

# finding **TRUTH & Hope**

Issue # 37

## Desert Place

Excerpts of message by Bro. Rod Smith,  
2023-06-18 Loranger, LA

*Matthew 14:15*

*And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.*

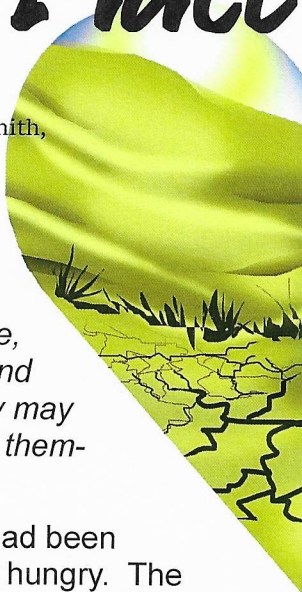
It was evening; they had been there a while, and they were hungry. The time of having their bellies filled had come and gone. They were in a barren place. The longer that we're in this area, the worse that it seems to get. We're unable to meet the current need that we have.

There are needs and desires we have in life. Sometimes, where we are, there's no answer, no solution. There's no hope for the need I have in my life.

"Send the multitude away" from where Jesus was? That is not a good solution. Don't ever allow going away from Jesus to be the solution!

"This little bit is all that I have." Bring Jesus the little bit that you have. Your heart, willingness, your expectation—however small it may be. Don't bury your talent. Don't neglect to

offer the little bit you do have. Don't draw back and feel it won't go very far.



*They  
"were filled" ...  
in the desert  
place.*

Jesus was present. They gave to Jesus.

When you think the time has passed for you to be filled, and there's no hope that anything will change, don't go away from where Jesus is. Instead of looking at all the reasons why it's a desert place, refocus on that He can draw nigh to you. Do you have some faith in Jesus? "Well, yes." Bring that to Him! We don't always have to change our circumstances or environments . . . Jesus is not limited by our circumstances. He is God. He is glorified.

*"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water" (Isaiah 41:17-18).*

*(continued at the top of page 2)*

**Don't ever allow going away from Jesus to be the solution!**

(Continuing from *Desert Place*, front page): . . .

**He'll meet your needs in a way that is best for you.** Get your eyes off the little bit, whatever it is, that we believe that we're left with, or we will begin to despair. Miss being blessed by the hand of Jesus Christ? If not careful, these places can empty us of

our hope and peace. If you feel you don't have anything, bring Him your empty vessel . . . "Lord, I need something from you." He wants you to experience **peace** in your heart. "Lord, help us to be dependable servants. **Help us not go away from where you are.** Lord, help us to be followers of God as dear children." 🌸

## A **Servant's** Mind

*www.churchofgodpreaching.com #8902 (2023-05-21) Edited excerpts Bro. Michael Smith Billings, MO*

Everything we do should be to the purpose of glorifying God. The job of a servant is to quietly get things done, to serve, and do the bidding of the Master. Nothing should be done with the purpose of outdoing someone else. We are to serve the Lord in lowliness of mind. We can preach the beauty of the church, but that glory goes to God! Self-righteousness speaks . . . and it is a smell that should not be on God's people.

Now **FAITH** is

the **substance** of things *hoped for*,  
the **evidence** of things *not seen* (Heb. 11:1)

Edited excerpts of message #8927 by Bro. Clint Doolittle Springfield, OH 2023-06-04

Thank the Lord that we serve an amazing God. Faith in God is for now, not just way back in time. It's not just something from old, antiquated books that sit around with dust on them. Faith is for NOW . . . this time, this distress that you're going through. Faith is not just for the sunny days. It's not just an abstract idea for someone else. Faith is for now!

"Substance" means a foundation; that which gives steadfastness to a thing. Folks, we have a firm foundation on which to build our lives. *Upon this rock will I build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Matt. 16:18). He wasn't talking about Peter. He was talking about this revelation that Peter had expressed.

