

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Dr. Hornberg went on to state that the first key to this tremendous nerve energy, and capacity to keep calm amid a million murmuring, stubborn, rebellious people, is found in Hebrews 11:27: "For he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." He kept his eyes (Hebrews 12:2), and his mind (Isaiah 26:3) fixed on Jesus. He believed God was guiding his life in every particular. So there was no need for fear or worry. "Jesus is the first law presented in our lesson under Nerves," he observed. And added, "I say it is a good law. What do you say, friends?"

The men replied almost in unison, "Amen."

"The Prophet Isaiah was another man," Dr. Hornberg continued, "who was living in a time of tremendous conflict. He was called of the Lord to prophesy of the final desolation of the earth (Isaiah 24), the siege of Jerusalem, judgment on Zion's foes, and the curse on Assyria. He lived at the time of the siege of Jerusalem. He was there when 185,000 soldiers were slain by an angel in a single night. He was commanded to tell of Babylon's complete overthrow, the Messiah's suffering and death, and the rejection of the Jews. Tradition has it that Isaiah was martyred by being sawn asunder.

"But in the midst of his book, Isaiah gives the prime secret of the prevention of a 'nervous break.' Here it is, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee' (Isaiah 26:3). Isaiah is called 'The Gospel Prophet' because he was always pointing to Jesus. He believed God was guiding him. And that kept him free from worry or corroding care.

"So the law of Jesus is the first law for frayed nerves to be Christ-centered instead of creature-centered."

Dr. Hornberg observed that in the lesson, Pastor See had mentioned that he himself had almost had a nervous break at one time. The main cause--creature-centeredness. Pastor See had suggested in the lesson that it is not enough to be a good man. We must be Christ-centered men.

The Patriarch David: Dr. Hornberg said that David had enough troubles with King Saul alone to make him a "nervous wreck." But he found the answer, and placed it in Psalm 16:11. "In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." His psalms cry out repeatedly, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3).

The Apostle Paul: "If any one were ever justified," said Dr. Hornberg, "in having a 'nervous breakdown,' it would have been the Apostle Paul. He records that he had been 'in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches' (2 Corinthians 11: 23-28).

"Now," continued Dr. Hornberg, "we will let the great Apostle Paul tell us what kept him from succumbing to some nerve disorder. Here we read: '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 set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds' (Hebrews 12:2, 3).

"So if by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, we receive strength, sustenance, and nerve energy to carry on; then turning our eyes from Jesus will bring disintegration, both of nerves and of courage and strength that only Christ can provide. The Apostle Paul knew whom he believed, and was persuaded that God could, and would, take care of him until his work was done."

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"Now we come to the law of Faith," continued Dr. Hornberg. "Faith, reduced to its simplest term is, 'looking to Jesus.' 'The weak should therefore look to Jesus, and believe in Him; they then exercise faith' (Early Writings, page 73)."

Dr. Hornberg quoted from one of his favorite authors, "Faith is trusting God." "It was confidence in Jesus," Dr. Hornberg pointed out, "that gave these Bible heroes courage, calmness, endurance, and strength. Paul summed it up when he wrote: 'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28). Paul had faith in Jesus Christ. It was Moses' faith in Christ that made him choose 'rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season' (Hebrews 11 :25).

"Therefore, the first two laws presented in the lesson--Jesus and Faith--are deterrents to nerve exhaustion, and other nerve disorders.

"It is this faith that God is guiding us," continued Dr. Hornberg, "that makes us able to follow the example of the Apostle Paul. He said, 'We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us' (Romans 5:3-5).

"Here"" added Dr. Hornberg, "we have spoken joy even in trouble. Then we find hope. We find love. They are all in the faith, or knowledge, that our Lord is in charge of our lives.

"It was the Apostle James, also, who, by the inspiration of God, commanded the followers of the Lord, 'Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing' (James 1:2, 3). And since we know that the purpose of trial is to perfect patience, and we know that only a patient people will go home with Jesus (Revelation 14:12), we should be thankful Jesus is willing to fit us up to be with Him, even though it involves severe trials, at times. We must remember, 'I can do all things through Christ' (Philippians 4:13).

Joy: "The Apostle Paul was caught up, as we all know, to the third heaven. He had revelations of Christ. In Christ he found faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Paul also presents a joy program. It is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 and 18: 'Rejoice evermore.' And, 'In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.' And again, 'Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice' (Philippians 4:4).

"There are approximately 826 texts of Scripture commanding, enjoining, or recommending joy, thanksgiving, praise to God. It is a therapy. The wise man says, 'A merry heart doeth good like a medicine' (Proverbs 17:22). So joy and thanksgiving are Scriptural medicines--not merely for nerves, but for the entire being."

Dr. Crouch voiced a few comments. "Dr. Womberg and I came over together in his car this morning," he began. "As we were discussing this lesson, we both agreed that the author is not suggesting that there are not physical aspects to the problem of nerves. This is why the lesson suggests such natural remedies as walking, or other physical exercise, each day in the open air, while breathing in deeply of oxygen-laden air. It is well, also, to drink around eight glasses of pure water daily. There are also, other physical 'musts.' But the strong power of the mind over the body is almost beyond calculation.

"A Negative mind" said Dr. Crouch, "can be responsible for creating enough poisons in the human body to actually destroy the life forces, unless these poisons could be expelled through the natural eliminatory processes. There are volumes written about diseases, wholly or in part, caused by the negative mind. I, therefore, strongly second the recommendation of Dr. Hornberg, and the lesson of the morning."

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Ten-point Program

"I would like to strongly recommend," continued Dr. Crouch, "the ten-point program of giving thanks which is brought to view in this lesson. There are several of us medical doctors who have for years followed this type of therapy. And I understand Dr. Hornberg particularly recommends it. We have found it to be excellent in many cases of common nervousness. This program is given to help us educate our minds and lips to speak God's praises."

Because of a telephone emergency call, Drs. Hornberg and Crouch asked to be excused. Homer Mudd exclaimed, "Well, those are amazing facts to me! I never realized the place Jesus has in the preservation of nerves.

And then simple faith in Him. I now recall that Psalm 71: 5 states that He is our hope. So looking to Jesus brings faith. And He is our hope. The Bible says, 'God is love.' With Jesus, faith, hope, love, and joy the Psalmist tells about, we have five of the laws together."

Choice and Humility

"But what part, if any, would choice and humility have in connection with these nerve disorders, would you say, fellows?" Homer asked.

The fellows were all thinking. However, before anyone could answer, Roger Weir asked to speak. "I have an added thought on Jesus and faith. As Jesus and faith are related, so also are Satan and doubt. 'When men yield their hearts to unbelief, they place themselves under the control of Satan, and none can tell to what lengths he will lead them' (Patriarchs and Prophets, page 389).

"So I can see, fellows, how important it is for us to refrain from entertaining negatives like doubt, suspicion, envy, malice, et cetera.

James Neal added, "And I was reading a few weeks ago in a book entitled Our Jerusalem, where Mrs. Anna Spafford, wife of the author of that comforting hymn, 'It Is Well with My Soul,' declared, though brokenhearted at the loss of their four little daughters in shipwreck in the Atlantic, that she would say, 'God is love' until she believed it!

"So I believe our actual vocal communication of faith, of hope, of love, of joy is rewarded by receiving more faith, more love, more hope, more joy."

Henry Work added, "Regarding the laws of Choice and Humility in connection with nerve disorders, I would like to state that I listened to a tape recording some time ago. It was the experience of a church elder, a Mr. Wolf. He was a member of a Church Council.

"One day something came up in the Council that did not agree with Mr. Wolf's thinking. He turned against the entire Church Council--Pastor and all. In other words, he broke the law of Choice, in not permitting the elected officers of the church to prayerfully make their choices. He felt that his judgment was better than that of the entire Church Council. So he broke both laws; Choice and Humility.

"It was not long afterward that he was committed to the State Institution. I could not say to what degree his breaking the laws of Choice and Humility had to do with his being committed to the institution, but I do know that someone has observed that the purest joy springs from the deepest humility."

"Could you tell me, did Mr. Wolf ever find a cure for his disorder?"

"Yes," replied Henry Work, "he went to Arizona when he was released from the State Institution. While there, he heard Pastor See give three studies on nerves. Mr. Wolf listened in rapt attention. But his nervous condition was such that he could not at first fully grasp what the pastor was presenting.

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"The pastor stated that God permits trials to come to us to perfect patience. (See James 1:2 and 3.) This is what our lesson brings out. But then we know God expects us to demonstrate faith in Him who gave His Son to die for us. God commands us to 'count it all joy' when we fall into different temptations. We are actually to 'glory in tribulation' (Romans 5:3), as Dr. Hornberg pointed out a few moments ago.

"Pastor See brought out in these studies the truth that God promises to dwell in the praises of His people. (See Psalm 22:3.) When Christ comes into our lives, He brings His life. So practicing joy can bring health to frustrated nerves. (See 1 John 5:10-12.)

"After a few days, Mr. Wolf sought an interview with Pastor See. He and his wife needed more guidance. The pastor had suggested a Joy therapy. It works like this: "The first thing in the morning, you make a list of ten things for which you should be thankful; such as, air, eyesight, hearing, Jesus, forgiveness, heaven, home, clothing, etc. Then to follow a kind of therapy all through the day by taking each one of these ten words and making it into a sentence. For example, take the word 'air' on our list. We would turn this into a sentence; like, 'Thank You, Lord, for the air.' One of the Scriptures Pastor See quoted to prove there is strength in the practicing of this praise therapy was Nehemiah 8:10, 'The joy of the Lord is your strength.' From this text Pastor See set up the following equation: The Lord + spoken joy = strength.

So it has been found helpful to take each word in the 'Thank You' list, composing it into a sentence with the word 'Lord' in it. Also, each sentence will have thanksgiving in it. And naturally, the result will be exactly what the Bible promises--strength.

"Mr. Wolf just could not comprehend how so simple a formula could work such wonders. But he decided to make an attempt at doing it. So he sat down and tried hard to make a list of ten things for which he was thankful. But he just could not think of more than six things!

"Then he went to the pastor for more counsel. The pastor asked to see his list. One item was his farm. The pastor asked him if he did not have many things on that farm for which he was thankful also. It then occurred to Mr. Wolf that he had scores of things on that farm he could have included in his 'Thank You' list. These might include the fine spring, the spacious barn, the tractor and other machinery, cattle, hay, the comfortable house, etc.

"Then Mr. Wolf had another item listed: 'Health.' The pastor explained to him that he could also multiply this item many times over. For example; why not thank the Lord he did not have leprosy, cancer, smallpox, T. B., and on and on.

"Mr. Wolf began to see the light. So every morning he made a list of ten things for which he was thankful. Still nothing happened to better his condition. It was then that he invited Pastor and Mrs. See to his home for lunch. While the ladies were preparing the meal, Mr. Wolf brought up the subject again. He frankly admitted to Pastor See that the therapy did not work for him.

"Then it was that Pastor See got through to him that each morning after making a new ten-point list, instead of laying it up on the shelf, he was to carry it with him all through the day. His work for the day had just begun with the writing of the list. After that, he was to make a sentence out of each word. 'Thank You, Lord, for air.' 'Thank You, Lord, for eyesight.' 'Thank You, Lord, for hearing.'

