

## Prayer Meeting Night *Excerpts*

*God's Promises:* Reading through Joshua chapters 18 and 19 might seem boring until you remember they had been waiting 500 years for the land promised to Abraham! Now they were finally possessing the land. Noah worked faithfully 120 years and was saved. Jesus has promised He's coming again. He also promised, "I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28-29) "and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Can God? When difficulties surge high? There is no strength in unbelief. Let us enlarge our hearts and not limit Him.

If you will let it, hard, difficult things . . . even the monotonous things--you can get good out of it.

Psalms 46:4-5,7: "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God..." "God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Be resourceful, work with what you have. Do not let inadequacy keep you from what the Lord would have for you. The Devil tries to get us off kilter – *Get used to it!* Do not let that be an excuse. Salt and light are both silent, but very effective. I want my life to speak for me. Let's be the kind of light we're suppose to be – *brilliant light!* We might have to get creative. If we're faithful we'll get a reward!

## *Spiritual Warfare*

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #6985 Bro. Bob Wilson Enid, OK 2020-09-20 Excerpts

Let's place ourselves in a good position because the enemy is out to destroy. God will help us in battle to dwell securely. **Righteousness is doing the right thing!** When the battle starts and is waging, we want to be in a good position with the armor of righteousness on. We need to draw nigh to God, spending time in prayer and scripture studying. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal." "We do not war after the flesh." Our weapons are "mighty through God to the pulling down of [the enemy's] strongholds" (II Cor. 10:3-5).

Let's bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." In warfare there are entire teams networking intelligence. We must "cast down imaginations." **The enemy uses imaginations not grounded in factual happenings.** God wants us to be in position to successfully face the Devil. God wants us to be armed with His intelligence and knowledge, ready, and in a position to wage war successfully against the enemy! "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war" (Pro. 24:6). Check into it! Search it to be true, noteworthy, and of understanding. "Loins girt about with truth"(Eph. 6:14). **Things sometimes are not even true, and we react upon it.** Recognize where the enemy's working. We want to be on the Victory side--victorious!

# *Resist the Devil #9*

Bro. Michael Smith 20-09-27 #6988

*Prayer bells change things.* God is still bringing down walls through the power of prayer. The greatest thing that changes is *us*. Make contact with God. It changes us. How do we know where to fight? “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18). It's important to stay connected to the Captain, the General--to enable us to fight effectively. The greatest thing we can do is pray!

I still believe God can take care of the work of God! Did anyone have a problem this week? It is important to have time set apart for prayer! Be in a continual state of prayer – **continual back and forth between your spirit and God!** Young people, *get connected!* “Lord I should have done better.” We'll have greater effectualness praying continually against the Devil.

This is the answer to impure thoughts. *Pray specifically.* “*Lord help my mind to be pure and holy.* Lord help me today - to cast down imaginations, to have power to push back.” **If you stop praying specifically when there's been a besetting sin – It'll come back!** Don't stop praying. Thank God for Victory! Keep praying specifically. If you don't, over time, you'll start falling back to where you were. *Pray always.* Folks, this is our contact with God! Seems I don't have victory? **Keep praying!** The enemy fights prayer! **My soul is in my hands!** Instantaneous prayer. Resist the Devil! When it seems like you're not getting an answer, don't give up! When your request doesn't seem to be answered – how important is it? Your spiritual well-being is at stake. Don't stop!

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*The greatest thing we can do is pray!*

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Praying always with all prayer means: public prayer, private prayer, family prayer, planned prayer, unplanned prayer, and spontaneous prayer. Jesus went to the wilderness to pray. Jesus went to the garden to pray. Lord help me to handle this like you want me to.

**“Lord help me right here!** (when I don't have time to get on my knees) We'll get answers to physical problems, money problems, relationships, etc. Lord direct us to go out and fight effectively and win against the devil.