You know, today, there are so many ideas . . . everybody has a voice on social media—with or without credibility. What will it do to your faith? Folks, we need to have some convictions that are not negotiable . . . that are fixed. I need to have something from the Lord, not

someone else. What was this revelation? It was a revelation of Who Christ is! WE need a revelation of Who Christ is—being born again, knowing Christ for ourselves. This is the foundation of the church. The church that Jesus built will never be taken down. We must have a revelation to our own hearts. If our spiritual ability is based on the flesh, it can be torn down. It can be ripped away from us.

Folks, we must have a substance on which to anchor our lives. Rain and storms will come and beat on us. Life is going to happen to us whether we serve the Lord or not. I want something that anchors and settles me. *Do we believe in something this morning?* If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything. What are people saying? Sounds like confusion, doesn't it? The enemy is offering seemingly plausible ideas that are not truth. We'll have the opportunity to be offended at Christ if we're

not anchored. An anchor is something that goes beneath the surface and connects to something that is solid. The enemy and all his dark forces will try to come against the believer.

*Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his* (2 Tim. 2:19). In 2023, the foundation of God still stands firm. The Lord has a plan for children raised up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. How are they going to stand? They can get built on a solid foundation—established. Out in school, college, and on a job, your faith will be called into question. It's considered weakness to still believe in such things. You will be bombarded day after day after day. The sands are not going to hold you up. I'm no match for the intellect of the world. *The foundation of God standeth sure. . . The Lord knoweth them that are his* (2 Tim. 2:19). The most valuable thing is for Christ to know us! Nobody can get into Heaven to erase that! We alone hold the key. We will build our lives on something sure or on something shaky. Building our lives on a solid rock is not just a one-way street. There is a two-way covenant here. I have to respond through faith in His word.

Faith is believing His Word to the point that I take action on it. *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness* (2 Peter 3:11). It will cause us to depart from iniquity.

What is it that people hope for? Have you ever seen people in the line at the convenience store buying the scratch tickets? They hope for a bright future and happiness. But our hopes need to have substance, something that will back them up. If there is not

substance, it is vain and empty. It's an empty hope of brighter days if God's not in it! Don't put your *trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy* (1 Tim. 6:17). "Uncertain riches" can *make themselves wings and fly away* (Prov. 23:5). Trust in the Lord. The Lord is able—and will, supply our needs if we put our trust in Him.

Faith is under attack today. Why has the enemy set his sights on that? Because it is our foundation. The enemy is trying to undermine our dependence on God. It's a credit-card age—a 'charge it' age. It can put us in a place where we're handicapped.

## *Hope of brighter days without God is an empty hope!*

Trust in God! It is a vain thing to put our trust in this world. Our trust is in the Lord. We won't have to be confounded and put to shame. Our God is a God of all circumstances. (Jer. 3:23) Even when it looks like everything is stacked against you, trust the Lord.

David warned Goliath that his trust was in a vain thing. David wasn't trusting in his own strength. (1 Sam. 17:45) He was putting his trust in the name of the Lord God. He came into it with a boldness and a confidence that was not his own. We are children of God. I can come in confidence knowing it is God's will. "Lord, I'm asking you for healing, but my faith is in You regardless. I know it is God's will for me to have victory over the devil. It is not a vain hope.

To the man that thinks he stands . . . "Thirty years I'm a minister," look out! As soon as we put our trust in something other than the Lord God, it's a vain hope.

If we put our trust in the Lord, it's not a vain thing to say, "Brighter days are ahead." Hold true. Hold fast. *Lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh* (Luke 21:28b). ☺

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# TRUTH

“Buy the truth and sell it not. . .” Truth is absolute. It is essential to our spiritual success. Why? Because truth is our foundation, like light on the path of life. It will direct us in the right way. Without it we would have no absolutes. We would fall into darkness, confusion, and uncertain paths. What is truth? “. . . Thy word is truth.” God's word is truth, and it is solid. We can stand on it and be assured of being successful in our journey to Heaven!

“Buy the truth. . .” Invest in it! It is like gold or other precious metals, but it has eternal value. It will not fade away. It cannot be destroyed. We need to do all that we can to obtain it. And when we get the truth, we must hold fast to it because it is our lifeline. Truth will stand forever, and it will cause us to stand. We must not let go. We must not “sell” it.