"Pastor See explains that if one wants an abundance of God's strength for his nerves, he make three sentences out of each of the ten words. They would go something like this:

"Air:

1. Thank You, Lord for the air.
2. Suppose I was being smothered and could not breathe.

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Word was getting around and more miracles were taking place throughout the church. Patsy Frost had rededicated her life to the Lord, and was a teacher in the kindergarten division. Bill Crouch, Jr. was now one of the assistant youth leaders at the Friday night gatherings. His testimonies of thanksgiving to Jesus were humble and sincere. And Clarine Manning was one of the happiest girls in Pierce Arrow as her friendship with Jimmy Morehead advanced in the direction of permanency.

Hope was springing up everywhere. Communication was being established with those who had lost their way. And there was a close-knit fellowship in church committees.

Now some of the groups were about to begin the study of Lesson No. 8. Tuesday morning Dr. Crouch and Dr. Hornberg were discussing the coming lesson, and felt that special emphasis should be placed on its message. Leslie Manning and his wife, Ruth, had felt the same urge. Others were hinting a similar sentiment to one another. It was, that if these seven laws of communication could assist so mightily in curing the ills of the family, in particular, why could not they have been employed before the problem arose? Should not specific instruction to prevent some of these evils be underscored by calling a special meeting of the church?

"There are many of our young married couples," Dr. Hornberg remarked, "who may not realize that in a few years they, too, may be seeking counsel and prayer. How much better to prevent some of these problems."

Together, Drs. Crouch and Hornberg slipped over to the home of Sam Yoeman, the head elder, and presented their request.

"I, too, have been praying over the same matter," Sam replied. "I think it is a good idea. And you may have heard," he continued, "that Pastor See is to be in town this coming weekend. Ed and Ann Holly are to be baptized this coming Sabbath afternoon, along with Jack and Patsy Frost, Bill Crouch, Jr., and a few others. It is to be a high day. What would you brethren think if we called a joint meeting of both young and old this coming Friday night? And during this meeting we will encourage anyone to ask Pastor See any questions they might have as to how to help prevent some of these baffling problems from arising in our homes.

"Why don't we announce tomorrow evening at Prayer Meeting that such a gathering will be held, if it meets the minds of the youth leaders?"

Personal Experience

"We could also announce that Pastor See will be invited to give some very personal experiences. We would ask him to tell us why, in his opinion, five out of eight brothers in his own family became ministers. There must be a reason."

"And how about asking him to present this from the angle of The Seven Laws of Communication?" suggested Dr. Crouch.

Dr. Hornberg heartily agreed. "If Pastor See can show that this set of laws, rightly used, can prevent much of the difficulties being experienced today in the church, that would be one of the greatest blessings we could ask for."

Friday night's attendance was large. There was scarcely seating room. An air of expectancy pervaded the gathering. The Singing was joyful and harmonious. The atmosphere congenial. Every face, it seemed, bore an expression of assurance.

The Prayers were short, simple, sincere, and confiding. Bible promises were on the tongues of those who offered the opening prayers. They were humble, spirit-filled, and right to the point. They asked God

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to give wisdom to the speaker, as promised in James 1:5. They also asked that each one might be mindful of the presence of the Unseen Guest Who had promised, 'My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest' (Exodus 33:14). They believed these promises, and accepted them for the evening service.

Vital Question: In introducing the discussion, Sam Yoeman welcomed Pastor See back from his prayer-teaching itinerary. And immediately opened up the topic of the evening. "Pastor See, we have some questions. Among them is, How can some of these crushing problems experienced be prevented? Especially in the home."

Pastor See: "Thank you, Brother Yoeman, for your kind welcome. I am happy to tell you that miracles have also taken place in the lives of many who attended our meetings on this tour. But it is good to be back with the church family for a short time at least. It will be a joy for me to give consideration to the questions which you may ask."

Sam Yoeman: "In these lessons up to now, we have observed that parents are not to tell children anything. They are not to give them instruction when they do not want it.

"The rebellious boy did not want his parents to make decisions for him. Yet, sure enough, when they stopped doing so, and obeyed the other laws, this boy returned home. He is sitting right here tonight. And we are proud of him.

"The young lady was in love with a young man unsuited to her. She did not want to listen to her parents. So they apologized for having made decisions for her which she could have made for herself. This young lady now has a new way of life.

"Like heart-warming experiences have been multiplied lately. Yet your lessons have brought out the thought that obedience should be required of children from their earliest years. And that they should be thoroughly instructed.

"We have met together tonight because many in the church have requested more answers on how to prevent so much rebellion and waywardness. It is for the benefit of preventing these problems before they arise, that we have called this special meeting.

"Now for my question: Is there anything little children want that they should have the privilege of receiving? We know there are many things they ought not to receive, though they beg for them. For instance, too much sweet food, to eat between meals, or too late at night; or to watch certain TV pictures. Is there a positive side to the problem without one being permissive? What could a child naturally want that a parent would be justified in giving him? We can't think of anything. Therefore, if a child can have nothing he wants, how can one keep from rebellion springing up in his heart? Who ever heard of a child wanting the right things?"

Pastor See: "This is an excellent question, Brother Yoeman. I am so happy that so many are here this evening. You are asking a question regarding the Law of Choice.

"As we go into the problem posed tonight, you will all observe that it has many facets, beyond the one law. These seven laws are like the ten commandments in this respect--they are a chain. You break one, and you break all. But going back to your question, Brother Yoeman, as to what children can have as little folk, and get exactly what they ask for.

"Perhaps a second question will aid in answering the first: What do children want, and ask for more than almost anything else? What constitutes a problem to many parents concerning the wants of their children? Will someone give us your thought concerning this?"

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Bruce Ward spoke up quickly, "I think I see, Pastor. What they want is answers."

Pastor See: "Congratulations, Brother Ward. Yes, children are asking questions from their waking moment till they close their eyes at night. From the time they begin to talk, they ask questions. And they continue to ask questions until they arrive in their teens; that is, they continue to ask their parents questions, if they get answers. If they do not get answers, then they go elsewhere. It is up to us as parents to give to our children the answers they seek from us, thus preventing their going to someone else who might give them wrong answers.

"Now, can someone tell us something else children ask for that we have a right and a duty to give them?" Pastor See smiled.

There was a long moment of silence. Then Judy Waters spoke up. "I guess I am one of the youngest of the teenagers here, so I am not too far from childhood. I know what I wanted. I wanted my folk to tell me stories. I never got tired of stories." The group joined in a laugh, filled with wonder, while many countenances wore a puzzled expression.

"Congratulations to you, too, Judy," Pastor See replied. "With the two answers we have received in the last few minutes, it is plain to see that children are asking, asking, asking from their earliest years, until they discover their parents have no time to give them answers! So long as parents obey the laws of communication, they have before them every opportunity to teach, to instruct, to fill the minds of the youth with the very best character-building material available.

Ada Beck spoke up, "Pastor See, did your parents tell you stories? Some have heard that five of the eight brothers became ministers. We are wondering how it came about."

Pastor See: "Yes, Ada. From the time I can remember, my father and mother told us boys stories. One or the other, as I now recall, was sitting on the edge of our bed almost every night, telling one story after another."

Georgia Winn: "What kind of stories did they tell you, Pastor See?"

Pastor See: "They always told us hero stories. Most of them were Bible stories. Some others were of boys and girls, men and women who did right when they were severely tempted to do wrong. Some of them became martyrs for refusing to steal, or commit some other evil deed."

Madeline Manning: "What happened when they ran out of stories, Pastor See?"

Pastor See: "They never ran out, Madeline. My parents purchased books, magazines and periodicals with still more stories in them. They had a periodical when I was a boy entitled 'The Youth's Instructor.' My parents read this to us. There were several volumes of Sabbath Readings for the Home Circle--stories written especially for Sabbath reading. Many Sabbath afternoons, in the summer, we boys stretched out on the front lawn of the old farm house, and listened to Father read first one story, and then another. Father also read stories of Joseph, of Jacob, of Abraham, of Sampson, of Samuel, of David and Goliath, and many, many others from such books as Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings. They read to us from The Desire of Ages. One miracle after another took place in the lives of nearly all the followers of our Lord, as recorded in these books. Another book, Acts of the Apostles, is dramatic. One can not read this book without receiving a new urge to do right.

"But all of these stories contained instruction. And we children were asking for it. There is no better way known today for the instruction of anyone, whether it be child or adult, than to convey it in story form. Jesus did this constantly. He was the greatest teacher the world has ever known. Ever, large multitudes followed Him, eager to hear another story. Don't forget," Pastor See chuckled, "Parents are still the most avid readers of stories!"

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"This, then, is at least a partial answer to the question of children having the privilege of choice, of asking for things that they have a right to receive."

Naomi Crouch arose and said, "This is a new thought to us--at least to me. I never before thought of choice in this respect. Today parents profess to be raising children, and yet they are spending time on everything else in the world except the children. And yet, children are eager to be told. So the children are deprived of the instruction which is a part of these hero stories. And as a result, the children start going the wrong way. Then later, the parents come along and try to give them instruction, and they turn from it. They are saying in their hearts, 'When I wanted you to tell me, you were too busy. Now, I am too busy to be told. Go your way, just as you have been, and I will go mine.' "

Several mothers in the audience almost wept.

Blanch Yarborough arose. "I am utterly amazed!" she exclaimed. "I have been wondering, these seven weeks of study, if we can't tell our children anything, how can we instruct them? Now I see the answer. It is stories, stories, and more stories! Some of us parents have had ten years to saturate our children with character-building stories, but did not realize that these would have been, to a large degree, the answer to Satan's temptations. But no, we were too busy with this problem, and that; with this task, and that. Why didn't someone tell us before! Where have we been!"

Just then a group of young married couples sitting near the front, became intensely engaged in private conversation among themselves. Some were gesturing with their hands, and nodding their heads. One was heard to say, "That is what I am going to do. When my child is born, he will have answers--stories--if I have to spend two hours a day doing it."

Another said, "I am going to do my part of church work, but believe you me, I am not going to take the time my children need for companionship, love and storytelling to go out and work for Dorcas, literature distribution, or anything else. All the other is good, and I will do my part. But why should I rob my own children of the hours of story-telling they deserve each day? Then perhaps when they get into their teens, I will cry for some minister help and be friendly and win them back, after I have driven them away. No, not !!"

Their little discussion was almost distracting. But the import was clear to all. A hearty laugh followed. And when the young couples stopped to realize that they had been talking so loudly that all could hear, they were a bit embarrassed.

Sam Yoeman smiled kindly, and somewhat amusedly consoled, "Never mind. We really do congratulate you young couples for making decisions for your families-to-be." Then he added a bit sadly, "I would give a fortune, if I could live my life over and put into practice this one great and wonderful revelation Pastor See has brought to us this evening. The words of the Master come to my mind: 'What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own family? (Mark 8:36). I trust I have not done violence to the text in adapting it to our discussion."

Helen Mosely asked, "Pastor See, what about faith in your own home? And hope?"

Pastor See: "My mother was ever saturating me with hope. She told me I had a mission to fulfill. That like Moses, like Joseph, like Samuel, God had given me a very special mission. Years later, after I was in the ministry, Mother told me that before we boys were born, she placed her hands on her abdomen, and dedicated us to the work of God. I always believed God had a special work for me to do, because Mother, as I say, all through my childhood, saturated me with that ideal."

Dr. William Crouch arose, and added, "This evening is a revelation to me. I also see in this plan two great blessings. First: When we spend hours answering our children's questions, and filling their minds with

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character-building stories, we have been instructing them without telling them. Second: We have given them companionship. Nothing spells love to a child more than our taking a personal interest in his interests, answering his questions, sharing our time and companionship with him. That is love.

