or we view it with unconcern because the intense fervor of our zeal has cooled. Jesus said, "... that the World may know. ..."

WELL, HOW ARE THEY GOING TO KNOW EXCEPT THROUGH YOU AND ME? He has made no other provision! Think of it, oh, think of it! We have in our possession the remedy for all the World's ills. We have the only thing that will meet the need.

THIS IS THE ONLY MEANS OF TRANSFORMING that pitiful wretch of humanity that you know, or that hopeless soul that's headed for suicide, or that young life already so marred by dissipation that all the psychology and youth reformatories will never change him. Only this transforming power of Christ can do it!

BUT YOU SAY YOUR FRIEND, YOUR BOY, YOUR LOVED ONE, YOUR HUSBAND -- oh, he's too unbelieving, he's too much of a doubter, he's too far gone! Well, what about Jerry McAuley, the thief, the safe-cracker, the sodden drunk whose senses were so jaded that when he staggered into the Gospel mission where he at least was saved, he fell.

BUT AS JERRY MCAULEY SAID: When he fell, he fell towards the cross of Jesus. And today there stands in New York a monument to Jerry McAuley because his transformed life did so much for the World! Through the forgiveness of God and the cleansing blood of Jesus, that man did so much for humanity through his work with the derelicts of Skid Row.

AND SO GOD ASKS THE QUESTION: "Is there anything too

hard for Me?" -- Jer.32:27. Is there anybody who has sunk too deep in sin? What of Billy Sunday, the ball player, sitting on the pavement of Chicago, half-drunk, when the mission street workers went singing by? The Lord completely transformed that life and he became one of the world's greatest preachers.

HUNT UP THE HARDEST CASE YOU KNOW OF, then look straight in the face of Jesus and hear Him say, as He said long ago: "Believest thou that I am able to do this?" -- Mat.9:28. Well, if you do believe it, give them the Word.

TALK TO THEM, PERSUADE THEM, especially pray for these lives to be transformed. Don't give up on these ones, upon these especially that God has given into your care and brought your life into contact with. Let us ask God to forgive our doubts, our lack of faith for these that need the transforming touch. You must believe in the possibility of their redemption!

THERE ARE NO HOPELESS CASES WITH GOD! Oh for more faith in the dependability of God! He's not going to fail us! Has faith grown dim for the one we are praying for because of delayed answer to prayer?

GO TO THE WORD OF GOD AGAIN and see how many promises are made that He will help you, will empower you. He'll not fail you! And faith will grow! His resources are limitless. Our faith is built upon the Foundation of the Divine Word. "He has said it, shall He not also do it?"

HERE'S A WONDERFUL VERSE TO ENCOURAGE YOU to hold on and have faith for that one for the transformation of their life. Remember, it's the Creator of the Universe, the Sovereign of all, Who has said this, He Himself hath said He will in no wise fail thee, "nor will I in any wise forsake thee," so that with good courage we may say,

"THE LORD IS MY HELPER!" (Hebrews 13:4,6.) God help you to be true to it! Remember, God's still on the Throne and prayer does change things and He'll change their life. Prayer does change things! Believe God!

THE SHUT-INS

(Program 57)

I often think about the many shut-ins and those who lie in hospital beds, because I myself spent years in "Shut-in Land." Perhaps that is why this little verse of Martha Snell-Nicholson's is so close to my heart. It's called "Long Rows of Beds," and it goes like this:

Long rows of beds in each a body wrapped with pain.

Pale faces drawn with anguish

Or grown dull with apathy and weariness.

Sometimes old mothers with white hair

About to leave this World.

One with a sweet face

And snowy, fluffy hair

Lies all unconscious on her narrow bed.

Her husband, gray and bent

Stands over her in helpless baffled grief.

It seems to me

That surely she must rouse and comfort him,

As she has done so many times before.

The daily round goes on

In the hospital and the X-ray and the surgery.

But sometimes sudden laughter runs

Like quicksilver down the room.

It's where strangers often feel

Their hearts draw close

In common ties of suffering.

Long rows of beds,

In each a soul Blood-bought.

Beside my own bed on a standard

Rests a jar of Ruby blood,

And through a tube runs the precious drops.

But lying here I think of one

Who gave His precious blood for me,

And with the blood

He gives me life eternal

And a home beyond the farthest stars

Where I shall be forever

With my blessed Lord and King.

He fills my hands with treasures

My heart with joy unspeakable
And glory such as feeble tongue cannot describe.
He gives me angels to watch over me
And His robes of righteousness for me to wear.
And all the riches that are His, are mine,
Because I am a joint heir with Christ the Lord.

I look down the long rows of beds
And year to share my treasure with them all.
Long, long rows of beds.

Through dragging hours of night
Sleep will not come to me for I must pray.
O Jesus Christ, Thy passion and Thy pain
Are throbbing in this quiet moonlit room.
Thy blood was shed for every sleeper here,
Thy Love broods over them.

I see Thee pass from bed to bed
With outstretched hands,
And I hear Thy voice say,
"Come unto me and I will give you rest."
And yet again, "I am the Way the Truth, the Life."
and yet they sleep,
These whom the wing of death has brushed.

I dimly see white face on the pillows,
And my heart is torn with grief
Because they do not know the Heavenly visitor,
And with the morning they will awaken,
Some of them unaware that He was here,
Nor see His footprint on the floor,
Nor hear His voice
Still ringing in the air.

Oh, great physician, hear my earnest prayer
And show me how to make Thy presence known,
Thy blessed face
Grow visible and dear to those who lie
In these long rows of beds.

I wish I could say some word of encouragement that would stir
your faith anew and help you to reach out and touch Him. I think the
best I can do is give you verses from His Word, that will give you new
courage and restore withered hopes. Here's one of the most wonderful
ones, in Luke 4.

It tells about Jesus, when He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

So if you're brokenhearted, if you're bruised, if you're bound, in these verses Christ offers Himself to you as a mighty Deliverer. And I know from personal experience how He can set you free! And these other wonderful verses in Luke 9:2 and 6. It says,

"He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick...and they departed and went through the towns, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere." Then in Jer.32:27, "Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: Is there anything too hard for me?" Then in Malachi 4:2,

"But unto that fear My name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." Then, "Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that very hour." -- All these wonderful promises in God's Word if you'll just take hold of them!

.30:17, "I will restore health unto thee and I will heal thy wounds, saith the Lord." And Mat.15:28, "Great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." And Mat.8:17, "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." And then one of my favorites is:

"If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal body by His Spirit which dwelleth in you." -- That's Rom.8:11. And then Mat.9:35,

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Isn't that precious? All these wonderful Scriptures, and there are so many more!

And you can say with Psalm 119: "Remember Thy Word unto Thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: For Thy word hath quickened me." Here are some of the closing words from "Don't Give Up the Ship," by Martha Snell-

Nicholson:

"When the storms come, they will, they will, do as His disciples did long ago, for He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Don't give up the ship, but call on Him." He says, "Call on me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

Stay in the boat! Don't give up the ship! How frightening in these days re the storms of life, but with the Pilot aboard we don't have to be afraid! God's Word says, "Thanks be to God which causeth us to triumph in Christ." -- These wonderful verses, and you can claim them all! Prayer changes things, and it's for you, my friend.

THE SIN OF UNBELIEF!

(Program 62)

This is a very precious poem, and we are going to make it a prayer for you:

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus I come.

Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus I come.

Out of my sickness, into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus I come.

Into the glorious gain of the Cross,
Jesus I come to Thee.

Out of my sorrows, into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms, into Thy calm,
Out of distress to jubilant psalm,
Jesus I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus I come.

Into Thy blessed Will to abide,
Jesus I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair to raptures above,
Upward for aye on wings like a dove,
Jesus I come to Thee!

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus I come.

Into the joy and light of Thy Home,
Jesus I come to Thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy shelter and fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus I come to Thee!

Our mediation is from Deuteronomy 1:28 where it says, "our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, the people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven, and

moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there."

Now someone might say, "you surely aren't going to talk about Joshua and Caleb and the spies that went to spy out the land of Canaan, that much-used story? We've heard it so much!" But yes I am! We need it now more than ever.

And on the subject of discouragement, we want to warn especially about letting others discourage you regarding any stand of faith you've taken! Don't let others discourage you! Note again the words in this passage: "Our brethren have discouraged our heart."

Yet first off the spies did not bring back such an evil report, for on their return they said, "We came into the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it flows with milk and honey and this is the fruit of it."

For you see, they had returned with the fruit of the land: grapes, pomegranates, figs, proving they had faithfully searched the land.

But God's Word says they brought back an evil report because they enlarged upon the fact that the people of the land were like giants in whose sight the Israelites were like grasshoppers, and the cities were great with strong walls.

So on second thought, how great the sin of unbelief is here! For they laid not their emphasis on what God had promised to do! They laid it on the wrong things: circumstances, conditions, and on that which they saw! Not on what God had promised at all, but on all that was contrary to that which God had said.

God said, "I have set before thee this land, go up and possess it, fear not, neither be discouraged." -- But the spies made God out a liar and said, "We be not able to go up against these people for they are stronger than we."

God was not taken into the equation, and this evil report caused the heart of the people to be discouraged, and they wept and murmured against God and against Moses, and went on into further rebellion and unbelief until God had to terribly punish them.

You remember, however, that Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful spies who gave the good report and believed God, tried so hard to encourage the people, telling them that God was able to bring them into the land! And Caleb said,

"Let us go up at once and possess the land, we are well able to overcome it!" You know the rest of the story, how God let them wander in the wilderness for 40 years because they believed the evil report and did not trust His promises,

And the ten spies that brought back the evil report that

discouraged the hearts of the people died by the plague before the Lord.
-- You find that story in Numbers 14:36 and 37.

I haven't told you any real personal experience, except about the marvelous miracle that happened one time in my life when I was such an invalid, but I do want to tell you something now regarding this passage of Scripture. I was en route to Revivals in Cuba and the Bahamas and had stopped over in a town not far from Miami.

Unexpected emergencies had left me without funds and I needed them to reach my appointment. I was looking to the Lord definitely, and I knew that it had to be a miracle. -- Because of conditions around me and circumstances all considered, it would just have to be a miracle of God if any funds came to me.

I got alone with the Lord, and claimed certain definite promises and I waited for His answer. Not only did I need the Lord to supply this need, but I had had the flu on the way down and I desperately needed healing for my body.

While alone I read many of the promises, and had a heart-searching to see if all was well in my own heart, that I had met God's conditions. There were circumstances that did not make it easy to exercise faith, but I just had to do all I could.

This particular evening I attended a Bible conference, and there came into my hands a small book by a learned Bible teacher, well-known for his great knowledge of the Scriptures. The little book explained just why God no longer worked miracles. It stated emphatically that nowhere did the Bible teach that miracles would continue after the days of the Apostles.

It was so clearly brought out, and he was so emphatic about it, and he was such a great and learned man, that for just a moment I was shaken, for the Devil took advantage of this and came against my faith with fiery darts unspeakable!

He was such a scholar! He taught the Word of God with such clarity and brilliance and he knew that Word from cover to cover!

He had traveled far in the land of promise, but for me he had, like those spies, brought back an evil report, and discouraged the stand of faith I had taken. I left that auditorium and in the quiet of my room I again read over many passages in God's precious Word.

It was right there, I saw it in God's Word, God said it! There were the verses: He would supply my every need "according to His riches in glory" and "whatsoever things ye desire, when you pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." God says so! It's so because God

says so!

"Let every man be called a liar but God be found true." -- Suddenly light broke through the darkness, faith flooded my soul; I asked the Lord to forgive me for that wavering.

I'd gotten my eyes on this intellectual giant in the land, and for just a moment simple faith was almost shaken. It is not uncommon for those who are seeking God for help to come under the power of unbelief in others who want to discourage. God's Word then came to me in this passage, so very definite was this Scripture brought to me:

"Ye shall not respect persons in judgment, and ye shall not be afraid of the face of this man; the judgment is God's: The cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto Me, I will hear it." -- How wonderful that was! It says in Hebrews 3:19,

"You see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." And the pity of it is that these discouragers not only did not enter in themselves, but by discouraging others, they had kept them all from entering in. This was my verse for that hour:

"Be of good courage, have I not commanded you? Neither fear the people for they are bread for us." -- Wonderful! It inspired my heart and all the fear departed from me, just as God's Word says,

"Their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us, let us go up at once and possess the land!" -- You know, it's far better to stand alone and seem simple-minded to some, than to seek help from leaders who weaken faith by their discouraging words, when we're standing on God's promises.

If you are compelled to live in an atmosphere of doubt and unbelief, ask God to protect you, to hide you away in Himself! Refuse to accept every doubt, every discouragement, and He'll find you with His Spirit that you can stand in the evil day, stand! -- Now you wonder, was my prayer answered? Yes!

I awakened the next morning refreshed in body, almost entirely well, and that day a large gift came from the most unexpected source I could have dreamed of! I would never have conceived of a gift from that source, for they knew nothing of my circumstances and my plans! It was God alone who had done this and answered prayer. It was a miracle!

Don't let anyone discourage you! God's Word stand sure and steadfast, He'll not fail you! Go in and possess the land and He will go with you. Stand your ground! God is still on the Throne and prayer does change things!

A SONG IN THE HEART

(Program 117)

This week when I wakened one morning things didn't look so bright and I had a burden on my heart and some real problems to face and I thought of sharing the burden with others as soon as they would waken but instead the Lord impressed my heart that they had burdens of their own. Why not help bear and lighten their burdens instead of burdening them with mine and just then that old song came to my song so forcibly that I began to sing it aloud. You remember this song. "There is sunshine in my soul today. More glorious and bright and shines on any living way for Jesus is my Light. There's music in my heart today, a carol to my King and Jesus listening can hear the song I cannot sing. There's sunshine in my soul today." Most of the words from the old song came back to me and soon as the others had heard they were all singing. Then my own burden seemed much lighter and I can assure you the day for all of us was brighter and some of the problems which seemed to be half song. Did you ever try singing one of the old Gospel songs of victory the first thing in the morning before the ole' Devil has a chance to show his teeth or blow his hot breath on you. Oh, it isn't easy but it does work. Try it sometime especially when you don't feel like singing. But I confess that it's hard to sing the old Gospel songs with joy and satisfaction unless there is a song in your own heart.

I asked an acquaintance who used to sing a great deal for gatherings why she didn't sing anymore and she said, "Oh, I lost the song out of my heart." I answered, "If that's the case you've lost the Savior for He always puts a song in my heart." Well, I think it's tragic and it's such an empty thing to bear the name of a Christian to have the name on some church roll and not have the joy of the Lord in your heart. Oh, that wonderful thing without the Christian life, one of it's most wonderful things is the joy of the Lord. God's Word says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength," and "Rejoice evermore." That's God's picture of a real Christian. Isn't some mournful long-faced person. The Bible teaches that Christ puts a song in the heart. Here are a few verses, just a fraction from God's Word that tells of the joy. "Ask and receive that your joy may be full." And in 1 Peter 1:8 speaks of joy unspeakable and Matthew speaks a number of times of the joy of the Lord and Jude speaks of God being able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Why all this joy in the Christian's heart, this song that's in his soul? Well, it's

because sins have been forgiven by the mercy of God through the sin Bearer on Calvary and that is it any wonder and you think that we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, His Word tell us, and we have through this come into a great inheritance in the life that now is and also in the life to come and that put a song in the heart, why almost too grateful lips to ever sing it. Have you lost your song? Take up the Psalmists refrain "Restore unto me the joy of salvation." Oh, my friend, pray it earnestly, sincerely. The Lord will restore the song to your heart. All the joy will come back as God's Word says a number of places. He will turn the sorrow that's mourning into joy. Will He restore? Will He forgive whatever it was that made you lose a song? He said, "I even I am He that blotteth out thy transgressions and will not remember thy sin." You turned your face away from Him. He didn't turn His face away from you. But He says, "Return unto Me and I will return unto thee." And I can testify to that because through neglect of God's Word for a while I lost the song but I repented and asked forgiveness and that verse of Scripture, "He inclined unto me and heard my cry" became true and the song in my heart has been glorious and constant ever since and indeed the joy of the Lord has been my strength like that wonderful song: "There's within my heart a melody. Jesus whispers sweet and low. Fear not I am with thee peace be still in all of life's ebb and flow. All my life was wrecked by sin and shame. Discord filled my heart with pain, but Jesus swept across the broken streams and stirred the slumbering chords again." Oh, when you take a look at what God expects of you where He says that you must forgive others 70 times 7. Oh, won't he forgive you then? And this time also even again He'll forgive you. Why carry the burden or sin when God waits to forgive? And then the song of salvation will come ringing again in your hearts and then you'll say with the Psalmist, "He hath put a new song in my mouth." And as He promised in Psalm 32:7, "Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance." And in Psalm 77:60 he says, "He will give songs in the night, songs in the heart," even in the night of sorrow and affliction this melody divine goes on and one in the soul until you sing it with God around the throne. There was one song in the beginning 'ere Earth was formed or time begun when morning stars all sung together in adoration of the Holy One. So there'll be one song through countless ages. There'll be one song and one song alone. That song will be of Christ the Savior, the great Redeemer upon His throne. When Christ was born in lowly manger. The angel host with shining wings sang songs of praise and adulation above the cradle of the King

of Kings. Oh, there'll be one song through countless ages, there'll be one song, one song alone. That song will be of Christ the Savior, the great Redeemer on His throne. When time has ceased and Earth has vanished, the ransomed souls of every race will sing one song in Heaven's glory when they shall see the Savior face to face. There'll be one song.

I wonder if there's a song in your heart. Oh, if you'll just turn towards Him He'll turn right towards you and accept you, love you as ever and then the melody divine will begin in your heart again. God bless you. Give God a fresh chance in your soul. He's still on the throne. Prayer does change things.

STAND OUT FOR JESUS!

(Program 6)

We love to hear from you! Some of your letters this week have been very precious; there's one that touched my heart a great deal. It was from a mother that told about how her boy seemed to be slipping. He was in the Services overseas.

In his letters, it showed that he was slipping away from the Word of God, and no longer the boy that left home; and she begged for prayer.

You know, it isn't so easy to stand amidst some of those things that are going on -- where boys are encamped together, and at the battlefield together: there're lots of temptations!

Some of us as Christians, we're not willing to come out and out for the Lord, and be so deeply dedicated and so absolutely surrendered to the Lord and speak out boldly for Him! We ask our boys to be bold about their witnessing and their testimony when they are in Camp, but I wonder if we are so bold about it?

When I think about the Scripture, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness and when we shall see him there is no beauty that we should desire of him.

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised and we esteemed Him not." (Isa.53:1-3.)

We're not willing to be the least bit despised for Him though, are we? Speaking out where we should for the Lord, and not being afraid of man -- no fear of man being in our hearts whatsoever -- but dare to take a stand for the right, and for God's Word. But He was despised.

"Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed." Oh, this wonderful passage in the 53rd chapter of Isaiah! You are quite familiar with it,

But I just wanted to call attention again to what He has suffered for us and yet how little we are willing to suffer for Him. Recently, I was with a group -- I was in my own home, but in theirs -- and they were watching something on television that I just couldn't understand how

any Christian could sit there and watch!

I thought some of these things that are coming on television, some of these things over the radio and on the newsstands and magazine rack -- that if we were courageous enough to take a definite stand against some of these things, if we were bold to speak our convictions and do something about it, that some of these things wouldn't happen!

There are enough Christians in this World that if they would rise up and boldly throw the weight of their influence towards putting Christ into the schools, and the Bible and prayer back into the schools, and Christ back into Christmas and back into Thanksgiving and all of these different things,

Why, they could stem the tide of this awful materialism and wickedness and pornography and vileness and unbelief.

He died that we might have liberty! He was poor that we might be rich in spiritual things! -- And yet we are not willing to make this sacrifice! And I say, dearly beloved, that to be a secret disciple, and make no personal, public testimony isn't being a real dedicated consecrated Christian.

We are just so afraid, some of us, that it would make us seem peculiar or different from the crowd! Isn't that so? I believe that something has got to be done that will put teeth into our conviction and a fear of God in some of our conferences, and dynamic decisiveness in our negotiations so far as our government is concerned!

We have heard so much about the dedicated Communists and their cause! And World domination; and they are certainly dedicated, super-sacrificial, and super-determined and super-active, that's true! Too many of us in this land of ours however, are passive, and our senses are somehow dulled about our duty to stand out to speak boldly.

In the 6th Chapter of Ephesians it talks about this boldness. Oh, that God would give some boldness that we might stand out for the Lord Jesus Christ, and take such a definite stand that we're utterly fearless about what people say and what they think about us!

I think we're just dulled by too much luxury and too much prosperity, and maybe by all our gadgets! And our senses are dulled by what we see and hear of crime and sex and the World on TV and the radio, and what we see about us.

Our conscience is dull because we have become hardened by constant contact with it all, and we don't do anything about it. But when I think of Jesus, wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our

iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him! And it says in 1John 3:16 -- not John 3:16, that is a wonderful verse, but 1 John 3:16:

He laid down His life for the brethren, and we ought t lay down our lives for the brethren! How I pray that some day God will raise up more leaders who will acknowledge God as Sovereign, the Bible as our Guide, and free from the fear of man, that they might be willing to die for some of their convictions!

Among professing Christians today we have got quite a problem along this line, there isn't this boldness! So many try to figure out just how far they can go and yet not hurt their reputation; how far they can stand for Jesus Christ and yet not in any way make themselves peculiar.

They don't want to be real outstanding Christians for fear of being called fanatics, or fools for Christ's sake! They want to be very dainty and aloof in their Christian walk and not disturb anybody.

Unlike those that walked with Paul, of whom it was said, "These are they that turned the World upside down!" They were called disturbers all right! But their names live to this very day, and their influence is still felt, while the passive compromisers that are drifting around today are just drifting into oblivion!

I believe the Christian life is a devoted, dedicated life! You know where the power lies in a Christian life? Well, in that very thing -- in the depths of its devotion! In the height of its consecration! That's where the power lies! -- the extent of its dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Such a dedicated life doesn't figure on moderation, it doesn't figure on saving their reputation! They don't say, "I'll just partake a little of this and that, but I will be moderate." Instead of that, he sets the force of his entire life towards that which is the World's hope through the Lord Jesus Christ,

And he won't compromise on any of it! I know people like that; I know those very kind of folks that take that kind of a stand for the Lord, and my, they are brave souls!

The issues of Christian living are like patriotism, they need to be more sharply defined than the World defines them: they have got to stand out sharp and clean-cut, and clearly defined! I am going to repeat again, that there is a tendency today on the part of Christians to cut corners and bend rock principles, make them fuzzy and uncertain!

But the Kingdom of God is founded on absolute things, absolute truth, absolute candor and sincerity! "Thus saith the Lord!" is what a Christian stands on, and these are the principles that America was

founded on!

And across from us today there is a nation that is no less absolute in it falseness and influence which damns the souls of men. -- But there is no bridge between, beloved! You can't try to confer and negotiate for a bridge between the two, you just can't, there is none!

As far as Christ is concerned, the Christian must face the question of whether his allegiance shall be one and undivided, completely surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. I say it again, I want to repeat it, therein lies the power of the Christian life: its influence and its blessing lies there alone.

The day is now here when Christians are going to have to give bold expression to their convictions! That day has come! There are forces at work in the World, and nationally, that are pressing in on us at such an alarming speed, that we may suffer like the martyrs of old if we don't every one of us, quickly, openly, espouse the cause of Christ fearlessly.

The greatest cause in all the World: this precious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! There isn't any place now in this crisis for a chameleon character that changes color with every crowd and melts into the surrounding World without any convictions or moral courage.

Of course it will cost something! The espousal of every great cause has cost something! Some of the greatest of men have risked everything, even their heads, to courageously declare their allegiance to Jesus Christ, to stem the tide of materialism.

I want to close by asking, do you have the moral courage to take your stand openly with the great of the ages? And at every opportunity give expression to your Christian conviction no matter what the cost in popularity or position? -- Joseph of Arimathea didn't, "being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews."

Do you do something secretly for fear of the opinions of others? There is an heroic element that is necessary today, do you have it? When the opportunity arises, do you come up with that heroism? "He that came to Jesus by night, being one of them" -- yet he was fearful to stand out! Are you in the same class as that one?

The Bible says, "I hate half-hearted men!" The Cause of Christ is suffering today because of half-hearted Christians. The great Army of God is engaged in a life struggle!

So who are you to stand by? God bless you.

THE STANDARD!

(Program 11)

THERE IS A PRECIOUS OLD SONG THAT HAS BEEN RINGING IN MY MIND ALL DAY AND BRINGING BACK MANY MEMORIES. Mother used to sing it when I was a child, and you will remember it if you had that kind of mother:

"SING THEM OVER AGAIN TO ME

Wonderful Words of Love.

Let me more of their beauty see

Wonderful Words of Life.

Words of Life and beauty,

Teach me faith and duty,

Wonderful Words, Beautiful Words,

Wonderful Words of Life."