Many people have sold the truth for the pleasures of this life. They do not realize the value of truth. Some have “. . . changed the truth of God into a lie.” What a dangerous state to be in! Without the truth, we open ourselves up to deception. It is sad to see people who once had the truth, invested in it, then turn from it to engage in worldly pleasures; who sold it to “enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” **These dear ones are not realizing that time is swiftly fading away!** May we be stirred to “SELL IT NOT!”

“Buy the truth, and sell it not.” It is essential to our spiritual success. -Sis. Doris Clay ☞

Bible Lessons 8/13/23 [www.churchofgodeveninglight.com/bible-lessons/](http://www.churchofgodeveninglight.com/bible-lessons/)

## Prayer Meeting Night *Excerpts*

*I know whom I have believed,  
and He is able to keep that I  
have committed. . .*

What matters to us **does** matter to Him.  
He knows what we want. *Sometimes, we don't even  
know how to put it into words.* It's that deep yearning  
that doesn't even have to be spoken for the Lord to hear  
it! I'm so thankful.

How we care for  
something we've paid  
a great price for! What can  
I do to preserve and protect it?  
I think the Lord has that same  
care and tenderness for  
us. He's the one that's able to  
take care of me.

*Grace is when  
God gives us good things  
we don't deserve.*

What if it's meant to be that we are given  
more than we can handle – so that we can  
be more dependent? Maybe there's not any-  
thing I can do to change the circumstances,  
but I felt quiet calmness that He was going to  
help me. I came into the sanctuary and  
felt such peace.

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the  
power of his might” (Eph. 6:10).  
*That's a very safe place to be!*

If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can fight these battles and win the victory. We have to get serious. We can't just say a fleeting prayer now and then. There are battles to fight and fair trophies to win.

*When the Lord puts His finger on something for me . . . One time the Lord gave me an ultimatum, “All right you need to choose!” At some point He expects a decision to be made. Child, after you have known God, “How turn ye again to the weak and beggarly” things? (Gal. 4:9). Move past those things and totally sever the cord. Don't keep a tether on it – a long string. We've got to be able to cut ties to those things and move on. ☞*

## Healing Aids Mission Effort in Africa

**Africa Mission & Beyond** (August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

*“I would appreciate prayer for Rene. She woke up this morning sick. She is nauseous, weak, and has a headache with chills. She is still sick tonight.”*

**Africa Mission & Beyond** (August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

*“Last night I felt very much like I was getting malaria. Every time I woke, I felt so bad and prayed God would help me. The last time I woke at morning time, I knew God had touched me, and though I was weak, I was able to attend the meeting again.” (Rene Smith)*

## Having *Violent* Faith


[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #9104 Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Bob Wilson 2023-08-20

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Heb.11:6). The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force (Matt. 11:12). The kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it (Luke 16:16).*

Repentance is actually a violent act of faith, laying hold of God and things He has for us. The devil tries to work a spirit of unbelief in us. I think there are things we have to press against in our lives to touch Jesus.

*Who against hope believed in hope. . . And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform (Rom. 4:18-21).*

Abraham looked beyond his own self. He looked beyond what he could see. Sarah was past the childbearing age. God allows our faith to be tested. We must keep our focus on Him and not on our weaknesses. We limit God sometimes in what He wants to do. We limit God sometimes because of unbelief.

“Hope against hope,” that's pretty challenging words. Our circumstances can sometimes cause our faith to waiver. We want to be strong in faith. *What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them* (Mark 11:24). I know there are some things we ask for that are not good spiritually for us, but He wants to fill our lives with His strength and help. Hebrews 4:16 says: *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace.* This “boldly” coincides with the word “violent.” There is a battle in your mind battling fear and unbelief. We want to come to Him in faith, diligently seek Him, and believe Him. 