Jack Frost arose, and with some nervousness said: "I see another law that we obey when we enter the story-telling business, if it is done rightly. That is the law of Jesus. Bible stories are God-centered. How could we better lead them to Jesus than by telling stories of Jesus, and of people who were Christ-centered? When our children hear how these people were happy and satisfied in Jesus, they will unconsciously accept Jesus as the problem-solver, the giver of joy and happiness. "

Fred Hayes was on his feet. "I see another law playing a part here, too, folk. The Bible says of the Lord, that in His 'presence is fullness of joy' (Psalm 16:11). That would be a sacred joy. Here, then, is the law of Choice for our children, and also Jesus and sacred Joy."

George Ames spoke; "Where would the law of Humility enter the picture, Pastor See? Would you tell us? Some of us over here can't figure that out."

Pastor See replied; "I can say this, folk, when I was a boy, as I have said many times before, and written in some of our books, my father, after he had read these wonderful stories, and was ready to bow in family prayer, did something I shall never forget. The Holy Spirit had impressed him that that particular day, perhaps, he had been irritable with us boys. He must humble himself before his entire family before he could receive the blessing of God. I have seen him, more than once, fighting a battle with self, whether to apologize to us or not.

"I still remember how my devoted father, on certain occasions, sat struggling in his mind, whether he had the courage to apologize to his own children for his faults. Then he quietly spoke, 'Boys, I made a mistake today. I was cross with some of you. I want to ask you to forgive me.'

"The apologies Father made were the greatest sermons he ever preached to us boys at home. They were equal to any hero stories he ever told. We saw that good men are humble men, and that part of worship is humility. We always equated family worship with personal humility, for that was what was taught us by Father's humble apologies.

"Then Mother followed Father in apology, if she could remember anything she had done wrong that day. And usually it was not difficult to bring to mind. Then we boys followed, each in his turn, from the eldest to the youngest. Before we were through, and ready to pray, usually every one had apologized, whether we could think of something or not."

"The presence of the Holy Spirit was deeply felt. As we united in singing the song "Sweet Hour of Prayer," it seemed that heaven had touched earth, and angels had united their voices with ours in reverent worship."

14: WHY ELIZABETH CURSED HER MOTHER

Would you please tell us, Pastor See, any specific Bible example of story telling, such as you have suggested?" asked Clara Burton.

Pastor See replied; "Yes, Clara. In the book of Joshua, chapter 4, we have the experience of Israel's crossing the river Jordan.

"The Lord commanded that twelve men each take a stone from the midst of the river Jordan, put it on his shoulder, and set up a memorial on the east side of the river where they encamped the following

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night; 'that this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them . . .' (See Joshua, chapter 4.)

"No child of reasoning powers is going to see a big organized heap of stones set in masonry without asking his parent, 'What does this mean?' Or, 'What do these stones mean, Daddy?'

"Then the parents were to tell them a story.'Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:' Joshua explained (Joshua 4: 21, 22).

"These stories," Pastor See said, continuing, "were to be repeated to their children, and their children's children. It was, 'That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.'"

Clara: "It would appear from this that it is a command of the Lord to tell these character-building stories to our children. Would you say so, Pastor See?"

Pastor See: "Yes, you are right, Clara. In Lesson 8 we have a Scripture which indicates that this is one of God's commands to tell our children these stories: 'We will not hide them [these experiences] from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments' (Psalm 78:4-7).

Mary Waters: "This is utterly astonishing to me, Pastor. Here we have had a commandment from God to relate to our children the thrilling accounts of His dealings with us. And the text you just read declares that this will cause people to become God-centered. And this will give hope, as well as obedience.

"But I would like to ask: How do you think relating stories of God's loving power would lead to obedience, Pastor?"

Pastor See: "As I understand this, Mary, there are several factors involved here. First, when a parent becomes a companion to his child, taking the time to answer his questions, and relating to him experience after experience, it naturally follows that the child will love the Lord, and the parent as well. Children are naturally born hero-worshippers. This is inferred in the fifth commandment, which says, 'Honour [respect, esteem] thy father and thy mother' (Exodus 20:12).

"When a child thinks of God as one who is so interested in people as to open an overflowing river so they can go over: and when that child equates a father on earth with such a Father in heaven, naturally we would expect an identity to be built up.

"The commands of parents thus become in the child's mind a natural protection, a favor. He scarcely thinks of these loving commands as arbitrary, for he has in his heart a true concept of a loving parent.

"When a parent obeys the command of God to saturate his child with Bible accounts of God's power, His love, and His care, he does not have to resort to permissiveness, such as caused the destruction of the sons of Eli in the days of the judges, if you remember.

"Eli is a prime example of a parent who is too busy, even in the service of the Lord, to be a pal to his children. Eli was both judge and priest in Israel. 'But although he had been appointed to govern the people, he did not rule his own household. Eli was an indulgent father. Loving peace and ease, he did

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not exercise his authority to correct the evil habits and passions of his children. Rather than contend with them or punish them, he would submit to their will, and give them their own way. Instead of regarding the education of his sons as one of the most important of his responsibilities, he treated the matter as of little consequence. The priest and judge of Israel had not been left in darkness as to the duty of restraining and governing the children that God had given to his care. But Eli shrank from this duty, because it involved crossing the will of his sons, and would make it necessary to punish and deny them. Without weighing the terrible consequences that would follow his course, he indulged his children in whatever they desired, and neglected the work of fitting them for the service of God and the duties of life' (Patriarchs and Prophets, page 575).

"Instead of Eli's sons honoring him for his permissiveness, they lost respect for both him and God. And you know the sad account of their loss of life, both temporal and eternal.

"This account should teach us that no amount of either permissiveness or arbitrariness will substitute for God's way. His way is to give ourselves to our children in fellowship. Let our stories of Bible heroes, and God's dealings with them, include the instruction in an objective way. Few people learn much from subjective reasoning. Learning has to be, for the most part, self-discovery.

"As the child follows the story, for example, of Jacob's deception, with the dire results of never again seeing his mother, and of his more than twenty years of exile from home, the child is impressed by the Holy Spirit not to follow that example. And no parent has to knock it into his head. The story carries its own message, and the Holy Spirit impresses it on the heart.

"Combined with this fellowship and story telling, there is a kind, but firm, control from the earliest days of childhood. But let anyone try to control a child without having won that child's admiration, and its results are disastrous.

"There are many supplementary helps these days. We suggest that parents take advantage of every one, including the Sabbath school, the church school, the Pathfinders, et cetera. But these groups are not a substitute for personal companionship with the children. Our personal fellowship spells love. And that love carries with it a desire to obey. Jesus made this clear when He said, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments' (John 14:15). But only true love is equipped to obey. Mere obedience, without love, becomes rebellion. Therefore, as stated before, there is no substitute for companionship."

William Winn: "I note how strongly you emphasize companionship, Pastor. Do you think that children are tempted to rebel against even a good, a very good, parent, if this parent does not become a companion to that child?"

Pastor See replied: "Perhaps I should share one experience with you that will serve to answer your question. Years ago I was invited by the pastor with whom I was holding meetings, to visit the daughter of a fine Christian worker. We shall call the daughter's name, Elizabeth, and her mother's name, Mrs. Beech.

"The pastor cautioned me on our way over to the home of Elizabeth, a married woman, that I might be shocked at some things she would say. But not only was I shocked, the pastor himself was shocked. Never before, of all the times he had visited Elizabeth, had he heard anything to equal what his ears, and mine, heard from the lips of that young woman--scarcely over twenty.

"'My mother is a b-----,' she said. And she did not use the letter. She spit it right out. She repeated the awful words again and again, giving them all the force at her command. One would wonder about the morals of her mother.

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" 'Just what is your mother guilty of?' I questioned as kindly as possible. Elizabeth spit the words out again. I do not know when I have ever observed such an expression of intense hatred from the lips of a young woman who was actually clothed in her right mind.

" 'Do you mean,' I continued, 'she is running around with men, and living a lewd life?'

" 'Oh, no,' Elizabeth retorted. 'She is perfect that way.' But then she went on, 'If someone is in need across the city, she is right there by her side. But I could be dying. And do you think she would care to be around me? She would not so much as give me a glass of water!'

"Frankly, I was wondering if anyone would want to be around Elizabeth if she always reflected that kind of spirit.

"Little by little the story came out. Her mother was an accomplished musician. She was organist of the church. She was choir director. She was a Bible instructor as well. She was held in the highest esteem. But she had never had time for her daughter.

"As we left the house, I thought to myself, 'Mrs. Beech is doubtless a very fine Christian lady, dedicated, devoted, as well as talented. She must be very sympathetic to the needs of those around her. But, like many of us Christian workers, she was so pressed with problems of those outside her home that she took too much for granted. Not until it was almost too late, did she realize that she had neglected the companionship of her own daughter. She probably felt that her own daughter would understand. But Elizabeth did not understand! And there are others who do not understand.'

Dr. Leslie Manning arose with tears in his eyes. "Friends," he began, "these lessons are teaching me an entirely new way of life. When my wife and I were married and the children began coming into our lives, we felt rushed. Both worked. We wanted to pay for our schooling, for the furniture, for the home, and for many things. But in doing this, we neglected the most important duties of all--the privilege of being companions with our children. I thank God that He has forgiven us. And even at this late date, it is our determination to make up for lost time. We are going to change our whole format of living. We can claim promises of God as we make first things first, and then experience miracles of His grace. From now on, we plan to live--really live!"

Sam Yoeman: "I would like Dr. Hornberg to say a few words. I am sure he has a real contribution to make to this subject."

Dr. Hornberg responded with quiet Christian graciousness, "I thank you, Brother Yoeman. I would like to second all that Pastor See has presented to us this evening. It is all not merely Biblical. It is scientific. The One who made man's mind has laws for its operation and development. The great laws presented in this course are God's laws. I wish to quote from Deuteronomy 4:6, 'Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

"Our children do not rebel," Dr. Hornberg continued, "because we insist on obedience. A firmness born of wise love is absolutely essential. But permissiveness, like authoritarianism, without this companionship, produces rebellion. Nothing can take the place of sanctified companionship which protects, guides, disciplines, and punishes. 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it' (Psalm 127:1).

"The miracles of grace which have taken place in our church during the last period of weeks, bear their own testimony to the effectiveness of following God's laws of communication. I heartily recommend this course of study to any who have not yet found their way into a small prayer group. You will be well repaid."

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Sam Yoeman: "When I came to the meeting this evening, I could not, for the life of me, capture a picture of how obedience to the seven laws of communication could prevent the waywardness, the rebellion, and the evil which afflicts our society. Now I understand. I see how character-building stories stimulate growth of faith in God. And with it, hope and joy. I see that we parents should not be in such a hurry to get things done, that we fail to encourage our children to participate both in the duties of our homes, and some of the minor decisions of their lives. Then more and more decisions, under our guidance.

"This story-telling picture thrills my heart. Answering

I the questions they ask may drive us to an encyclopedia

more than once. We are building a fellowship, and a fund

of knowledge useful to us, as well as to them.

"And when Pastor See shared with us the story of his father's apologies, I said to myself, 'It takes a big man to apologize.' But God has given a wonderful promise to the humble. 'Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and revive the heart of the contrite ones' (Isaiah 57: 15)."

Miss Graymore was standing with quivering lips. "Dear people," she began, "many of you have known me through the years as a leader. Tonight I want you to know me as a humble child of God who is standing to apologize.