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# *Resist the Devil #10*

***Watch. Always. After the blessing of the Lord has been great, don't let down! It's not the time to get lax!***

Beware when you come home. The enemy works hard! I'm tired—but I've seen God work. The enemy will use everybody he can to steal victory from you. Don't give in to influences. Pray and watch with all perseverance. What do you have to do to watch? You have to stay awake!! If caught sleeping on guard, you could be shot. Dedicated people watch for the enemy. If you know the enemy's out there, are you going to get casual? He'll come around in a different way—as an “angel of light.” When he's quoting scripture, what is the tenor of the scripture? If we knew the thief were coming . . . Pray with your 'eyes open!' It's when you're not watching that the enemy creeps in.

Parents, when something doesn't seem right, you'd better follow through with it. Guard the encampment. Need to “watch the stuff!” The Devil will try to steal our victories. Yes, God gave me victory—It's not time to put it in neutral.

“But the end of all things is at hand, be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (I Peter 4:7). If we're not “all in” we're going to cave to the enemy. “For we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Cor. 2:11). **What is the most powerful weapon in your hand? What good is it when you are asleep?** We cannot afford to go to sleep spiritually. We have authority over the enemy through Jesus Christ. This is not a series of messages about defeat. Know how to be equipped! “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” “They overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony.” Ours is the victory today through Jesus Christ.

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# *What is your Foundation?*

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #7038 Fari Matthews Fresno 2020-10-31 *Excerpts*

(ELS#56) **The Faithfulness of God:** “The word He has spoken shall forever stand, it shall never pass away.”  
 (ELS#37) **How Firm a Foundation** Whatever is in His Word, He has not broken it forever! His word will stand. But, just because His word shall stand, doesn't mean you will stand, unless you are standing on His word.  
 (ELS#51 **The Solid Rock**) (ELS#332) **The Word of God:** “By the word of God the worlds were made, and are held in place by His commands, all the grasses wither and the flowers fade, but His truth forever stands.” God's word shall be our foundation. He also wants to speak directly to you.

(Is. 40:6-8) The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. Even the temple that Solomon built was temporary. “All flesh is grass.” There's no one you can stand on. You can't stand on your parents. He wants to reveal to every single one of us His will. The law and the Ten Commandments were pointing to something that was to be eternal. **This kingdom shall be established forever. He never intended for your salvation to be imaginary!** Where is the temple of Solomon today? But, the word of the Lord endureth forever. The Gospel “Good News” is now available to everyone! We all have the ability to know God! Everything He has said will come to pass whether you believe it or not. **Nothing of any permanence is anything man builds, whether a building or a religion. “The grass withereth. . .the word of the Lord stands forever.”**

(John 4:20-29) If God said it, His word overrules everything man says.

## ***Worship must spring from the Heart, through the influence of the Holy Ghost.***

Are you walking along based on the relation of your parents or grandparents? Are you trusting in the church where you attend? The doctrines you subscribe? All religions of the world have creeds and tell you to do this and that. When you get to the judgment, all must be based on His word and His Spirit. Adhere to the Word of God. It doesn't matter who you are, He's infinite. Follow Him moment by moment. At the judgment, what will matter will be what He told you to do. If your basis is not on God himself – if you're trusting in the norms of society . . . ! “All other ground is sinking sand.” You have to come to know God. Your salvation does not depend on your wife, parents, or career. If your foundation stands on the word, you will be safe. If your foundation stands on something else, you will fall. The enemy of all souls is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. If you are building your world on something that is not on God himself, it will come crashing down.

## ***“Occupy Till I Come”***

Excerpts of message by Eric Doolittle Loranger, LA 2021-4-11

We've been asked to conduct The King's business while He is gone. We are to trade, be busy, and do stuff (Luke 19:12-14). There is work to be done. “Ye shall be witnesses unto me. . .unto the uttermost part of the earth”(Acts 1:8b). Eventually Christ is going to return for us. The Holy Spirit will guide you, teach you, and lead you to be active. **Do we put our salvation to work in the marketplace?** Do we put the gospel to use – give God praise *outside* the church? **Or do we wrap it back up where it stays on a shelf, carefully packaged away, so our salvation does not get tarnished or damaged?** *Now think about it.* Christ left Heaven to bring us this gift. He was willing to be beaten, cruelly whipped, crucified, His side pierced, and returned to His Father bearing these marks on His body. He wants our lives to be branches – bearing fruit. Put Christ in our everyday lives with hope, fruit, and consistency.