## Meekness

“Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up” (1 Cor.13:4). Love and humility go hand in hand. It is through love we are to be servants one of another. “Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness” (Eph. 4:1-2). Plod along in your life’s vocation quietly and contentedly, envying no man. The little word “all” gives this great depth of meaning. “All lowliness” signifies perfect freedom from any wish that your lot in life be any other than that in which God has

placed you. It means perfect contentment. “All meekness” means perfect freedom from any desire for revenge and from any spirit of retaliation—a perfect forbearance. It is a patience so deep that no trial nor vexing thing can get to the bottom of it. A humble man feels no envy. Others may rise higher and higher in social life, but he plods on sweetly contented with his lowly station.

Man cannot of himself be humble. Such is our helplessness. It is true we are commanded to humble ourselves. So are we commanded to

repent and to have faith, but we are dependent upon the Spirit of God that we may keep these commands. It is only by the aid of the Holy Spirit that we can humble ourselves. We can have true inward feelings of humility only as they are given by the Spirit of God.

Last evening while I was in secret devotion, there came into my heart such a sense of nothingness as to seem to blot me out of existence. I saw, too, how awfully vile, sinful, and corrupt I would be without the atonement of Christ.

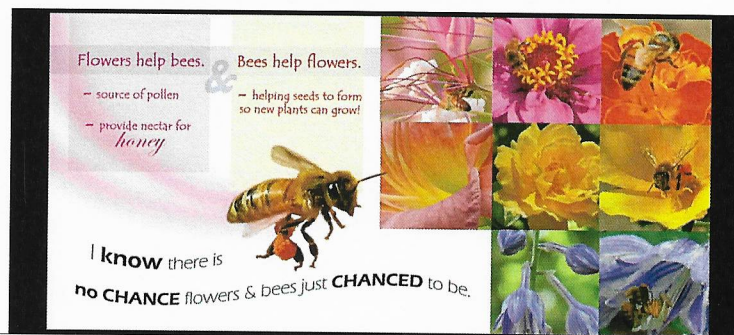
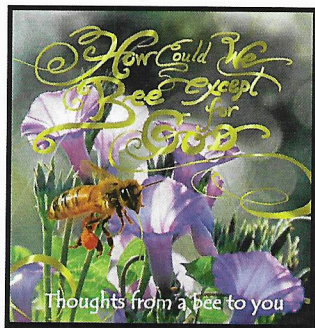
The Hidden Life or Walks with God by C. E. Orr

<https://www.churchofgodeveninglight.com/.../The-Hidden...>

Inviting you to view on YouTube a recording of the book:

**How Could We Bee Except for God**-Thoughts from a bee to you

<https://m.youtube.com/@jpatricedoolittle>



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

Dec 22-31 2023 Guthrie, OK Assembly Mtg.  
Dec 27-31 2023 Pacoima, CA Assembly Mtg.  
March 22-31, 2024 Thyau, Germany Mtg.

May 24-June 2, 2024 Guthrie, OK Campmeeting  
June 30-July 7, 2024 Loranger, LA Campmeeting  
July 19-28, 2024 Monark Springs Campmeeting

**Before planning travel, check the website for the most up-to-date information.**

# ILLEGAL PASSIONS

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Ed Wilson Prague, OK 9-10-23

In a manner of speaking, that tree in the Garden of Eden is still with everyone of us. It's true Eve found out a whole lot more than she wanted to know. They got in trouble with God! If you and I handle the opportunities God sets before us in the wrong way, then we are going to be ashamed in His presence. If you and I abuse the chances the Lord gives us, we're not going to have an answer when we come to the judgment.

I go to worship services because I want my soul to go the right way.

Lust is the most selfish passion that there is. It just wants something no matter what it costs someone else. Fornication, concupiscence (covetously wanting something that doesn't belong to them) - these bring so much misery in the world. **The thing that enables men to keep their hearts pure is the grace of God.**

Flee fornication! You can't stand toe to toe with it! You can't win. Get away from it. Don't create any opening for it. Let's build walls to protect ourselves. Keep innocent and holy. This kind of sin will separate you from family and home. The devil has the whole world swept up with it today! The Lord wants His people to be free from all of that!

WHEN YOU COME TO THE "TREE,"  
INSTEAD OF SEEING HOW CLOSE YOU CAN  
BE, STAY AWAY FROM IT.