"Most of you do not know," she went on to say, "that for weeks I was bitterly opposed to the Friday night youth meetings. I felt that they were much too simple; that the testimonies were too humble, and therefore scarcely in keeping with the location of our church--only two blocks from the University.

"But I have had a change of heart. I have discovered that the most cultured minds are often refreshed by the simple testimony of those who have found peace, and satisfaction, and salvation in Jesus Christ. To my utter astonishment, several of the most highly educated folk from the University have not only attended the meetings, but are now preparing for baptism and union with the Pierce Arrow church. I feel somewhat as the poet must have felt when he wrote:

'If our faith were but more simple,
We would take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.'

"I now want to say that I believe that the program being conducted, including the Friday evening discussion and praise meetings, and the many small prayer groups, is a partial fulfillment of the text of Scripture that I wish to read: 'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse' (Malachi 4:5, 6)."

In Depth Meditations

Question 1:

What does God command us to remember?

The Answer:

"Thou shalt remember all the way the Lord thy God led thee." Deut. 8:2.

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Question 2:

What does God want to impress on our minds that we are to be in our relation to Him?

The Answer:

"Ye are my witnesses, . . . that I am God." Isaiah 43:10, 12.

Question 3:

The Lord commanded His people anciently: "When thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you?" what story were they to tell?

The Answer:

Is found in Deuteronomy 6:20 to 25.

Question 4:

After Israel had crossed the Jordan, the priests were to carry twelve stones out of the Jordan river and pile them up. God said, "When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?" what story were the parents to relate to them?

The Answer:

Is found in Joshua 4:15 to 24.

Question 5:

Again we find God commanding His people to pass on another story to their children-this, with reference to the redemption of the first born. Can you tell what the story was?

The Answer:

Is found in Exodus 13:11 to 16.

Question 6:

Is this same principle presented in the New Testament?

The Answer:

Yes, in these words: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." 1 John 1:3.

15: YOUTH'S EXCITING DISCOVERIES

AS THE meeting broke up, little groups were seen clustering in various sections of the auditorium, chatting excitedly. Not merely were parents sharing their resolutions with one another; youth were just as enthusiastic and vocal as they discussed something of vital interest.

Jim Reed, the spokesman, was suggesting, and several were seconding the idea of the youth doing something on their own that would prevent trouble in their own coming marriages. They wanted nothing to cause their own homes, when they were established, to succumb to some of the evils which had been afflicting those of their elders.

Prevention

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"We young people have been thinking that these prayer groups were mostly for our parents," Jim began. "But some of us feel that it is time for us to wise up, too, and learn these laws of communication, and also Bible promises, now-right away--and waste no time in starting. We have concluded that what can cure ills in homes represented here, can prevent similar evils in the homes we shall be building."

Lucy Winn commented in pleasant excitement, "And as you say, what has cured their ills can prevent ours."

Hazel Atwood added, "And why don't we find Bible promises that fit the most common problems we youth meet, so that we can be protected from the evils of our modern drug-addicted society, with its LSD, its marijuana, and what have you?"

"And its wanton permissiveness," Jim Reed added in a strong, and yet cheerfully assuring, voice.

New Plan

"Why don't we have a meeting or two immediately, and gather texts of Scripture which we can memorize and use as weapons when temptation strikes?" Jim continued.

"Good idea," spoke up Larry Calkins. "Let's invite the students from Mellowood Academy to a Friday evening meeting two weeks from now."

"And let's suggest next Friday night that during the following week they gather texts of Holy Scripture which in their opinion could be used successfully to withstand temptation's power. I will present it to the Youth Program Committee and secure their approval," Jim volunteered.

"They are practically all here right now," Hazel broke in. Counting, "One, two, three, four, five; yes, every one is right here. Why not vote it now, and save time?"

The Action was taken by the leaders grouped at one side. Others were invited to stand by. The spirit of harmony and enthusiasm ran so high that one young lady was heard to exclaim, "I believe we are entering the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! Wow! It's wonderful!"

A New Revelation dawned on one group of youth as Ruth Wheeler recalled having read in the book *The Desire of Ages*, the texts of Scripture which Jesus as a youth used for various temptations which came to Him from many quarters. At her suggestion, several picked up copies of the book and met together one evening. In sheer delight, they discovered in Chapter 9, five special temptations which Christ met with specific Bible tests.

"Thus Saith the Lord"

In the first paragraph Hazel pointed to the words: "The Scriptures of the Old Testament were His constant study, and the words, 'Thus saith the Lord,' were ever upon His lips." p. 59 (84).

Christ Did Not Attack

In the second paragraph she referred to the words, "He did not attack the precepts or practices of the learned teachers." "Hence, Christ, as a youth, set us an example of the law of Humility in action." Then she continued quoting, "but when reprov'd for His own simple habits, He Presented the word of God." [bid.

Ruth Wheeler spoke up quite excitedly: "How I wish I knew just which Scriptures Christ used." Then added, "Wouldn't that be absolutely wonderful--if we only knew!"

Hazel Atwood smiled. "Believe it or not, this is exactly what we shall discover right in this chapter."

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"Oh, wonderful, wonderful!" Ruth exclaimed.

Scripture Authority

"Before we get into this, however," said Hazel, "you will notice in the third paragraph that Jesus observed the law of Choice. Here we read: 'In every gentle and submissive way, Jesus tried to please those with whom He came in contact.'

"But then we are informed that, 'Because He was so gentle and unobtrusive, the scribes and elders supposed that He would be easily influenced by their teaching.' Then follows Christ's reply when 'they urged Him to receive the maxims and traditions that had been handed down.' It says, 'He asked for their authority in Holy Writ.' Then it adds, 'He would hear every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Hazel continued: "I have often thought of our Lord's ministry of three-and-one-half years, and of how the spies sent by the religious leaders tried to find some basis of charging Him with treason against the government, or of repudiating the revered Old Testament. Day after day they hounded His steps for those years of His ministry. They were not satisfied until they had accomplished His death.

"Often my heart has flowed out in sympathy for His three-and-one-half years of suffering, but not until I read this chapter in *The Desire of Ages* did I stop to realize that because of the gross misunderstanding of the sons of Joseph, and the denunciation, ridicule, and threatenings of them and the scribes and Pharisees, they made 'His life a bitter one.'--p. 61 (86). I had thought of His first thirty years as comparatively pleasant and peaceful. But when I read carefully this chapter in *The Desire of Ages*, I was awakened to the sad truth that Christ's life was one of persecution from the time when as a babe Herod sought to destroy Him, until His own nation cried out in Pilate's judgment hall, 'Crucify Him, crucify Him.'

" 'It Is Written' was His reason for every act that varied from the family customs,' according to page 61."

Hazel continued, "I have noticed from my study of the book *The Desire of Ages*, that Christ, even in His early life, conformed to all the seven laws of communication. His joy and His God-centeredness are presented on page 49. His humility and hope are presented on the same page. His close adherence to the law of choice has already been referred to (page 59). His love is found on page 62. And His faith in God's Word is found on pages 64 and 65. But not alone on these pages, but throughout the entire book, these beautiful and admirable characteristics of Jesus' own example appear."

Ruth Wheeler asked, "But, Hazel, did I understand you to say that the very Scriptures Jesus used to meet specific temptations are mentioned in this chapter?"

Hazel replied; "Yes, Ruth. And why not review them right now?" A wonderful and delightful hour followed.

Youth Meeting

When the youth meeting convened Friday night, the young people were ready with their Scripture promises.

"Just as so many young people today are accused of cowardice for refusing to unite with popular customs, or some sinful act, so was the youth Jesus," began Jim Reed. Jim had been chosen to lead out on that particular Friday night. "Can anyone give us the Scripture Christ used as a weapon against this most pressing temptation?" Jim asked.

Lucy Winn was immediately on her feet. "According to *The Desire of Ages*," she began, "Jesus' answer was: 'It is written, "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom: and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28.' "

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"Excellent," replied Jim. "We can use this same Scripture for one of the most difficult of all temptations for a young person to withstand. No young person wants to be accused of being a coward. Such a charge challenges all that is within us to prove we are not cravens. And it too often leads us to follow the gang rather than to be termed 'sissies'!"

Continuing, Jim asked, "As Jesus was accused of being narrow and strait-laced, what Scripture promise did He quote in reply? Can anyone suggest an answer?"

Bert Wheeler, brother to Ruth, quickly responded, *The Desire of Ages* suggests, and I quote: 'Young companions urged Him to do as they did. . . . they were impatient at His scruples and pronounced Him narrow and strait-laced. Jesus answered, It is written, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word." "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:9, 11."

When Jim asked what Scripture Jesus used when asked why He was bent on being so singular, so different from them, Hazel Atwood replied, "The *Desire of Ages* says He quoted Psalm 119:1 to 3: 'Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.' "

Youthful Frolics of vile Nazareth.

"Would someone also give us the Scripture Jesus as a youth used when He was tempted to unite in the vile, youthful frolics of Nazareth?" Jim asked again.

Larry Calkins replied, "Jesus answered by stating where He found joy, and in what His soul rejoiced. Here it is: 'I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.' Psalm 119:14-16."

Larry continued, "You will all observe here that Jesus teaches us to obey the law of joy and rejoicing, and to equate God's ways with a rejoicing attitude. Maybe the fact that so many of us professing Christians make the religious path appear so hard and arduous is one reason why others are not attracted to it. What do you think?"

There were a number of youthful "amens."

Submitting to Foul Treatment

Jim now referred to another question that was often put to Jesus as a young person. "Again and again He was asked, Why do You submit to such spiteful usage, even from Your brothers? It is written, He said, 'My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.' Proverbs 3:1-4."-*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 64, 65 (89).

Lucy Winn was on her feet with a wondering comment. "I have been thinking," she began, "about these five special youthful temptations pointed out in one single page of *The Desire of Ages*. I have determined to memorize these Scriptures which Christ used. Since they worked for Him, they will surely work for me; for the Bible says that He is our example."

Hazel Atwood broke in enthusiastically, "And you know, folk, these temptations are the very ones that we young people most easily fall victim to. There is cowardice. Of all things I dislike is for some young person to accuse me of being a coward because I cannot conscientiously join in some questionable activity. So many of us naturally, through fear of being poked fun at, decide it is easier to unite with the

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crowd. But Jesus used the Scripture, 'The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is [not cowardice, but] understanding.' Job 28:28. I see something tremendous in this Scripture, now that I have studied it over several times.

"Someone has suggested," Hazel went on to say, "that when the great shaking time comes in the church, whole churches will relinquish their hold on Christ. And I am wondering if this very point of temptation, this charge of cowardice, is not going to be the root of much of it. People have trained themselves to follow the crowd rather than to be considered cowardly. Thus they have their eyes removed from Jesus."

Ruth Wheeler added: "And then the second temptation that is listed as coming to Jesus is in the same category, more or less that of being condemned, ridiculed as being too straitlaced. Jesus was taught by the Holy Spirit how to react to this temptation. The texts of Scripture cited show both the source of His victory, and also the specific weapon used for this strong temptation. I repeat it: 'Wherewithal shall a young man [person] cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.' 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sill against thee.' Psalm 119:9 and 11.

"I see from this," continued Ruth, "that Christ wasted no time in rationalizing, as most of us young people do today. If we would immediately place one of the promises of Holy Scripture on our lips, we could instantly become victors. That is what Jesus did. And He has told us that He is our example, and we should follow His steps. This is all very delightful to me. I am learning something! Really! I thank the Lord for this discussion!"