# Prayer Meeting Night *Excerpts...*

Remember, **desperate** faith is not **despair**. Jesus is the solution when there is no solution. We may not be able to see the path. We're not being asked to trust in the path. We are asked to trust in Jesus. The verse of the song "Calmly Resting in the Lord" says "I find refuge in the shadow of the cross, for the Lord Himself has brought me to this hour." (attributed to Fanny Crosby) Fanny Crosby could not alter the circumstances of her life, but her soul was at peace in the midst of them. He leads us through the places He would have us to go through. "The Lord shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:14) It feels like they are our battles, but they belong to Him.

*(Of Springtime)*

*Something about nature lifts my heart towards Him.*

In a day of computerized voices, holograms, and computer graphic imaging, it's hard to know what is real— "My God is real for I can feel Him in my soul."

I used to think that when we prayed, we had to do everything in our power to bring it about. Let God work! The most expensive diamond ever found had to be broken in two to make it more beautiful.

"The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade on thy right hand." (Psalm 121:5) The Hebrew word translated "keeper" means "to keep, to protect, to hedge about as with thorns." The whole concept of the Lord hedging us about is to protect us . . . with thorns! Mighty to save and mighty to keep. It's more of God's love when He sends things to check us. Hedged with thorns accomplishes two things. It keeps things out, and keeps us in our place, too. In England, laying a hedge is a craft and art form—a skilled fencing technique. A hedge is something to deal with once it is established—impenetrable.

I need the Lord's patience and mercy. In the mechanical trade, there are times we can't even see where we're putting our hands—the thing we're working on. Thank You, Lord, for your help!

"Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared; though he were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which he suffered." (Heb 5:7-8) How was Jesus' prayer heard? He still suffered the cross. God sent an angel down to strengthen Jesus. That's how we're going to get through. The Lord is looking to strengthen us in our work for Him.

## *Nervous Nation Bypass*

Excerpts of message by Bro. James Bell 3-28-2021 Loranger, LA

Not everyone understands what's going on and what they have to go through. **Despondent Desert Drive:** Feeling void, lack of interest. **Depression Freeways:** The quicker I can get off of these, the better. This is no place to camp out! You can get on it and travel for miles and miles. The devil is working to get you hemmed in where you can't go anywhere. Encourage yourself to hope in God. "This too shall pass." The Devil paints this big picture of gloom. The Lord will make a way of escape. **Nervous Nation Bypass:** Worried about all the small things. So worried about 'how I look.' "Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." **Angry Avenue:** Unresolved verbal issues. You can stay on this road for years and years. GET OFF THE AVENUE! The devil can keep you on this road all your life. **Dullness Lane:** Jump the curb if you have to in order to get off. The Lord wants you to get up! "I want you to go higher." We can feel like all our emotions have been plucked out—a mechanical state. Overwhelmed! **Keep going. I know by God's help I can make it.** Have you been redeemed this morning? It's something to be thankful for! **Hopeless Highway:** There's all kind of fog on that highway. Which way is up? The Lord has a design for you. **The touch of God is wonderful. The touch of God will do something for you!** Keep silent. Keep sweet. And keep stepping!

*Nervous Nation ByPass* continued:

Some never aim for anything and are always missing something. **I want to encourage you to aim high! Put the marks high. PRESS THE BATTLE ON!** Thank God for a people that didn't stop when they were facing challenges: (Bible translators) The Husses, Tindales wanted to get the Word of God into the hands of the congregations. They aimed high. **Stubborn Avenue** has caused a lot of people to grind to a halt. Someone has to break the cycle. The wiles of the devil; he knows how to push your button. He knows where my weakness is. **Lustful Lane:** There are many things out there—our cravings not fulfilled. When we get our inside cravings filled, everything else will fall away. Be careful! If you get on this road, you may never get off . . . people, effects, drugs, homeless, and helpless. Our world is reeling under the effects of drugs. If you get on these roads, it affects you for life. **Pride Parkway** can somehow make us think we're right and everyone else is wrong. Need to be careful to get off that thing—over-estimation of self. **Confusion Cloverleaf:** Circling around again, never getting off. “Unstable in all his ways”(James 1:8). God is not the author of confusion. **If you'll turn right and go straight on any one of these, you'll get off of these!** **Insecurity Loop:** Not having any trust and confidence. **Fearful Highway** - Psalms 32:6-8 “. . .Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble . . .” The Lord is with you. He's going to be your supplier and give you strength. The devil would love to destroy us all.