The devil wants to get images in our

minds. It will defile everything around you!  
THANK GOD FOR THE SAVING GRACE OF GOD  
THAT CAN KEEP YOU. I've only got one heart,  
and I've already given it away to Jesus.

It's wrong for a man to entertain lustful feelings in his heart for something that does not belong to him. Even if a woman is unmarried, it belongs to her future and to the Lord. Any time a person gets low on grace, whatever their weakness is, will show up.

It is wrong to excite passions that are illegal. There are tools the devil uses to arouse illegal

desires. Women have the capability to draw a man.

The inward beauty of salvation, that's what makes a person glow. Have purity and holiness in your heart. The Lord wants you to be careful what you put on your fingernails, your hair, and what you put on your feet. The Lord wants sisters to look attractive, neat and prepared. The Lord wants you to handle your vessel in sanctification and honor, not in concupiscence. It seems today, our world almost looks pagan . . . bizarre. There is a spirit that can be in all of that.

We are not called to uncleanness but unto holiness. The world despises that today. "He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God"(1 Thess. 4:8). ❧

. . . instead of  
seeing how close  
you can be . . .



Facebook Link: [https://fb.watch/n35YR\\_kBKK/?mibextid=NnVzG8](https://fb.watch/n35YR_kBKK/?mibextid=NnVzG8)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/live/V2ZH5QqIPho?si=OEN7UsXGISEIQIrc](http://www.youtube.com/live/V2ZH5QqIPho?si=OEN7UsXGISEIQIrc)

Fair questions deserve fair answers. By the help of the Lord, I want to address the question: Should a Christian woman wear dresses and skirts in public versus wearing a pair of pants? Everything that we teach should be founded on the word of God.

It has been a practice of women professing godliness to wear a loose fitting garment such as a robe in Bible times, or a skirt, or a dress for hundreds of years in the Judeo-Christian heritage. Some would point to other cultures, but why would we be interested in pointing to a pagan culture or a culture that is not following God as an example for us to follow today?

#### **4 Point FOUNDATION:**

##### **1. Our purpose should be in every area of life TO PLEASE GOD.**

*1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

For men and woman alike, everything that we wear should be for the glory of God. If it's not for the glory of God, and it's for our glory, the Lord would have us lay that thing aside. Are we wanting to please God, or ourselves?

##### **2. We have to BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES.**

It takes honesty to expose one's motivations. If someone wants to do something their way, they can take almost any scripture they want and twist it a little bit to prove their point.

##### **3. Holiness is A CONDITION OF THE HEART.**

*Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.* Holiness is purity. If you sit on a park bench and look around you, do you see holiness as a whole? Do you see purity? If a person's heart is pure and holy, why would they want to wear something – whether they're a man or a woman – that could illicit lust in someone else, or something that is revealing their body to someone? All of us need to dress in a way that someone does not have to turn their head away because of impurity that we are portraying to them.

*Matthew 23:26 . . . cleanse first that which is within . . . that the outside of them may be clean also.* If holiness is in our heart, it also should be on the outward appearance. Just because someone is

measured to some outward standard of modesty does not make them holy and pure. We want to be in conformity to Christ. I want the fullness of the truth.

**4. Our focus should always be MORE ON THE HEART than it is the outward appearance** because character is always more important than the outward appearance. If the heart is not right, the outward standards and works will be in vain. People that use an outward standard to hide unrighteousness are hypocrites.

(How long has it been since you have heard a lesson that was just focused on dress and the outward person? Maybe people don't understand it because we need to teach more on it.)

There are cultural and generational changes that take place. I don't see any of the sisters here wearing a robe. Differences and changes are fine as long as they are still in conformity to what the Bible teaches. We aren't perpetuating dressing like they did in the time of Christ, nor like they did in the 1880's, nor the 1960's. Our benchmark is the word of God. As our world gets more and more evil, there is going to be a greater and greater difference between how we live, act, and look, and the society around us.

#### **4 FACTOR ANSWER:**

(Scriptural, Historical, Cultural and Religious)

##### **SCRIPTURAL:**

*1 Timothy 2:9-10 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

*Shamefacedness.* The way a woman dresses and conducts herself shows respect for someone else. Her demeanor is to be reflective of the humility and holiness of Christ – not trying to draw attention to oneself.