Janice Church was on her feet. "As I go on down the list of the five special temptations which Jesus met in His youth, as listed here, I see that they are the same temptations, in principle, that society brings to us today. The temptation to be like others in amusement, in diet, and in dress, is the most subtle, perhaps, of all which come to us young people. I am so happy that you have called this special gathering tonight. It points out to me the way I can prevent having a lot of heartache which results from our following the pleasure-loving crowd.

At that particular time, one of the specific points of temptation the young folk were facing was to be like the world in dress--immodest dress.

A New Method

After the meeting was over, six fine young ladies, in their teens, got their heads together and resolved that they would adopt a new format of dress. While they would not judge others for the way they might dress, they would follow Jesus--the pure One. They remembered Jesus said, "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:17. They would hold to the highest standards of modesty in a day when the customs of the world were encouraging evil thinking, lust and vice.

They decided that they would observe and obey the Scripture, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21. So they would lay all negatives aside, all belittling of others who might not see fit to conform to their standards of modesty in dress, but they would set an example.

Seven Rules

Their dress would incorporate, in a way, the seven laws of communication. Yes, Jesus would be the basis of their actions. He did what was right regardless of the speech, the denunciations, the ridicule of others. They would do the same. Joy would be the mode; that is, they would put into effect the 826 Scriptures which tell us, in effect, that in Christ's "presence is fulness of joy." Psalm 16:11. So as they

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incorporated a new pattern of dress, conversation, and life, their countenances would reflect the sunlight, the joy, and the delightfulness of their Lord.

Choice and Humility

They would always set as their goal, to follow the teachings of 1 Peter 3:1 to 7. The "meek and quiet spirit" would constitute the real adorning--not the "reformatory" spirit which so often acts sanctimonious. They would be "un-pushy"; that is, they would follow the suggestion of Education, page 41, "True education is not forcing instruction on an unready and unreceptive mind." Thus their pattern of conduct would be example--not forced instruction, or a "holier-than-thou" attitude.

Faith, Hope, and Love

No suspicion would accompany their change of dress and actions. They would not whisper any doubt of the "Christianity" of those who did not follow their example. Their love would flow out to all, but they would not follow all. They would follow only One--the lovely Jesus the purity of His life, and the dress and conduct which becometh children of the King of Kings. One of the unique features of this program was that it originated with young people. It was carried on by young people. It was lived up to by young people, without any "pushing" from the older generation. It was spontaneous with the youth.

Jesus and Joy

would spell simple attractiveness in their new dress and life. There would be nothing shoddy about their changed apparel. While the dress would be modest, it would be of excellent material. The work of the seamstress must be faultless. Everything about their new dress must equate modesty with beauty--not slackness. Yet not a desire to just be different. While in the past some so-called reformers merely sought to avoid the immodest attire, yet failed in being neat, beautiful, and admirable; these young ladies would make their dress, like their characters, "a thing of simple beauty," and give a testimony for the world to see that there are youth who, without being hounded to do so, without being lectured by others, spontaneously, and of their own free will, conscientiously determine to reflect the joy and the beauty of Christ's purity.

The Young Men heard a few weeks later what these young ladies were doing, and the impact was tremendous.

"That is the kind of wife I want," many were exclaiming. "In the work of the ministry I want someone to be my companion who is neither odd and slack, nor a slave to fashion."

Other young men studying medicine, dentistry, engineering, et cetera, replied, "We want a companion who is modest for the sake of Christianity itself."

The group of young men decided to follow this good example. They would also give earnest study to how not to be "one of the crowd," but they would not put forth an effort to be "odd." Their one object in their own attire and conversation, would be to bear the likeness of Jesus. Many were talking and thinking of Jesus in their small group gatherings. Their new way of conduct, including dress, was not the secret of their life. The secret was Jesus!

Word began to leak out throughout the nearby churches that there were groups of youth which were not merely examples of modesty, but of humble joy. It was learned that others of the youth who had felt for some time that the joy of the Lord, the acceptance of the Holy Spirit is worth far more than the acceptance of the world, began to accept the format of these groups of girls and of the boys.

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"We never really knew real joy until we started this new program of claiming Bible promises," Lucy was heard to exclaim, her face wreathed in smiles. "You just don't have to follow the crowd to be happy," she added; "for in His 'presence is fulness of joy; at' His 'right hand there are pleasures for evermore.' Psalm 16:11."

In Depth Meditations

Question 1:

When Jesus was accused of cowardice, He quoted what text of Scripture?

The Answer:

"The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom: and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28.

Question 2:

When Jesus was accused of being too narrow and straitlaced, what Scripture did He quote?

The Answer:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119:11. (See also verse 9.)

Question 3:

When asked why He was bent on being so singular, what Scripture did He quote?

The Answer:

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways." Ps. 119:1-3.

Question 4:

When tempted to unite with the vile, youthful frolics of Nazareth, what Scripture did He use?

The Answer:

"I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word." Ps. 119:14-16.

Question 5:

When asked, "Why do you submit to such spiteful usage, even by your brothers?" what was His Scriptural reply?

The Answer:

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." Prov. 3: 1-4.

16: "PLEASE PRAY FOR MY LONELY HEART"

I AM FRUITLESSLY clawing at the loneliness and helplessness of life," remarked Nancy Wheeler as she was being helped into the home of Myrtle Snow.

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Myrtle's home had been the location of a prayer group for nine weeks. Nancy had been brought in a wheel chair from the nursing home where she was a patient. By now the other members of the group were entering and taking seats in preparation for the meeting. Nancy was low--real low--this morning, and in desperate need of loving understanding and encouragement. This she hoped to receive at this friendly morning gathering.

Job's Wife

As the ladies settled back in their chairs, Nancy spoke up: "I have a secret sympathy for Mrs. Job, who was fully ready to call it all quits, and be done with the entire business." Then she added, "All with whom I come in contact are on their way out of life. No one has any solutions even for themselves, scarcely."

Looks of Sympathy

Tears were in the eyes of Daisy Winn. Betty Palmer used her handkerchief, as if she had a cold. Hope Kistler's face bore an expression of empathy, as Nancy continued: "I am as one scraping to find small crumbs of almost any sort of 'non-aloneness.' "

Chorus

There was silence for a long minute. Then Myrtle began in a kind, understanding voice, "Bless your heart. I am glad that our lesson for today deals with this very problem. I am sure none of us can tell anyone else how to cope with life's hardships. But at least we sympathize with you deeply." Then she added, "And why not sing our chorus?"

They all joined in singing:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace."

Conversational Prayer

"Let's all unite in prayer of the conversational type," Myrtle suggested. Attempting to conceal her heart-rending sympathy for poor Nancy, she added, "One will begin the prayer by offering just a few sentences. Then, without her saying 'amen,' the second will take up the prayer in the same way, until we have prayed around the circle." This type of group praying seemed to have an especially unifying effect so essential, particularly as regards Nancy's loneliness.

Central Prayer Request

The group had already had several answers to prayer through the weeks. And now the request of Nancy was that her own loneliness be placed as the central prayer request. "God has given so many marked answers already during the nine weeks. Perhaps He will see fit to work another miracle in my behalf," she added tearfully.

Loneliness

In introducing the topic for the morning, Myrtle began, "I guess that everyone in the world has some problem. Someone has rightly stated that, in a way, each one walks alone. No one on earth can fully enter into the problems, perplexities, and experiences of another."

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Nancy Wheeler spoke up again, "I honestly believe, ladies, that prayers offered by you, and others, are noted in heaven. I believe they are recognized. And I am very certain they are being answered. I know some of you have been praying for me for several weeks, too, along with other prayer requests. But this waiting, waiting, waiting for an empty future, as far as I can immediately see, causes me to almost despair. But thanks for putting my name, and my problem, on the list as the central prayer request."

Nancy had desperately wanted a husband, too. But then had settled back into deeper frustration as she thought: "Of all things! Who would want to be tied to an invalid?"

Two Laws Necessary

Myrtle began again, "Girls, it scarcely seems possible that we have been together now, as a group, for ten weeks. I don't know what I personally would have done without this prayer group each Tuesday morning." Then she added, "And during these weeks we have been studying the seven laws as they relate to various problems of life. This time we are beginning with the laws Jesus and Joy, particularly as they relate to a lonely heart. Psychiatrists state that about ninety per cent of the human race are afflicted with this desperate disease--loneliness! Would you please read the opening text, Daisy?"

"Fulness of Joy"

Daisy read: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Nancy spoke up: "Girls, if the Bible is true--and I know it is--it would look to me as if anyone who really finds Jesus as He really is, can have joy. Can it be that I have not actually found His love?"

Then she went on: "I have studied Bible prophecy. I have read how that of the 1,335 Bible prophecies, more than 1,000 have come to the point of fulfillment. Every one has been fulfilled right on time. This shows me that God's Word is true. Then why don't I find joy in Jesus whether I am crippled or not? whether I am married or not? Will someone tell me?"

Betty Palmer spoke up: "I think, girls, that if I were to be checked up on this Scripture, I would be found lacking, too. Many times. Really!" Then turning to Nancy, she commented, "Nancy, I think you have a lot of spunk. You have shown remarkable courage, even though you do occasionally have a low spot. I believe God understands and cares. It reminds me of that song-

'Is there anyone can help us
One who understands our hearts
When the thorns of life have pierced
Them till they bleed;
One who sympathizes with us,
Who in wondrous love imparts
Just the very, very blessing
That we need?'

Then the chorus goes like this:

'Yes, there's One,
Only One.
The blessed, blessed Jesus,
He's the One;
When afflictions press the soul,
When waves of trouble roll,

Cry of a Troubled Heart

And you need a Friend to help you,
He's the One.' "

Daisy Winn Added, "I have often wondered how Jesus was always happy when he had no family He could return to when His day's work was done--no wife and children to greet Him. And yet I observe the lesson quotes Jesus as saying, 'The Father hath not left me alone' (John 8:29).

Betty Palmer had a pensive expression. "Girls," she began, "an experience has just come to my mind. I have not thought of it since I was a little girl. I was riding in a car with my father one day when his business took him to the home of an aged man. Mr. Wheeton, who lived all alone. My father, after conversing a while with Mr. Wheeton, expressed his sympathy that he must be very lonely. I recall now, as if it were yesterday, the way Mr. Wheeton gave my father a reproving look, and exclaimed quietly, but emphatically, 'I am not alone. There is One with me.' Evidently he had the experience the Psalmist referred to in our opening Scripture when he exclaimed, "In thy presence is fullness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Hope Kistler sat with eyes beaming. "I have an experience, too, girls, you might be interested in hearing. A few years ago I was completely lonely, frustrated, and confused. I had had a very unhappy childhood. My father loved me very much, and I almost idolized him. But when I was thirteen years old my father died. It seemed that my world had caved in.

"Mother, for some reason, did not seem to have much love for me, or interest in my life. When I became older, my mother, sister and brother wanted me to marry. I think it was because they wanted to get rid of me. I married a man I did not love. It was because my mother gave me to understand that if I did not marry this man, there would be no place for me in her home.

"But I did not love this man. And feeling that I had been forced into the marriage, I had a strange resentment that finally ended in divorce. In the years that followed, I was extremely lonely. It was then that Pastor and Mrs. See came into my life. They both loved me--and cared. As the months came and went, I shared with them my sorrows, my frustrations, and my loneliness. I told them often how I had thought of calling it quits, too. They told me about Jesus and His love. I was a professing Christian, but as the months came and went after I met Pastor and Mrs. See, I discovered that, while I had the theory of Christianity, I did not really know Jesus personally. Consequently, I did not have joy.