# Angels & Eternal life

Excerpts of message – Shawnee, OK – Bro. Ed Wilson – March 21, 2021

The Lord wants us to see by the light the angels bring in our lives as well. Some saw angels in the sepulchre, and some saw them outside. 'Tis very true the way life is. When angels appear, they're just there – *around you all the time*. The Lord makes you able to see . . . like Elisha's servant's eyes enabled to see the host of the Lord on all the mountains round about. Their business is guarding your heart and your soul. The Lord has a way of revealing to us according to what our need is – the very reassurance tailored to your and my peculiarities. ***It's beyond wonderful.***

When you stand by the open grave – not anything disrupts your life more! One day it comes to each of us, and we go on alone. What we're laying in the ground is dust. You didn't love the dust, you loved the spirit that was in the body. “When we shall see Him, we shall be like Him. We shall meet Him in peace.”

People don't seem so interested, but the angels are! When you defeat the enemy of your soul, the angels rejoice. It empowers them in the task they have to deal with of keeping our souls.

Who resurrected Jesus? “*I have power to lay down my life, I have power to take it again.*” Jesus has power. He gave up the ghost. He willed himself to die, and it happened. He resurrected himself! He has power to put life back in these bodies as well. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living! He shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. We sorrow not as those who have no hope. ***This is not the end.*** Folks, this life is just a little while.

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***In North Korea, three generations of their family were wiped out if they were caught with a Bible.***

***“The persecuted church is willing to die for a faith that we're barely willing to live for.”***

*As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit . . . even so thou knowest not the ways of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good. (Ecclesiastes 11:5-6)*

Been thinking of the influence that I have on others and the influence that others have on me . . . If my thoughts, attitudes, and actions are likened to plants growing in my heart, what seeds am I distributing to others around me?

If I've been carefully tending my heart garden, apprenticed under the Master Gardener, I should certainly have a living testimony to share. He brings us many experiences to help us grow, but we must not think for a minute that He is only working for the good of our own souls. He would use us to bless others.

*Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

Truly, I'm sharing seeds whether I intend it or not. Most of the seeds that each plant produces sprout and grow right where the flower bloomed (more of the same in my own heart garden), but some of them spread out into nearby hearts. My family and acquaintances will be influenced by my choices, either for good or for bad. Probably, at best, there will be some of both.

Outdoors in the garden, water, wind, and animals carry seeds from place to place.

There is a gentle swale that runs through the front yard of our former home. It carries run-off water to the cross-drain under the highway. After a heavy rain, we had our own swollen stream. The water running across the ground carried seeds from nearby areas and deposited them in our yard. It also carried seed from my fairly weedy turf and

## Heart Garden

### Seeds of Influence

Carlos Doolittle

from our flower gardens to the pond across the road. These seeds carried by flowing water remind me of how far **words** can travel. Once released, communication is impossible to fully retract, and it carries in it the essence of what is growing in my heart—seed of the fruiting things, ready to grow somewhere that it lodges. Think of how a rumor spreads from heart to

heart. Of course, a good report can, too! We are sharing our life perspective in comments on the weather, instructions to a child, responses to a problem, even silence. *Lord, help me!*

*The tree is known by its fruit . . . For it is from the overflow of the heart that the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12:33-34, Weymouth)*

Water moves seeds along, but winds of change reach even farther. Likewise, **peer pressure** can serve for good, but at best, it's unsteady like the wind. Most valuable seeds are too weighty to be distributed that way. My choice to do right must not be because others are doing it. We must do the right thing even when it's unpopular.

If I'm willing to measure myself by others (2 Corinthians 10:12), I'll be influenced by what they do—or do not do, beyond anything that they may say. Some thistle-like, invasive species may float in on the breeze. While the political and cultural climate is blustering with rebellion, swirling with confusion, or whirling with indifference, a seed of doubt or double-mindedness may settle down among the treasures of my heart garden . . . because others are doing this . . . or because they are not doing that.