*Sobriety.* Adorn yourself in a way that does not excite or draw on the lust of someone else. For example, a miniskirt is showing something off. Also, a slit in a skirt was intended to draw the eye. A long slit in a long skirt can almost tend to be more immodest than just having on a shorter skirt.



*And not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.* God wants our whole being to be reflective of simplicity, holiness and godliness in every way in which we adorn ourselves.

*Modest apparel.* Based on a study of the original Greek words, this means a modest, decent, orderly garment that is let down, long, loose and flowing. *(Please reference the entire lesson online for the more in depth word study of this verse)*

God made Adam and Eve coats and clothed them.

### **HISTORICAL:**

*Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.*

It was not really until the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the western world that women began wearing pants. During the world wars, when their husbands were gone to war, women left their homes and began to work in the factories, and some of them started wearing pants on the job. There was a big push in the feminist movement to put on pants and to leave their role as homemakers; it was a breakdown of God's appointed roles in the home and in society. There is a saying, "Who wears the pants in the family?" The Lord still placed a man to be the head of the home. I'm not talking about women and men being unequal.

If change happens, we need to ask ourselves, "What's prompting the change?" Is the change going to interfere with what the Bible teaches? I don't see homes being happier. I don't see families prospering more. There is a place of following the godly, biblically defined roles. For almost 6,000 years in the Judeo-Christian heritage, women wore robes, long dresses and skirts, and it was only in the last 100 years that all of a sudden skirts or dresses just weren't practical to wear.

### **CULTURAL:**

There are very clear gender roles that God gave. Biblically, historically and culturally, men and women are different, and do you see what's happening in our

world today on that? People are trying to make gender a choice. Our society that is growing so evil is what has brought about the change in women's dress as well as many other changes.

*I Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, Nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

These verses talk about a man not being effeminate. The same thing applies to a woman, not to be masculine. Our society today recognizes a woman that is wearing a modest dress as a lady and as portraying holiness. Our first impressions are formed by what we see.

### **RELIGIOUS:**

*Romans 12:2 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.*

Let's not be conformed to the world nor drawn in to what's motivating the changes in the dress, but let us go back to what the Word of God teaches. Is it sober, shamefaced, modest apparel; is it orderly; does it cover; or does it excite?

There is a natural desire to want to look nice. I hope you do. There's a difference in wanting to look nice and in being prideful and following after something that is not modest. Sisters who follow after a pattern of godliness, there is a beauty found in them that is not found out in the world. God will beautify the meek with salvation. There is nothing more beautiful than a woman that is following after the way of holiness in humility and godliness. There is a shine to the face. There is an innocence. There is a glory because of the presence of God. Holiness is beautiful.

If anyone does not understand, if you approach the Lord with openness and honesty, I believe He will lead you in the right path. ☺

## **FOCUS on JESUS A Voice from the Past**

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #9136 Bro. Austin McMillan Neosho, MO 1993-09-19

Jesus is the only one that can help us. Dear ones, He has all power. He came and made of Himself of no reputation. He has power unlimited. *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth* (Matt. 28:18). It is He that we will meet when this life is over. Today, so much of the commandments of men are being substituted for the Word of God. He wants us to realize we weren't redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold. It was His desire that we would be partakers of His Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to get quiet before Him that we might hear His voice. As long as time is left, dear ones,

**Jesus is still going to be in command.**

## NO OTHER GODS

Edited excerpts of message by Sis. Angela Gellenbeck #9146 Junction City, KY 2023-09-10

When Jesus was asked, He said, "Thou shalt love the Lord with all thine heart." I hear of people that are looking to something other than God. In a very real way, in their lives, they are setting up other gods. There is no need to look for someone else for help. *Unto thee lift I up mine eyes* (Ps. 123:1).

*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the*

*living God* (Heb. 3:12). In cults, in *New Age* and humanistic beliefs, there is revival of ancient gods. It is anti-christ; it is a spirit and has worked in ancient religions all down through the years. It is revived, and it is still deceitful.

*Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many* (Matt. 24:11).

*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the*

*world* (1 John 4:1).

*And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold* (Matt. 24:12). You see this word, *iniquity*, many times in the Old Testament referring to idol worship.

Cling alone to Jesus. Be steadfast to the end. Keep a heart of belief in God, Who *is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him* (Heb. 11:6b).

## SPIRITS

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. James Bell at Monark Springs, MO 07-24-1992

I believe all of us would agree that we each have a spirit, and that we have to be careful with our spirits and what we do with it – how we conduct ourselves to keep that spirit pure and in tune with our Maker. I believe we have the Word of the Lord to help us keep in tune with the Spirit of God.

We have a battle on our hands, as there are a lot of spirits in the world, and many of them are out of line with the Word of God.

We read about the swine being infected by all those spirits that went into them. That is possible. The devil doesn't like to walk in dry places. He doesn't like to walk in the air. We realize that the prince of the power of the air is working, but what does he work through? What is his vehicle? It is living things.

There is a similarity in spirits, meaning there are like spirits. I am thinking of how the Lord has a way of gathering His people together. They have a like spirit. There is something common between them. Their spirits blend. This is something that the devil has in his kingdom also. There are like spirits that blend, and they are very strong. I am glad for the verse, .... "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." The weakest one of God's children is well able to conquer the spirit of the devil. We are able, by God's help, to overcome the spirit of the

devil. It is sure that he is entrenched in a lot of folks' lives. But I believe that the weakest of the weakest is able to call on the name of Jesus, rebuke the spirit of the devil, and have victory over him. I have seen it happen many times, and I believe it.

There are spirits that we can catch. There are different means of travel they go through. We need to guard ourselves. There is an unseen world that we deal with. May God help us and open up our eyes to be able to detect the spirit of the devil, to be able to see where he is moving.

Dear ones, it is important for you and me to see and know what we are up against, because we are up against an enormous task. It is going to take the Spirit of the Lord to help us to keep our spirit in line with God as we go along our journey in life. We must keep ourselves pure and holy, and we are going to need the Lord's help to do that. He is the only one who can put a special vision and discernment in our hearts, minds, and spirits to detect what is wrong.

We have the Word of God that will help us to identify and to be able to annihilate the working of the spirit of the devil. The Lord helps me to see things moving in the bush before I even get there. You need that in your spiritual life. If you don't see something moving in the bush up ahead of you, you can get

snared and be trapped. May God help us!

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

Jesus said that in the last days it would be as in the days of Noah; there would be people marrying and giving in marriage. Call it an adulterous generation. We are in an adulterous generation. People have adulterous spirits. They are rampant in the land. Guard yourself. Be very careful. Adulterous spirits are lurking around, and come right among us many times. What are we going to do? If I told you to just set back and relax, I would be failing your soul. I am telling you to beware. They take no respect for anyone, or anybody. Listen, God has designed our souls to be full. He has designed our spirits to be satisfied in Him. When we are not and our spirit dwindles and withers, pretty soon there is a vacuum. When that vacuum is created, don't think for one minute that Satan is not aware of it. If you give an adulterous, or lustful spirit, any room in your life, that thing will get a hold of you.

Put a tag on the devil. If we could clothe him tonight and you could see him better, I believe you would know better how to fight him. Young people, I want to warn you. You be careful what you get your hands on and what you see with your eyes. Many homes are wrecked by people, by young boys, getting a hold of the wrong material. It will filter right in through our campground gates. It will get right in among us, in our congregations. It will get right in your home. Be careful. Oh, be careful! You don't know what that will do to you. There are many people tonight who are struggling. I know some who are far away from God because they started going to the movies when they were little and started looking at things they shouldn't have seen. Somebody passed something to them, and they saw it, and it influenced them. I want to tell you, that spirit is a damaging, damnable thing. God help your soul to shun everything that looks like wrong which you may even see lying on the street. It is everywhere. There are wicked people in this world exploiting women and young children, and they will go to every length, every description of evil. Be careful that your mind doesn't get polluted with that. It will cause you trouble. May

God help us to keep our eyes on the Lord, not to let our eyes be wandering, not to let our minds be wandering and allow an old lustful spirit to get hold of us. I can't overestimate the power of a lustful spirit. If you have things in your home, if you have something tucked away under the bed, and if you are hiding something, you're going to have trouble getting victory with God. You get rid of that thing. Get it out of your life – out of your house, wherever it is.