"One particular month, I hit such a low spot that I actually called Pastor and Mrs. See via long distance often, sometimes twice a day. My long distance telephone bill one month actually came to about \$600. But in the whole experience I finally found Jesus. And with His coming into my life, I became aware of a completely new existence. Really!! Songs I used to sing in church in a listless manner, now came alive. They were love songs to Jesus. Scriptures that had been meaningless before, became love letters from Jesus. I was amazed that all those years I never knew what a wonderful Person Jesus is! Now I was really in love with Him!

Husband versus Jesus

"When later I found a friend, and we became engaged, I observed that the love of Jesus was sweeter to me than the love of that man. This was an amazing new experience to me. Actually, I began to fear that my friendship with this man would cause the friendship with Jesus to be lessened. So this, along with some other circumstances, caused me to break the engagement. And yet I was happy. The very thing I thought I wanted most, was of little consequence to me now since I had found the Lord as a personal Friend as well as Savior."

Choice and Humility

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Hope continued, "I notice that the next two laws in our lesson have to do with choice and humility. I don't want to go ahead of the lesson, but I must say that there were some characteristics in my friend that caused me concern. For instance, he made clear that when we were married I must always have him with me, whether it was shopping at the stores, making a personal missionary visit, or whether it was just writing a letter. No letter must be received or mailed without his inspection. "

Daisy commented, "Girls, I was thinking how much happier a person could be alone in life, so far as marriage is concerned, than to be tied to a possessive mate!

"I heard a lecturer recently state that in some cities there are almost as many divorces as marriages. And in the United States the divorce rate is climbing steadily. Even among many of those who are not really thinking of divorce, there is very little fellowshipping communication. He said that a sizeable percentage of married partners only speak to each other when it is absolutely necessary to run the home or business. That would not be much fun, would it? I am so glad," added Daisy, "I have a good husband. He never tells me what to do, and I never tell him."

Timidly, she confided, "Something happened on our honeymoon that taught me a lasting lesson, however. I had started nagging my husband immediately after our marriage. I suggested this, and that, and the other. Imagine! Right on our honeymoon! My young husband took it for awhile. Then he turned to me and said, "Daisy, you've got sense, and I've got sense. Let's get along." I saw a hard-set expression on his face that indicated he meant business.

I saw right then that I was on the verge of destroying our marriage at its beginning. So I learned my lesson early in marriage. And it has served me well. My husband and I get along beautifully."

When People are Alone

Myrtle commented, "We have studied the two texts of Scripture dealing with choice and humility now for nine weeks. But you will observe that in Deuteronomy 6 and Joshua 4 there are statements relative to not instructing until the mind inquires. In the book Education, page 41, we read, "True education is not forcing instruction on an unready and unreceptive mind." For any of us to instruct another without that person's mind first opening, is not the most effective method.

"Now let us turn to the laws of faith, hope, and love in their relationship to loneliness."

Nancy spoke up, "Do you suppose another reason why we feel lonely is because we have a tendency to tell others what to do, or to belittle them? Then they don't like to be around us, and we wonder why we are all alone in the world? Here I have gone so far as to tell the Lord what to do. I told Him He must find a husband for me, when if I were given to nagging and belittling, I would be just as lonely with a husband as I am now without one. "

Faith, Hope, and Love

Myrtle moved ahead in the lesson, and suggested the three laws which will aid in curing loneliness, in addition to those already studied. One is Faith.

Betty Palmer remarked, "I do not see how the law of faith would in any way affect one's loneliness. I don't mean it is not a good law of communication. All through the nine weeks' study together we have seen its importance. But for the life of me, I cannot understand the slightest affect faith has on loneliness."

Nancy interrupted, "Well, I can."

Betty exclaimed in wonderment. "You can see! Please tell us!"

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Nancy continued; "It has two aspects in my own life. First, when I talk faith, confidence, and trust, people like to be around me. But when I talk doubt, suspicion and distrust, people shy away from me. That is the first aspect of it.

"The second is this: When I believe God loves me, it changes my whole outlook on life. It seems we were made to be loved. And if we think we are unloved, it makes us miserable. But faith that we are loved and cared for, means everything. So faith and love go together."

Baby Neurotics

Myrtle Snow asked. "Did any of you girls read about baby neurotics?"

Daisy Winn responded: "Baby neurotics! I never heard of such a thing! What do you mean by baby neurotics?"

"Well," replied Myrtle, "it is the story of an orphanage in South America, I think it was, that was understaffed. The folk who worked in the orphanage were barely able to care for the physical needs of the babies. They had but little time to devote to loving, fondling, and caressing them. Soon they observed signs of neurosis. It has been a long time since I read about the case, but if I remember correctly," Myrtle continued, "these babies first began to whimper for love. Then they became demanding. And finally they actually became physically disfigured. I believe I read about it in the book *Love or Perish* by Blanton. These babies actually needed to be loved. Now when we are able, by the grace of the Lord, to know, to feel, that God loves us, then joy comes into our lives and loneliness evaporates. We are all just children grown up, aren't we?"

Selfless Love

Daisy Winn then told of how she learned about a Mr. Bill Griffin. This young man at the age of twenty-two was confined to his bed with a kind of arthritic condition. In a matter of months, every joint in his body was locked with the exception of his right point finger. As he lay there completely discouraged, his Christian physician came on one of his regular calls, and suggested that maybe Providence had been kind to him to give him time to think. Bill was almost outraged by such a statement coming from his physician. But the kind and wise man held his ground, suggesting that perhaps there was a reason for his being laid on his back. Maybe it was that there was a special future for him. He would have time to think. Then act.

As Bill thought, one day his teenage cousin, whom we shall call Lucy, came to ask him how she should do on her first date. Bill took time to talk with her and share with her his thinking in the matter. Lucy was pleased with the results of Bill's counsel, and freely recommended to a school girl acquaintance, that Bill might be willing to give her counsel, too. So she came to Bill for counsel. Soon there was a line of teenagers eagerly coming to Bill Griffin for counsel.

His counseling became so popular that others followed suit. When Pastor See visited Bill, he was astonished to discover there was absolutely no loneliness to be found. In selfless, loving service he had found satisfaction and fulfillment in life.

Pastor See stated that Bill revealed no signs of self-pity. He was too busy fulfilling a mission. And in his selfless attention to others, his own life was filled with the Spirit of Jesus. It seems that the Holy Spirit takes delight in bringing comfort to those who in turn try to bring comfort to others.

Comfort

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Nancy spoke up: "I can see now. There is a passage of Scripture that seems to hit the nail on the head. It says: '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 ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.' 2 Corinthians 1:4-7.

Nancy added. "I can see that when I come close to Jesus Christ, then I can be used of Him to bring comfort to others, even though I, myself, am in affliction." Thoughtfully she continued, "Yes, this is where I have made my mistake. I have been thinking of my own needs instead of seeking to bless others in their need. I see from this text of Scripture that it is only as I accept the selfless mission of ministering to others, that I shall find comfort myself. Christ was this way. He was 'a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief' (Isaiah 53:3). He wept with those who wept. He did not weep over His own aloneness.

Hope

Nancy added, "That gives me hope. And I observe the lesson says, 'We are saved by hope.' Romans 8:24. I now believe that I must take on a completely new format of living. I must now live to bless others. And God will make me happy."

"Rejoice Evermore"

Hope Kistler added: "You notice the lesson also refers to the Apostle Paul who said, 'I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.' Philippians 4:11.

It is really wonderful when one considers how Paul could write from a prison cell, 'Rejoice evermore.' 1 Thessalonians 5: 16. And again, 'In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.' Verse 18. He really had learned how to keep from being lonely. It was by practicing the presence of Jesus, and then sharing His love with others."

"Girls," Nancy said softly, "I am determined to learn this new way of life. I am sure that in trying to help others, I can find help myself. I recall, years ago, reading of a man who was in a winter blizzard, almost ready to call it quits, as he was trudging over the rugged mountains.

"Just then, he stumbled on the body of a traveler who had fallen down only minutes earlier. His sympathies were aroused for the poor, unfortunate man. Bending down, he helped the stranger to his feet, and encouraged him to press onward. He worked, struggled, puffed, to help his companion toward some place of safety. He continued to encourage the helpless stranger. Then seeing a light in the distance, they quickened their pace till the door of a warm house opened where they were welcomed, safe from the storm. When they entered and were seated, it dawned upon the man that in helping another, he had saved his own life.

"I see this is how happiness comes. It does not come by searching directly for it, but by trying to bring hope, and comfort, and blessing to others. If Saint Paul could find comfort and happiness in Jesus Christ, and could even rejoice in a prison cell, then I can ask God to make me happy wherever I am. And, girls, I am determined to do it. I shall find my mission in life, and fill it to the brim of my ability."

In Depth Meditations

Question 1:

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Do you believe that a person who is very lonely can actually find peace and fellowship by his practicing the presence of Jesus?

The Answer:

"In thy presence is fullness of joy." Ps. 16:11 (first part).

Question 2:

Do you believe that if a person like Hope, who paid as much as \$600.00 in telephone calls in a single month in her loneliness and frustration, could find sweet fellowship in Jesus, that we who are lonely today can also?

The Answer:

"At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Ps. 16:11 (last part).

Question 3:

Does God give any man the privilege of dictating to his wife, as Hope's intended husband planned to do; or should he be willing to submit to her, too?

The Answer:

"Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5.

Question 4:

God comforts us that we in turn may do, what?

The Answer:

"That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble." 2 Cor. 1:4. (See verses 4-7.)

Question 5:

What Bible command should every person, even though extremely lonely, obey?

The Answer:

"Rejoice evermore." 1 Thess. 5: 16.

17: "PLEASE PRAY FOR MY PERSECUTED SOUL"

There were two black and blue marks on Bulah Green's arms, and one on the right side of her face, as she met with a group of new believers to study The Seven Laws of Communication.

Miss Thachery was the moderator. And because of the persecution of Bulah's husband, Bob, it was decided to begin with lesson No. 10.

There were others in the group, too, who, while not being abused physically as was Bulah, were quite evidently being misunderstood by their friends or families. Some were not making the best responses to these situations. So they all needed help.

Conditions

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Before inviting the new believers into this group, Miss Thachery had herself studied carefully the conditions to answered prayer. She wanted, almost more than anything else, to assist these new believers in Christ. If they could become living examples of a living Christ, those who were now persecuting, or misunderstanding them, might become believers themselves. Miss Thachery had seen it work that way before. Hence, she was praying earnestly that she, herself, might be used as an instrument of the Holy Spirit in communicating these same principles to the new ones in Christ.

"These conditions are simple, yet essential," she said to herself, before the meeting took place. In fact, she had for several days been praying most earnestly, and searching her own soul to make sure that she, herself, was living up to these conditions to answered prayer. Briefly stated, they are: faith, persistence, diligence, humility, obedience, family harmony. And also a recognition of one's need. We are to seek answers to prayer for the benefit of others, rather than for selfish purposes. There must also be no harboring of cherished sin, or animosity.

Miss Thachery had been mindful, as she had searched her heart, that she and her sister, Bertha Hunt, had had a misunderstanding. It was complicated. It seemed there was nothing Miss Thachery, herself, could do to reconcile the differences. But she had read in her Bible where it makes allowances. It says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." She had done everything within her power to bring about a solution to the problem between her and Bertha. But Bertha had refused to be reconciled. With tears, Miss Thachery had pleaded with God to show her the way out. She had apologized to Bertha for any unkind words. But to no avail. Bertha would not forgive her, even though it was she, herself, who had fomented the trouble. Therefore, Miss Thachery felt a sweet assurance in her heart that the Holy Spirit was with her, and that all was well. You cannot compel one to be reconciled. "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" 2 Corinthians 6: 15. Through all the ages, light and darkness have never been in agreement. Truth and error have never been at peace with one another. Christ and Satan have never been reconciled.