It helps to realize that my own perception of myself determines whom I consider to be my peers. It can be an eye-opening way to see what my values

are—reflected in my associates and inspirations.  
*Who are your peers?*

Human associations are naturally so deep and meaningful. Standing solid to convictions really does have a profound impact on others. Living in the shadow of a solidly settled saint's example can be a real advantage—just as the winged seeds of a maple ride the winds to settle nearby, and maples grow in the area long after the first tree is gone.

Even still, bad influences seem to be even more prolific and far-reaching—like fluffy thistle down. It takes especial diligence to get at a prickly thistle. But, since I know that we each influence one another, I must diligently tend my own piece of ground and remove any evil or carelessness I find there, lest there be fields of it around me . . . and it spread from here.

*But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12)*

Animals, especially birds, are vectors of seed dispersal. In the parable of the sower, those birds gobbling up seed by the wayside would also be depositing seed from their full range of diet! Bird droppings are one reason that fencerows so quickly sprout with seeds of a given area.

In the scriptures, birds sometimes represent **spirits**. Years ago, the Lord interrupted me while listening to the message on Sunday morning to show me that my reaction to the sermon was being influenced by a foul spirit. I was so thankful for his intervention, and it turned out that the sermon was part of an answer for which I had been praying. If that fowl had stayed to gobble up the seed, I would not only have missed some of God's Word to my heart, but also, would have been left with a negative attitude in its place. I nearly shuddered as I realized that spirit had been hanging out on the fence for several Sundays.



Some seed sprouts readily, and some takes much longer. A smile begets a smile. A harsh word may bring a hasty, hot response. But, sometimes, we must wait and wait. Don't lose hope. Seeds are designed to endure harsh conditions. The Maker designed many seeds to endure the harshness of winter. Some rare wildflowers germinate exclusively in the charred remains of a fire, perfectly timed to receive the sunlight when the thicket of forest or the tangle of grasses has been scorched away. Other seeds must pass through the digestive tract of an animal or be physically scarified to break open the protective seed coat.

Is a nearby life scorched barren or a harsh reality chilling some soul? God may yet have need of the seed in the soil of that heart—even if the heart be my own.

Quite a few years ago, an elderly sister in the congregation had to have a new septic system installed at her home. The work brought bald, red clay to the surface of her yard. To her surprise, old-fashioned, pink petunias sprouted and thrived there in the clay. She had lived there many, many years and was not aware of petunias ever having grown near that area. She enjoyed them for a long while. It seemed surely to

be a miracle. Then, too, God plans far ahead in love. Is it any less a miracle if God uses long-ago influences to draw a soul to himself? *Please do, Lord.*

Do you have some seed, lovingly tended, which you long to see grow? Have you planted. . . watered? It is God that gives the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:7) We often cannot perceive our influence on others. Only eternity will reveal how much the Lord has accomplished through our lives. Let's keep tending our actions, thoughts, and motives, remembering that, when the Lord turns the soil of a friend's heart, some of the seed that surfaces may be from us. Will it be thistles or petunias? Wheat or tares?

## *A Challenging Dream*

Colton Purvis

About a week or so ago, I had a very real dream that since has been weighing heavily on my heart. I feel urgently pressed to share it with others, and although I don't understand the full meaning of it, I believe it was given to me for an important purpose. I will do my best to relay it to you.

It started off like any other dream would, random, not necessarily anything that I had been thinking of recently.

In the first half, I was in a crowd of about twelve or so people. Although I can't remember each one there, I do remember that they were part of our church family. They were all people I knew. We were standing on and beside the highway, right at the 4-way stop in Loranger. As we were standing there, cars were constantly coming, and although we always had to keep our guard up, none of us ever got hit. Our purpose for being out there was to sing songs to passers-by, in hopes of getting them to come to church so they could hear the Gospel of Salvation.

All of us knew rain was in the forecast. It was misty with a light drizzle and heavily overcast sky. The rain was coming, and we knew we had a very limited time frame to be out there witnessing. However, instead of getting together and quickly organizing our songs, we wasted our time. We would sing a verse and maybe a chorus, then again become distracted. We laughed and had fun... It was good, clean, fun. However, we weren't active about our task like we should've been. Then our efforts were cut short when it started raining. Hard! We had to quickly load up and leave.