OF COURSE THE SONG IS ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE! And nothing could better describe the blessing of that precious Book. They are Words of Life! I have a friend who is so very frail that it just seems a miracle that she lives on, but she has a secret:

SHE DRAWS HER LIFE AND STRENGTH FROM READING GOD'S WORD. When she feels her strength failing, she just takes her Bible and gets alone and reads on and on until some verse gives her fresh courage, and some promise gives her faith to hold on.

SO DAY BY DAY SHE LITERALLY FINDS LIFE IN THE WORD: Wonderful Words of Life. And I am going to say that I do the same! I can understand it because it was through the reading of the Bible to me that I had life and strength restored when I was a hopeless invalid for years -- and that was years ago.

BUT IT'S STILL THE SAME TODAY! IF I GET DOWN IN SPIRIT OR TIRED, or the Enemy tries to discourage me or my strength fails, I find the strength and blessing in the word of God.

IF ONLY THOSE THAT ARE SO TROUBLED AND DISCOURAGED AND DEFEATED COULD REALIZE THAT IN THE BIBLE THEY WILL FIND THE HELP AND COMFORT THEY NEED, what a different world this would be! And how many problems would be solved! And if our Nation would go back to the faith of our fathers in that Book and live by its standards, what a difference there would be in these crises times also!

DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS THE ONLY BOOK IN LITERATURE THAT'S FORBIDDEN IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS? Yet it's the only Book in literature containing first-hand teaching concerning a personal permanent God! Every philosophy is freely taught in our schools except this!

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE GENERAL PRESENT ENLIGHTENMENT, I THINK THAT'S BIGOTED AND PREJUDICED, and so subversive of public morals, this barring of the Bible from the schools. I suppose ours is the only Nation except Godless atheistic Russia and her satellites -- the only Nation on Earth whose schools are entirely divorced from this teaching about God.

TO THINK OF THE BIBLE BEING BARRED FROM OUR SCHOOLS! NO WONDER AMERICA DOESN'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS GOING! Reminds me of a story I heard about a llama that had been shipped to this country supposedly to a zoo. But upon arrival to the certain stations, being questioned about to whom the animal was being shipped, the agent at the freight depot said,

"WELL, SHE DON' KNOW WHERE SHE'S GOIN' SHE DONE CHAWED HER TAG!" -- Well, I think sometimes American has done the same and she doesn't know where she's going; and she's so confused, and we have such contention between left and right and they're divided in opinion because we don't have any definite standards.

I WISH IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TELL YOU OF THE LIVES I HAVE KNOWN THAT HAVE BEEN UTTERLY TRANSFORMED BY THE READING OF GOD'S WORD! Some of them raised to the greatest heights from the lowest depths. Indeed there is life and power in the Word of God!

AND SOME KNOW THIS AND YET THEY NEGLECT TO READ IT. And you wonder why you get down in spirit and so lacking in Christian graces, and lose patience. Everything else is given time and considered more important, and only just a few ragged ends of an hour -- a few minutes -- given to the reading that would have made the day beautiful and would have made the problem so much easier.

I JUST WANT TO SAY IT AGAIN THAT NATIONS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS HAVE TO HAVE A STANDARD BY WHICH TO LIVE. The question is, what is right? What is wrong? there must be a rule. There has to be a foundation. There must be a standard.

I WAS IN A CHRISTIAN HOME SOME TIME AGO when after a wonderful dinner the young people of the home excused themselves.

And it came out, not by intention, that they were going to a cocktail party.

WE WERE SPEAKING THAT NIGHT IN OUR HOSTS' CHURCH and the host and hostess were greatly embarrassed that the family was not going to attend this meeting but they were going to this very worldly affair. And so the mother spoke up excusing the young people and she said,

"BUT YOU KNOW HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TODAY! AND THE STANDARDS ARE SO DIFFERENT TODAY, aren't they?" Well, it was a question and so I answered it. "No," I said, "they are not different for a real Christian, not for a real Christian home!

"THE STANDARD IS THE BIBLE FOR CHRISTIANS AND THAT HAS NEVER CHANGED." -- Yes, there has to be a standard and this is what God has given us! If you don't know what to do, if you can't decide what's right, go to your Bible, it makes every path very plain.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE MIND OF GOD, THE STATE OF MAN, THE WAY OF SALVATION, THE HAPPINESS OF BELIEVERS. Its Doctrine is Holy, its precepts are binding, its History is true, its decisions immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be Holy.

IT CONTAINS LIGHT TO DIRECT YOU, FOOD TO SUPPORT YOU, COMFORT TO CHEER YOU. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's comfort, the soldier's sword, the Christian's character. Here Heaven is opened, the gates of Hell disclosed, and Christ is the subject and the Glory of God its end.

OH, FILL YOUR MEMORY WITH IT! LET IT RULE YOUR HEART AND GUIDE YOUR FEET! Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth and health to the soul and a river of pleasure.

IT IS GIVEN TO YOU HERE IN THIS LIFE AND WILL BE OPENED UP AT JUDGMENT. It is established forever! Read your Bible! If you are troubled today, get some promise. Put your finger upon the promise and say,

"LORD YOU ARE NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS, THIS IS FOR ME." Read on and on until you find something that satisfies the hunger of your heart. God means it for you.

READ THE WORD, YOU WILL FIND THE ANSWER THERE. God bless you! He's still on the Throne and He'll meet you and He answers prayer!

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

(Program 84)

We are nearing the Christmas season again, and you know as well as I all the wonderful Christmas decorations that are already up and the shop windows filled with Christmas things, and some of them with very special automation to depict different seasonal scenes.

I stood, thinking, in front of one of these stores where the window was full of animated elves and brownies, they were dancing round about! I stood there wondering why such a scene was given to depict our lovely Christmas?

Such a scene to celebrate the birthday of our Christ, God's Son! I wonder why the manager at the store didn't prefer to have the lovely manger scene, so beautiful and so appealing to the human heart.

Why all the foolishness instead? Silly little brownies and elves dancing around and playing on little tin horns! Then I thought of the Bethlehem scene. But perhaps that's not the way after all that man would have revealed the great God.

Man wouldn't think of choosing such a way to have revealed God, or founded any great movement such as Christianity in such a way. And I stood there thinking of these things and I thought,

They would never think of choosing a wee babe, a manger, a carpenter's bench. This is so contrary to the carnal mind! This would be a blow to man's pride! It wouldn't be man's idea of showing the power and strength of Almighty God.

He said in His Word, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa.55:8,9) -- Then I thought about 1Corinthians 1:27, where God's Word says,

"God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things to confound the mighty." And surely in this birth of God's Son, this wonderful Bethlehem story, God has confounded the mighty!

No, this isn't the way man would have revealed God, or as I say, founded any such great movement such as Christianity! They can't comprehend that, and therefore to them it's foolishness,

Just as those things I saw in the window were such foolishness to me, and they are foolishness to many of you. There are so many Scriptures which reveal the mind of God in this particular matter.

He says, "My strength is made perfect in weakness!" And also the Word of God says, "When I am weak, then am I strong." (2Cor.12:9,10) So this is all contrary to human logic and natural expectation, but God is showing that His way of doing things is quite contrary to human logic and natural expectations.

He is showing that His way of doing things is not at all our way. When He desired to manifest Himself, He took this tiny weak little babe and wrapped Him in human flesh, and this wonderful truth, this glorious truth, He brought to us in His own way.

I wondered as I stood there, what is the lesson for me in all this? That God takes the foolish things to confound the mighty? In Isaiah 27:5, God says, "Take hold of My strength." And in Isaiah 49:5 it says, "My God shall be my strength."

We hear so much talk today of our nation's strength, and Russia's strength, and we're so proud that we're ahead, and this and that, and we have so much strength, this nation!

But God, when He is ignored, often pours contempt on military strategy. And in the past we have forgotten Him, and He has given the minority a victory so that we can learn the lesson that without Him we can do nothing.

We feel that if we're strong we're surely going to win, and the laws of Heaven seem so foolish to us. But how many times God has given the victory to the minority in order to show the truth of His Word, that when we are weak, then we are strong.

As someone has so wonderfully said, "God and one are a majority!" God and a tiny handful are stronger than all the weapons; God and a tiny baby can transform the hearts of men and change the maps of the world!

When God works He takes a worm to thrash a mountain, a tiny stick to crumble Horeb's rock and a tiny pebble to kill a giant, and thus He shows how little it takes if God is in it. Thus it is that the wise Christian will say,

"I can't do these things alone, I have to have God's strength and help, I must have God on my side." Then because of your utter dependence on God and your utter helplessness, the Lord will come to your aid.

He'll come with Heavenly reinforcements and back you with all the resources of Heaven, and the Scripture is then fulfilled, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." It makes no difference whether the reliance is on our own strength or the strength of a nation,

The Lord will leave us absolutely alone, to depend on that human strength alone until we learn how weak a thing it is. -- How many times He's brought us low in suffering, or through some terrible trial just to show us what a weak thing we are, and whenever we get proud and dependent on self, or go out in such self-assurance, then so many times He breaks down that strength.

Proud human strength so often left to stand unaided in the very strength it was so sure of, stands there alone until it learns its insufficiency without God. God has His strange way of balancing things.

This is why along the highway of life, the most beautiful souls you'll ever meet, the most dedicated Christians, are those that have learned this lesson, and they've learned it many times in great suffering and weakness.

But they have known their lack, felt their weakness, and knew that their only help was from the Lord. They would have to reach beyond all human strength and depend utterly upon the strength of their God.

Thus they become emptied of self and humble like the wee babe in the manger. And it is of them that God says then: "My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Dear Lord, help us. We want to be humble before Thee, and we do ask for Thy strength, Thy wisdom to be manifest in our lives, and so we do humble ourselves before Thee asking for this in Jesus' name. Amen. God bless you and make you a blessing

THE STRONGBOX

(Program 107)

Lift up your head and smile through your tears. God's never failed you down through the years. He has watched o'er you, cared for your own. He'll not fail now He's still on the throne. Dark though the shadows just now may be. Still through the mist a pathway you'll see. Faith to the promise unfailing cling, God's on the throne and prayer changes things.

Greetings and God bless you and make you a blessing everywhere you go this day. Remember if you take the Lord with you and depend utterly upon Him it will be a victorious day indeed. The Lord will be with you everywhere today if you really put your hand in His and ask Him to lead and guide you. Now for our little meditation, something which happened today, started me thinking again of the great advantages a Christian has in this life and oh, what advantages they are! You know, it would be foolish to try and enumerate them in these few moments but I thought what it would mean to those that are listening who are not Christian if they could just get just a little inkling of the advantage a Christian has over them. Don't ever pity us, my friend, if you're not a Christian. Don't pity the one who's a Christian because we're rich beyond measure. We have everything when we have Jesus Christ. And this brought to mind a little editorial by Pastor William Thomas called "My Strongbox." I would like to insert the personal pronoun in this and here it is: "A fine Christian man full of years and now ready to leave the World in his dying hour asked his pastor who had called to see him, 'Will you please bring me my Strongbox?' The pastor hesitated and he said, 'It's there on the table, see?' But he pointed toward his Bible. He said, 'I want to go over my papers with you for I'm a rich man with a large inheritance.' The pastor saw that he was pointing to this particular Bible and brought it to his bed. Opening it the dying man said, 'These are my documents and they have to do with my wealth that I want to tell you about. The first document relates to who I am and says in 1Jn.3:2. "Beloved, now we are the sons of God. It does 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." The second document relates to my inheritance. My inheritance, a great gift that I received and here it is. You know Jn.3:16, 'God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,'

and that I have inherited. And also Jn.1:12 and 13, 'As many as received him to them gave He the power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name which were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.' The third document here is my life insurance, Jn.11:25 and 26, 'Then Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and the life. He that believeth on Me though he were dead yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.' The fourth is my fire insurance. You'll find it in 2Peter the third chapter. 'But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in the which the Heaven shall pass away with a great noise and the element shall melt with a fervent heat. The Earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and Godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of the Lord wherein the Heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the element shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we according to His promise look for a New Heaven and a New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.' The fifth is my accident insurance, Romans 8:28, 'We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.' "Oh, this is all good and wonderful," said the pastor to the old man. "But what about their security? What about burglars and thieves getting some of these?" "Oh, no," said the dying man. "They are all deposited in a safe where no burglar can reach them. Here, I'll show you." With feeble hand he pointed to these verses. "I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day." 2Tim.1. And then he added joyfully Jn.10:35, "And the Scripture cannot be broken." Then he said, "Look at this one, Jn.10:29, 'My father which gave them to me is greater than all. No man is able to pluck them out of my father's hand.'" Then the old man smiled, he closed the Bible and said, "What an inheritance I have! What an inheritance every Christian has! How rich we are! There are other securities and other riches I'd like to tell you about. I've used them over the long long years but I'm weary now and pastor I know you have all these yourself," then weary, the old man so near the end of the trail closed his eyes and the pastor thought that he saw the light of Heaven shine on his face. I would say with the old man, I trust all these riches and advantages of a Christian are yours also. They can be, they surely can be. They're for everyone and they're free but that doesn't begin to tell it all. Though the dear old man surely

knew his inheritance. To me one of the most precious possessions I have in my Strongbox is the receipted bill for a great debt I owed and He paid that debt, the debt of sin. He bore that debt on Calvary. How true that Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He made it white as snow. Oh, nothing good have I whereby His grace acclaims. But I've washed my garments white in the blood of Calvary's lamb. Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone can change a leopard's spot and melt the heart of stone. Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow. You know, I think I can express what the old man said and what I feel and experience best in the words of a wonderful song. You know, I think these words are inspired. They're some of the most wonderful words that I've ever found in a Christian song and that is the song that's called, "If I Gained the World But Lost the Savior":

"If I gained the World but lost the Savior, were my life worth living for a day?

Could my yearning heart find rest and comfort in the things that so soon must pass away?

If I gained the World but lost the Savior would my gain be worth the live long strife?

Are all the earthly pleasures worth comparing for a moment with a Christ-filled life?

Had I wealth and love in fullest measure and a name revered both far and near

Yet no hope beyond no harbor waiting where my storm-tossed vessel I could steer.

If I gained the World but lost the Savior who endured the cross and died for me,

Could then all the World afford a refuge whether in my angry I might flee.

Oh, what emptiness without the Savior, amid the sins and sorrows here below.

An eternity, how dark without Him, only night and tears and endless woe.

What though I might live without the Savior when I come to die. How would to be?

Oh, to face the valley's gloom without Him and without Him all eternity."

Let's have a little word of prayer together now. Will you join with

me? There are many requests for prayer that come to our life. I wish you'd help us in this prayer program. We're such a wonderful ministry. God looks for intercessors today.

Father we do reach out to Thee for these. Some whose hearts are so empty they've never had the Savior and they're striving so for gain. They're so feverish in their busy days and such a rush. We pray Lord for quietness of spirit until Thou can speak to hearts. We ask Thee, Lord, for these that have been so sorely tempted. Help in the time of temptation. We bring again the sick and the suffering, the storm-tossed with so many burdens to Thy great heart. We ask Thee for the unsaved, any that are listening in that really do not know Thee. Touch their hearts. Put a real hunger in their hearts for Thee and for these that have known Thee and wandered away, Lord, we ask that Thou would draw them by the cords of love and because we're united in prayer for them. May they feel Thy precious Holy Spirit tugging at their hearts. Bless now, Lord, every Scripture that was used today. We claim the promise that it shall not return to Thee void and each listener we pray for comfort, blessing and leading throughout the day in Jesus precious name we ask it. Amen. Remember God's still on the throne and prayer changes things.

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

(Program 79)

Sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's Throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
Since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His Grace,
I will cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee,
Sweet hour of prayer.

Greetings and welcome to Meditation Moments. God bless you and give you a victory these days. We know that there is victory for you through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is never a victory that is won by might, nor by power, but "by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts," and we can be "more than conquers through Him that loved us and gave Himself for us," and be real overcomers,

But we'll never be overcomers unless we are really praying Christians. -- In Matthew 6:6 God's Word says that "when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

I wonder if you have a little quiet place where you pray? I remember reading some time ago about a young man who would watch his mother who had been working hard all day. She wasn't a young woman, and she would seem so weary about 3 o'clock in the afternoon:

Her feet would start to falter and her shoulders would seem a little more bent, and then she went to the "secret place" that she had -- it was a little closet under the stairway -- and there she would stay for quite a little while.

And he said it was always a matter of wonderment to him that when she came out of that secret place of prayer, her shoulders seemed a little straighter, her feet had picked up the old pace and there was a light on her face.

He said that while lots of the sermons he heard preached in his childhood church had never seemed to reach down to his heart, that did, that picture of what his mother got in that secret place of prayer,

The refreshment she received to the revivifying of her spirit, received in the quiet place of prayer, this place that God's Word speaks of in this verse: "Enter into thy closet, shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret."

Do you have a secret place like that? Do you go alone with God and have fellowship with Him? -- There is so much that is said in connection with religion, just religion which isn't fellowship with God, but outward performance, the mechanical part of these things, it's not real fellowship with the Lord.

But there can be no real fellowship unless there is real prayer, and I don't think there is ever real prayer unless there is a little secret place, a place where you go aside with Him alone and let Him talk to your heart.

Then you listen for Him to talk to you, because prayer is not a one-sided thing, it's a conversation where you wait and you listen for Him to answer. -- We say so many times that prayer changes things,

Well, if prayer does change things, why don't we pray?! If there is a real problem in your life today, if there is some hardship that is come upon you or you're passing through some real trial,

How can you cast your burden on the Lord, how can you get out from under that awful pressure unless you go to the Lord alone and tell Him all about it? He's waiting in the secret place.

If Queen Elizabeth was waiting to talk to you, if someone came to you and said that the Queen of England was waiting to talk to you, how you would hurry down! And you would feel so proud that anyone that held such a high position would want to talk to you!

But God waits in the secret place! The Scripture here speaks of the secret place and that God is waiting there to talk to your heart: He wants to talk to you, He does! "Well," you say, "I haven't gotten through to God and He hasn't seemed to answer, He hasn't seemed to hear."

Well there must be a great desire to hear from God, there must be a deep sincerity, there must be a real longing to hear from God and a real seeking after and searching for Him, and He will reveal Himself.

He says, "Seek Me and you shall find Me." -- When you seek Him in the secret place and open your heart and bare your soul to Him, He will reveal Himself as you listen for Him to talk back to your heart.

I think so much of the all-sufficiency of the Lord and how it far exceeds the bounds of our faith, and yet we so neglect prayer!

According to His Word there is no limit to what God can do, so there should be no limit in our faith for the supply of every need.

But how is He going to answer your need unless you ask Him?
You say, "Well, He ought to know, it says that God knows everything and He knows my need." But He says, "Ask and you shall receive." He said that, He told you to ask:

"Ask and you shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you." -- Spurgeon said he was riding along one day meditating on the Scripture "My grace is sufficient for thee" when he broke into a laugh and said,

"Why, an ant had just as well look at the Pacific Ocean and fear a water famine, as for every Christian to view the shoreless promises in God's Word and fear the lack of any needed supply!" Isn't that true! But you must ask for it! Come to Him in prayer and tell Him all about it and cast the care upon Him.

Remember that all God has ever said or promised is changeless, for with Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning! (James 1:17.) -- Father, we thank Thee for Thy great love and provision for us, and thank Thee for the limitless supply for our needs.

Forgive us Lord that we believe for so little when the supply is so great. Forgive us that we have not taken seriously Thy wonderful promises in Thy precious Word, we are deeply grateful. In Jesus' Precious Name. -- Prayer does change things! God lives and has His hand on the helm of the universe today. Amen.

THOUGHTS

(Program 115)

Greetings again and the Lord bless you. We do delight in the letters that you send. Sometimes we comment about these letters because they're so typical and tonight one or two sentences from one that I want to talk just a little bit about. This one wrote, "I just cannot get victory in my thoughts. You remember that I wrote to you some time ago about someone I was living with that's very hateful and sensitive and says such unkind things and I wrote that I had victory over saying anything back again. I was able to control my tongue and not answer back at all. But I haven't changed my thinking any. I may have self-control so far as it's concerned outwardly but I'm just seething and boiling on the inside." I won't read the rest of this but it reminded me of the story perhaps I've told you one time about the little boy that was punished for something that his mother had told him again and again not to do and last she said, "You sit there and sit there until I tell you to get up." And he sat there and he was very angry about it and hurt and so willful about the whole thing. At last the mother said, "Now Jimmy do you feel better about it and are you ready now to obey?" And he said, "Well, I'm sitting down but I'm still standing up so far as the inside is concerned!" And she had wanted him to sit down and not stand up anymore cause she had told him to sit in the corner and sit there and he continually stood up but he was still standing up on the inside. And so many times it's that inward struggle of the mind.

That's why God's Word makes it so plain in Rom.7:25 and Phi.4:8. You know I was listening to John Brown the other morning and he said was the greatest gift God has made to His children was the power to think. That our thoughts are a vital part of our earthly life, our thoughts are things. Oh, how true it is. So many people don't realize that thoughts are really things that accompany us wherever we go. We can no more get away from our thoughts than we can get away from our shadow. Our thoughts are pure and holy, why they come to be the best and dearest of our traveling companions but when they're evil and degrading and why they'll dog our footsteps and they'll haunt you when you try to go to sleep at night. It's the old foundation fact that our desires are the direct outflow of our thinking. I read a book sometime ago, I wish I knew where it was or could find amongst my things again and it was called "Thinking White." Thoughts are things and we exhaust our energies dealing with the facts and we fail to deal with the

source which is in the mind to keep it pure, to think loveliness and Godliness, to "think on these things" God's Word says. The persistently fixably intelligently setting your mind on that that is lovely and pure. "Whatsoever things are lovely," God's Word says, "think on these things." Now you know that Scripture so well but let's meditate on it again for just a little bit. "Whatsoever things are lovely think on these things." All high and holy aspirations really come from high and holy thinking. We're just heads about with so much that's lovely and beautiful and so wonderful that it's a shame when the thoughts go wondering amongst tares and brambles and on the vicious and upon ugly things. That's an awful thing when you think how beautiful God has made the World and how He has given us so many lovely things to think about. So many lovely things to see. You know that we're too busy today to do any thinking properly, to meditate. Like the mother that went to visit her son and he was living in Chicago apartment and he rushed here and there and he was so busy and it was, "Howdy do, Mother" and "Goodbye, Mother!" And, oh, he was so terribly busy and one day she said to him, "Son, when do you do your thinking?" Well, many of us today as I fear are just too busy to stop to really think and whoever wrote that book on the "Lost Art of Thinking" certainly wrote a truth. We're just too busy that we can't sit down and really meditate on the Word of God and think Godward and "set our affection on things above," as God's Word says and "not on the things that are upon the earth." For God's Word says, "Ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. Set not your affection on the things that are below but on the things that are above." Your mind has to be centered on the things that are above. The battle of life are first fought on the battle ground of the thoughts and the issues of life are determined in the mind. I really believe that that's true. The murder's committed within the precincts of the mind first of all and that assassinated our President recently, that man meditated upon that and that was all fixed in his mind before he ever fired the shot. The unseen thief puts out his hand, steals the watch but first he has stolen it there within the precincts of his mind. We teach our children they mustn't do this and they mustn't do that because it's (Lord defiling?). But I wonder why we don't talk to them about the thinking that their thoughts have got to be pure, that their thoughts have to be centered upon the things that are of God. It was a charge of God made in the old times that His people would not think. He said, "My people will not consider." Thinking just seems to be such a lost art and people don't think as they should these days, don't take

the time just to sit down and think the thing out. God would show you a plan. He would show you a plan. He would show you how the things to be done or He would unravel the whole situation for you if you would just look to Him definitely and sit down in His presence or kneel down before Him would be better and give Him a chance. These thoughts of hate and revenge and criticism and like this woman said in this letter that she still has those awful feelings of resentment and that feeling of hate in her heart. It seems to me that's almost unpardonable we should allow our minds to linger even for the briefest space of time on that which is so hateful and defiling. The battles that are fought in the mind how can we overcome? What is the secret of the overcoming? Well, of course the only way to get rid of impure thoughts is to throw over against them thoughts of purity and loveliness, transplanting. The way to get rid of lying thoughts is to throw over against them thoughts of honesty. Someone has said the only way to reap a proper harvest from these fertile gardens of the mind is to carefully sow the seed and carefully tend the drop. I remember my father made me learn as a little girl and perhaps you learned the same, "Sow a thought and you reap in action. Sow an action and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny." God's Word says that "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." Thoughts may be the most insignificant of things known only to your own self. Yet thinkers today and great psychologists tell us that each thought influences the subtotal of the brain. I read the story the other day of a man who had been so long a stagecoach driver that his fingers had fixed in such a way that they were stiff and he had held the lines for so many years and so as his hands grew old they were crooked and hooked and they wouldn't straighten. Well, there's a similar process that goes on in man's mind when they continue to think the same things over and over. If one's trained from childhood to be gentle, kindly, patient, control the temper, to speak softly, to be loving and charitable, why of course they'll grow in to a radiant beautiful lovely one. But one who accustoms himself to think habitually of that which is low and vile and to think downward and ugly tempers and resentful feelings and bitterness and anger, the life will shape itself in that which is not beautiful but debasing, unholy and unclean and they'll find their whole soul bending and growing toward the earth in a sort of a permanent moral perverture[?] we might call it while the other is growing into that which is noble and worthy and that he "set his affection on the things above and not on the things of the earth. Whatsoever things are true," God's Word says,

"whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, think on these things." What is the secret of it all? The secret of it all is to forsake your thoughts and put your thoughts in God's Word and upon the Lord Jesus Christ. There is the whole secret. As you think upon Him you lift your mind to the lovely Christ and set your affection on the things above. He'll give you a new mind and one that's wholly opposite from the old mind. Just as long as you get rid of that earthly mind then God can transform you as you look at the Lord Jesus Christ and all His sweetness and purity and holiness. You yourself will grow to be like the Lord Jesus. That's the way to get the victory and the only sure way. God bless you, keep you prayerful reading His Word that you might grow like Him. He's still on the throne. Prayer does change things.