There is a spiritual surgery that God can do to help you and me to cut off the avenues and the inlets that are letting those things come into our lives. The Lord wants us to help Him do this. If your hand is the means of communication, or the traveler, or the vehicle, you stop that thing. Get yourself in control to the point that you don't go by those things, and you don't look at them, and you don't do those things anymore. You must stop the line to it. What happens when you cut off the food source to something? It dies.

When Paul was commending Timothy, he said, "There was something in your grandmother, and there was something in your mother, and it's in you also." Isn't that wonderful? But you know that the opposite can take place and very often does. "That was in your grandmother or your grandfather. That was in your dad or your mom, and that's the reason it's in you." The spirit of pride is out of line.

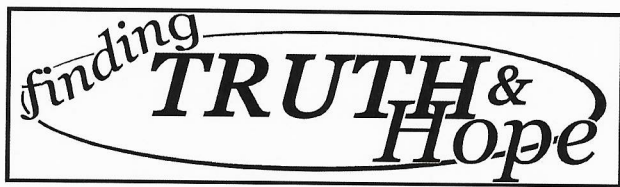
Proud spirits—we can feed that thing. If you feed it, you are going to have something on your hands, a huge monster that you are not going to know how to handle.

Many times we wonder, "Oh Lord, why can't I get victory over this old thing? It just keeps bothering me and hounding me." It's because you are feeding it. You say, "You're wrong. I don't have one of those type of spirits." Well, maybe you have an envious spirit. Maybe you have a jealous spirit. Those things are spirits, too. Don't think they're not; they will cause you trouble.

A self-righteous spirit is a tough one to deal with. Jesus dealt with self-righteous people in His time, didn't He? He dealt with folks who thought they had it all. They were the very ones who killed Him. A self-righteous spirit has no place in the body of Christ. It is out of line; it is out of balance, and it is causing you trouble. It is causing you to have a defeated life.

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**Many times we wonder, "Oh Lord, why can't I get victory over this old thing? It just keeps bothering me and hounding me." It's because you are feeding it.**



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Now **FAITH** is  
the **substance** of things *hoped for*,  
the **evidence** of things *not seen* (Heb. 11:1)

Page 2

**ILLEGAL PASSIONS**

Page 7

*(continuing from pg 11)*

What do we read in I John? **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God."** A self-righteous spirit seeks to exalt itself. You will notice every time that it is just about a notch above everybody else. It has more light, more understanding, more wisdom, more of everything.

There are also several other spirits in the world. In 1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly," (That means very clearly, very distinctly.) "that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." There are many spirits out there. There are seducing spirits; there are unclean spirits. I was reading in the book of Mark how many different unclean spirits Jesus cast out of people. Let me tell you, there are still unclean spirits in the world, seducing spirits.

If you have been around Missouri you have probably seen a billboard that advertises Coors, with an indecent picture on it. One day I drove by and saw

that, and it was just like, behind it, there was a devil with a spear. I saw something further than the lustful thing that was there on the billboard. It was the devil, and everyone falling into his clutches is going to be caught. He is saying to you, "Look at this, lust after it, and I'll get a hold on you. I'll get a spirit in you which you won't be able to handle." How do spirits convey? Where are they? They are in people, and they are also in the air. There are many things, many spirits, in the unseen world. God help us to stay clear, to keep our spirits in line.

We have to be careful that we stay in tune with the Maker, that we can detect when something is out of line. Religious spirits can come in all kinds of clothing. The devil doesn't take preference who he works through either. He can work through any vehicle that gives him room.

The Lord wants to help us to be true with ourselves. If we are out of line with the Spirit of God, the Lord wants to line us up. He wants to help keep us in line, and if we are willing. He will do just that. 