We all appeared just a little farther down the road under the roof of a shed, where we waited out the storm. As we stood there, the storm began to rapidly intensify. Rain poured, and thunder boomed in our ears.

This next part is difficult for me to describe—the lightning, the awful, powerful, lightning! It was the most intense thing I believe I've witnessed. As we looked towards the horizon, we could see it constantly flashing across the evening sky.

With every second that passed, the storm's fury would only increase. The sky flashed brighter as the lightning struck more rapidly. You could hear a roaring as the lightning splintered and destroyed everything it touched. It continued to intensify before our eyes as we became increasingly more concerned. Finally over the roar and screams, I heard a voice say, "The world is ending, it's over."

Now I know that there are things that just logically don't make sense with the story I just told you, but keep in mind, this was a dream, and dreams can be very abstract at times. When I woke up, I felt disturbed, but just wasn't sure why. At the time, I wasn't thinking about the dream and actually didn't realize what had really happened until a few minutes later.

I feel like the Lord has laid it on my heart to share this because of how plainly He showed me what the dream represented. God explained to me how we, as Christians, try to do things, good things, but at times we really don't take our responsibility seriously. Often we can be unwise with our time.

The forecast told us that it was going to rain, and that we weren't going to have much time to get done what was needing to be done- share the love of Jesus. We saw all the signs—a light drizzle and overcast skies. They were very plain!!

Likewise, we may not take the day to day things as seriously as they really are! We need to make every second count before the rain hits and we have to stop. When God prods us to do something, we always need to be really attentive to listen to His nudges and follow through with what He's asking of us!!

But let's think, it's just rain, right? It comes and goes. Give it a couple hours, and we can go back and

try again. Well no, not always. God spoke to me, saying that it goes much deeper than that. When we left, we assumed it was just rain, like any other rain shower. However, it wasn't, in fact, it was our very last chance to do anything!

I wish so badly I could let you see, hear, and feel the awfulness and severity of how the end truly was. We were absolutely helpless to do anything but watch as the terrible scene unfolded before us.

Several days after having the dream, God showed me something else about it that was also quite attention-getting. I mentioned how we were standing in traffic, but because we were mindful of it, we were okay. Well, I didn't fully understand what this meant, if anything, until a friend and I prayed about it. I'll do my best to explain it.

God showed me that the cars were the temptations and trials we face day to day. Although we may successfully avoid those, He made it plain to me that it isn't always the temptations that will cause us to fall away. What could most likely be the cause of our failure is becoming lax and careless with our time, especially with time that God has asked us to set aside specifically for Him.

This dream has been such a challenge to me! It has opened my eyes and awakened me to how seriously I need to be taking things, in my own life, and in sharing the Gospel with others. I need to be very careful in that when I feel a nudge from the Lord, I'll immediately move, and not hesitate or waste any time.

I feel very impressed to share this, and I hope that you can understand the burden I have. I pray it will be a challenge as well as an encouragement to you! Let's all be taking advantage of the time given, as well as be praying harder than ever for the lost. **Jesus is coming, oh so soon!!!**

### **Psalm 143: 9 “Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto Thee to hide me”**

Dakota Doolittle

In a message that Bro. Danny Adams preached titled "Predator," he mentioned the scripture about the devil as a "roaring lion." He said that lions roar to scare prey out of their hiding places in order to catch them. When the devil comes roaring in our lives, his objective is to get us flustered and running around trying to fix or fight whatever is wrong ourselves. The Lord showed me that is what I was doing. Sometimes I wasn't as close to God as I should have been, so that when I started running, the vulnerability of my position was exposed to the devil's tricks and traps. When the devil starts loudly roaring, God has been teaching me to draw near to Him instead of running, and to ask Him to hide me, to cover me with His feathers (Psalm 91:4), and to fight for me (Exodus 14:14). Although I am still in the learning phase of this lesson, I can say that it works multiplied times better than running around trying to fight in my own strength. Please pray for me, that I will allow the Lord to continue teaching me in this and in other things.