THREE LOOKS OF REDEMPTION

(Program 12)

IN ISAIAH 50:10 WE FIND THIS SIMPLE ADMONITION: "HE THAT WALKETH IN DARKNESS AND HATH NO LIGHT, LET HIM TRUST IN THE NAME OF JEHOVAH and rely on His God." Oh, that's a wonderful verse for times like these when there's so much darkness and the World's skies are so overcast!

BUT TIMES OF DARKNESS COME ALSO TO DEDICATED DISCIPLES OF THE JESUS. Though he may be walking in utter obedience to the Will of the Lord and faithful in His service, there are times when he is perplexed and confused in his mind -- I don't think in his heart --

TIMES WHEN HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO OR WHICH WAY TO TURN. He feels like he is groping in the dark, and which way shall he look, and what shall he do to have the Light of Heaven break through the darkness and show him the way?

IF HE LOOKS WITHIN HE WILL FIND ONLY DISCOURAGEMENT with himself and despair. If he looks at others he finds only doubt and disappointment.

NOW THERE ARE THREE GREAT FACTS IN REDEMPTION, namely: Atonement, advocacy and advent. And there are three looks that correspond to these.

THERE IS THE BACKWARD LOOK. Not the backward look that some people take in their misery, looking back at their own past with frustrating regret and bitterly wishing and wishing they had done better. But this isn't the backward look that God's Word points us to!

FASTENING THE MIND ON MISTAKES OF THE PAST BRINGS ONLY DISCOURAGEMENT and makes the darkness deepen. The Apostle Paul says, "forgetting the things which are behind I press on toward the goal of the high calling."

THERE IS ONLY ONE BACKWARD LOOK THAT CAN EVER HELP WHEN THE DARKNESS COMES and that is the look back at the Cross of Calvary where the stream of God's forgiveness and mercy broke into the silver spray of sacrificial love in Christ's finished work there. Isaiah 45:22 reads: "Look unto Me and be ye saved, all ye ends of the Earth." -- Look to Jesus!

AND IF YOU INSIST ON SITTING ALONE WITH MARTYRED THOUGHTS and looking back back back, well then look far enough, just keep on looking until you look way back to the old rugged Cross

where there is forgiveness and cleansing for all your past. Look back that far.

AND THERE IS THE FORWARD LOOK. I don't mean looking forward like some do when in a hard place and with a "Pollyanna" optimism hoping for better days, and they say, "Well, I'll only think of the better days and not worry about the darkness. If I only believe it and say it over and over it will break through to light." -- That's small comfort when the darkness is so great that you can't see on step ahead and you are groping your way all alone.

BUT THERE IS A FORWARD LOOK THAT BRINGS JOY AND PEACE TO THE TRUE FOLLOWER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. The wonderful expectations spoken of in Titus 2:13, "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great and blessed God and our Savior Jesus Christ." -- Blessing onward look.

OH WHAT A GLORIOUS EXPECTATION THAT IS, THE SOON COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! And all the events of today, the things you're reading about in the paper and you hear on the radio and television, they're all pointing toward His soon coming! Time is getting so short! It's just as if the Lord has His finger on the latch of the door soon to open and reveal Him.

WONDERFUL EXPECTATION! HE IS COMING, DEARLY BELOVED, TO TAKE OUT HIS OWN! Christ is coming! And these wonderful events need strike no fear to your heart and bring no doubts. His program is moving on to utter fulfillment every day. Ezekiel 38 is near fulfillment also.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST KNEW THE DANGERS AND DIFFICULTIES AND ALL THE THINGS THAT WE WOULD ENCOUNTER in times like these. He knew that very dark days were coming! He never hid from even His followers the fact they would have tribulation, but He urged us to be of good cheer, that He had already overcome the World and therefore our victory would be assured.

AND HE POINTED US TO THE UPWARD LOOK WHERE HE IS IN THE PLACE OF ADVOCACY. -- Isn't that wonderful! Our advocate before the Father. -- No longer the place of atonement but in the presence of God interceding for us. The lawyer has to be in court if he is to conduct the suit for his client, and there He is our High Priest, our Advocate, pleading our cause in the Courts of Heaven.

THIS IS THE UPWARD LOOK: "LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is now set

down at the right hand of the throne of God." George Bernard Shaw said once that he looked backward and found no comfort, he looked forward and found no hope, he looked every way and he said he saw no light.

BUT HE DIDN'T LOOK ONE WAY AND THAT WAS UPWARD!
Look up dear one, look up! If you are weary and discouraged, there is life, there's hope! Christ has triumphed over all your foes -- the World of flesh and the Devil!

YOU WILL NEVER GET THE VICTORY OR OVERCOME THE DARKNESS BY STRUGGLING OR BY VAIN RESOLUTIONS, BUT BY REALIZING THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS ALREADY CONQUERED you enemies and that He gives His victory to you if you will accept it. -- That's the Victory of Calvary: All things are yours through Christ Jesus!

YOU CAN HAVE HIS GRACE FOR EVERY TIME OF DARKNESS in times like these, for we are more than conquerors through Him who gave Himself for us! And He is still on the Throne and prayer does change things.

TODAY!

(Program 49)

SOMEONE HAS SAID, TODAY IS A MARVEL OF OPPORTUNITY, CRUCIFIED BETWEEN TWO THIEVES, YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW! Today, this very day, is one of the most wonderfully precious things you will ever have!

TODAY YOU CAN DO SOME OF THE THINGS YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF FOR SO LONG! You can't do them yesterday and may not have the chances to do them tomorrow, but today is yours! Today you can be the kind of person you always dreamed you'd be "tomorrow," for this is that tomorrow!

YOU'VE ALWAYS INTENDED SOME "TOMORROW" TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD: THIS IS THAT TOMORROW! Your yesterdays are left with God, and none of its disappointments should be dragged into this day. Tomorrow is still unborn and you shouldn't borrow from it. Today is yours.

TODAY! FILLED WITH GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES AND PREGNANT WITH GREAT POSSIBILITIES! This is the golden tomorrow that you dreamed about yesterday! We bring you this little poem of your own:

LONG HAVE I DREAMED OF SOME LITTLE THINGS

I'D LIKE TO DO TOMORROW,

Dreamed them and planned them, resolved,

And then discovered to my deep sorrow,

Time did not wait, but moved swiftly on

As I heard my conscience say,

"This is the golden tomorrow

You dreamed of yesterday."

THERE ARE MANY THINGS I WANT TO SAY

TO FRIENDS I LOVE, TOMORROW.

But they'll have to wait another day

Till more leisure I can borrow.

Thus I bely, till conscience calls,

"See how time's passing away?

For this is the golden tomorrow

That you dreamed of yesterday!"

I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF TOMORROW,

TODAY I SOMEHOW FORGET,

I just keep on dreaming and waiting,

Though I know I shall regret.
For in the power of some crisis hour
I will hear my conscience say,
"This is the golden tomorrow
That you dreamed of yesterday."
THEN WHEN I REACH GOD'S GREAT
TOMORROW
AT THE END OF THE LONG LONG TRAIL,
I'm sure that someone will ask me,
"Why in this thing did you fail?"
And I know I will read the answer
In my record there at last,
That I always dreamed of tomorrow
Until each day had passed.
SO I PAUSED TODAY IN MY DREAMING
TO BREATHE AN EARNEST PRAYER
To One who has seen all my failing,
To One that I'm sure will are:
God help me each hour to remember,
And every step of the way,
That today is the golden tomorrow
That I dreamed of yesterday!

NOW ALL THIS WOULD HAVE LITTLE WEIGHT, SAID IN
SUCH HUMAN FEEBLE WORDS, unless we would bring you God's
Word, and here it is. Listen carefully and give your soul a chance.
Hebrews 3:4 through 15, and I'm reading from the Amplified Version:
"WARN, URGE, ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER EVERY DAY AS
LONG AS IT IS CALLED TODAY, that none of you may be hardened
into subtle rebellion by the deceitfulness of sin, that is, by the
fraudulence, the stratagem, the trickery which the delusive glamour of
sin may play on him.

"SO WHILE IT IS STILL TODAY, IF YOU WOULD HEAR HIS
VOICE, and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts as in the
rebellion, when the people provoked and embittered God against
them." -- Note carefully that this passage admonishes a number of
times against putting off until some other day the hearing and obeying
of God's Voice, because this causes a hardening of the heart, the
Scripture says.

IF AS YOU READ GOD'S WORDS YOU ARE IMPRESSED by the
Holy Spirit that you should obey something that is written there, and

you say in your heart, "I will, Lord, but not today!" if god in His still small Voice speaks to you to draw nigh unto Him, and you say, "Oh I intend to, Lord, but I'm not ready today: some things I've got to make right first, I've got to get myself ready!"

YOU CAN'T GET YOURSELF READY ANYHOW, YOU'RE NEVER FIT TO ENTER HIS PRESENCE! Only God can get you ready, only He can do that! He says "Today!" Now is the accepted time, now is the day of Salvation! "Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart!"

WHEN GOD SPEAKS TO THE CHRISTIAN'S HEART TO STOP ALL THE FEVERISH RUSH AND TENSION AND GET QUIET and spend some time in prayer and the reading of His Word, and that Christian says, "I can't today, but tomorrow I surely will, Lord! Not today, I'm too busy!" and this happens again and again,

THE HARDENING PROCESS DOES BEGIN TO TAKE PLACE, FOR THIS IS REALLY A RESISTING OF GOD'S SPIRIT! Soon the Holy Spirit will not speak of this! What's the use, when we don't listen and obey? He says, "My Spirit will not always strive with man." -- There is a little sentence I wish you'd write down and keep where you can often read it: I can vouch that through long experience I've found it invariably true:

"TRUTH RESISTED LOSES ITS POWER OVER THE MIND." -- That is a known and accepted law of the mind: "Truth resisted loses its power over the mind." The truth that once had power in your life, if you now resist, or through procrastination just constantly put off, will someday lose its power over the mind. You'll be unaffected by it.

IF GOD FLINGS A TRUTH AT YOU AND YOU SAY, "NOT NOW!" IF GOD WANTS YOU TO DO SOMETHING, and you say, "I'm not ready, not today, tomorrow maybe, Lord!" -- Some day that truth will have no appeal, no power over your heart and mind, and the hardening process is taking place, just as I read to you from God's Word

IF YOU KEEP NEGLECTING TO READ THE WORD OF GOD, promising you'll read it some other day, you'll soon lose a hunger for that Word! Ask the Lord now, today, to create fresh hunger for His Word! Read it today! Only today is yours.

YOU BEGAN THE DAY WITHOUT READING HIS WORD? WELL, WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A DAY that begins without the reading of God's Word and prayer? God in His wisdom gave us this life one day at a time, for He knew that anyone could stand the trails of

one little day, leaning on His strength! Surely we can live victoriously just one day?

IF WE COULD ONLY DO THIS! TAKE LIFE JUST FOR THE DAY! It's letting life mass up on you and thinking that this thing has to be borne for many days, that oppresses you! God's Word says, "As the day, so shall thy strength be." (Deut.33:25)

YOU COULD HAVE FAITH FOR ALMOST ANYTHING IF YOU TAKE IT A DAY AT A TIME! In the morning of any day, look up and put your hand in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ and say, "Lord, I believe Thy Word! Thou hast promised strength for today. This day I will trust Thee, this day I will, with Your help, walk step by step in obedience.

"I WILL BE KEPT IN PERFECT PEACE THIS DAY BECAUSE I KEEP MY MIND STAYED ON THEE, TODAY." -- If we confront the trials and burdens thus, it is easier to live victoriously; and if you should die tomorrow, you are best prepared by walking in the Spirit today, and faithfully discharging the duties of today!

CAN YOU TRUST GOD UTTERLY JUST THIS ONE DAY? YOU HAVE TO TRUST IN THE END, why not right now? He has promised to sustain you! Have you claimed some precious promises from His Word? And are you expecting the fulfillment? Perhaps putting off till tomorrow for its fulfillment? Why don't you accept it right now?

HOPE PUTS THE ANSWER IN TOMORROW BUT FAITH TAKES HOLD RIGHT NOW! Faith is a definite time, and after that counts it done! Accept it now! Take from God today what He has promised!

GOD'S WORD SAYS, "THIS DAY HAS SALVATION COME TO THY HOUSE!" -- Anna Johnson has written this:

One day at a time with its failures and fears,
With its hurts and mistakes,
With its weakness and tears,
With its portion of pain,
And its burden of care:

One day at a time
We must meet and must bear.

ONE DAY AT A TIME TO BE PATIENT AND STRONG,

To be calm under trial
And sweet under wrong.
Then its toiling will pass

And its sorrow shall cease,
It shall darken and die
And the night shall bring peace.
Just a day at a time, a day
seems so long,
And the heart is not brave,
And the soul is not strong.
So wonderful Christ,
Be Thou near all the way,
Give courage and patience
And strength for today.
NOT YESTERDAY'S LOADS ARE WE
CALLED ON TO BEAR,
Nor the morrow's uncertain
And shadowy care!
Why should we look forward
Or back with dismay?
Our needs as our mercies
Are but for this day.
One day at a time, and the
day is His day,
He hath numbered its hours
Though they haste or delay.
His grace is sufficient
We walk not alone,
As the day, so the strength
That He giveth His own!

INSTEAD OF PRAYING MY OWN WORDS IN THE CLOSING
PRAYER, I want to take this beautiful prayer written by Jane Bingham-
Abbott:

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs
I do not pray,
Keep me, my God, from stain and sin
Just for today.
Let me no wrong nor idle word
unthinking say,
Set Thou a seal upon my lips
Just for today.
Let me both diligently work
and duly pray,

Let me be kind in word and deed
Just for today.

LET ME IN SEASON BE GRAVE, LORD,
IN SEASON GAY,

Let me be faithful to Thy grace,
Just for today.

In pain and sorrow's cleansing fires

Let brief be my stay,

Take me in Thy loving arms

Lest I should stray.

So for tomorrow and its needs

I do not pray,

Keep me, guide me, love me Lord,

Just for today!

GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU JUST FOR TODAY! TAKE
JUST ONE DAY AT A TIME! Look up at His face for today, and He's
looking down at you and longing to help you! God give you grace, and
remember, He answers prayer! He's still on the Throne and prayer
changes things!

THE TONGUE

(Program 123)

"If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive.

"If I have uttered idle words in vain,
If I have turned aside from want or(E)pain,
Lest I offend some other through the strain,
Dear Lord, forgive."

In James Chapter 3, where it talks about the tongue, it says, "In many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." -- Jam.3:2,5,6,8.

Also, turn to Proverbs, where it says, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue," "the tongue of the wise giveth health" and "a wholesome tongue is a tree of life." -- Prov.18:21; 12:18; 15:4. So if you want a long and useful life, and for your very health's sake, "keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." -- Psa.34:13. For your very life's sake, watch your words!

A loose, unkind, or uncontrolled tongue can even be a hindrance to God healing the body of a man or woman. How often we wound someone with our tongue, maybe unintentionally, but unkind just the same. Wounds on the heart of a loved one, so many times that's been the case. Some of us carry scars on our bodies from wounds and cuts, and they don't bother us, but just remind us of some trivial thing that happened years ago. But how different it is with the scars that are on the heart, left there by a bitter angry tongue. Some have never healed at all.

"If I knew that a word of mine,
A word not kind and true,
Might leave its trace on a loved one's face,
I don't think I'd speak it, would you?

"If I knew the sting of a word
Might linger and leave its mark
With a deep dark scar on a loved one's heart,
I don't think I'd speak that word, would you?

That poem is by George Matthas Adams, who once wrote, "When I was a very small boy, I committed to memory a little poem by Mary T. Lacer:

'If we knew whose feet were standing
Close beside the narrow stream;
If we knew whose eyes were closing
In a sleep that knows no dream,
We'd be so kind and tender,
Lightly judge and gently speak.
Let us act as though we knew it,
For the links so quickly break."

Wounds in the heart are hidden deep. No one but the one who carries them around knows anything about them. Their hurts are often carried in silence, and only the eye of their Heavenly Maker ever sees them, but He sees and understands. What a pity that we should wound a heart that may already be carrying a burden of some kind that we don't know anything about. Maybe at that moment they were yearning for a word of encouragement from you, but instead the word that you spoke wounded deeply and left an ugly scar.

"There was a wound once in the gentle heart,
Whence all life's sweetness seemed to ebb and die,
And love's confiding changed to bitter smart,
While slow, sad years went by.
Yet as they passed, unseen,
An Angel stole and laid a barb of healing on the pain,
And now you see the heart made whole,
But oh, the scar remains."

Why do thoughtless, unkind words leap from our lips like they do? Is there some remedy for such a thing? Yes, there is victory! Thank God there is!

The victory begins in a change in the heart , for words are but the outflow of the soul from which they proceed. And if that soul has a baptism of God's Spirit, they'll be so filled with God's Love, that every word will be filled with tender compassion, for God is Love.

There's only one way to change the unruly tongue, and that is to transform the spirit that controls it. Ask God to baptize you with His Spirit, for the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of Love.

We can never control that tongue of ourselves, the Word of God tells us this. "The tongue can no man tame" (Jam.3:8), but God can tame it! God is God, and nothing is impossible with Him. "With man is it impossible, but with God all things are possible." -- Mat.19:26.

Open your heart to Him, yield yourself completely to Him, ask Him to come in and full you with His Spirit. The indwelling Christ can then speak through you, and your words will be "seasoned with salt." -- Col.4:6. If you faithfully read God's Word, you'll come into an abiding relationship with Him, that as Jesus said, "My Word abides in you." -- Jn.15:7.

When His Word abides in you, you can't gossip and say the unkind and bitter thing. You'll stop do much of that. You've heard the childish call to each other, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me." Well, that isn't true! Sticks and stones can make surface wounds, but the wounds from words are a long time in healing.

There's an admonition in God's Word, which says, "Keep thy tongue from evil and the lips from speaking guile." -- Psa.34:13. Jesus said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." -- Mat.12:36,37.

There's a novel which describes a woman in this manner: "She nibbled at her salmon and other people's reputation." And in another book, it speaks of a man's character in this manner: "He could whisper away a character by an innocent word; he could destroy a high reputation by a shrug of the shoulders." Will God have to deal with us about things like that?

Trust God to change you! Believe that His Word will not fail. He can come win with His Spirit, and cause kindness to flow through you because He possesses your tongue and your life. You'll become a stream of blessing to all about you. God bless you and help you in this and give you a victory. He's still on the Throne. Prayer will change things.

THE TONGUE: LIFE and DEATH

(Program 30)

This morning we're going to talk to you about the tongue. We open with this little poem to introduce the subject!

If I knew that a word of mine,
A word not kind and true
Might leave its trace
On a loved one's face,
I don't think I'd speak it,
Would you?

If I knew the sting of a word
Might linger and leave its mark
With a deep dark scar
On a loved one's heart,
I don't think I'd speak that word,
Would you?

There's a wonderful Scripture about this thought on the tongue: God's Word says, "Behold also the ships, which though they be so great and are driven of fierce winds, yet they turn about with a very small helm withersoever the governor listeth.

"Even so, the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things, behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among your members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell.

"For every kind of beast and of birds and of serpents, of things in the sea is tamed, and hath been tamed of Mankind, but the tongue can no man tame: It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." -- And so this small thing is around everybody's house, in your house and my house! (Jam.3)

It's such a small thing! So little: only about three or four inches long and a couple of inches wide, but it can cause complete havoc and wreck the whole day when it gets loose! It can give more trouble than all the sickness!

Of all the weapons of warfare, the tongue has been the greatest when it gets loose! A tongue out of control, an unkind tongue, a bitter tongue, a tongue that says hard critical or bitter things, God's Word speaks of in this Scripture we have just read you, and says,

It is set on fire of hell. Someone has said that the day that begins with a bad tongue turned loose finds even the dog taking to the woodshed, and the man of the house quickly finds a job in the backyard.

Everybody suffers when such a tongue turns loose! It only takes one sentence to start things going wrong, doesn't it? We'll have a little more of what God's Word says about this just a little bit later,

But I want to call your attention to a couple of Verses from the Old Testament. I think most of us want long life. Do you? Do you want to live a long and useful life, many days? Well, God's Word says,

"Life and death are in the tongue." -- Proverbs 18:21. And 12:18 says, "The tongue of the wise giveth health." And Proverbs 15:4, "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life." -- Just think of it! Life and death are in the tongue! So for your very health's sake keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile!

For your very life's sake watch your words! -- A loose, unkind or uncontrolled tongue can be a hindrance to God's healing you. How often we wound someone with our tongue, maybe unintentionally, but unkind just the same: wounds in the heart of a loved one, blows from words. Some of us carry scars on our bodies from wounds, cuts and so forth, but they don't bother us, they only remind us of some trivial thing that happened years ago.

But it's so different with the scars on the heart left there by a bitter angry tongue: some have never healed at all. George Matthew Adams writes this: "When I was a very small boy, I committed to memory a little poem by Mary T. Lacer that impressed me very much:

If we knew whose feet were standing

Close beside the narrow stream,

If we knew whose eyes were closing

In the sleep that knows no dream,

We would be so kind and tender,

Lightly judge and gently speak,

Let us act as though we knew it

For the links so quickly break."

Wounds in the heart are hidden deep, no one but the one who carries them around knows anything about them. They hurt sometimes in silence and only the Eye of the Maker sees them. But He sees them and He understands too.

What a pity that we should wound a heart that may already be carrying a burden that you don't know anything about! Maybe at that

very moment they were yearning for some kind word of encouragement, but instead the words were spoken that wounded deeply and left the ugly scar. It's only a story of course, but it's told of a skilled anatomist who said,

"This that I hold in my hand is a human heart." One standing by said, "I never saw anything like this before! What are those deep marks there?" And he answered, "Those are scars. Wait, let me examine a little closer. -- They are scars that have been made by unkind cutting words. Oh, we find them on many hearts." Then the other asked,

"God forgive me, maybe they're scars from my very own words. Tell me, does anyone ever die of wounds like this?" The anatomist said, "Yes, sometimes, but we express it by saying they died of a broken heart. There are many ways of killing, you know, and that's just one."

There was a wound in a gentle heart,
Whence all life's sweetness seemed to ebb and die.
And love's confiding changed to bitter smart
While slow, sad years went by.
Yet as they passed, unseen an angel stole
And laid a balm of healing on the pain,
And now you see the heart made whole,
But oh, the scars remain.

-- I wonder why thoughtless unkind words leap from our lips so quickly?

Is there some remedy for such a thing? Is there victory for such a tongue? Thank God there is! And the victory begins with a change of heart: for words are but the outflow of the soul from which they proceed. If that soul has the baptism of God's Spirit they will be so filled with God's love that every word will be filled with tender compassion, for God is love.

There is only one way to change the unruly tongue permanently, and that is to transform the spirit that controls it! You can't put on, you can't pretend! Ask God to baptize you with His Spirit, for the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of love. You can never control that tongue of yourself, the Word of God tells you this, as I just read:

"The tongue can no man tame!" But God can tame it! God is God: nothing is impossible with God! Again the Scripture, "with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible." -- Even the control of that tongue. Open your heart to Him, yield yourself completely to Him, ask Him to come in and fill you with His Holy Spirit.

He's promised to fill you with the Holy Spirit! The indwelling

Christ can then speak through you and your words will be as the Apostle said, "words seasoned with salt." Read God's Word faithfully until you come into such an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ, that as He said, "My words abide in you." (Jn.15:7)

Christ is the only true source of all love, kindness and sweetness, and as He takes possession of your whole life, He takes possession of your tongue, and His Words abide in you! Then the bitter sharp critical spirit is gone and He will live out His life through you. Listen to what Christ says.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man will open unto Me, I will come in and sup with him, and he with Me." -- God can't fail His Word! The promises of God are yea and amen to the glory of God! Trust Him to do this. Believe His Word, He's never failed!

I can't explain to you right now how this transformation takes place, but it does! Then as His love and kindness flows through you, it will take possession of your God-possessed tongue. Your life will become a stream of blessing to all about you. As Paul said,

"It is no longer I that live but Christ that liveth in me." -- Christ will speak through you, Christ will express Himself through you.

Holy Ghost with light divine.

Shine upon this heart of mine.

Chase the shades of night away,

Turn my darkness into day.

Holy Ghost with power divine,

Cleanse this guilty heart of mine.

Long sin did have control,

Hold dominion o'er my soul.