No man can serve God without enlisting against himself all the powers, all the forces, all the agencies of darkness. This had been the case with Miss Thachery. She had been a most dedicated child of God. Her life was one of the most unselfish examples of Christian living. It was because of this that Satan had hoped to ruin her influence as he did that of Christ, the spotless Lamb of God.

Personal Study

She looked forward to this course of study, both from the angle of helping these new believers, and also as a stimulus to her own faith, and a constant reminder to herself as to what constitutes proper Christian reactions to persecution from any source.

The opening chorus, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me," was followed by a series of sentence prayers. Miss Thachery thought that this unity of prayer would bring a blessing to the new believers, so she suggested that each one offer in a brief sentence or two her thanks to God for some special blessing received.

When Bulah's turn came, in broken tones she thanked God for sustaining grace. Then others followed around the circle, closing with Miss Thachery, herself.

Smiling, Miss Thachery suggested, "Just call me 'Miss T' for short. After all," she said, "we are one family in Christ, and it will save your pronouncing so many syllables each time you call my name."

They all smiled, and Mellicent Sweet, the nineteen-year old, responded with a little love giggle, "OK, Miss T, we will do that."

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Miss T explained that this is a different kind of study from the regular Bible course they were accustomed to. In this particular course, all would freely express themselves. There would be no lecture, as such, no sermonizing, or long talk. However, since they were new believers, she would probably do a bit more explaining than she would if the members of the group were older in the faith.

Jesus

"The first law of communication for those who are persecuted," began Miss T, "is Jesus." Then she turned to Bulah, and asked her to read the first text of Scripture in the lesson.

Bulah read, with quivering lips: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

Rose Holland spoke up: "And I like the second text, 'He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.'" 1 John 2:6.

Alice Garland added, "I have had a most interesting experience of late. Some of my closest friends have been ridiculing me, and cracking jokes because I have begun to keep the Sabbath. Really, it got me down--way down. Then I opened my Bible, as if guided by the Lord, to Hebrews 12. There I read the verses that I observe are right here in this lesson:

"'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 set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.' Hebrews 12:2, 3.

"I have observed," continued Alice, "that every time I am persecuted, or made fun of, if I immediately turn my mind to the sufferings of Jesus, it keeps me from becoming weak and faint. Actually! I mean to say, I feel like a different person when I do that! It really works!"

Humility and Choice

Mellicent was sitting quietly and thoughtfully. There were thoughts racing through her mind: for she, too, had been made fun of, just a little, at the airport restaurant where she was employed. But she had not responded as Alice had. Miss T suggested that they study two laws; humility and choice. "Let us call them the laws of Christ's humility and choice, since He is our example in all things."

Look Up

"The law of humility means, briefly," Miss T continued, "that we look up to people--not down on them."

Mellicent asked; "But suppose they are not as good as we. How can we look up to them?" Mellicent queried.

Amy Sims answered, "The text under humility here says, 'Honor all men.' 1 Peter 2:17."

Mellicent broke in, "But how can you honor people who are not honorable?" The group gave a muffled laugh. It could be seen that they were all puzzled.

Rose commented: "And here is another Scripture that seems almost impossible of fulfillment. It says that we are to esteem other people better than ourselves. That is Philippians 2:3."

Mellicent countered: "That sounds like deception. But it must have some kind of explanation. After all, it is God's Word! And I guess we had better not argue with it."

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Then turning to Miss T, she asked, "Could it be that our attitude should always be one of respect, even for our enemies, and for those who poke fun at us?"

Alice suggested; "And maybe that we should treat everyone as sincere, even though they may appear to us to be just the opposite. After all, we can't read the heart, can we? And I think I recall reading how Paul, the great apostle, was at one time a vicious persecutor. He declared later how very sincere he was all the time. The people whom he took part in slaying, certainly would have found it difficult to have honored him, wouldn't you think?"

Rose replied, "But I remember that when he was taking part in the martyrdom of Stephen, he heard Stephen offering a most wonderful prayer; 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge' (Acts 7:60). Can it be," Rose continued, looking in the direction of Miss T, "that people who persecute may not actually know what they are doing? or that they are actuated, or possessed, by Satan?"

Miss T replied: "You may recall that Jesus warned His disciples that the time would come when 'whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service' (John 16:2)."

Christ's Humility

Miss T suggested, also, that the group read Philippians 2:5 and 6: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation."

"This must fit into the passage of Scripture we started to read at the beginning," Rose added. "The Scripture goes on to say, 'Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously' (1 Peter 2:23)."

"I see where I have failed. At the airport restaurant some of the folk have been making belittling remarks. They have done it in a sort of offhand, friendly way. But I have not liked what they have said. One of them called me a Jew because I had begun to keep the Sabbath. She was sweet--kind of, you know. But that remark really hurt me. I retorted, 'I am not that dumb!' And added, 'It is the Christian Sabbath.' Of course I smiled, too laughed a little. But she got the point.

"Then a little later, I decided to show her where she was wrong, both in belittling me, and also in calling the Sabbath Jewish. So I read to her from Isaiah 58: 13, where God calls the Sabbath 'my holy day.' 'The Sabbath is the Lord's day,' I chuckled. 'And more than this, the fourth commandment says it is the Sabbath of the "Lord thy God." That does not say the Jewish Sabbath,' I chuckled again. Then I went on and told her how the Sabbath was given more than two thousand years before the existence of a Jew.

"But do you know, she never asked for any of that information. I see now that I didn't help the situation. What I really wanted to do was to let her, and some of the others, know that I was not as dumb as they thought I was."

Don't Force Instruction

Mellicent continued, "I notice here in the lesson it says that, 'True education is not forcing instruction on an unready and unreceptive mind.' I surely forced my friend, Mary, into a corner. But of course she would not admit I had won the argument. It was all in apparent good-natured fun. But both of us knew what we were doing. She was belittling me, and I was retaliating."

Mellicent caught herself, and remarked, "But I notice our lesson states that this is the wrong approach. That people do not feel at ease in our presence if we retaliate, or force instruction on them. Do you suppose the Lord will forgive me?"

Cry of a Troubled Heart

Miss T responded with a knowing smile, "Mellicent, we have all made similar mistakes. It is so easy for us to let self rise up when people persecute us, or even make belittling remarks about the truth we have found so precious in Jesus."

Amy stroked her forehead, and chimed in: "I have been making the same mistake. I really thought that it was my duty to instruct my husband, Bill, in the truths I have learned. And even though he has never asked, I have prodded, and instructed him. Then when he has not shown any interest, I have belittled him. I can see that all of this is wrong. When my Bill got upset with me for forcing this instruction on him, I called it persecution. How wrong I've been!

False Persecution

"I guess a lot of us have felt we were persecuted, when it was really just a reaction to our own poor methods of communication. Doesn't the Bible say somewhere that--oh yes, here it is right in the lesson: 'For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.' 1 Peter 2:20."

Mellicent said; "I see what I have been doing. I have been accusing my friends out at the airport of course just in my heart of persecuting me. Actually, I know I have been bringing it on myself. I went out there after I began to keep the Sabbath, with a holier-than-thou attitude, and began to instruct them. None of them had asked for it. Maybe they were calling me a 'Jew' to try to discourage me from being a 'preacher' when they had not asked any information from me. How wrong can a person be, anyhow?"

Again all the girls tried to laugh sympathetically.

Mellicent added, "But it does not make one feel very happy to have friends poke fun at you as if you were wacky!"

Miss T suggested kindly, "Now we come to the law of Joy. Would Rose like to read the first text under this section?"

Rose Holland began: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2, 3.

Mellicent replied; "Oh, I made a mistake, didn't I, in not going further than merely not retaliating. I should have considered it a joy to have fun poked at me! My! that is amazing! isn't it?"

Rose interrupted, "You notice that a Scripture just below this in the lesson makes clear why we should count it joy. It is because by becoming patient, we are letting the Holy Spirit prepare us to meet Jesus. It says that when He comes for His people, He will describe them this way: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12. The lesson states that throughout eternity sin will never rise up again. Hence, if we want to be in the number who will never once lose their patience, we had better begin making the correct responses to persecution now."

"And didn't Jesus command us to, 'Rejoice, and be exceeding glad,' whenever we are persecuted (Matthew 5:10 to 12)? He says in the 12th verse that our reward is great in the kingdom of heaven. I would say that is what really counts, wouldn't you?"

Amy had moist eyes as she added: "But what I can't understand, is why some of those who are really persecuting us the most bitterly, are Christian people. At least we thought so. They were some of our best friends. Now, what I can't understand, is why these good friends should turn to become so bitter,

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just because we are trying to do exactly what God tells us to do. You would think they would complement us for being conscientious, instead of belittling us for doing what we find is right."

Miss T Replied; "This is what one would expect, Amy. But when we look to Jesus and His sufferings, we learn otherwise."

"But Why?" Amy almost broke into tears as she repeated the question, "But why?"

"We find there are many factors, Amy, according to the experiences of Christ," Miss T explained. "One is that religious people tend to do exactly what they have been taught from childhood. It is extremely difficult for many individuals to actually believe that what they have been taught for years could be only partially right. Many times there is a sort of arrogant pride connected with religion, you know."

Amy replied; "But there shouldn't be. Religion should teach us to be humble, not proud--not even proud of what we have been taught."

"You are so right," Miss T responded. "But you see, Amy, in the experience of our Lord, the Scripture states: 'Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him.' Then it adds, that 'they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God' (John 12:42 and 43)."

Rose responded, "That does not sound much like what real Christianity should do for people, does it?"

"This is answered," Miss T continued to explain, "by Christ's parable of the wheat and the tares. He stated that wheat and tares would grow together in the church until the harvest. And that it is not up to us to try to decide the motives actuating people. For instance, the Bible makes plain that in some cases this unkind attitude springs entirely from sin in the life of the one who misunderstands and persecutes. Speaking of Cain, who murdered Abel, it asks, 'And wherefore slew he him?' Then note the answer to this question: 'Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.' 1 John 3:12.

"Again, the Scripture states that real, deliberate persecution stems from the fact that Satan hates Christ, and all Christ stands for. It says, 'And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?' 2 Corinthians 6:15."

"Would it be proper for a Christian wife to divorce a persecuting husband, and marry a man who will not be mean?" Rose asked, her eyes filled with tears.

"No," Miss T replied. "The Bible makes a very pointed answer: 'And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband.' 1 Corinthians 7:10. Then the great apostle continues: 'For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?' Verse 16.

"The Apostle Peter further makes clear that there is a method which the Holy Spirit can use--it is really within these seven laws of communication-by which the believing wife, or husband, may expect to win the unbelieving mate to Christ. It is not by retaliating. Nor by going to the opposite extreme of dolling up (though we should dress tidily). It is not by compromising with sin, or the world. It is by having 'a meek and quiet spirit,' 1 Peter 3:1-3. Here is Christ's humility manifested again.

Christ Misunderstood

"When Christ died on the cross, He prayed, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' Luke 23:34. This brings us to the law of faith," Miss T added.

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"Christ knew that the people consenting to His death did not have the spirit of God. Neither did they understand His mission to earth. These individuals were 'taken captive by him [the devil] , at his will' (2 Timothy 2:26)."