## Upcoming Meetings

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com)

May 13- May 16, 2021	Tollesboro, KY	(spring meeting)
May 28- June 6, 2021	Guthrie, OK	(campmeeting)
June 9- June 13, 2021	Holly Hill, SC	(campmeeting)
June -----	Greenbank, WV	(campmeeting)
June 27- July 4, 2021	Loranger, LA	(campmeeting)
June 30- July 4, 2021	Fresno, CA	(campmeeting)
July 16- July 25, 2021	Monark, MO	(national campmeeting)
Aug. 25- Aug. 29, 2021	Pacoima, CA	(campmeeting)

## ***Let God Work***

Excerpts of message [www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #6584 by Bro. Eugene Cole at Guthrie, OK

The investor we are dealing with – it is God! God is the one who can take what little that you have and make an abundance with it. If the boy (John 6) had kept his lunch for himself, the multitude would have missed out on a meal! **He took what he had and put it in a safe place – in the Lord's hands!**

Apostle Paul (II Cor. 4) is not making light of our afflictions. It is temporal folks, 'this too shall pass.' God wants to do more than just heal you, **He wants to shine you up so He can see His image in you.**

He's going to work what's best for you. Leave it in His hands. Don't pick it back up again. If we're patient and allow Him to work, He'll make us complete, whole, mature, and fully developed. He wants us to increase. He has a plan for us ultimately to bring us to Heaven to be with Him.

## ***Give Me That Mountain!***

Excerpts of Bro. Michael Smith message at Shawnee, OK

I need the spirit of Caleb, through pain and turmoil, to conquer little by little, “every place the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you”(Joshua 1:3). I don't want to be in a state of defeat, about to be overwhelmed.

Struggling in marriage? Don't give up communication. Personality differences? I had to go against my feelings, my physical ability (reference to a difficult mountain climb). Just keep looking forward on down the road. It doesn't happen overnight. We like big and miraculous – we like the divine. You know, ***one step at a time is divine!*** It's discouraging to look around for a 2<sup>nd</sup> wind. Sometimes you need your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> wind! You thought the Lord gave you victory, and here you're struggling again. But you know what – ***You didn't give up! He gave you what you needed when you needed it. You're farther along. Don't turn around.*** You know, the preaching sounds good - “Trust God.” The Devil attempts to wear you out. ***I was praying every step!*** It may not be that big a deal for someone else. We all have different battles. The key is not to give up! Be there to support one another. “Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ”(Gal 6:2). Do we really think if we give up, life would be easier? Victory is through the power of God.

We have a wonderful inheritance to gain. We have to set our heart and mind. “Not by power, not by might, but by my Spirit...” Have you made some victories in the last ten years? Are you struggling but still saved? I found a place at the cross – it was a place of rest. You young people can make it tonight. It doesn't matter that you keep falling, but that you keep your eye on the goal! There's coming a day if we stay faithful. No more trials, burdens... I'm looking forward to the inheritance. Until then let's keep climbing! If you can keep taking baby steps. Lord give us tonight the spirit of Joshua and Caleb. We're in this together, let's help hold up one another's hands. We can conquer this mountain by God's help.

## ***The Living Bible***

Talk Nine from *Heart Talks*

The Bible is a living book. What it is to us depends on what we are to it. If we approach it with unbelief and sneers, it shudders like a wounded thing and closes up its heart, and we gaze only on a cold and gross exterior. We behold the form of its words, but discern not the treasures hidden in them. It appears cold and lifeless and repellent, and we go away depressed and unbelieving.

If we approach it reverently, trustfully, and confidently, it opens up to us its hidden depths. It shows to us its wonders. We may see in it unequalled beauties, unfading glories, magnificent vistas of thought; we may hear its voice of love, tender beyond words; we may feel the warmth of its affection, be uplifted by its hopefulness, and thrilled with the tones of its joy-bells.

If we open to it our heart's door and pour out our treasures of affection, it in turn opens to us a great storehouse, and we may eat and be satisfied, and drink and thirst not. We may revel in its rich perfume, the rhythmic cadences of its music, the splendor of its heavenly light, and to us there is no question whether it is the living truth.