Holy Ghost, All divine,

Dwell within this heart of mine,

Cast down every idle throne,

Reign supreme and reign alone.

-- Holy Spirit come in and take possession of every heart and flow through their tongues.

Our Father God, we pray Thy blessing upon each hungry heart, each seeking soul. We ask especially for these who have such a battle regarding their tongue or temper, or the quick thoughtless cutting words, the critical words that spring so quickly from the lips.

Forgive, dear Lord, cleanse and fill with Thy love, give a new chance at life and eternity to these Lord. We pray for a new beginning as they seek Thee for an infilling of Thy Own Precious Spirit that shall

flow through them.

You promise that out of our innermost parts should flow rivers of living water. We pray Lord that they shall seek Thee until they find Thee in all Thy satisfying fullness, as they come into possession of a real infilling of Thy precious Holy Spirit, Thy Spirit, Lord, to take control, in Jesus' name, amen.

TRANSFORMED –Part 1

(Program 68)

Greetings and the dear Lord bless you and make you a blessing! It is a wonderful old-time greeting, it is very precious to our hearts, we've used it with you so many times and we do trust the Lord will use your life, so many hearts are in need today; there is such a great opportunity for serving the Lord!

I'm going to read you a very wonderful and precious passage from 2 Corinthians -- beginning with the last verse in chapter 3 and going into the 4th chapter. God's Word says:

"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. Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

"But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

"For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2Cor.3:18; 4:1-7) -- Now note this verse especially because it has to do with what we are going to talk about for a little while.

"We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of ourselves." And then we go back to

that verse that we began with in the very beginning, "But we with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord."

We are transformed as we behold the Lord! There is no other way of being transformed except by His Spirit, as we behold Him, if we keep our eyes on Jesus! The following clipping has appeared in a number of bulletins, it says:

"Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem on it and make it worth \$6,000, that is genius. Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth millions, that is capital. An artist can take a 50 cent piece of canvas, paint a picture on it and make it worth a million, and that is art."

But God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Jesus Christ, put His Spirit into it and transform it completely: That is the transforming power of Salvation! Salvation by the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ. -- And this transforming power of the Lord will never cease, never.

It is an amazement to me when God reaches down and lifts up a man like Billy Sunday -- drinking, cursing, wicked -- and wash him in the Blood of Calvary, thoroughly cleansing him and sends him out to be such a blessing to humanity! -- That's a mightier transforming power than any of these mentioned!

-- And God is doing it every day! Just a year ago I was in a meeting where a boy of 16 was leading the song service, and as he sang those old Gospel hymns his face literally shone with the joy of the Lord. You could just see the radiance of Christ on his countenance.

I was afterwards told that he had been reared as a thief in a vile wicked home. Since he was 12 years old he had been sent out to steal to support for that family, while his drunken father and mother slept off their stupors. He also stole in order to secure the narcotics he'd been using since he was 13 years of age.

But one day some young people found him and led him to Christ. He had been singing in bars -- though that was against the law -- and he often was in and out of juvenile hall, picked up by the police for theft and drunkenness, and now Christ had come into his heart and he was completely transformed by this wonderful transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can think of so many who lived the transformed life until the day they died, and I know so many today living in real victory, blessing all that are around them. Back in the old days when I was so active in

the Lord's service and evangelical work, I remember Bridget.

She had been born in a brothel, her mother was a prostitute, and she told me she had never known there was such a thing as a "good woman" until she was 15 years of age! She was a street preacher, and used to stand on the street corners of Filmore and Edy there in San Francisco and push back her sleeve and hold a \$10 bill in her hand, and say,

"I'll give \$10 to anyone here that can put their finger on my arm where there isn't the mark of a dope needle!" -- And she was so filled with God's Spirit, and her life was so clean and sweet and wonderful, she just radiated Jesus Christ!

The transforming power that took place in that life was something so divine, so wonderful, that people talk about it even to this day, and the name Bridget is so well-known in certain circles.

Well, how does such a transformation take place? -- And sometimes it takes place so quickly! -- Well, there is the verse of Scripture that we just read to you: "We all with open face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory." (2Cor.3:18)

The transformation takes place by beholding Jesus! Many seeking to find the way in the Christian life try to transform their lives with human striving and carnal will power! How wonderful and how marvelous and what a relief when Christ in His fullness comes in to abide, and from thereon He's enthroned in our hearts, and He leads us and guides us in the way we ought to go.

Because after all, the Christian life is just the life of another person coming in and taking over. You can never do it by human striving and carnal will power, you can never come into that transformation, never! It is only as you behold Him, only as Christ comes in to abide in you, and you abide in Him: "If you abide in Me and My Words abide in you," then this transformation takes place. (Jn.15:7)

In Colossians 1:26 and 27, Paul says that he's going to tell us a secret. He takes a long time to get to it, but in the last few verses he tells how the secret of living the Christian life can come to real victory through this secret. He said,

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but is now made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Christ in you! Jesus also said, "He hath been with you but He shall be in you." (Jn.14:17) -- So this is the mystery, the secret of victorious living. This is the secret of the transformed life: A Person coming to abide in you and living out His life through you -- that Person, Jesus Christ! In Galatians 2:20, Paul again says,

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." And he continues with that beautiful verse, "And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me." -- It's a wonderful secret, Christ in you!

That's it, dearly beloved! It isn't your striving, it isn't your trying to transform yourself, it isn't your gritting your teeth and clenching your fist! It's just as you abide in Him and He abides in you, as you just yield yourself completely to Him: That's the secret! He comes in and lives out His life through you.

You do the yielding, He gives the victory and He does the transforming! God bless you. He'll change things in your life if you'll give Him half a chance! Just read your Bible and look to Him and trust Him utterly. Amen?

TRANSFORMED BY BEHOLDING

(Program 9)

IN 2 CORINTHIANS, THE THIRD CHAPTER, WE READ THESE WORDS: "BUT WE ALL WITH OPEN FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A GLASS THE GLORY OF THE LORD, are transformed from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." The Scripture tells of how we can be transformed by beholding Jesus! That's a wonderful passage!

I HAVE A LITTLE PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT NO ONE CAN HAVE A REALLY UGLY COUNTENANCE WHO CONSTANTLY BEHOLDS THE FACE OF JESUS, that is, abides in His presence and meditates on His Word. It says, you remember, that Moses, the Prophet of old, as he prayed his countenance was altered!

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO HAVE THE FACE CHANGED! In America thousands of women every year have their faces altered by plastic surgery. That's a very drastic measure. I think I mentioned to you once that Frances Willard, though in her girlhood she was called by her brothers "the ugly duckling."

AFTER MANY YEARS OF A DEDICATED CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MUCH MEDITATION ON THE WORD OF GOD she at last became a beautiful woman! Now, you might not agree with me in all of this, but you surely agree that living in the presence of God and fellowshipping daily with Jesus will transform the heart and soul.

BUT SOMEHOW MEDITATION HAS BECOME A LOST ART IN THE MAD RUSH OF THIS GENERATION. A mother visiting her successful popular son, listened to him tell of all his interests and activities which left him no time to visit with her, though she had come thousands of miles at great sacrifice to see him.

AT LAST SHE GRABBED HIS COAT SLEEVE AS HE AGAIN DASHED FOR THE DOOR. She said, "Son, when do you do your meditating?" He said, "What?" She said, "Well, when do you meditate?" -- Her life was just impossible without seasons of meditation! And this mad rush is accelerated at the height of the Christmas Season, that is, the shopping season.

SOME WILL NEVER STOP TO ENJOY ANYTHING OF LIFE UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS and then they will fall into bed sighing, "Well, I'm glad that's all over!" -- What a pity! Why don't we stop and enjoy Christmas just once -- really enjoy what it means? Enjoy the beauty, just stop all this trying to do so much.

THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT THIS

SEASON AND SO MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS TO SEE. You know it's a shame to miss it all just to meet some people's expectations or try to keep up with the Joneses, and wrapping this and rapping that and rushing for this last thing and that, and trying to cook up such a lot of so many things and -- well, we miss the Lord Himself in our feverish rush.

16 SAYS, "I HAVE SET THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME, because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved." He's near, He is at our right hand, He is within speaking distance! But we will never see Him when we are too busy to notice Him there, and in the mad rush of the Christmas shopping we don't even notice He's there.

WE'LL NOT HEAR THE VOICE OF THE LORD, FOR THAT'S HEARD ONLY IN QUIET WAITING ON HIM in a Holy hush, when you can have the time to disentangle His Voice from the many voices about you. It is a very still small Voice and isn't often heard on the run.

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING THAT "THE DEW NEVER FALLS ON A STORMY NIGHT." -- And so the sweetness of Christ's presence is rarely found by nervous souls in the feverish rush. But the dew of Heaven and the choicest blessings fall on that soul that gets quiet and waits for His presence.

SO I THINK HE MAY STAND TODAY IN OUR BUSY SHOPPING CENTERS WITH ARMS OUTSTRETCHED saying, "Be still and know that I am God," and that other wonderful verse we quote so often, "In quietness and confidence shall your strength be."

A FEW YEARS AGO I was standing in the doorway of the May Company in Los Angeles enjoying the lovely Manger Scene in the next window, when a mother and her little girl came hurrying by.

THE CHILD SAW THE BEAUTY OF THE SCENE AND GRASPING HER MOTHER'S SKIRT SHE CRIED, "MAMA, MAMA PLEASE LET ME STOP A MINUTE AND LOOK AT JESUS!" But the mother with some harsh tone reminded her she wasn't half through with her shopping list and was in too big a hurry to stop.

THOSE WORDS RANG IN MY EARS FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT: "Let me stop a minute and look at Jesus." -- Waiting in His presence, waiting in stillness, waiting in quiet worship. Listening and learning until we become more like Him -- transformed by beholding! -- Listen my friend, life will always be a long round of rush and activity and feverishness without a personal relationship with the Majestic Christ.

HE ALONE CAN BRING THAT PEACE AND REST AND QUIET

TO THE HEART IF YOU'LL ONLY STOP AND LET HIM! Stop and listen to His Voice! Stop now! Well, you will "tomorrow." -- No! Let's do it now! He says,

"I AM COME THAT YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY." Then there is this wonderful verse, "He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son hath not life." If you have never given your heart to Jesus and tried this out, really give Him a chance with your life! Romans 5:1 says,

"THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." -- And all this you'll miss if you are too busy to give Him a chance at your heart. There is an abundant life for you if by faith you accept Him as your Lord and Savior.

TO LIVE WITHOUT HIM IS FORFEITING THE ONLY REAL AND LASTING JOY THERE IS IN THIS OLD WORLD and that seals your destiny for time, and eternity too. Accept Him as your Savior -- it will be a wonderful Christmas for you then!

TRUST HIM WITH YOUR LIFE AND HE WILL TRANSFORM IT AND COMPLETELY CHANGE IT: Give you life Eternal! Isn't that worth stopping and waiting upon Him to find out?

"DEAR LORD, I WANT EACH DAY THAT COMES

To share some part with Thee,
Where I can sit at Thy dear feet
And hear Thee speak to me.

A PLACE WHERE I CAN TURN ASIDE

And leave the cares of life,
Where I can get the strength I need
To banish storm and strife.
A quiet Holy trusting-place
Where Thou to me canst give
The very blessing that I need:
Here would I rest and live."

GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU AND MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU. He's on the Throne and prayer changes things!

TRANSFORMED –Part 2

(Program 24)

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Savior! The Lord bless you and make you a blessing and give you a wonderful day! Welcome to Meditation Moments, and may this meditation be a blessing to your heart; it has been to my own.

In Isaiah 40, Verse 28, that very familiar passage that has been such a blessing to so many: "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the Earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?

"There is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint." Those wonderful words, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

That's a very precious and wonderful verse to me, because I've had to ask God to renew my strength so many times, and as you grow older, you'll find that's true of yourself also.

I will be 79 years of age, and yet I have such a busy life: counseling, speaking appointments and writing! And I have my homework also, so life is a busy thing for me, and many times I have to look to the Lord to renew my strength, and I think about this verse.

I'm giving you that personal testimony because it has been such a large part of my life, and I feel like it may strengthen your faith to know that there are those that really depend upon the Lord for their strength: they just draw their strength from Him!

You're drawing strength from the life of a young man, 33 years of age, when you take the life of the Lord Jesus Christ! Many times when I've been so weary I felt I couldn't take it any longer, I've depended upon this very waiting on the Lord to renew my strength.

When you read these words, and you get quiet in your spirit, then you begin to realize how much of the clang and jar and hurry of the street that's gotten into your soul! But there's a remedy for that! And there's a place that you can find quiet and repose and strength!

"They that wait upon the Lord." I know when the feverishness gets in my own spirit, and the restlessness in my mind and tension in my body, I've gone through that just like you have, many times. Then I

get alone and read His Word, and search my heart, spend time in prayer.

And if you'd only do that until there is restored that perfect peace that the Lord promises, and that sweet rest that He always gives--there's a mighty repose in it, I can assure you of that--then you'll mount up with wings as an eagle. You'll just feel like your spirit is on a high flight, indeed!

Because you lift your soul to the bosom of God that way, and He brings that repose. There are so many fine people today in this jet-propelled time, that take some kind of tranquilizers to calm them down.

Their tensions are so great, and the strain on their lives is just terrific, and the pressures of the day are so many, they say they have to have something to quiet them before they can get rest, something to cool the fever of this awful rush.

But it isn't only with adults, this thing today! I just don't understand all about it, but I have a school teacher friend, and she says she has five pupils in her room that have to be given tranquilizers through the day, under doctor's orders. And another friend of mine in North Carolina has a boy in her class that she has to give tranquilizers to! What a pity that even children need such!

But I know the need with many for a place for such repose. There're so many places to go and so many things to do, and it's so easy to get there, and so fast these days, and sometimes the very thought of staying home and not doing anything doesn't appeal to many people.

Not going anywhere would be shocking for some folks! And to seek God's presence and to read His Word that they might refresh their soul and clarify their thoughts and take the fever out of their lives, well, they seem to think that would be a real waste of time!

But unless they do that, they'll never know this mounting up with wings as the eagle, this running and not being weary, this walking and not fainting! Yet millions down through the ages have found that only in the presence of God, as they wait upon Him, do they find rest and peace.

Every symptom of restlessness can be subdued in this way: all that restlessness can go out of your soul, if you just get quiet before Him and wait upon Him. You'll find that prayer makes available the power of God that will just take all that strain out of your life, you'll get so quiet and in such repose!

God's Word says, "They who have believed have entered into

rest." Now that resting place that He speaks of here comes through faith in God, and faith comes by reading God's Word! How many times have we repeated that verse:

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God!" And God's Word says, "There remaineth therefore a rest for the people of God." You don't have to wait to get to Heaven to get that rest! (Rom.10:17, Heb.4:9.)

I don't believe there was any hurry or straining in the life of Jesus Christ! Although He had such a busy life, His Spirit was always calm and undisturbed. When the crowds grew too great and the demands were too pressing, He went aside to be alone with God, and then He would recapture the serenity of His Spirit: that's why He went apart and alone so many times!

It says that every man went to his own house. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Yes, we know He went there, because He had nowhere else to go, but He went also to be alone with God, and to wait upon the Lord.

He knew that in the difficult moments of His life, He could never meet the complexities of His calling unless He could lay His Spirit on the bosom of God, until He was just encompassed with peace and confidence for all that awaited Him. But we poor humans, we've got so much to do, haven't we? So active and such a hurry!

The fact is that we just go 'round and 'round, and we don't get anywhere, and so much time is wasted, and we could really do twice the work and accomplish so much greater things, if we'd take time just to let our hearts go up and up to the throne of God, until His peace and rest would come down and equip us thoroughly for the work of the day.

Did you ever get up some day and just have everything go wrong? You broke dishes or you spilled something, or the phone wore you out, and all those things that happen? Perhaps because you hadn't waited for Him the first thing in the morning.

I had such a joy this morning! I've a couple of grandsons visiting me, one is 15 years of age and the other is 17, and when I came through the living room early this morning, here they were both sitting there reading their Bibles quietly! Both are spirit-filled young men. Talk about your teenagers! There are some that walk with God! And you try it, my friend!

Just walk with God down the avenues of His Word and tarry a while with some of His promises, and read some of the passages like I read you just now, until faith will just flame and leap up in your soul!

Don't hurry! "They that wait upon the Lord." You can't ever get a blessing or comfort from the Word of God in a hurry.

Just pause a little over the Words of Jesus Christ and give Him time to work in your heart. He wants you to leave with Him every care that you have. He wants you just to drop your burden right with Him and realize that His promises are unfailing.

I can assure you, the longer you tarry to read God's blessed Word, the greater will grow your confidence that all the things in your life will work together for good to them that love the Lord. Oh, what rest and quiet that brings! What peace that brings to your heart to know that!

A restless feverish spirit, a hurried life, is not so willing to give time to God to work. The Holy Spirit's a wonderful teacher when you're quiet and unhurried before Him.

For the help and healing, the strength and comfort which makes life livable and bearable amid all this that that's going on today, will never be found in any system of thought or philosophy, but it's found in a Person, and that's the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. And you find Him there, closer and closer to your heart in the written Word, the Living Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Paul found this secret, for he said, "My life is hid with Christ in God." And I might say that I believe with all my heart that amidst the storm of life that is today beating so mercilessly, and the burdens and pressures that weary so in this world today and the condition it's in, God can empower and sustain you and can help you live joyously and triumphantly and victoriously, if you'll just wait on the Lord, wait I say! God's Word says, "Wait on the Lord." The dear Lord bless you. Give Him time, give Him a chance! He's still on the Throne and prayer will change things. Amen.

THE TRUE CHRISTMAS!

(Program 97)

SOME PEOPLE CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW GOD COULD HAVE COME DOWN AND BEEN WRAPPED ABOUT WITH HUMAN FLESH, BUT HE CAME! It isn't strange to me, that seems so easy to believe, because I see Him born in hearts every day! He comes and lives in hearts and transforms lives and to me that's a much -- oh, I could say a much greater -- but that's a great miracle, a mighty miracle, that He can be born in your heart and in my heart and live there in our hearts, identifying Himself in that way with us.

THERE WAS A YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIER POSTED AT HIS SENTRY BOX before the barracks on a dark night, and suddenly he heard the sound of hoofbeats. It was his Captain's horse. He went quickly out and offered his salute and then stood like a marble statue until the Captain cried out:

"SAY OF WHAT USE TO ME ARE YOUR TOKENS OF RESPECT IN THIS PITCH BLACK DARK NIGHT! OPEN THE GATES SO THAT I CAN RIDE IN!" -- Ah, that's the trouble at Christmastime. People pay their respects in outward show. But for Jesus our Captain, are all the honors we pay Him at Christmastime! With it all, do we take Him into our hearts? There's an old verse that goes this way:

THOUGH A THOUSAND TIMES IN BETHLEHEM CHRIST BE BORN,

If He's not born in thee, thy soul is all forlorn.
And so I shall attend to my little errands of love early this year,
That the brief days before Christmas may be unhampered and clear.

Clear of the fever of hurry, the breathless rushing that I have known in the past
Shall not possess me, I shall be calm in my soul and ready at last
For Christmas, to worship the Christ.
I shall kneel, take time to call His Name.
I shall take time to watch the beautiful light of a candle's flame.
I shall have leisure, I shall go out alone from my roof and my door.

I shall not miss the silver silence of stars that I had before.
Perhaps if I stand both very still and very long,
I shall hear what the clamor of living has kept from me -- The

Angel's song,
That mother's low cry, the baby's sweet song.

AND GOD'S WORD SAYS HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
"WONDERFUL!" There it is in Isaiah in the ninth chapter,
"Wonderful!" "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, The
government shall be upon His shoulder. His name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father. The
Prince of Peace."

WONDERFUL NAME BECAUSE HE WAS WONDERFUL IN HIS
LIFE, going about everywhere doing good and healing all that were
oppressed. Wonderful His death; dying for you and me that we might
have life. Wonderful His resurrection that we might also be
resurrected. And wonderful now in His life after death, because He is
interceding for us.

OH MY FRIEND, IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT CHRIST WAS
BORN BENEATH THE STAR THAT SHONE, and Earth was set that
blessed morn with a golden zone. -- He must be born within thy heart
before He finds His throne. -- Won't you let Him come into your heart?

REMEMBER THAT STORY OF HOLMAN HAPTOM where an
artist or someone came to him and told him that he'd made a mistake
in the picture that he had painted, that he had not knob on the door,
that the Savior was standing before a closed door with a lantern in
hand. -- And then it was that Holman had answered,

"I DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE! THE DOOR IS OPENED BY THE
SINNER'S OWN HAND FROM THE INSIDE! The handle is on the
inside." The Savior can never enter a door unless it is opened from the
inside. God's Word says, "To as many as received Him, to them gave He
power to become the sons of God." (John 1:12)

OH, RECEIVE HIM THIS CHRISTMAS! HE'LL MEAN SO
MUCH TO YOU! He'll transform your life. Welcome Him into your
heart. He's still on the Throne and He wants to be on the Throne of
your heart, and prayer will change things for you.

UNCHANGING CHRIST

(Program 114)

WE READ FROM EXODUS WHERE GOD IS SENDING MOSES TO DELIVER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. And the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; and I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land, unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...Now therefore, behold the cry of the children of Israel is come unto Me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee." Now He was speaking here to Moses; "I will send thee that thou mayest bring forth My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

"MOSES SAID UNTO GOD, WHO AM I THAT I SHOULD GO UNTO PHARAOH AND THAT I SHOULD BRING FORTH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT? And He said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, and that His name is "I AM" -- never "I was," but "I AM," the UNCHANGING LORD.

IT'S SO WONDERFUL HAVING TO THINK THAT OUR GOD NEVER, NEVER CHANGES. What surety! What assurance! What security! And then a verse that's very companion to this out of the 13th chapter of Hebrews: "For He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Then, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever." God says, "I AM," and God's Word says here, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

SOME TIME AGO, I WAS READING ABOUT THOSE DAYS BACK THERE WHEN THE HARDY PORTUGUESE COLONISTS WERE FOUNDING THIS CITY DOWN ON THE COAST OF CHINA, a city called Mateo. Vasco da Gama was their leader, and when they built the town of Mateo, they built a great cathedral there, and on the top of

that cathedral they reared a great, beautiful, very large, bronze cross.

BUT AS THE YEARS PASSED BY, TIME WITH ALL OF ITS DECAY WAS TO MUCH FOR THAT CATHEDRAL, AND THEN CAME THE CHINA SIEGE, and all of the walls except one were broken down. That was a wall, the facade on which tower was this great bronze cross. Now many tourists passing by that place on the great ocean liners, would look up and see that old broken wall. Through it's gaping windows they could see the China sea beyond, but all was just broken and decayed rocks and tile lying around there, but this one wall standing with the cross upon it.

ONE DAY ON ONE OF THOSE SHIPS THERE WAS A MAN, AND HE WAS THE GOVERNOR, THE BRITISH GOVERNOR FOR HONG KONG. His name was Sir John Bowring. When he saw that great cross gleaming there in the sunlight, towering over all the wreckage of that old city, it so inspired his heart that he went down into that ship and taking pen in hand, wrote the old song we love so much:

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY,

Towering o'er the wrecks of time
All the light of sacred story
Gathers 'round its head sublime

When the woes of life o'ertake me
Hopes deceive and fears annoy
Never shall the cross forsake me
No, it glows with peace and joy

When the Son of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way
From the cross the radiance beaming
Adds more luster to my day

O vain and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross is sanctified
Peace is there that knows no measure
Joy that through all time abides.

THE THING THAT BROUGHT ALL THIS TO MY THOUGHTS WAS WHEN I WAS READING AGAIN THAT WONDERFUL VERSE OF SCRIPTURE IN 2ND CORINTHIANS, THE FIRST CHAPTER. I

remember when I was in Pittsburgh some time ago, being called to pray for a young woman who had been 8 long years in bed, a total invalid, so pitiful and hopeless. The doctors had come to the place where they said they could do nothing at all for her. My husband and I went there and spent 10 days there. There we prayed and spent many hours in prayer. I kept thinking, "Oh Lord, so many have prayed with her, some very noted people of God's healing, and I just felt like I was so desperate. I just felt like I was so little, and I think a little fear came into my heart.

I KNELT BY THE BED AND OPENING TO THIS PASSAGE, WHICH IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE VERSES, "WHO DELIVERED US FROM SO GREAT A DEATH, AND DOTHT DELIVER: IN WHOM WE TRUST HE WILL YET DELIVER US." Also a companion verse, it fell on the verse just before it, which I had never seemed to notice, and these are the words:

WE SHOULD NOT TRUST IN OURSELVES, BUT IN GOD, WHICH RAISETH THE DEAD." Then it came to me, why, it was nothing to do with me. It isn't trust in ourselves. What have I to do with it except to be an instrument? It's God who can do this work, no confidence in the flesh. No matter how we feel about ourselves, it's God that raiseth the dead.