Rose injected, "But such people are lost anyhow, aren't they? No use of trying to save them, is there?"

Repentance

"This same text of Scripture counsels us: 'In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will' (2 Timothy 2:25, 26," responded Miss T.

"You will be greatly encouraged, Rose," Miss T pointed out, "to notice that Acts 6:7 bears out what we have been discussing. It states: 'And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.' Can you imagine a multitude-in fact, 'a great company' of those who had formerly been in the persecuting class, now becoming 'obedient to the faith'?"

There were many "ah's," and "oh's" among the group. Miss T then suggested that they discuss the law of faith.

Faith

"Evidently," Miss T went on, "Jesus looked with the eye of faith to that time when so many of these priests would turn to Him. His faith pierced the dark future. The prophet Isaiah pictured it this way: 'He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong' (Isaiah 53:11, 12)." Miss T noticed that some of the girls looked a little puzzled.

"Strong What?" Bulah asked, as she almost gasped. Then she added, "Could it be with his strong enemies?" Hope sprang to Bulah's eyes as faith took on a new meaning. It seemed to say, "I have faith that my most bitter persecutor, Bob, may yet see the light. And by seeing the spirit of Christ in me, he will do as the multitude of priests did-find and accept Jesus."

"This is almost too good to be true," Rose exclaimed.

Amy added, with tears flooding her eyes, "This gives me hope for my daddy too. He has been pretty rough on me."

Hope

Mellicent remarked, "I am getting hope, too. I see that I must represent Jesus in my communication. How, otherwise, will my friends be attracted to the wonderful light I have been receiving from Him? If I retaliate a wee bit; if I try to force them into a corner with arguments; if I get on my high horse and try to show them where they are wrong, just to justify myself, how can I expect them to be impressed with the spirit of Christ?"

Then she added. "I notice the Scripture says, 'We are saved by hope' (Romans 8:24). This lesson is doing something to my soul--really!"

Love

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The group then turned to the law of love-selfless love—the kind of divine love that covers other's mistakes, while working for their salvation.

"I observe in Proverbs 17:9," began Rose, "that if we have love, we shall not spread the faults of our mates around, regardless of how grievous are their sins. I have already attended a couple meetings with the ladies of the Welfare group, and I have observed how careful they are not to discuss the faults of their husbands who are not in Christ. I would say that these ladies have learned the true principle of love.

"I asked Mary Wilcox the other day, as we sat there at the Welfare meeting, why it was that when her husband was so antagonistic, she never mentioned, or even hinted, at any of his hurts, or prejudices, or persecutions. She amazed me when she said, 'Love covers as it seeks to save.' Then continuing meekly, she said, 'God has given me some wonderful promises in His Word. I am asking, believing, and claiming these promises for the salvation of my dear husband.'

"Then there was Alice Cox. She said that for years her husband seemed to be going farther and farther in the wrong direction. She said he even went so far as to become involved in some heathen cult. The farther down he went, the more miserable he became. All the while Alice was thinking of Jesus, representing His love, His joy, and His humility.

"All this time she was claiming promises by faith, and her hope beamed out of her very eyes. She said that one day--one real dark day--her husband turned to her and demanded, 'How is it that when I am so mean, you can be so kind, and so sweet, and so happy?' She said she turned to him with a honeymoon twinkle in her eyes, and answered, 'Honey, it is because I am going to heaven, and I am taking you with me.' She was so gracious, and so sweet, and so meek that these words were used by the Holy Spirit to bring tremendous conviction to his heart. Soon afterward he found Jesus. Later he turned in most of his wealth to evangelistic work."

Bulah was smiling. "Do you think, folk," she began, "that if I obey these seven rules in Jesus, that it just might be that my husband would change from a wicked persecutor to a saint of God, too?" Bulah paused, then continued, "I

would give the world if I could believe that."

All Kinds of Insults

Bulah sowerfully related some of the cruel insults Bob had heaped on her. "Even in company, he loves to pour it on," she remarked. "We had a large crew of workmen in construction a few days ago. My husband requested that I prepare the dinner for all that gang of men. He said it was because he wanted to show off my culinary arts. So I prepared the best and most delicious meal I could. And do you know how my husband rewarded me for doing that? When we were all seated at the tables, my husband arose, and in the most sanctimonious voice began, 'Gentlemen, my wife's got religion. She never eats without offering praise to her God. She wants to say grace.' And, oh, you should have heard my husband laugh. But the others didn't laugh. They pitied me. I could tell from the sympathetic glances they gave me.

"When I had finished asking the blessing, there was silence. You could have heard a pin drop. I guess some of the men saw tears in my eyes. I got up quickly and hurried into the other room, bringing back a hot dish, hoping no one would notice my embarrassment.

"A few days later, we were in a swanky restaurant. Just as we were ready to eat, what did my husband do but stand before all those strangers. And in a loud, stentorian voice exclaim, 'Folks, my wife's got

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religion. She never eats without first offering a prayer of thanksgiving for her food.' Then he laughed so cruelly.

"There was nothing left for me to do, but to ask the blessing. When I was through, my heart was beating so fast! I could have wished the floor would cave in and hide me from the eyes of all those people. But they seemed to sympathize with me, too. I observed a lot of love-glances beamed in my direction, as if to say, 'Don't be afraid. We are with you.'

"It has been going that way--first physical blows, and then sarcastic expressions, until I have felt there was no hope. But today has given me hope. I am going to claim a promise, just like Jesus did: 'Father, forgive my husband. He does not know what he is doing.' Then Bulah said softly, as one big tear seemed to stand on her right cheek near that black and blue mark, 'Do you think God will really do something special for me, if I prove faithful, kind, and joyful in trial? Really, do you think so?'"

Mellicent's Reward

Weeks came and went. The group finished the course of lessons. Then the same group decided to go back over the lessons again to further fix the laws of communication in their minds. As they studied, they practiced the seven laws. They freely discussed where they had failed, and how they might succeed in the future. Weeks more passed. Then one day Mellicent walked into the group with face wreathed in smiles. She could hardly wait for the opening chorus and invocation to share the good and wonderful news.

"Do you remember, folk," she began, "the first meeting we had together? It was then that I asked the Lord to forgive me for having belittled some of the folk at the airport restaurant for their little jokes about my being a Jew. And then for trying to out argue them, just so they would realize I was not inferior to them.

"Well, let me tell you what! As I began to change my methods, they began to change their attitudes. I did not tell you several weeks ago that they had seen me studying the 'Faith' correspondence course, sent out by The Voice of Prophecy. But by this time we had become real good friends. Irma, one of the girls at the airport, asked me what I was studying. When I told her about the Bible course, she asked if she might someday obtain a set of lessons, too. Of course I gave her an enrollment card, which she filled out at once. In two weeks or so, she got her first lessons.

"Irma and Mike, her husband, got so interested in the lessons that they couldn't wait for the next lessons to come. They came over to my home several evenings, and studied my course.

"Last Sunday Irma rushed up to me and exclaimed. 'Mellicent, my husband and I have decided to give our hearts to Christ, and to become members of the Pierce Arrow church!'"

"Folk, I am so happy!" Mellicent gestured excitedly with her hands, her eyes beaming with sacred and holy joy.

Amy smiled with the rest of the group, and then remarked, "Next week I, too, may have something to share with you. And, sure enough, the next week she came to the group meeting, bubbling over with excitement.

"Let me tell you something," she beamed. "My husband was very prejudiced, you know? Well, I have had quite a time with him for several weeks now. Every time he has been nasty, and mean, and sarcastic, I have asked God to help me to be Christlike, joyful, humble, and loving.

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"Just a few weeks ago he heard about the 'Gift Bible' offer, and began taking the course of study. I felt for some time that something was happening. But I did not want to mention it to you, and then disappoint you all if he did not come through for Jesus.

"Last Friday he said he had something very special he wanted to talk over. When we did, he apologized for his unkind criticism and persecution of me. He asked me to pray with him, and for him. When we got up from our knees, he told me, with tears in his eyes, that he had decided to give his life to Christ, to be baptized, and unite with the Pierce Arrow church."

Handkerchiefs were being used freely, and reverent "amens" were on several lips.

Two weeks later, Bulah arrived at the group meeting, her eyes brimmed with tears-tears of joy. The moment the folk had all gathered, even before the opening chorus was sung, Bulah began:

"You will find this hard to believe, I know. But it is true--every word true. My husband showed no signs of change, whatever, during all these weeks. As the rest of you related your wonderful experiences, my heart sank. Then I was convinced in my thinking that what God had done for others, He could do for me. So I asked Him to help me to be kinder, more loving, and more joyful than ever; No matter what the trial, to keep me Christlike. And I could feel the assurance of the Holy Spirit.

"Last Sunday my husband invited me to go for a ride out into the country. As we travelled, I knew something was weighing heavily on his mind. I continued to pray. I did not know what it was--whether there was to be more beatings, or whether it might be something worse maybe death itself.

"Finally my husband drove over to a quiet spot under a tree and turned off the key. Then he turned to me. Looking me full in the face, he began apologizing for the cruel way he had treated me.

"I knew then that my prayer had been answered. With big tears rolling down his cheeks, he said, 'Honey, I have made a change. Any God who can keep a woman so kind, so loving, so joyful, so devoted, as you, is worth having as a Savior. I am accepting Him as my Lord, and I have asked Him to forgive my sins, even though like scarlet.'

"Confidingly, he continued, 'I looked into your Bible and found there the promise that God will cleanse from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). And I learned that if I just believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, even I may be saved (Acts 16:31).' In quiet sincerity he said, 'In believing in the Lord, as the text indicates, I make Him the Lord of my life. I give Him my obedience and my love. In believing on Jesus, I think of the promise I found in your Bible in Matthew 1:21, which says He shall save from sin. So I have claimed Him as my Savior.

"When you were away from the house one day, I was looking through some of your papers and lessons, and found that the word Christ means anointed. So He was anointed, it said, with the Holy Ghost. So I accept Him and His Holy Spirit to lead me, and to make me the kind of Christian you are.'

"He concluded, 'I am going to church with you next Sabbath. And when the closing invitation hymn is sung, I am going to the altar and confess Christ publicly, and then request baptism and membership in the Pierce Arrow church."

There were tears in all eyes, and the whole group of ladies rejoiced greatly with Bulah in her wonderful and thrilling experience.

Smiling through tear-filled eyes, Miss T remarked meditatively, "What hath God wrought!"

Note: This man later became a local elder of the church where he lived.

In Depth Meditations

Question 1:

While the Christian should do all within his power to work for peace and reconciliation with any who may hold grievances against him, yet some have discovered that, try as one may, he cannot find peace with the world unless he compromises his principles of truth. What test of Scripture makes this clear?

The Answer:

"What concord hath light with darkness?" 2 Cor. 6:15.

Question 2:

To make sure that we are not ourselves at fault when unable to effect a reconciliation, what example of Jesus should we carefully follow?

The Answer:

"Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again." 1 Peter 2:23.

Question 3:

When we are tempted to think that certain other people are just not sincere, what Scripture should we remember to obey?

The Answer:

"Honour all men." 1 Peter 2:17

Question 4:

When we are tempted to criticize others who do not agree with us, what Scripture should we obey?

The Answer:

"But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Phil. 2:3.

Question 5:

What attitude should we request God to give us when people hate us and are extremely bitter against us?

The Answer:

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Acts 7:60.

Question 6:

If we will follow Christ's example of kindness toward those who oppose, persecute and hate us, what may some day take place?

The Answer:

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." 2 Tim. 2:24-26.