The Bible is to the Christian what the forest is to him who delights in nature. He who walks through the forest laughing, talking, and singing, hears not the sweet notes of the songster nor sees the wild things. He who would see and hear the things that delight the nature-lover must steal softly and silently along, watching his footsteps, hiding in the shadows, and thus he may see nature as she is. Likewise he who comes to the Bible full of self-importance with mind and heart self-centered sees not the natural beauty of the Bible. We must come to it effacing self, seeking not our own but the things of Christ, and we shall find it a mine of spiritual gold, a light in every dark hour—the one and only book that meets and satisfies the needs of the human soul.

# ***I Stand at the Door***

As the conclusion of the Biblical record of His earthly ministry, Jesus selected the last living of His original 12 apostles to be the vessel of delivery for special messages to the seven churches of Asia, one of which was located at Laodicea. He used some very strong language to reprove them for their slackness, and sternly warned them of the consequence of passing over His divine will. And yet, in the manner of the ever-loving Christ, He concluded His message to them with these words:

Revelation 3:20-21 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

The Laodiceans had reached a very low point in their profession of being Christians by allowing themselves to become cool, lukewarm, careless of the value of the sufferings and blood of He Who purchased their eternal blessing at such an horrific price. But although this was originally spoken in reference to the unworthy members of a little church of early believers in Asia Minor, it passes far beyond the limits of the lukewarm Laodiceans to whom it was addressed. And the 'any man' which follows is wide enough to warrant us in stretching out the representation as far as the bounds of humanity extend, and in believing that wherever there is a closed heart there is a knocking Christ, and that all men are lightened by that Light which came into the world.

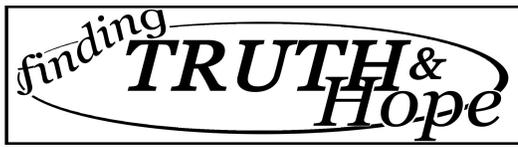
I desire to enforce the individual bearing of the general truth upon our own consciences, and to come to each with this message: The saying is true about you, and **at the door of your heart Jesus Christ stands**, and there His gentle, mighty hand is laid, and on it the flashes of His light shine, and round the edges of the unopened door of your heart comes the beseeching voice, "**Open! Open unto Me.**" A strange reversal of the attitudes of the great and of the lowly, of the giver and of the receiver, of the Divine and of the human! Christ once said, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." But He has taken the suppliant's place, and, standing by the side of each of us, He beseeches us that we let Him bless us, and enter in for our rest.

So, then, there is here a revelation of a most tender and pathetic disclosure of Christ's yearning love to each of us. What do you call that emotion which more than anything else desires that a heart should open and let it enter? We call it love when we find it in one another. Surely it bears the same name when it is sublimed into all but infinitude, and yet it is as individualizing and specific as it is great and universal, as it is found in Jesus Christ. If it be true that He wants me, if it be true that in that great heart of His there are a thought and a wish about His relation to me, and mine to Him, then, then, each of us is grasped by a love that is like our human love, only perfected and purified from all its weaknesses.

Now we sometimes feel, I am afraid, as if all that talk about the love which Jesus has to each of us is scarcely a fact. We need our eyes opened to perceive it, "*Behold! I stand at the door and knock.*" Perhaps the door has long been fastened; perhaps you have thought that if the knock was unanswered, the Knocker would go away when He was weary. But that miscalculates the unflinchingness of that patient Christ's love. Rejected, He abides; spurned, He returns. In this scripture lukewarm Christians are offered another opportunity for supper with the Master, once more to blaze with flames of holy zeal. **That same longsuffering and gentle Friend is calling for you today**, listener; He calls for each of us - today, tomorrow, into eternity. We may live our lives with clear eyesight, clothed in white raiment of His righteousness, tasting many delicate things at a table prepared in the presence of our enemies. **Won't you go with us to heaven?**

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***Will you open your heart to Him?***



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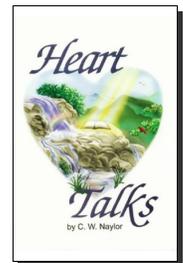
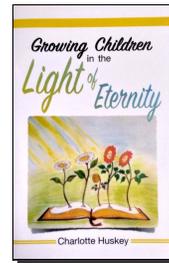
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