SO I CALLED MY HUSBAND AND WE READ FROM THE GOSPEL, AND THE MOTHER AND THE FATHER OF THE GIRL WENT IN THE ROOM AND PRAYED FOR HER. Then, with all sincerity and faith in God, after that 10 days of fasting and prayer and much reading the Word, we bade her in the name of Jesus to rise...and she did! She rose from that bed. Eight years she had never been out of that bed, could not walk at all. It was a very serious illness, and an infection was final. She is still walking and God has wonderfully used that life.

WE TRUST NOT IN OURSELVES, BUT IN GOD, WHO RAISETH THE DEAD; Who delivereth us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust He will yet deliver. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." Oh, the unchanging Lord, the unchanging Christ, our blessed Lord never changes. And God said, "I AM, I AM."

SO MANY THINGS CHANGE TODAY, SO MANY SPRINGS RUN DRY. There are two kinds of springs, some we call "weather springs" and some we call "dry weather springs." In the early part of Summer, when much rain is falling, these little basins are formed in the creeks' banks that hold the water. But when the hot weather comes and rain

ceases, the water's source dries up. They're springs that dry up because they have their source in an upper fountain.

SO MANY SOURCES OF PLEASURE AND COMFORT CHANGE AS THE YEARS GO BY, BUT THE CHRISTIAN'S JOY AND PEACE DOESN'T DRY UP OR CHANGE BECAUSE IT HAS ITS COURSE IN AN UPPER, EVERLASTING, FOUNTAIN -- THE UNCHANGING LORD. As God's Word says, "There is a stream that makes glad the heart of man." -- Psa.46:4. I want you as you read this message, to believe that the God who said all of these things through His Word is "I AM," no matter what anyone says to you. Christ is not changed, He's just the same. What He did for others in the past, He can do for you today!

WE TURN TO ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE PRECIOUS OLD HYMNS WITH THIS MESSAGE OF THE ONE WHO WE CAN ABIDE IN, WHO CHANGES NOT:

ABIDE WITH ME, FAST FALLS THE EVENTIDE

The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay all around I see
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me.

We need Thy presence every passing hour
What but thy grace can spoil the tempter's power?
To light Thyself, our Guide, and say to Thee
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me!

THE UNCONTROLLED TONGUE

(Program 130)

There's a very small thing around my house and your house, and it gives more trouble than all the sickness, financial difficulties and storms of life! It's just a little thing, about three or four inches long and a few inches wide, but it can cause complete havoc and it can wreck a whole day when it gets loose.

I think you've guessed what it is: A tongue that's out of control; an unkind tongue, a bitter tongue, a tongue that says hard and critical things. Someone has said that the day that begins with a bad tongue turned loose finds even the dog taking to the wood shed, and the man of the house quickly finds a job in the back yard!

It doesn't make any difference whether it's a man or woman who loses control of a tongue -- everybody suffers. It only proves God's Word to be more true than ever, as we read in James, Chapter 3, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body." -- They're whole body is turned about with bits. "Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of Mankind:

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." -
- Jam.3:1-12.

Note particularly these words, "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing...these things ought not so to be." Someone once sought my help, saying, "Have you any suggestion to make regarding a difficulty of this kind? I can't understand why it is that at the office I can be so kind and patient with everybody, and it seems that I never get out of humor. In fact, at the office I have the name of being a pretty good fellow! But for some unknown reason, at home I lose my temper easily. I get out of patience with the children, especially one who upsets me greatly.

"I get along so well at the office, at my church and other places away from home. I hold a respected position in my church, and in all these places it seems so easy. Why is this? What's to blame at home that gets me so upset?" Well, I had to answer and was compelled to be very frank about the real test of a man -- that it isn't on the street or in the office or in a church, but is at home.

The place to take the true measure of a man is not out on the job, nor nay of these other places, but you can ascertain what kind of man he is, and if he has something real in so far as his religion is concerned, right in the home -- just what he is there.

Someone has wisely said, "At home a man lays aside the mask, and there you may judge whether he is a hero or a humbug." Sophie, the scrub woman, used to say that some men were "church angels and home devils." Well, that's quite true sometimes! I once found a little clipping in Dean Dutton's book. He said:

"I care not what the World says of a man, whether it crowns him with pearls or pelts him with eggs. I care never a copper what his reputation or religion may be. If his babies dread his home-coming, and his wife has to swallow her heart every time she asks him for a five Dollar bill -- there's a sham about him somehow! Even though he be a church member and his hallelujah's shake the eternal hills!

"But if his children are delighted at his home-coming, his wife thrills at the sound of his footsteps, you can take it for granted, it doesn't make any difference what they think of him at the office, that man isn't any humbug, he's no counterfeit! If he lives it at home!"

There is this common failure, this lack of kindness and courtesy in the home, the lack of control in the home. Peter said, "Be courteous" (1Pet.3:8), because he knew, as you do, that there are many Christians who rather pride themselves on their brusqueness of manner. I've heard them say, "Well, I'm very frank and outspoken." -- Yet the truth being that they were very rude and discourteous many times!

Such a characteristic can severely sour a family life. The husband may in his heart dearly love his wife, but if his voice is sharp and his tone is bitter, he'll deeply wound her and hurt all the family relation. And if his wife isn't sweet and gentle, but is sharp-tongued and domineering, she can easily break up the home. She can easily upset any day and send the husband off to work with a sad heart.

Are there frequent quarrels and dissensions in the home? That doesn't just happen. Someone is to blame. Maybe we'd better take a better look at ourselves. Here's a favorite poem of mine:

"If I had known in the morning,
How wearily all the day
The words unkind would trouble my mind,
I said when you went away.
Had I been more careful, Darling,
Nor given you heedless pain,
But we vex our own with look and tone,
We might never take back again.

"For though in the quiet evening,
You might give me the kiss of peace,
Yet it might be, that never for me,
The pain of the heart should cease.
For many go forth in the morning
But never come back at night,
And hearts have been broken,
For harsh words spoken
That sorrow can ne'er get right.

"We have careful thoughts for the stranger
And smiles for the sometimes guest,
But oh, for our own, a bitter tone,
Though we say we love our own the best.
And lips with the curve impatient,
Or brow with that look of scorn,
There's a cruel fate
Were the night too late,
To undo the work of the morn'."
-- Margaret Thaxter

And also this poem by Mary Lather:

"If we knew who's feet were standing
Close beside the narrow stream,
If we knew who's eyes were closing
In the sleep that knows no dream,
We'd be so kind and tender,
Lightly judge, and gently speak.
Let us act as though we know it,
For the links so quickly break."

It's those thoughtless, unkind words that leap from our lips. Is there some way that one can overcome all this bitterness, this unkindness? Is there some way it can be overcome? Well, the trouble isn't fundamentally with the tongue, it's with the heart.

Words are only the conveyance in which the quality of the heart rides forth to other people. Jesus teaches that our words reveal our heart character. Whatever the quality of the heart, it will possess and accompany the words exactly.

Someone has said there is an invisible stream of soul quality that flows through our words, and there's no way under the sun to change that quality except a change of spirit from which the words flow. There must be a change of heart. You can never control that tongue of yours yourself. I have seen people try to do it, but as it says in His Word, "The tongue can no man tame." -- But God can tame it! He's all powerful and nothing is impossible with God. You can have the victory! "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." -- Mk.10:27. Open your heart to Him and yield yourself completely.

Ask Him to come in and fill you with His Spirit. Then He will speak through you and your words will be "seasoned with salt." -- Col.4:6. If you faithfully read God's Word, you'll come into an abiding relationship with Him, that as Jesus said, "My Words abide in you." -- Jn.15:7.

Christ is the only true Source of all love, kindness and sweetness. As He takes possession of your whole life, He takes possession of your tongue, and His Words will abide in you. Then the bitter, sharp, critical spirit is gone, and He'll give you out of His life. His life will flow through you and out of you "shall flow rivers of living water." -- Jn.7:38b.

He spoke of the Spirit which shall dwell in you. Do you believe

this? God cannot fail His Word. The promises of God are yea and amen to the glory of God. Trust Him to do it. Believe His Word, it's never failed!

If you have wounded any soul today, take this to heart and pray about it. I can't fully explain how this transformation takes place, but it does, as His Love flows through you and takes possession of your tongue, and your tongue becomes a stream of blessing to all about you.

UTTERLY DESTROY

(Program 94)

Greetings and welcome again to Meditation Moments. Now, we are talking to you today about two little words in the Old Testament, in 1st Samuel, 15th Chapter, and those words are "utterly destroy." Well you know, in just these few moments we couldn't possibly tell you the story of Saul and Samuel, and of the king of the Amalekites, Agag, we couldn't possibly tell you the whole story. But Saul was told to go out against the Amalekites and to destroy them utterly!

God's Word says, "destroy utterly." But Saul didn't do that, if you remember in the story, he brought back the king Agag, chained to his chariot, and he also brought back the best of the cattle and the sheep, because he was going to offer them, he said, as a sacrifice to the Lord. But this is a sad story of the growth of evil in a life which was once given to God.

I want to talk about little sins that are left in the life that soon grow to be such great sins, and what was once so harmless, seemingly, soon conquers the life. I had this brought to my mind especially recently when a girl that I knew of that had gone for a number of years to Bible School, right here in Los Angeles.

Then she married, she went to Korea. And there she fell in with companions of her husband and business and just a little touch of this and that socially. And now she has come back home.

And her mother tells me that she has gone utterly away from the Lord and into the World, because she compromised in the beginning -- and it just began with such little things, just little social temptations -- and now she's utterly away from the Lord.

And so as Saul spared Agag, the wicked king, as he thought for a good purpose, and kept the best of the spoil to be sacrificed to the Lord -- it was utter disobedience -- God had said "slay utterly." And that

word slay "utterly" should be written upon our heart, not "half way," but "utterly." Anything less than that's going to be disobedience, and it will bring disaster.

Why don't we have the courage sometime to bravely and definitely sever with the enemy and stand up whole-heartedly for God? Because you cannot tolerate sin. I wish you'd write that little word down, "tolerate." The only security against sin is to be shocked at it!

I confess that you don't see much shock at sin these days. Even Christians have rubbed up against it all around them, in the newspapers and everywhere, and tolerated just a little of this and that, until they have hardened their conscience!

Your only security against sin is to be shocked at it. Keep the fires of indignation kindled hotly against sin. So many things are to our advantage, with only a slight wound of conscience, only a little sacrifice of principle. And some haven't got the moral fiber to wholly separate them-selves from forbidden companionship and some little social temptation.

And I'll confess that there are a lot of excuses made for just this slight wound of conscience, when the thing that is wanted to be done is much to the advantage of the person. The greatest sin and separation from God often starts with just an unholy friendship, or ungodly association of some kind which seems so advantageous for some reason, but ends subverting the consecration for God that one time perhaps was wholehearted and so blessed.

Dr. Livingstone tells a story of a singular little creature he found in Africa called the "ant lion." It attacked and destroyed the strongest victims by a masterpiece of strategy, just like the Devil does.

It would excavate a little pit in the dry sand in the form of an inverted cone running to a point at the bottom, then it would sit down at the base of its little pitfall and wait for some unsuspecting creature to tread too near the edge of the crumbling sand. The victim at last appeared, and perhaps he lost his balance and rolled down the side of the little pit where the ant lie and waited for his prey.

Not, however, directly and instantly does the destroyer attack his victim. It's sort of an unequal contest for the little strategist, but he opens his sharp little mouth -- and like a pair of powerful scissors -- and with one quick movement he cuts off a limb.

Now this keeps up until he's mutilated the little creature. And it tries to go up the slippery side of the pit, but just as it reaches the summit it loses its footing again and tumbles once more into the jaws

of this waiting little monster. And so limb by limb it is wounded and its remaining strength is gone, and at last it falls right into the hands of the enemy who devours at leisure the little animal, the little creature, whichever it was.

He wouldn't dared to have attacked it directly, he couldn't have had the strength to have done that. That's the story of many a defeated Christian! Some little fox, as God's Word says, "It's the little foxes that destroy the vine."

You've heard that many times, but it's that little adversary that you didn't even dread that has brought the final destruction, separated you from God. It isn't by some outstanding attack of the enemy always, but by a thousand little wounds to the conscience, that at last you lose your power of resistance against the enemy.

And king Saul's career, is -- oh, I think it is one of the saddest examples in God's Word -- of one who had such a noble beginning but ended in awful disaster, simply because he began with just this little disobedience, if you can call any disobedience little. He had not lost out all at once, but the steady growth of sin in his life was horrible.

At first it was just seemingly a justified act, a slight disobedience, a slight wound to the conscience, self-will was a sin in Saul's heart, but soon grew into a great giant that brought him to disgrace and disaster but not all at once, remember.

This was the picture of the growth of sin when it was tolerated. For nearly 10 years he sat on Israel's throne and sat there while step by step the giant of sin grew. And that is a story of letting a little sin come into your life and not being shocked at it, not seeking God at once for victory over it -- until Satan's power has stripped you of a desire to resist.

God help you. Remember, watch the little sins, the little things that separate you from God. God will help you if you ask Him, He'll give you victory, For God's still on the Throne, and prayer changes things.

VICTORY FROM SEEMING DEFEAT – 1

(Program 27)

In the 107th Psalm we find these words, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy and gathered them out of the lands, from the East, from the West, from the North, from the South.

"They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way, they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble and He delivered them out of their distresses." -- That's a wonderful verse for those of you that are in distress right now, who feel like you have come to the very end of your rope! And there are times in life when everything looks like absolute defeat.

I've been there a number of times, and it just seemed like I'd hit bottom and that was just the end of the road. But after much prayer and living in God's Word, seeking the face of the Lord, I found it was just a little bend in the road! And God got the greatest victory out of that seeming defeat! And I've learned in these lessons of life in the many years that the greatest victories in life come out of seeming defeat: When it looks like it's all over and there isn't any use to try again, out of that very defeat can come a mighty victory! It's so in the Scriptures! You read it in so many, many places in God's Word!

There are some that feel that this is the end of things, and that you're always going to be just like this. The future looks very dark financially, perhaps, and you don't know just how the family's going to be cared for. Or there are some that have hospital bills facing them. The wife's been ill, and it looks as if you'll never pull out of all the expense. There are those that are in desperate sickness today. Perhaps you have been under the operating knife, and you don't know how this thing's going to turn out.

Well, it has happened that way so many times, that God takes all of this, and weaving together with His precious hands, He makes the most beautiful tapestry of life out of just such broken times, such broken threads. There is an old saying that, "God's way up is down," and that certainly is the truth, that when we go down, we learn some needed lessons!

We're broken, humbled, and our hearts softened in the loss, in

the defeat, and then, gripping God afresh, we climb up again to greater victory! Sometimes when seemingly defeated, we find that it's the very last key on the ring that opens the lock to victory!

That is why faith has done so much for some who have seemed so very defeated! For some it has been the financial string that has snapped, and with only a few pennies left, they were seemingly just at the end. But from those few pennies, with God's help, there have been some that faced right-about-face again, and a great fortune grew out of those few pennies, because they were determined with God's help not to be defeated, and the greatest victory came out of the seeming defeat. Some have lost loved ones, and in their loneliness, out of the scraps of their broken hearts, they have believed God and leaned on His comfort, and have later been monuments of blessing to other lonely lives.

It is out of seeming defeats that have come such real victories! Some have only a few strands of life left: health gone, body broken, yet they determine not to be defeated. And with fingers of faith they have woven those broken strands of life into some of the most beautiful patterns in all the tapestry of life.

The Lord wants to help you, and if you'll trust Him, He can make melody out of one string! He can make a garment of praise in service to God out of just the little bit that's left in your life, if you are determined to let Him have His Way, and have the faith that God will give you the victory no matter what it seems that you're facing now.

Right now, some of you are looking at defeated plans or programs, and there is so little left out of which to build a life, a love, or a living, but we pray that you'll take the little that is left, and asking God to help you, determine to go on, to win out!

Many of God's greatest vessels, the potter's brightest ones, have been made from broken bits, and many of God's masterpieces have been made from salvaged wreckage! Remember in Paul's life what happened! What defeat it looked like! There he was, blind by the road side. God had struck him down, and he had been a murderer of Christians! But with faith in God, his blindness was healed, and out of a life that had to be broken even by the hand of God, there came such a wonderful victory that his name is known in all countries today.

And it's so in so many of the Bible stories! Take the Hebrew children, they prayed! You just read the story, and see if they didn't ask God's help, but just the same, they were thrown into the fiery furnace! It looked like God hadn't answered prayer! I say, it looked it by the things that were seen! But after a while, the king saw Someone Else

walking in the furnace with them, and he said, "One like unto the Son of God."--God was with them in the furnace! And they were delivered out of that furnace! Not even the smell of smoke was on their clothing! It looked like such a terrible defeat that they should go into the fiery furnace; but it was a greater victory because they had been in the fiery furnace!

And this thing that seems like such a fiery trial in your life, God's Word says, "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial that is come upon you, as if a strange thing had happened to you."--It may seem very strange, and you say, "Why? Why has God let this come into my life?"

But that may be the very stepping stone to the place where God wants you, if you'll utterly trust Him, and put it all in His hands, and don't lose any faith! Don't let the doubts come in! Rebuke every doubt, and your defeat can turn into the greatest victory, just like it did with Daniel!

Daniel didn't want to go into the lion's den, but into the den he went! But God closed the lions' mouths! The king put his very seal on the entrance to the lions' den, and it couldn't have looked like any greater defeat! But out of that den has come one of the greatest stories in history, and one that has inspired so much faith!

It never would have been such a great victory, if it hadn't looked like such a great defeat! And so, dearly beloved, put it in God's hands! Look to the Lord! "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise a standard against him." (Is.59:19)

That time that looks so much like defeat is God's opportunity to do a great thing for you, because "faith is the victory that overcometh the world," and "all things are possible to him that believes," and "nothing is impossible with God!" Don't take it as the end of the road! (1Jn.5:4 ; Mk.9:23 ; Lk.1:37)

Take it as something out of which God can weave something far greater! God bless you. He is still on the Throne. Our God has His hand on the helm of the Universe, and prayer does change things.

VICTORY FROM SEEMING DEFEAT – 2

(Program 112)

READING A FEW VERSES FROM LUKE CHAPTER FIVE,
VERSE ONE: "IT CAME TO PASS, THAT AS THE PEOPLE PRESSED
UPON JESUS TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD, He stood by the Lake of
Gennesaret, and there were two ships standing by the late; but the
fisherman were gone out of them, and were washing their nets...Now
when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the
deep and let down your nets. And Simon answered and said unto Him,
Master, we toiled all night and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy
Word I will let down the net. And when they had done this, they
enclosed a great multitude of fishes and the net brake."

THE WONDERFUL THOUGHT ABOUT THIS IS THAT RIGHT
WHERE THERE HAD BEEN SUCH DEFEAT AT FIRST because they
had toiled all night and day, but when Jesus spoke, there came such a
great victory out of that which had been defeat.

YOU KNOW, THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE SAYINGS, and it's
a favorite because I've seen it come true so many, many times in the
lives of those we have talked to and dealt with or prayed with who have
been in trouble, and then in our own life, in our own family, that

GOD GETS HIS GREATEST VICTORIES OUT OF SEEMING
DEFEATS Just when it seems that there's no one to turn to, there's
nothing you can do, there is no hope, just then is when God begins to
answer your prayers, and it comes on the very spot where there was
such defeat, there comes victory. Just like in the story from God's
Word; they toiled all night and day, but it was on that very spot, He
didn't say move to some other place on the lake, He didn't say move
further out and there's something that you'll catch far better, far away
from Him. No, it was right there where defeat had been.

HOW WONDERFUL THAT IS, TO GET VICTORY WHERE
THERE HAD BEEN DEFEAT SO LONG. Beloved, if you have been
praying for a loved one so long, don't give up, don't get discouraged.
Just take your stand right in the midst of that family and claim the
victory through Jesus, believe His Word, stand upon His promises, and
hold on. -- There's going to be a victory, He's promised the victory. He
is the Victor, the Great Deliverer, and He will bring victory. We've seen
it happen so many, many times.

GOD'S WORD IS JUST FULL OF STORIES LIKE THIS. You
remember the three children in the fiery furnace. There were three

Hebrew children and they were cast into the furnace. I supposed they prayed very much not to be cast in, but they were. Not only that, they fell down, flat on their faces, and they were bound, you know. And yet out of that defeat, there came the great victory, for the king then believed in the God of Israel and sent out an edict for others to so believe.

THE SAME WAY WITH DANIEL. I think I mentioned that before, that he didn't want to go in the lion's den, but not only was he thrown in the den but the king put his seal upon the door, and that seemed to be indeed a defeat. -- But out of that came the greater victory. Sometimes it's a greater victory because the defeat seems so great; it seems so hopeless, so very hopeless. And the more hopeless it seems, the greater opportunity the Lord has to work. Many, many times when your heart is down in the very depths and you're just on the verge of giving up, you feel like you just cannot go on any longer, think of all these wonderful Bible stories and what God's Word says,

"CAST NOW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE WHICH HATH GREAT RECOMPENSE OF REWARD." Don't throw away your fish net. Don't try to just move someplace else and run away from the thing, but hold your faith there. Take a stand against the Enemy and against all your doubts and fears, and God can do it, and God will do it. He can bring the greatest victory because it looked like such a defeat.

LOOK WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO OTHERS WHO ARE WATCHING YOUR LIFE, to know that you have, right in the very thing that seemed such a failure, seemed like it was such a defeat, for you to get the victory -- right there.

SO MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT THERE'S GREEN PASTURES SOMEPLACE ELSE, move to some other city, do some other thing, when all they'd have to do would be to get to God. God could change the situation. God can change the circumstances, or God can change you or your desire.

GOD GRANT THAT THIS STORY SHOULD BE A BLESSING TO YOUR HEART, and that out of whatever has seemed like a defeat, that your heart will at last leap, that you'll stand on the blessed Word of God. -- That Word that's unshakable, unchangeable, that's so prove and so true. God will give you the victory as He sees how earnest you are. When you call with a whole heart, He'll answer you. Again, that verse, "Cast not away your confidence, therefore, which hath great recompense of reward." Let's have a wee word of prayer:

DEAR JESUS, WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL AS YOU HAVE

LISTENED TO OUR PRAYERS IN THE PAST DAYS AND FOR THESE LOVED ONES, WHO HAVE COME TO THEE FOR THEIR NEEDS.

We pray for those on beds of sickness, who need Thy touch; those in financial distress, who need Thy supply; those surrounded by doubt and unbelief, who are going through what seems like such a great defeat. For all of these, we ask Thy help, Thy mercy, Thy love to wrap about them. Bring into their lives those that will help them. Open up Thy Word to them and reveal Thyself to them, Lord. For Thy glory, we ask it all in Jesus' name only.

REMEMBER, IT'S FOR YOU, THE VICTORY'S FOR YOU. God is victory. Nothing's impossible with him, and all things are possible to him that believes. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

WAIT FOR THE LIGHT

(Program 18)

I want to talk for a little while about "the lights going on." I was reading some time ago the Verse of Scripture in 2Samuel 22:29,

"The Lord will lighten my darkness." And then I found a little clipping by Francis E. Seaworth, and he was saying, "One late afternoon in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wanting to be alone, I entered a strange cathedral and sat down amid the silence and semi-darkness.

"It was a gloomy place at that hour. Had I known that I was in the House of God I should not have cared to be there. The windows were especially foreboding. Presently, a caretaker approached me, and thinking he wished me to leave so that he could lock up, I started to go.

"Oh no,' he whispered, 'Don't go until the lights come on!' So I waited. The room became darker, the shadows deepened, the windows were ugly and repelling and I wanted so much to leave. Then suddenly the street lights came on in full and the whole scene was changed!

"What a transformation! I thought I had never seen such exquisite coloring, such Heavenly suggestiveness as the windows gave forth in their wonderful coloring! Everything was enhanced with unearthly beauty that bed my soul, and I wanted to capture and keep it forever.

"Then I thought of the darkness which had shrouded many times my spirit, and how inexplicably it can vanish with the joy of the Lord coming in and His light flooding the soul. "The Lord will lighten my darkness"! I had learned a secret from that old caretaker, yes I had! -- Don't go until the lights come on!

"Wait on the Lord, wait patiently for Him!" -- Many times I have thought of that: "Wait till the lights come on." You have often heard us say that prayer changes things, well someone wrote some time ago that prayer didn't change things for them: "I tried it a few times and gave up." Later I wrote that person and said,

"You didn't give God time! You didn't hold on for the answer!" -- Time is sometimes a very important element in getting an answer to your prayer. Someone has wisely said, "It takes a lot of time for God to grow a great big oak tree."

There are many reasons why prayer cannot be immediately answered. I know it is hard to understand, but some day we will. This, however, I do understand: Many times prayer would have been answered had we waited until the lights came on, given God a chance,

waited a little longer: If we hadn't let discouragement make us give up before we had prayed through the victory!

It isn't that God has refused to answer, it's just that we don't wait for the lights to come on! You know, there is a fixed determination in real faith, the faith that stands this test of waiting. There are those like Jacob of old who say, "I will not let thee go unless thou dost bless me."

Then they get down to wrestling in prayer, and they search their hearts to see if they are meeting God's conditions. -- And that's so necessary. We talk so much about faith, but I've always tried to remember to say,

You must meet God's conditions! You must search your heart and search the written Word, God's Word, until faith is strengthened! God says in one place that His ears aren't deaf and His arm is not shortened that He cannot save!

But He says, "Your sins have separated between you and your God and He cannot hear you." -- He cannot hear because sin is there! You remember that verse we've quoted so many times: "If our hearts condemn us not, we have boldness to come to the throne and ask for mercy in the time of need."

You must do that, just so the heart is right, just so you have met the conditions, then hold on and press on with dogged determination, regardless of every obstacle, and so many times you will get through! There may be some times, as we've always thought to remind you, sometimes God has to say no!

But you can't look just at the discouragement, the weariness: Just hold on, march a little longer, wait till the lights come on, hold on! God will hear, and that "little longer" spirit that fights on regardless of appearances or the discouraging voices about you, does bring results! I have tried it so many times.

It isn't that their battle is any more severe than ours, but they just stopped fighting, they stopped short of the time that God would have answered. I was reading in 1 Kings Chapter 18 where Elijah sent the servant up to look towards the sea to see if there was a cloud.

You know how Elijah held on! He told the servant to go again; The servant came back, said there was nothing. "Go again" said Elijah, He came back, said there was nothing.

And that answer kept coming all the time: nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing in sight! Even times the servant had to go back, and at last Elijah said, "Go up and look again." And, "Behold there ariseth a cloud out of the sea like a man's hand." -- You know the rest of the

story, how the rain came, how God so wonderfully answered prayer!

The Duke of Wellington, who conquered Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, said that it wasn't that the British soldiers were braver than the French soldiers, but it could have been that they just held on a little longer. The victory was determined by that waiting.

Anything wonderful can happen in just that little margin of time when you don't give up, or when you keep on believing and keep on praying. Robert Browning said that he faced death, but "one fight more and it's going to be the best, though it is the last!" And Dr. Frederick Harris described this spirit in these words:

"Often the deciding issue of any contest is not when one is outnumbered but when and where one stops fighting. The final score is determined by a struggle that is pushed just a little longer."

It is sometimes in that last few moments that God gives the greatest victory! George McDonald declared, "The sight of a man's back is sometimes one of the most pathetic things, that often means that someone was in the very sight of victory when he turned around."

But as the old hymn has it: "Almost cannot avail, almost is but to fail." -- Hold on! Wait till the lights come on! God will give victory: He gets His greatest victories out of seeming defeats! He is still on the Throne and prayer does change things.

WEAKNESS VS. STRENGTH

(Program 119)

Welcome to Meditation Moments and a sincere God bless you! I do trust you will be a wonderful blessing to others today. You will be if you look to the Lord.

We're reading this morning a wonderful passage of Scripture. I think it's one of the most wonderful in the book of **Isaiah**. It's in the **40th** chapter and begins with the **28th** verse, "*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not neither is weary? there's no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as the eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.*" And God's Word says here He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.

Now on turning to **1Cor.12** Chapter and the **10th** verse you'd be very puzzled that a strange statement that's similar to this one that I just read you. It's about the Apostle Paul, the great scholar, the talented writer, the outstanding Christian Apostle that something that he says of himself. He says, "*When I'm weak then I'm strong.*" Now if you'll note to whom Paul is writing it may help us to find the answer to so strange a statement because Paul wrote these words to the Greeks and the Greeks exalted perfection of the physical body above everything else, not only through their national races and games but they made it also the basis of ancient Greek art and sculpture.

They had absolutely no use for a weakling and they had given the impression that they believed that Paul had some kind of weakness and Paul gives us also that impression. We don't know what it was, no one has ever known, there've been much conjecturing. We know from what Paul writes elsewhere that they attributed other weaknesses to him and scorned the man that had been stoned, whipped or imprisoned. This did not at all constitute their ideas of strength.

Also Paul's manner of organizing sustaining the church was to

them contrary to all human logic. They didn't understand that God frequently works contrary to human logic and natural expectations. That God has His own way of doing things quite contrary to our ideas, for He says in His Word, "*My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.*" Now the Greeks inferred also that Paul was not an orator, that his speech was contemptible. The greatest ambition of a Greek was to be an orator. Now the lack of the gift of oratory was just simply weakness to them and they reasoned man's way about it.

For God's way has always been that it's the Spirit in the speech, not the oratorical power that counts. Paul said it is according to the power that worketh in you so this that the Greeks called weakness God calls strength. Truly an asset! How many times we can prove that we've heard some humble speaker not gifted in oratory, not learned in man's wisdom nor trained in man's colleges but so filled with the Spirit of God that he literally swept an audience along on the tide of his earnestness and the power of God manifested through him, a man so humble, so emptied of self, so weak in himself that God had a chance to work through him. Thus his very weakness became his strength. When he was weak then he was strong just as Paul says, "*When I am weak then am I strong.*" The Word of God says, "*My strength is made perfect in weakness.*" Now then the Lord comes and supplements such weakness with His strength. When they are the weakness in themselves they become strong in the Lord in their dependence on Him.

So what the Greeks in ignorance of spiritual things would've called weakness becomes strength. "*To them that have no might He increaseth strength.*" That's **Isaiah 40:29**. When we are so sure of our own strength, so confident of our own powers, the Lord leaves us to walk alone in the strength we are so sure of. I'm reminded of my daughter when she was a little tot just learning to walk, she was naturally very impulsive with much initiative and she insisted on trying to walk by herself rather than let me hold her hand and guide her. She really couldn't walk alone but with her independent spirit she'd pull away and over and over again she'd launch out by herself falling, bumping, bruising until always that child, well, nearly always she bore the marks of her declaration of independence on the end of her little nose. How many of our lives bear the marks of our independence, the

wanting to lean on our own strength until sometimes broken, defeated, disappointed we learn our lesson.

What a pity that we should depend upon the human when we can have the divine, that we should draw only upon natural resources when we can have all of Heaven's resources at our command. How strange it is that we should insist in walking in our own strength depending on our own wisdom when we can have the power of Almighty God. All His riches linked with our life and the wonder of it is the Lord wants to be our ally. He longs to strengthen and comfort and supply. He longs to give His strength to us but if we insist in walking by ourselves in our own strength just as I've said, He'll leave us to stumble around till we find how little strength we really have in ourselves and He'll just walk off a stage of our lives and leave us to ourselves until the foundations of our pride and confidence in the human strength has been shaken and we at last come to the realization that our human strength is only weakness.

And may I say that what's true of individuals is certainly true of nations, relying on human endeavor, on all sorts of new nations and our new atomic bombs and all of this. If we are going to rely on those things instead of upon God and upon His strength and then we're going to be left without the help of our great ally, our mighty God.

Moses was weak in stammering but he became the greatest lawgiver the World ever knew. The disciples were unknown and mostly unlearned men but oh, those weak men, their influence is felt to this very day because they realized their weakness and put no confidence in the flesh. Such things are a blow at man's pride, man's idea of strength. We know that. God has little use for pageantry and all of this preparation and arms and I know that sounds like a pacifist and I don't mean that, I believe that we are to do all we can just as Jesus told them to roll away the stone but He did the raising of Lazarus. But beyond that all we must look to God for the strength.

We must take into account God's power cause He pours contempt on military strategy when He's ignored often giving the victory to the minority and dearly beloved, just let us look to God very definitely and search our hearts to see if we really are depending on Him or if we are looking to Him in such a way as we should, not leaning upon our own

strength. He's saying "My strength for your weakness is My provision for you." And so the humble, the meek, the weak and thus become strong and your testimony will be, "*I can do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth me.*"

Remember all of God's spiritual giants were weak men who became great strong men by God's power. God says, "*I will dwell in the humble and contrite heart,*" while the World puts its confidence in the arm of the flesh. You put your confidence in the Lord alone because He counts all those things weak things. "*Not to the strong is the battle,*" He says. All these things are in God's sight the weak things but the wisdom of this World is foolishness to God so ask for His wisdom and His strength. God will give it to you.

Let's bow our heads in a word of prayer again: Father, we pray that Thou wilt help us to be humble and contrite in spirit with no confidence in the flesh as Thy Word says. Grant to lead us into the path that will keep us childlike in faith. Continually conscious of our own weakness so that we diligently can seek and depend utterly upon Thy strength.

Oh, I love this old song that depicts this very thought this morning.

*Out of my bondage sorrow and night, Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus I come.
Out of my sickness in that I held,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus I come to Thee.*

*Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus I come. Into a glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus I come. Out of sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress to jubilant psalm,
Jesus I come to Thee.*

*Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,*

*Jesus I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold.
Ever Thy glorious light to behold,
Jesus I come to Thee.*

And so out of our weakness we come to His strength because when we're weak then He is strong and let's remember God is still on the throne and prayer changes things.

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

(Program 29)

Today memory took me back to a lonely room in a distant hospital where I was lying very ill, paralyzed and lonely. My husband, always so faithful, had been called away, but just before leaving he had come to my bed and said,

"If you're too weak to pray or think of the promises we have learned, just hold your two fingers out: they will stand for what I told you and the Lord will know, and your faith will be strengthened." -- And what did the two fingers signify? What did he mean?

Two Verses of Scripture -- and we have quoted both of these so often to you -- the one, "All things are possible to him that believeth," and the other, "With God all things are possible."

These two immutable incontrovertible facts sustained my faith until the day came, that wonderful day came when God answered prayer and healed me and raised me up from that bed, a bed of hopeless invalidism where I had lain for five years. This is our mighty God! And our mighty God has spoken in Psalm 18, through David's voice,

"I will love Thee, O Lord, My Strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God and my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, the horn of my salvation and my high tower."

This is our God, our wonderful God in all His beauty and majesty! This Psalm is lengthy but there are a few verses towards the close that are so important. The 30th Verse: "As for God, His way is perfect, and the Word of the Lord is tried" -- I want you to particularly notice that -- "and He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him. For who is God save the Lord? Or who is a rock save our God?"

Note this verse: "The Word of the Lord is tried." -- Some time ago a well-known editor, Mr. Buckley, was a member of a panel that was discussing World affairs, and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that there was rather a dismal outlook for this old World along some lines. Then one of the panel addressed Mr. Buckley and he put this question to him, "Do you see any hope at all for the situation?" to which he gave the unexpected reply, "Yes, if God would clear His throat!" Well, what did he mean, "If God would clear His throat?" He meant, "If God would speak, if God would intervene in World affairs." Well, others have asked the same question in various ways:

Why doesn't God stop the onward sweep of evil forces today?

Why doesn't God help good men more? Why doesn't He intervene so far as evil's advancing strength is concerned? Why doesn't God clear His throat and thunder at the enemies of Righteousness as He did in ages past? Why doesn't God speak? Why is God so silent? -- They ask.

But God spoke once and for all on Calvary. God has spoken and God has intervened, and He is doing so today. But He intervened so wonderfully at the Cross of Calvary when He struck at the root of all the World's problems, He answered then.

He struck at sin, the very root of the matter. That's the crux of the whole matter and that was dealt with through the shed Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Sacrifice for Sin.

God spoke then regarding everything that we're discussing today so far as our problems nationally and internationally are concerned, or individual problems! There isn't anything to be added! The only way to change the World, Russia, America, Afghanistan, is to change the sinful heart of Man!

Each system offers a changed World without regeneration -- and that could never be; reformation without regeneration! But the rebellious vile heart of Mankind, no matter what the system or the ideology, will remain. The World will remain just the same with a heart like that, unchanged.

This reckless, restless, wicked, unhappy World remains just the same unless man's heart is utterly changed. God speaks and has spoken, and speaks again hourly, daily in His Word in answer to this question, and in answer to every question.

Read the Word of God and He'll speak to your heart. Obey the Word and He'll speak to you and you'll find He's not a silent God! Prove Him and put Him to the test! That verse that we read you just now: He's asking that you do that very thing, that you prove His Word! He'll speak to you through that Word! you'll hear His Voice!

And my friend, just joining a church doesn't change the heart at all! Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Born again a new creature in Christ Jesus. And here are the conditions, "If thou wilt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom.10)

God speaks to you. What are you doing about it? -- You're so dissatisfied with your life, you're so unhappy about the load of sin you carry! But God offers to change all that! To change you completely! Make a new creature out of you! God speaks to you thus through His Word. What are you doing about it?

It matters much, this change! It works when you meet the conditions, and what a change will come into your life! It's one question you'll have to answer:

"What will you do with Jesus that is called the Christ?" And God has spoken to some of you that have other problems and other needs. You may be born again, and you know what I'm talking about.

You've been saved but you've barely touched the dim outer-edge of what God has in store for you for the other needs of your life! If God does not seem to answer your prayer, go back and find where you missed some condition,

Go back and find where the connection was broken! Read the Word of God till He speaks to you through its pages and faith is strengthened and you can grasp the promise that you need so much.

When God speaks the angels obey him,
When God speaks all nature is stirred,
When God speaks hard hearts are softened,
For no sweeter Voice was ever heard.

When God speaks, 'tis mine then to listen
When God speaks my tempest is stilled,
When God speaks, 'tis mine then to follow,
And following Him, do His Will.

Speak to my heart, speak now I pray,
God of Salvation and Lord of Creation,
Speak to each heart that is listening today.

Read the Word and hear God speak to you and He'll answer your problems and solve them and bless your soul. God bless you indeed. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things!

* * *

"Thank You, Lord, for forgiving us for all our sins and being such a loving Father! 'For though thy sins be as scarlet they shall be as wool and though they be red like crimson, they shall be white as snow!' 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all our sins!' God sees nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ and the blood-washed soul. Thank You, Lord, that Your blood cleanses us from all sin. -- Past sin, Lord, sin now and sin hereafter -- all sin, by faith. Cleanse and purify by the sweet pure water of Thy Word, by the Rock, Jesus. Cleansed by the Word!" -- Father David

WHO SINNED: THE MAN OR HIS PARENTS?

(Program 13)

Before I read our Scripture, I want to tell you of something regarding it that happened in my home not long ago.

There came to us a very noted man: a writer, a teacher, educated; written a number of books and he also had his expensively equipped radio studio of his own.

I was so shocked when I saw him for it had been some years since I had seen him last and he'd had a number of strokes. And he walked with much difficulty -- mincing little steps, and so unsteady. He could hardly speak and his wife had to do most of the talking for him.

She explained his condition and said they had felt impressed to come and ask us to unite in prayer with them regarding his pitiful condition. But after this man had gone, someone who just happened to call on us that day made this remark:

What do you suppose such a great man ever did, for God to put this thing on him?" Now don't you think that that's an unusual judgment of such a case? For I find it rather the usual thing in my experience that people will always wonder what sin the person had committed, what wrong they had done that brought such and such an affliction or such a punishment on them.

Just last week I received a letter with this comment: "I do hope that" -- and it mentioned such-and-such a brother -- "that he shall live on. It is hard to understand isn't it? I just keep asking God why such a thing could happen to him. Why, he even taught the faith life and he believed even definitely that God heals today.

"I know I shouldn't doubt God's dealings and I don't as a rule, but one can't help wondering whatever it was in his past or what happened to him to bring that on him." You know, the answer to some of this is found in John chapter 9. I will read just a few words of it.

"Jesus passed by and he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? And Jesus answered,

"Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the World I am the Light of the World." And then you all know the rest of the story. Please read it: the 9th Chapter

of John.

It is a wonderfully interesting and thrilling story of how God healed this young man and how he testified so to this healing and how fearless he was before those of the Pharisees about his healing. But Jesus said, "Neither did he sin -- did this man sin -- or his parents that he was born blind."

You know, we seem to forget that the greatest saints have been those who have been purified in the furnace of affliction and that such afflictions have been God's mark of great love upon them, for again we can repeat, "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." -- And that's over there in Hebrews. I wish we had time to read that wonderful passage in the 12th chapter of Hebrews.

And we forget that little word "afterwards" in the 11th Verse: that "afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness." And it is the "afterward" that God is interested in.

And afterward, many times after God has dealt, there is a great wonderful deliverance. Sometimes God has taken such ones home and there hasn't been the kind of deliverance that has been asked for, but there is always a wonderful "afterwards" because God said so: that it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

But it is the mark of Love upon these, because "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth," and we just seem to forget that! None of this changes my faith in God's healing, my utter faith in His promises for the healing of the body, and I don't care what folks think about it! I know that God does that today because I had the experience,

And anyone that has the real experience, you can't tell them otherwise. And I stand on the Word alone! None of these things can change the promises of God one iota! If you go to looking at other people: why it's going to change you, it doesn't change the Word.

The Word of God means just what it says, and God's dealings with someone else must not affect one little bit your faith in those promises, or change your stand of faith! God's dealings I say are past finding out -- our puny little minds can't comprehend what God is working out: His ways seem to be strange and we'd best not ask why or try to reason out what He is doing with others.

Getting your eyes on God's dealings in others' lives and making that a gauge for your faith -- that will soon shatter your own faith. Keep your eyes right on the wonderful Lord Jesus Christ and His wonderful

works: your mind fixed on Him. Oh, how your faith will be anchored!
Go back again and again to God's Word! Those promises are
unchanging and they are for you!

God deals so differently with each one and He has something
different individually for you. Keep your eyes off of the others. Fix them
on Him. He's the Savior of your soul, the Unchanging One. You can
utterly depend upon every Word for every need of your body, soul and
spirit. Hear Him say to you like He did to Peter,

"What is that to thee, follow thou Me." Oh, He knew that to truly
follow Him meant there would be no doubting why's, no doubting
questions. To follow Him has been truly joy unspeakable and full of
glory! I repeat over and over again: He can change your life!

He can do such wonderful things for you if you life I His Word
and give Him time in meditation! He's the Son of the Living God and
the Savior of your soul. He has wonderful things to say to your heart if
you will only give Him a chance to whisper sweet secrets to you and to
reveal truths to you! He is real! And I have found that the promises in
that Bible can be taken at their face value. I have said that many times,
haven't I?

I say it again to your needy heart, that He is the creator of the
Universe, the Mighty God, and He stands behind His precious Word
with His Love, His Mercy, His Truth, His Power: He will not fail you!
Give Him a chance. You will find that believing prayer will change
things and that God is still on the Throne!

His Hand is on the Helm of this Universe. Look up in trust

THE WHOLE MAN

(Program 28)

Greetings and welcome again to Meditation Moments, and again the old-time greeting: the Lord bless you and make you a blessing. Now I'm going to continue what we were talking about last week, and that's in Psalm 107. In Verse 20 God's Word says,

"He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." Then you all know the Scripture in John 1:1-14, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and in Him was life, and the life was the Light of men."

How true I found that! That there's life in the Lord! I've continually in public work had to draw on Him for that life! And that means a great deal to people that believe in the Lord's healing: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."

You can really draw on the life and strength of the Lord Jesus, "who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases." (Psa.103:3) I've mentioned many times that word "All." It's used so much, and used a number of times in connection with healing: "He healed all that came to Him. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." And here it says, "Who healeth all thy diseases." Now God's Word says that "The words I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life" (Jn.6:33) .--Wonderful, wonderful passages, because the Word created the World and created men. That's a law of the Word, when God's Word said, "It is written." "Now the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (Jn.14:26)

"And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it is come ye might believe." Then Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye hear and see: that the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the Gospel preached unto them, (Mt.11:4-6)

"And blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in Me."--Well, I am amazed at the people who are offended today when you talk about the Lord's healing. Now He sent to the imprisoned John this message of healing for the body and the gospel for the soul, as an evidence of the presence of the Lord among men. And I believe He's sending this very same message to those that are bodily imprisoned Johns of today. Now

it was by works of healing--almost in a fourth of His work--that the Lord taught us to estimate the power of His presence with us now. And our present faith in our Lord is a pretty true estimate of those powers of His which are hidden from the view of unbelievers.

Now I believe very strongly, oh so strongly, in healing, because I have experienced it so many times! As I told you, I'm 80 years of age and I've been through many a testing and trial where I just looked to the Lord alone, and He answered prayer. And you can't get up from a study of the Gospels without a conviction that He willed to leave men with this impression of His Ministry, that this was to be one of the things which would always follow the salvation of the soul.--healing of the body.

I feel also that the character manifested in the Gospels was meant to be a manifestation of what He is to be for all time, not just then! It seems impossible to think that He showed Himself then as a Healer of bodies, but wants us to think of Him now exclusively regarding the healing of the soul! That's impossible! He doesn't give us any verse to make us think that He at any time willed to put off this character, when He'll be with us even unto the end of the world through the coming of God, the Holy Ghost in the Church. If He'd willed to do so, we can hardly think that He would just send His apostles out to heal! Isn't that true?

In the forefront of His commission to them comes the first command, to preach the good news that the Kingdom of Heaven's at hand. Then come the words, "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils." That our Lord willed His apostles to continue that practice of healing we learn from the frank assurance with which they healed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems a natural thing that the Name of Jesus Christ, through faith in His name, should be the means of restoring to soundness, according to all these Scriptures, all these promises, just like He did the lame man that was healed by St. Peter and St. John! So many other works of healing in the Acts bear this same mark of being just considered a natural result of the Lord's work of love for man, that His Church should minister the blessing of health to those capable of receiving it!

And you know, the thought comes to me that sickness had a spiritual origin, it was through the Fall. If it were just a part of the natural constitution of things, then we might meet it wholly on natural grounds and by natural means. But if it's part of the curse of sin, it must have its true remedy of the Redemption, the Redeeming power of

the Lord Jesus Christ! You know that sickness is a result of the Fall and one of the fruits of sin, no one can question that! Well, if it had a spiritual cause, certainly God would give it a spiritual remedy!

Our Lord knew that many would be offended when reminded of the necessity of this revival of healing. There are devout Christian people, I would say, church people, today that seem to be the ones most offended when you preach healing! But I would say that it's becoming more and more evident, although the Devil's trying to befog the minds of many good people.

The law, the Psalms and prophets are just replete with "Thus saith the Lord," which declares Him the healer of the whole man. In the general preaching and teaching, the soul is brought forth so prominently by so many of the historic churches that your body's almost completely left out! Yet it was the whole man, it was the whole Christ for the whole man. It says, "The Lord for the body and body for Lord." (1Cor.6:13)

I am constantly reminded of the seas and wildernesses of doubt and unbelief through which the world is passing! Never did the Israelites of old need more than we do the promise of God, when we're being so tested in body and soul as we are today! Now He says this, and will you take it for yourself?

"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God and give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon you which I have brought upon the Egyptians," which are the type of the World, "for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Ex.15:26)

Now when the people turned more and more to the gods of the world, and darkness grew so dense they couldn't see God as their Healer or their Lord, the Word came in the flesh and by His example brought these promises to men's remembrance, and He delivered men's bodies from the sins of their souls!

How wonderful that we have these wonderful promises! Will you look to Him? In your extremity remember that He's willing. He's given you so many promises, why not lay hold upon them? God bless you, He's still on the Throne and prayer does change things.

WHY HEALING?

(Program 50)

SOME HAVE ASKED WHY WE SPEAK SO MUCH ABOUT THE LORD'S HEALING! Well, we were marvelously healed ourselves and therefore we felt called to that particular ministry.

WE DON'T PREACH MUCH ON DOCTRINE BUT JUST TALK ABOUT FAITH, because that is the way the Lord has led us in the past, and because of our wonderful experience, and that which we have seen in others. We know also that the Power which heals the body, imparts a much richer spiritual experience to anyone.

THE RETAINING OF DIVINE LIFE AND HEALTH REQUIRES A CONSTANT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, and consecrated service for Him, so that the spiritual results far outweigh the temporal, and it's one of the most powerful checks and impulses in the lives of those that have truly received it.

THE PERSON THAT TRUSTS GOD FOR THEIR BODY HAS TO WALK CLOSE TO THE LORD, and if you want a real test of your faith, you just trust God for your physical being.

THE TRUE DOCTRINE OF HEALING THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS HUMBLING AND PRACTICAL. It offers no promises to the disobedient, and it doesn't give any strength for selfish indulgence or Worldly ends; but it exalts the name of Jesus Christ and that's why we believe in it!

IT GLORIFIES OUR GOD, IT INSPIRES THE SOUL WITH FAITH AND POWER, and it summons you to a life of self-denial and Holy service. It always awakens an unbelieving church and an unbelieving world with the solemn signals of a living God and a risen Christ.

IT PROVES THAT CHRIST IS REAL AND NEAR! It is a direct supernatural power of God exercised upon a human body. It's in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and it's founded on God's Word.

IT'S FOUNDED ON CHRIST'S SACRIFICE AND WORK OF REDEMPTION, and it's only had through the resurrected life of Jesus Christ: It's through the personal indwelling of Christ in our body.

I BELIEVE IN IT BECAUSE OF WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS, and most of all because of what I've found in God's Word, and because I experienced it so marvelously myself! Wonderful records in the Bible and Church history, and in the annals of our present day, prove by overwhelming evidence, that God not only

was, but still is, in the healing business.

MANY SAY THE DAY OF MIRACLES IS OVER! THEN THE DAY OF CHRISTIANITY WOULD BE OVER, FOR CHRISTIANITY ITSELF IS A MIRACLE! If healing and miracles were needed in the days of Jesus and the Apostles, they are certainly needed in this day, because there is a greater manifestation of evil today, which needs a greater display of God's power than ever before!

I THINK IT'S TOO LATE NOW TO SAY THE DAY OF MIRACLES IS OVER, for the Gospel message has been confirmed by so many people with such wonderful healing, gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His Will: Too many have experienced this wonderful blessing and been gloriously delivered, to say that it isn't for today!

I HAVE SEEN WITH MY OWN EYES THOSE THAT COULD NOT HEAR BE MADE TO HEAR, and I've seen those whose eyes were greatly affected, almost totally blind, touched by God. Believing children of God are being healed of cancer and goiter, and a great variety of afflictions too numerous to mention.

WHILE SOME OVER-CAUTIOUS ONES ARE SAYING THESE THINGS BUT ARE HESITATING, OTHERS ARE REACHING OUT, touching the hem of His garment and getting wonderful deliverance! When you go into hospital, you see so many with cancer, and the doctor has told them it's hopeless:

WHY SHOULD WE TAKE FROM THEM THEIR ONLY HOPE? IF MATERIAL MEDICINE CAN'T HELP THEM, if the physicians can do nothing for them, and they're utterly hopeless, and have been told, "I can't help you any more. We're at the end of what we can do for you,"

THEN THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN, JESUS CHRIST, CAN COME AND TOUCH THEM! It's wonderful to have a good all-around Physician, One who's never been known to lose a case that's been committed to Him: Our Lord Jesus Christ!

HE'S A SPECIALIST ON ALL LINES, One who made us to begin with and He can re-make us if necessary. -- If you had a broken watch, you'd take it to a watchmaker; a car that needs repair, you'd take to a mechanic in a garage!

IF YOUR BODY IS OUT OF REPAIR, YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE ONE THAT MADE THAT BODY! And He's so glad to do these things for us! The only pay He asks after healing us is for us to tell others of His marvelous doings in our heart and life and body, and then to live the life, let Him live out His life through us.

WHO IS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN? -- JESUS CHRIST! Oh, don't

let them discourage you!

Are you passing through a testing?

Is your pillow wet with tears?

Do you wonder what the reason

Why it seems God does not hear?

Why it is you have no answer

To your oft repeated plea?

Why the Heaven still is leaden

As you wait on bended knee?

BUT FAITHFUL IS HE WHO PROMISED

HE WILL NEVER LET YOU FALL,

Daily will the strength be given,

Strength for each and strength for all,

He will gladly share your pain with you,

He will gladly give you peace,

Till your tired and wearied body

Finds its blessed glad release!

-- If you'll wait and be faithful, and not faint, if you persist and not
throw away your confidence --

SO TILL THEN JUST KEEP ON TRUSTING

THROUGH THE SUNSHINE AND THE RAIN

Through the tears and through the heartaches,

Through the smiles and through the pain,

Knowing that our Father watches,

Knowing daily strength He'll give,

Victory for each passing hour,

This is life, so let us live!

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN IS SO WILLING TO DO

EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL YOU CAN ASK OR

THINK, He says, and He has given you these glorious, glorious

promises that we've been reading you. I give you just two now in

closing. He says:

"THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE" AND, "CONFESS

YOUR FAULTS ONE TO ANOTHER, PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

THAT YE MAY BE HEALED, for the effectual fervent prayer of a

righteous man availeth much." (Mt.9:22, Jas.5:16.)

GOD BLESS YOU. LAY HOLD OF GOD

THE WILL OF GOD IN HEALING -1-

(Program 103)

There are many sufferers who do not ask for God's healing, because they feel it might not be the Lord's Will. They feel that God is chastening them, and they don't want to resist His Will. One woman wrote, saying, "I don't want to lose the blessing to be had, as promised in Hebrews 12:11, where it says, 'Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.' I want to be exercised by it, and I don't want to ask for God's healing, because it might not be the Lord's Will."

Well, I confess that the Lord's does allow sickness to come sometimes as a means of drawing us closer to Him, and as a means of needed chastening. But that doesn't mean that the chastening has to continue on and on after the lesson has been learned and after the Divine purpose has been accomplished. You'll notice that the next two verses in this same Chapter say, "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." -- Hebrews 12:12,13.

So it ends with the thought, that after you've learned the lesson, God is waiting to heal you. This is the answer to the word "afterward" in verse 11: That after the lesson is learned, after the will is surrendered, after the heart is fully yielded, He says, "Let it rather be healed."

So often the trial continues so long because we're unwilling to believe and accept God's promises. Some of the most precious saints, realizing the purifying process of their sufferings, feared to seek deliverance, not realizing that unbelief in God's Word is just as great a sin as that. If the peaceable fruit of righteousness that's mentioned in this verse has been accomplished in the sufferer, then the trial isn't any longer needed, is it?

There comes a time when you have to accept deliverance and trust God. We must accept. We might as well begin to trust now, because that's what you're going to have to do in the end. I have seen recently some one who seemed completely hedged in with no way out, and yet the Lord wrought the most wonderful deliverance the moment they came to the place of absolute trust in God and accepting from the Lord His promise, accepting what He said He'd do.

He's so much more loving and forgiving than any Earthly parent, and He'll not refuse to deliver us from affliction when that purpose is accomplished and we're ready to fully trust Him. In Hosea, Chapter 6, verse 1, it says, "Come, let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn, and will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up." God has spoken His Will for you through His Word, and I do not believe that He's going to give any special revelation to anyone. That's His Will for you and He's plainly revealed His Will in His Word, and it can't be denied that God has revealed His Will regarding healing of His children, that is, when all of the conditions are met.

You can begin way back in the Old Testament and find the revealed Will of God, for when He took the Israelites out of Egypt, He gave them an ordinance for healing: "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. Couldn't be any plainer, could it? This was also repeated at the close of their 40 years of wandering, through confession of sin and repentance they received healing and answer to prayer.

If this was God's way in the old dispensation, surely it's more so under the new dispensation! For Christ is the fulfillment of the old, and Christ is unchanging, for the Word declares that He's the same. -- Heb.13:8. His power hasn't changed and His Love surely hasn't changed. It took just two things in those days for the healing of the sick: The power of Christ and the faith of the sufferer.

But I know what has changed! -- Not the power of God, but the church's faith has changed. We're tried to bring God's Word down to the level of our lack of faith. What we don't have faith for, we excuse by saying that it isn't for today. Matthew 12:15 says, "Great multitudes followed Him and He healed them all." And Matthew 8:16,17 says that He "healed all that were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, 'Himself, took our infirmities and bore our sickness.'" Surely then, if my heart is right with God, and my faith is right, I don't have to bear what He bore for me, right? The things that convinced Me most regarding the Lord's Will to heal today, was the fact that I found His command to heal in every one of the great conditions, which He commissioned the twelve disciples, and on down through all the commissions of the great World Commission.

He waits to bless you. He wants for you to have the best. "Delight

thyself in the Lord." He says He'll give you the desires of your heart. "Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all." -- Psalm 37:4; 34:8,10,19. Now taste and see that the Lord is good. Take hold of the promise. He's still on the Throne, and prayer will change things for you.

THE WILL OF GOD IN HEALING -2-

(Program 17)

God blessing you! I can't begin to tell you how sincerely that's said, because we do pray so earnestly for you and I say again, God bless you indeed.

From these letters that we have received, there are some very pathetic cries that come in. One from a sufferer who lives in a wheelchair, terribly crippled with arthritis. She tells of the long years of bondage and then she sums it all up in these words,

"Is this God's Will for me?" -- Well, I tell you there's pathos in that and our hearts are burdened for her. But there is also a real questions there: Is that God's Will for her?

So many people handle this phrase "the Will of God" so lightly and mistakenly that great confusion is the result sometimes. And sometimes a Godly consecrated soul who wants above all else to be submissive to God's Will will say, "It's the Will of God and I have to bow to it though I can't understand why God's Will is always so hard."

I can't help but wonder why we think of God's Will as something so hard to bear, as if God were some inexorable tyrant whose inscrutable Will is always forcing us into hard places! I can think of so many things this minute that are the result of, I would say, universal sin, or colossal ignorance, or the breaking of God's Law somewhere back down the line, or even Man's own selfish carelessness or the carelessness of others.

But it's all blamed on "God's Will!" "This is God's Will." And Job's comforters are always there to say, no matter how severe the sufferer or the broken-hearted, "Well, God wills it, you'll just have to accept it." In many cases I do not believe that's God's intention!

I think that God always intends good towards His children though circumstances of Man's making or Man's own will can

temporarily defeat God's intention. I want to make it very plain that I believe in utter submission to the Will of God.

I believe that submission is the very basis of victory in prayer, in getting answer to prayer -- an utter submissiveness to the Will of God. But I also know that many people submit to suffering and bondage and hardships that are not the Will of God at all.

God's Will for them is really victory over these things! And I've seen it come to pass that when certain ones that felt that way have built up their faith by living in the Word of God and have met God's conditions, they have been utterly delivered.

And there are many though through some mistaken teaching even, live on under bondage because they just take it that God's Will is so hard, and that's "the Will of God." And I think about the little poem that has this thought in it by Annie Johnson Flint:

"His Will Be Done,"
We say with sighs and trembling,
Expecting trial, bitter loss and tears.
And then how doth He answer us?
With blessings,
And sweet rebuking of our faithless fears.
God's Will is peace and plenty
And the power to be,
And have the best that He can give:
A mind to serve Him, a heart to love,
And faith to die and the strength to live.
It means for us all good,
All grace, all glory
His King coming and on Earth begun.
Why should we fear to say,
"His Will, His righteous,
His tender loving, joyous Will be done!"?

It is important to know just what is meant by "the Will of God." The Will of God was the very framework for all of Christ's Ministry. He said, "I do always the Will of My Father." And He made it plain that to do the Will of God was a sure way to the heights of spiritual power and understanding.

But always the Father's Will was a joy. He never once intimated that we were to take all the tragedies of life, the oppressions of the

Devil, the unhappy circumstances, and pile them all up in one place and say, "Well, this is the Will of God."

Perhaps I feel deeply on this subject because as I have often told you I was a hopeless invalid for years and my case was given up by the finest specialists as an incurable case.

Every minister that came to my bedside talked to me earnestly just about submitting: Submitting to my plight, that it was the Will of God for me; that as this was God's Will for me I must accept it sweetly and bear it patiently. "God's Will for me" was all they told me.

I feel, perhaps I do believe, that this was the easy way out for those men because they didn't have the faith to pray for my deliverance, and this is the easy way out for many who will not take the rugged path of the fight of faith and resisting the Devil and putting forth a determined effort of a believing will.

You know, it is easier just to sigh and say, "Well, this is God's Will" and not fight the good fight of faith. But oh, thank God! One day there came to my bedside a minister who rightly divided the Word of Truth! And he said as he held the New Testament out before me,

"A will you know is the last testament of a man Who has died. Now this New Testament here is the Last Will and Testament of One Who died for you. And this is His Will for you." -- Then he read me of His Will. He read to me over and over about my inheritance and the joyous promises that were God's Will for me.

And I began to see clearly into the divine purpose until all the confusion and torment left my mind and faith took hold of some of those wonderful things that were God's Will for me. Yes, the Lord healed me completely, restored and sent me out to minister to others.

I found that the New Testament did not give me the right to associate everything that was just dark and hard and unhappy with the Will of God. God's Word says in Lamentations,

"He does not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men!" -- Lam.3:33. And His Will was not to rob me of all I prized and loved most! But rather God has spoken His Will through His Word. And here are some of the wonderful promises that were Willed to me that this man of God read to me. -- And you know, some of you do, that that man, that minister of the Gospel was my own husband.

It says in John 10:10, "He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly." And in Psalm 84:11, "No good thing will He withhold from them which walk uprightly." This is the Will of God! And in Matthew 7:7 and 11, "Ask and it shall be given you...for if ye being

evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"

In John 16:24, "Ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full." And John 14:13,14: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my Name that will I do that the Father may be gloried in the Son. And if ye shall ask anything in my Name I will do it." -- Oh, we could read on and on,

For He has promised us much, and offered such an abundance as His revealed Will for us that we can't help but see that He longs to give us the best. As He says, "Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give thee the desires of thy heart." Oh my friend, here's a wonderful verse we give you as an admonition!

"Taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." -- Psa.34:8,10,19.

Wonderful precious promises and they are for you, and this is God's Will for you, wonderful Will of a loving Heavenly Father.

This Is His Plan For Me

When I stand at the Judgment seat of Christ
And He shows me His plan for me:
The plan of my life as it might have been
Had He had His way. And I see
How I blocked Him here and I'd check Him there
And I would not yield my will.
Will there be any grief in my Savior's eyes?
Grief, though He loves me still?
Oh Lord, of the years that are left to me
I give them to Thy hand.
Take me, break me, mold me
For Thy Will, and the pattern Thou hast planned.

When I stand at the Judgment seat of Christ
And He shows me His plan for me:
The plan of my life as it might have been
Had He had His way, and I see
Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break
With the tears I cannot shed.

I shall cover my face with my empty hands
I shall bow my uncrowned head.
For He'd have had me rich and I stand there poor,
Stripped of all but His grace
While my memory runs like a haunted thing
Down the paths that I cannot retrace.

-- God bless you. He still lives and answers prayer, and He will answer prayer for you my friend!

Put your hand in His! Let Him take you and make you all that He planned in His precious Will. He Wills the best for you! Believe it and reach out and touch Him by the finger of faith today! Amen.

WINGS -- Part 1

(Program 51)

Dark though the shadows
Just now may be,
Soon through the midst
A pathway you'll see,
Faith to the promise
Unfailing cling,
God's on the Throne and
Prayer changes things!

THESE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT BRING YOU
MEDITATION MOMENT AGAIN, and we're reading from God's Word,
Psalm 55. A portion of this Scripture:

"GIVE EAR TO MY PRAYER, O GOD, AND HIDE NOT THYSELF
FROM MY SUPPLICATION. Attend unto me and hear me, I mourn in
my complaint and make a noise because of the voice of the enemy,
because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me,
and in wrath they hate me.

"MY HEART IS SORE PAINED WITHIN ME and the terrors of
death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me
and horror hath overwhelmed me." -- Now we are coming to the verses
I want you to note especially.

"AND I SAID, OH THAT I HAD WINGS LIKE A DOVE! FOR
THEN I WOULD FLY AWAY AND BE AT REST. Lo, then would I
wander far off and remain in the wilderness. I would hasten my escape
from the windy storm and the tempest." -- Here is one, the Psalmist of
old, who wants wings, he's crying for wings, that he can get away from
things.

HE WANTS TO GET AWAY FROM THE TEMPEST OF
TROUBLES AND THE STORM THAT RAGES ABOUT HIS SOUL. And
there are lots of folks who feel like they'd just love to run away from
everything: they are tired or burdened with many responsibilities, and
they'd like to get away from the pressure of it all. The verse of Scripture
reads, "If I had the wings of a dove, then I would fly away and be at
rest."

DID YOU EVER FEEL THAT WAY? LIKE YOU WANTED TO
GET AWAY from everything but you just couldn't? So many people are
talking about vacations today: Oh, if they could just get away from the
house for a while, away from business, or even away from the children

and get a little quiet and a little rest.

AWAY FROM THE WORK AND THE WORRIES THAT YOU'VE BEEN TIED DOWN TO, you want to be quiet and restful for a while. That's the cry of so many hearts: "Oh that I had the wings of a dove, I would fly away and be at rest." -- That's the cry of hundreds of unsatisfied yearning hearts.

BUT EARTHLY WINGS WOULD NEVER DO YOU ANY GOOD, for you can't fly far enough away from your trouble. You can't fly away from yourself: Your own heart with all its burdens and problems goes with you wherever you go.

BUT THANK GOD, GOD HAS PROVIDED WINGS TO GET AWAY! A way above this narrow crawling existence. He has wings for you if you'll use them! Your soul was made to mount up with wings and it can never be satisfied with earthly soaring.

LIKE A CAPTIVE EAGLE, YOUR SOUL CHAFES AND FRETS WITH THE THINGS OF THE WORLD. So God has made a way for us when the pressures get so great we can hardly bear it: And that wonderful way is to get alone with God.

YOUR SOUL IS TOO BIG FOR THIS WORLD! GOD MADE IT FOR HIMSELF, and sometimes the soul just mounts above it all, up to the bosom of God! I know some folks won't be interested in this, when we say that the answer to this getting away is just prayer and getting alone for God to talk to your heart. They think it's some kind of mystical thing maybe, that people imagine a lot about.

BUT THERE ARE MULTITUDES THAT KNOW THAT THEY CAN GET AWAY FROM WORRIES and trials and the pressures, in the secret place of prayer. They've had this definite experience: God has decreed it that way.

GOD HAS DECREED THAT PRAYER SHOULD BE A POWER IN THE UNIVERSE, as distinct, as real, as natural and as uniform as the power of gravitation, or light, or electricity. And if you'll use it as trustingly, as soberly as you would any of these, then you'll find the most wonderful miracles taking place in your life! And the rest and repose and quiet will come to that soul that's crying to have wings, longing to have wings.

NOW THESE TWO SCRIPTURES: ONE IN PSALM 55:6-8 which I just read to you: "If I had wings I would fly away and be at rest. I would wander off and remain in the wilderness, I would escape," the Scripture goes on. Then in Matthew 11:28-30 are these words:

"COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY

LADEN, I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

THIS BRINGS A WORLD OF COMFORT TO HEARTS THAT ARE TIRED AND TEMPEST-TOSSED, and who find it hard to pull against the awful stream today, harassed and perplexed and looking and longing for a way of escape from the difficulties which compass us about.

WHEN THE PSALMIST UTTERED THE WORDS OF THIS TEXT HE WAS IN A HARD PLACE. In verses 2 through 5 he said, "Attend unto me and hear me. I mourn in my complaint and make a noise, because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked,

"FOR THEY CAST INIQUITY UPON ME and in wrath they hate me. My heart is sore pained within me." -- Then he talks about the pains of death, and the terrors of death being upon him, that fearfulness and trembling came upon him.

WELL, NOT ONLY DO ENEMIES OPPRESS YOU, but I know that sometimes, like David the Psalmist, you have to face the treachery of friends or some about you, as in verses 12 and 14 he says, "It was not an enemy that reproached me, then I could have borne it, neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me, then would I have hid myself from him:

"BUT IT WAS A MAN MINE EQUAL, MY GUIDE, MINE ACQUAINTANCE. We had taken sweet counsel together and walked into the house of God in company." -- Oh, that was a real trial, wasn't it? But finally the burden of oppression became well-nigh unbearable and he wants to get away from it all, and he says:

"OH THAT I HAD THE WINGS OF A DOVE, I WOULD FLY AWAY AND I WOULD BE AT REST." -- The margin of a Newberry Bible has it: "Who will give me wings? I want wings. Oh that I had wings. I want to fly away from it all. I would wander off." -- Note how many "I's" there are here. "I" would do this and "I" would do that and "I" would wander off, "I" would escape.

YOU KNOW, I THINK HE WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM HIMSELF! But the Word of God is a continual warning for men to wait on God, and they will renew their strength in prayer and worship. And one of the reasons for our feeling that we want to escape and take the wings of a dove is,

GOD HAS PUT IN OUR HEARTS THIS VERY DESIRE FOR

SOMETHING ABOVE THE ORDINARY, to fly 'way above the circumstances and conditions and to rest in the heart of God. God's way of renewal is to come to Him, and pray, and talk it over with Him.

COUNSEL WITH THE LORD! He says, "Come, let us reason together." -- God bless you and help you in this, that you might cast your care upon Him. For Jesus' sake we ask it. God is still on the Throne prayer changes things.

WINGS -- Part 2

(Program 92)

In the still of the night,
Jesus came to me.
As I listened,
He whispered so tenderly,
'Mourn thou not the day now gone,
Fear thou not the coming dawn.'
So I rolled every care on His gentle breast,
And there came to my spirit a hallowed rest.
With Jesus near, I had no fear,
In the still of the night.

Now as we come to the Meditation, there are two verses that have been much in my mind this last week. The one is: "In Godliness and contentment there is great gain." That's in 1st Timothy 6:6. The other is: "I have learned whatever state I'm in, therein to be content." That was spoken by the Apostle Paul (Phil 4:11).

Well, these have been impressed on my mind because of contact with a young woman lately who seems to know nothing about contentment. Just since I've known her in not quite two years, she has changed churches six times, her living quarters five times, her position twice, and friends at about the same rate. Before I knew her she had changed husbands also. It seems to be that she has so much to make her content, I'm amazed at how much she does have, yet she lives in a state of constant discontent.

And there are others like her, who feel there's always something better "just over the hill." But this is not new, for David the Psalmist also was so -- and he was so full of praise, -- but at the time of this he was full of discontent. For he cried out one day, "Oh that I had wings of a dove, I'd fly away and be at rest."(Ps.55:6).

I don't know why he spoke thus of a dove, unless he had been watching them from his window. Doves, it seems to me, are sort of restless birds. They only fly a little ways, and circle around and then light back, and it seems like, in the same place. But anyhow, he's describing the feeling that he had of confinement and the certainty that there's surely something better in the "over there" than there is in the "right here."

And that's the attitude of so many people. Any place but just here, just any place but here. "Something else is surely better than that which I have." But everyone knows that real contentment -- and oh, I say this with a depth of earnestness -- real contentment has never been found in places and things. Oh, it sounds trite, doesn't it? But if I could just impress it upon some hearts, and could make you really know that it's not in what you have, and it's not in where you are. It's an attitude of your own heart and mind, and it comes from finding rest and peace in God Himself. Oh you hear so much, don't you? And it doesn't go in very deep. But we'll learn.

A group watching the astronauts in their preparation for the Gemini Flight, expressed various thoughts the other night. One said, "Oh, what a wonderful way to get away from it all! Surely up there out in space there won't be all this hurry and confusion, and so many responsibilities. I'd certainly like to get away and get up there myself." Well, it was the same old discontent that David was expressing.

But you know, there is a far sweeter thought. I would lift you to it for a moment. A little verse of Scripture that's on that beautiful jeweled window of Wesley's Chapel in London. He had ingrained into the glass these words: From Psalms 139:9,10, "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea: even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me."

Oh, he's saying even though you fly so far away, it's only God that can satisfy your restless heart. Fly as far as you can -- that isn't going to help. But the peace will come because you know His hand is leading you. The rest comes because His right hand is holding you, just as it said in the verse. What you're looking for is here, and not there.

It's not out in outer space, it's within, within your own spirit. When the precious Holy Spirit dwells within. And if His Spirit takes full possession of your life, then there's going to come that sweet contentment, because you're going to be content in Him. And your peace, your joy, all that you have will come from Him. Well, it's an age-old cry isn't it, "If I had wings" -- If I had the wings of the morning.

You know, across the very dome of the universe today one could write the word "wings." For man's flying everywhere above the clouds, away above where the eagle flew, now, as I say above clouds, into outer space. Long before man had any wings and went circling around the world, the great poet Alfred Tennyson wrote a strange prophecy. And you'll not appreciate it unless you know that what he wrote was long before the Wright brothers ever even tried to fly. Listen carefully, or you'll not get the benefit of it. He wrote this prophecy -- and remember that Tennyson died in 1903, eleven years before the Wright brothers tried to fly -- and this is what he wrote:

For I dipped into the future,
Far as human eye could see,
Saw a vision of the world,
And all the wonder that should be.
Saw the heavens filled with commerce,
Argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight
Dropping down with costly bales.
Heard the heavens filled with shouting
And there rained a ghastly dew
From the nations' airy navies,
Grappling in the central blue.

Now he talks about aerial navies, and there weren't such aircraft at that time.

Till the war drum
throbbed no longer
And the battle flags were furled
In the parliament of man,
The federation of the world.

Now I remember well, because it was in my day, in 1903 that this flying machine -- the first one that was heavier than air -- rose above the ground with the Wright brothers. Oh, how they shocked the world by remaining in the air for just 12 seconds! That was over the sand dunes of North Carolina.

And it seemed so impossible at that time, that a reporter on the New York newspaper lost his job, for writing up such a fantastic story as that, they didn't believe such a thing had happened. But then it wasn't long after that, that the Lone Eagle flew alone across the ocean.

But this was just the beginning, for not only are there wings over every sky today, but man goes hurtling through space the strangest of

crafts -- they scorn wings. Today he's challenging the moon in his space craft, and his voice shouts from a satellite way up in the sky. Oh, what marvelous things are taking place and how prophecy is being fulfilled, and how all of Tennyson's prophecy has been fulfilled.

But of course we are not talking of real wings, just the symbol that God gives His children. And every one of us can have this kind of wings, and sometimes, as someone has so beautifully said, "Wings are born out of weights!" When wearied with the strain of it all, then we fly to God for the rest He's promised and the relief that He alone can give, and then the weight becomes a wing. God really uses that weight to lift us to Himself, and then it does become wings.

An acquaintance of mine has this little poem tacked above her kitchen sink:

Lord of all pots and pans and things,
Since I've no time to be a saint
By doing lovely things.
Or watching late with Thee,
Or dreaming in the dawn light,
Or storming Heaven's gates,
Make me a saint,
By getting meals and
Washing up the plates.

That always reminds me of that beautiful verse in the Psalms: "Though ye have lian among the pots, ye shall be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and your feathers with yellow gold." Isn't that beautiful? And if you've lian among the pots, then you know exactly what this means, if you've had to strive down the lowly place and amongst the sordid things, and then God lifts your spirit and it seems to fly away on the wings covered with silver feathers with yellow gold.

So what brings such a miraculous change? David knew the secret, and he knew just how to mount up with wings as a dove, because in the third Psalm, he cries out like this: "Lord, how are they increased that trouble me, many are they that rise up against me, but I did lay me down and slept, I awaked, for the Lord sustained me." Oh, that's the secret of it, isn't it?

And then he continues: "I will not be afraid of the thousands of people that have set themselves against me." The Lord sustained David, and his weights were changed to wings.

And as this person has said, that wings are born of weights. There isn't a truer Scripture in God's Word than this: "They that wait upon

the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as the eagle." Oh, putting that in the simplest words, just like to a child, the one that flies to the Word of God, and there you'll meditate and seek the presence of the Lord and wait in prayer until God touches your soul. Because that's what prayer is: prayer is the soul of man tired of earthly wanderings, flying to the bosom of God, and waiting there in prayer until God speaks to his heart and revives his spirit. You really mount up and up to realms of peace and rest, and just as the verse says, then you're sustained by the Lord.

Oh, there's a sort of devilish gravitation in this old world that daily strives to keep you from the noblest and best, to pull you downward. But the Word tells us that there's an upward pull that lifts you right up to the very Heart of God. That's for those that wait upon the Lord, wait there in prayer.

Oh, it's a practical everyday religion, if you'll just go apart by yourself, and take your Bible and read and read and wait upon the Lord, talk to Him, and wait for Him to speak to you. And soon you can run and not faint, you'll walk and not grow weary.

You need His strength, and it's available to you, if you'll just give God a chance. Won't you do it? The Lord's waiting to lift your spirit. He's waiting to rest you. He's waiting to give you the peace. He's promised it to you. But remember, you've got to give Him the time! You have to wait upon Him, or He cannot reach your soul. God bless you and help you that might live in His Word this week.

WINGS OUT OF WEIGHTS

(Program 127)

"Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, 'There is no help for him in God.'

"But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awakened, for the Lord sustained me.

"I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God: for Thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone, thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: Thy blessing is upon Thy people." -- Psalm 3. Those words, "The Lord hath sustained me" are particularly important.

King David cried, "Lord, how they are increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me!" And in Psalm 139, he cried out, "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." -- Psa.139:9,10.

He knew that no matter what the trouble, He could rise above it. He said, "Oh that I had wings." -- Psa.55:6a. You know, Man has always wanted wings, wanted to fly, wanted to get away from it all.

There are so many who feel confined and discontented with things where they are, "Surely there must be something easier and brighter somewhere else?" -- And wings can lift them above all their troubles here.

There came a day when king David cried, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest." -- Psa.55:6. Oftentimes we feel that there must be something better somewhere else, just over the hill: "There's a glorious liberty and freedom somewhere else." And now around the World, through space, circling the world above the birds whose realm Man has always envied, Man flies today.

Have you ever read what prophetically Tennyson wrote?

"For I dipped into the future,
Far as human eye could see,
Saw a vision of the World,

All the wonder that should be.

"Saw the heavens filled with commerce,
Argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight,
Dropping down with costly bales.

"Heard the heavens filled with shouting,
And there rained a ghastly dew
From the nation's airy navies
Grappling in the central blue.

"Til the war drum throbbed no longer
And the battle flags were furled,
In the parliament of Man,
The federation of the World."

There are wings that only a child of God can have, the wings that God gives His Own children when they feel so much like they cannot stand the situation any longer. Although he had all the care of the churches and had "fought with beasts at Ephesus (1Cor.15:32), had spent a day and a night in the deep, received stripes and been stoned, yet Paul was able to take the wings of his soul and fly above it all and praise God for his persecution.

There is a way of living above these things! No matter what it is in your life, there is a way you can make wings out of your weights, the weights that so easily beset you and tie your soul down. Wings are often born out of weights.

When wearied with the strain of it all, we can fly to God. God has the victory for us, God has an answer for our problems. God does have the answer if we're obedient to Him. Search your heart and make sure that the obedience is there. There is some reason for these things happening and why you haven't gotten the victory, because there is victory through Jesus. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." -- 1Cor.15:57. You can fly to God for the rest which He has promised.

You can fly on the wings of prayer and faith, and get the relief that He alone can give you. An acquaintance of mine has this little poem tacked above her sink, which reminds me of the beautiful verse, "Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a

dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold." --
Psa.68:13.

"Lord of all pots and pans and things,
Since I've no time to be a saint by doing lovely things,
Or watching late with Thee,
Or dreaming in the dawn light,
Or storming Heaven's Gate,
Make me a saint by getting meals,
And washing up the plates."

David knew the secret of how to mount up with wings as a dove, he knew how to mount above all these things, and live above them. He just put it all in God's hands and left it with the Lord, and then slept, for he said, "The Lord sustained me."

"I will not be afraid of the thousands of people who have set themselves against me." What are people anyhow, beloved? There is nothing in their power compared to God, these who are against you and these who are causing a trial in your life and are bringing that awful resentment in your heart. You don't have to have that resentment, the Lord can deliver you from that!

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." -- Isa.40:31. Putting this in the simplest terms -- and God grant that it shall not sound trite -- the one who flies to the Word of God and there meditates and seeks the presence of the Lord and waits in prayer until God touches his soul, truly mounts up to realms of peace and rest and are truly, as this verse says, sustained by the Lord.

There's a sort of devilish gravitation in this old World, that daily strives to keep you and pull you down. But the Word here tells u there's an upward pull if you'll live in God's Word, and if you'll pray and look to the Lord. It'll lift you right up to the very heart of God if you'll only give God a chance.

That's the principle of this everyday life of victory! Take your Bible and quietly read, read and wait upon the Lord. Talk to Him. Wait for Him to speak to you, and soon you'll run and not faint, and you'll find yourself mounting up with all the strength that you need.

"Heart to heart I love to talk with Jesus,

Out in the secret place.
Shut the door to all that would disturb me,
I view His hallowed face.
In there I learn to know Him,
For He Himself reveals;
He understands my longing,
My every sorrow feels.

Heart to heart I love to talk with Jesus,
Out in the secret place.

I would pray, 'Show me Thy Will, O Father,
Crush every vain desire.
Search me, Lord, reveal my sins and weakness,
A holier life inspire.'
In there I learn to know Him,
For He Himself reveals
He understands my longing,
My every sorrow feels.

Heart to heart I love to talk with Jesus,
Out in the secret place.

Give God a chance! Take Him at His very Word and believe Him for this because God wants to help. He wants to give you the victory. Don't let anyone discourage you. God's Word stands sure and steadfast, He'll not fail you! You can mount up with wings as eagles. Stand you ground "and see the salvation of the Lord!" -- Exo.14:13. Trust in God! Keep heart, keep hope!

They that wait upon the Lord shall never be ashamed. (See Psa.69:6.) God bless you. He's still on the Throne, and prayer does change things, and He'll change things for you! Amen.

WORTHINESS

(Program 52)

"I am not worthy the least of His favor
But Jesus left Heaven for me.
The Word became flesh and He died as my Savior,
Forsaken on dark Calvary.

I am not worthy, this old tongue repeats it,
I am not worthy, the heart gladly beats it,
Jesus left Heaven to die in my place,
What mercy, what love, and what grace."

God bless you. This is Meditation Moments again, Grandmother speaking. I wonder if you wouldn't like to join us in just a brief prayer for blessing on God's Word and for those that have needs.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for all past mercies, Thy wonderful promises, and the gift of Jesus Christ our Lord. We ask Thy blessing now upon this Meditation, that it may honor Thee, and meet the need of some heart. We thank Thee Lord in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

Now the words of this song voice such a fundamental truth, because we are not worthy. I wonder how many times you've come to the Lord in prayer with those very words in your heart, if not on your lips? And how could we have any other attitude in the presence of such a Holy God?

For He says, "The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." And we would all like to say as John the Baptist said, "He is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose." You remember that prayer of personal preparation that was made by Jacob at Peniel, in the first Book of the Old Testament? And it has this word "worthy" in it. (Gen.32:10)

"I am not worthy of the least of all Thy mercies." Jacob says, "I am not worthy of all Thy truth that Thou hast showed unto Thy servant." Well that's often been the cry of my own heart.

It was also the cry of the centurion in the 7th chapter of Luke, where he says, "I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof." I think I'd like to read a little bit of that store there in the 7th chapter of Luke, speaking of the centurion whose servant was ready to die.

He heard of Jesus, and the elders you remember came,
beseeching Jesus that He would come and heal the centurion's servant,
because they said this, in the 4th verse now:

"And when they came to Jesus, they besought Him instantly,
saying that he was worthy (the centurion) for whom he should do this:
for he loveth our nation and he hath built us a synagogue. Then Jesus
went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the
centurion sent friends to see him, saying,

"Lord, trouble not thyself: I am not worthy that thou shouldst
enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to
come unto Thee: but say in a word and my servant shall be healed."
And you remember that the servant was healed and Jesus' heart was so
delighted.

This is the only place I find in the Bible it says that Jesus
marveled. I can't imagine Christ marveling, but it says, "He marveled.
He said, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in all Israel." And the
man who thought he was so unworthy, Jesus says of him that he had
not found such great faith!

So sometimes people who feel the most unworthy are people who
have very great faith, because their faith isn't built upon any of their
own works or their own worthiness. But this unworthy one was the very
one of whom Jesus said, "I have not seen so great faith," and it was that
attitude of humility, of meekness, because that's one of the foundation
stones of faith.

Now this theme runs through so many of the precious old Hymns
of the faith, the very best of them! You know what I mean, which are
always speaking of "We're under the Blood," or "There's Power in the
Blood." It's never self that's held up, it's never our works! Like this:

"When I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness watch and pray,
Find Me thy all in all."

Because it isn't in you or your worthiness! How many times
you've heard that saying! And then those words, "When nothing good
have I whereby Thy grace to claim, I wash my garments white in the
Blood of Calvary's Lamb." And you know the chorus:

"Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."

You know in the old revival days, how many have walked the aisle

and given their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ under the power of that old hymn:

"Just as I am without one plea,
But that Thy Blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee.
O Lamb of God, I come."

And then that precious song that's so familiar to us and we learned it from our childhood, I know you have too:

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let my hide myself in Thee."

And then the latter part off that second verse:

"Could my tears forever flow,
Could my zeal no languor know,
These for sin could not atone,
Thou must save and Thou alone.
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy Cross I cling."

Don't you love those old songs? And nothing could ever take the place of them! Then in "Jesus Lover of my Soul" by Charles Wesley:

"Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.
Leave, oh leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed
All my help from Thee I bring,
Cover my defenseless head,
With the shadow of Thy wing."

And why is Grandmother quoting from these old songs? Why, they're all the cry of the heart's unworthiness! It rings out in all these inspired words. But someone says to me,

Isn't there a sort of a contradiction here when you say we are unworthy, and to take the attitude of deep humility when you come to God in prayer? And yet in Hebrews 4 the writer says to come boldly to the Throne? Well, this is the way that scripture goes:

"Seeing then that we have a High Priest that is passed into the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 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." No, there's

no contradiction here between the acknowledgment of unworthiness and this bold approach to God!

For we don't come to Him in our own worthiness! Oh, if that would just sink into some hearts, that it's only in the worthiness of the Lord Jesus Christ! That's what these old hymns are talking about, and nearly all of them end with some word about the Blood of Calvary!

It is the Cross at Calvary that gives you the right to come with boldness. You can come with boldness because it isn't any worthiness of your own! Our sins are forgiven us because Jesus Christ the Son of God bore them in His Body on the tree.

The bloodstained Cross is the moral warrant on which we base this right to come boldly and our assurance that our sins are forgiven. As long as the Cross stands, throughout the face of eternity, just so long will men have this boldness: That for Christ's sake God will pardon their transgressions! Oh, it's wonderfully inspiring to me to even remember constantly that the Cross is a finished transaction.

The promise is based on blood already shed and on a transaction already completed. Not on anything we can do or say or any works of ours or any worth in ourselves, for we are unworthy.

But the vilest sinner dying at the foot of the cross at Calvary and claiming the cleansing power of the Blood can know the peace of total remission of all and every sin, and then approach God the Heavenly Father boldly through the Blood of Christ, through the worthiness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, it's so wonderful when we come to this full understanding that because Jesus died, we live. Because Jesus Christ went down in the tomb and came forth again and was raised from the dead, we can rejoice and reign with Him through all eternity!

There isn't any other way, dearly beloved, of approaching the Heavenly Father except through His worthiness. Because He died for us we are heirs and joint heirs with Him, and we ought to act like heirs, and that's why we can come boldly.

Some of you that are suffering so terribly on beds of sickness, I wish you would listen carefully to what we are going to say to you now:

Beware that the Devil does not enter into controversy here and accuse you of your unworthiness, that he may take away your boldness to come to God and ask Him for the desire of your heart. You have to come with boldness to the Throne of Grace in the Name of the Only Worthy One.

This fact that you are now a child of the King and are coming

through a highly purchased right should crown your prayer with great confidence and lift your heart with kingly boldness.

So many cases I've dealt with of those on beds of sickness, as I said, suffering, have so felt their unworthiness that they have accepted their condition, feeling that they had deserved all that had come upon them.

Some had made no attempt to resist the oppression of the Devil. -
- Jesus said that He went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil. -- They've not resisted, nor come with any boldness to ask for deliverance, because they feel they are suffering for past sins, they're reaping what they've sown, they're getting their just reward.

So they just accept it and never step out on the promises, promises that were signed with the Blood of Calvary for their very deliverance. Oh beloved, this is condemnation!

God's Word says there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus! Get rid of that condemnation! Open your heart to the Lord, confess in full to Him everything that might hinder, and walk right in and accept your purchased right through the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

You have Christ's Word in this: All things are yours in Christ Jesus. Whom the Son hath made free is free indeed!

Quit letting the Devil accuse you! God's Word says he is "the accuser of the saints." -- Now take this verse in closing:

"Let us come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need." You have some rights to that Throne! God bless you.

YOUR CONVERSATION!

(Program 36)

This is Meditation Moments and Grandmother speaking to you and praying God's blessing upon each one of you. And I do pray that He shall use something from this little lesson to help you solve some of your problems. I know that nothing can help as much as something from God's Word.

Our lesson is in the 6th Chapter in Proverbs and it's the most interesting thing to note that in this passage, of the six things that it says that God hates, three of them are about the tongue! I should think it would be intensely interesting to know what the Bible says about the things that the Lord hates. But the thing that interested me was this fact:

Half of these things mentioned had to do with our tongue! So much is said in God's Word about the tongue that we can't avoid mentioning it. We might read a few Scriptures. God's Word says, "Whoso keepeth his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble."

"Keep thy tongue from speaking guile" -- that is, from making a statement that conveys a meaning different from the real truth. I want to say that again because someone asked about guile. "Keep thy tongue from speaking guile." -- That's making a statement that conveys a meaning different from the real truth. Many who shun from telling a lie won't hesitate to give an inaccurate statement.

So one of the six things the Bible says that God hates is a lying tongue. Now the 19th verse mentions two more things that God hates: "a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." -- Keep your tongue from slandering, talking about others to the hurt of their reputation.

You know, sometimes harmless gossip runs dangerously near slander. I remember reading a long time ago about a girl named Jesse Pepper, 18 years of age, who was convicted of manslaughter because through her gossip about a girl by the name of Mary Ellen, Mary Ellen was discouraged and took her life.

It was called gossip slaying because Mary Ellen took her life as a result of the gossip. But in rule that law can do very little about such things, but God can do much about the breaking of His law regarding the tongue. I read an interesting article that was called "Watch Your Conversation, Children Are Listening." And the question was asked:

What is the most neglected problem in family life today? And the answer was, the way parents talk in front of their children in critical spirits, says Dr. James H. Bossard. Now he was the Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania when he wrote this article. And he said that after 40 years of probing in what he called "neglected areas of family life," with special emphasis on problems of children, that he made a discovery out of his experiment.

He used tape recorders, and acquired extensive samples of dinner conversations of Philadelphia families. He said, "I had no idea I would discover a real pattern in the conversation of families.

"I just wanted to learn what families talked about, but to my amazement I have found that family after family had definite consistent conversational habits, and the critical pattern was the most prevalent.

"These families rarely had a good word to say about anyone! They carped continuously about friends, relatives, neighbors -- almost every aspect of their lives, from the lines of people in the supermarket to the stupidity of their boss!

"This constant negative family atmosphere had a disastrous effect on the children, because a high percentage of the children were anti-social and unpopular. And this pattern of the family's hostility, many times it turned to quarreling amongst themselves; without fail their meals were a round of insults and bickering, and the children absorbed that pattern and it caused the children trouble.

"It often doesn't show up until after they are grown or even after they are married! Long ago," Dr. Bossard says, "a great Teacher pointed out that what comes out of the mouth is a great deal more important than that which goes in to it." I think that's found in Matthew 15:11! So let's watch our conversation!

Watch your conversation, children are listening. If you want them to be something worthwhile, you want them to be real Christians, it will work wonders if you watch your conversation! -- And now go back to this other Scripture.

I want to say first of all that if your soul is little and superficial, egotistical and mean, all those qualities are going to permeate your words as they flow from your lips. All the sham and sanctimoniousness in the World won't cover it up.

If the Holy Spirit has possession of the soul, the words spoken are clear and simple and filled with Divine Light, just as Christ is light. There'll be no deceit, sham or double meaning. Words flowing from a soul baptized with His Spirit of love will have a magnetic drawing

quality, and a rare warmth that will draw others to them.

And when the heart's burning with divine love you don't need to try to put pathos or tenderness in your conversation or your prayers. All your words will have a savor of life and power in them that comes from an inner depth of a Spirit that's already occupying that soul, a Spirit-filled life.

If you want to be able to speak words of helpfulness to needy ones at just the right moment and just the right way and with lasting effect, but without set premeditation, I might say, -- do you want to speak words that will be burned in the memory and bear everlasting fruitfulness? --

Then just let the spirit of the living Christ speak through you. When one is really baptized with the Spirit of Christ, when it really is Christ in you, as Paul said, "It's no longer I that live but Christ that liveth in me," this spirit of love then is in the heart.

This can only be done if he's really abiding in full possession of all your life, in control of all your faculties. God's Word says He has been with you but He shall be in you, speaking of the Holy Spirit here. Also the outstanding verse, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." -- Oh such words, such power flows through one from the indwelling Christ. This is what we call the surrendered life, placed in His hands and living in His presence, abiding in Him and His Words abiding in you.

Do you faithfully read His Word? His Words can't abide in you unless you know them, can they? Do you take time for prayer, waiting in His presence? Well, how can you abide in Him if you don't take time for prayer and waiting in His presence? If you don't do this, then just when you want them the most, the use of words of power and fitness will not come forth.

They will often come forth just as insipid things, lukewarm and powerless, because they don't come from an indwelling Christ, they don't come from a burning heart, they don't come from a surrendered will, a life baptized with His love.

You know, the Lord Jesus Christ longs to fill you with His Spirit until, as He Himself has said, and He said it that day in the temple as is told about in John 7:38, and I read it from the Amplified New Testament: "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his innermost being, streams and rivers of living water shall flow continuously." Isn't that wonderful?

It's Christ abiding within! And one baptized with the Holy Spirit is bound to speak with love because God is love! His precious Holy

Spirit is love. Now all of this that we've said would be just so many words if we didn't impress upon you the fact that the trouble isn't fundamentally with the tongue, though we talked and read about the tongue in our first Scriptures.

Of course it's in the heart! You can't put on! The tone of the voice can't have love in it or sweetness if there's no sweetness or love in the heart. There's an emptiness, and people can discern it.

Words are only the conveyance in which the quality of the heart and mind ride forth to other souls. Jesus teaches that our words reveal our heart character. Whatever the quality of the heart, it will possess and accompany the words exactly. We don't understand it, but there's an invincible stream of soul quality that flows through our words.

There is no way under the sun to change that quality except we change the spirit from which the words flow. There has to be a change of heart! How many times has some man been mean and cruel and unkind to his wife, then Jesus has come into his heart and cleaned up his life and there comes a sweetness, and what a change!

I say to anyone like that, if you'll cry unto the Lord as expressed in the 51st Psalm, say, "Lord create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me." He'll hear and He'll answer. Then if you preserve in prayer, and as you grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, you come into an abiding relationship with your Lord, who is the fountain of all goodness and kindness and gentleness.

You'll soon find your words to be conductors of His Spirit, which is love, meekness, long-suffering, patience. This means a yielding of yourself to His Will, that He can live out His life through you. Are you willing to do that now? Let's have just a wee little prayer about it.

Our Father God, we pray Thy blessing upon each hungry heart, each seeking soul, especially these, Lord, who are having a battle regarding their tongue or the losing of their temper, the quick thoughtless cutting word, the critical thing that springs so quickly, Lord, to the lips.

Forgive us Lord, cleanse us. Fill us with Thy love, Lord, Thy own Spirit. We pray that we shall seek Thee until we find Thee in all Thy sanctified fullness of love, in Jesus' name, amen.

YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(Program 42)

Greetings and welcome to Meditation Moments, and God bless you. I'm bringing you from God's Word this Verse of Scripture:

God's Word says, "We are ever learning but never coming to a knowledge thereof," and I'm just wondering how much you have grown in the Christian life? I've been asking the Lord to search me. Ask the Lord to search you. Say, "Lord, how much have I grown in my Christian life?"

To be years older and not to be years nearer to God is like walking in a circle, it's motion without progress. So you search your heart and ask God how much progress you've made. I wonder if you remember the vision that God once gave you of the life that He wanted you to live?

I think every Christian has had that great longing to reach certain heights of Christian victory! -- The vision you once had that God gave you: great expectations of victory, and great stirring in your soul, and great determinations to live close to Him.

I wonder if you can say with Paul, I've not been disobedient to the Heavenly vision! Or have you become satisfied with a low level of Christian living, a mediocre life, sort of common and defeated? I have some friends that are just radiant and triumphant in their victorious Christian life.

I know some that are professing Christians that are frustrated, and they're not conquerors. They're like the old lady said, "I'm just a poor worm!" Well, I'd hate to call myself just a poor worm in the Christian life! God says that we're more than conquerors!

There's no such thing as standing still in the Christian life! You're either going backwards or you're going forward. Can you be satisfied with anything less than victory? That's God's provision for you. God has provided victory! It's all through His Word: All through the Word of God that you can be a victorious Christian.

But if you'd make confession at this time, would you have to say, I'm living a dwarfed, defeated, disappointed Christian life? You know, there was a man who when he was just a little bit of a fellow would go to his mother and say, "Mother, how big I am!" And the mother would sometimes say to him, "How big are you today, son?" And he would say, "Oh, so big, mother so big." The years went by, many years, and he came home a defeated man, a defeated Christian, and his mother said, "How big are you, son?" He said, "Not so big, mother."

I wonder if you'd have to say that spiritually if you went on a tour of inspection of your heart, if God would put his X-ray on your soul? All these wonderful expressions in God's Word about the abundant life, I wonder if you are reaching on victoriously towards that? In the searching diagnosis would you find out you're really growing?

You know, you are really three persons: what you think you are, what others think you are, and what God knows you to be. Well, there's one thing we know, there're no dwarfs in Heaven, we have to grow, don't we? Now God's Word says in Revelations 11:1,

"Rise and measure the people. And there was given me a reed like unto a rod, and the angel stood, saying, 'Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and them that worship therein.'"

Our measuring rod is God's Word, and let's use it and see. In 2 Corinthians 10:12-14, "For we dare not make ourselves of a number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: for they measure themselves by themselves, in comparing themselves among themselves are not wise."

So we don't measure our growth by how others are growing, we measure only by the Word of God. And then in Psalms, a number of times God's Word says, "Search me, O God," and you know that Verse of Scripture, "Search me, O God, and try my thoughts, and see if there be any evil way in me." (Psa.139:23-24.)

I'm just thankful for anything that will break through and make me take a deep look at myself. We're living in such a pressured age, no time for meditating or thinking, and we just need to stop to take a look at ourselves, and not gloss things over, not be deceived, not have a light view of sin.

God's Word says, "Let no man think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but let him think soberly." -- And you know how a baby grows? A baby grows by air and food and water and love, and that's just about the way a Christian grows: Air is the prayer, and the food is God's Word, and water is the thirst that's in your soul and the everlasting love and power of God and His Words, and then love that's in your heart.

And you can tell if you're growing, if you're really growing in love. Are you more obedient than you used to be? Our time is so short and many things that we have to say to you, but let me just say this is closing, that you can't make yourself grow in any way, it comes from just abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It comes just from living in Him and living in His Word and sweet

personal union with Him. It isn't by any straining or self-effort, it's no self-dependence, it's just putting yourself utterly in His hands, where the heart, the center of Christianity, is Jesus Himself, a living loving personality!

It's fellowship with Him that will bring you the victory and bring about the growth that you want in your Christian life. God bless you, and we just pray that you'll feed on the Word of God until you grow into the fullness of stature of Christ Jesus. He's still on the Throne and prayer changes things.

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