ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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"Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God;
and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God."

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JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL

Jesus, Lover of my Soul, Let me to thy bosom fly
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide
Till the storm of life is past; Safe into the haven guide; Oh receive my soul at last! -C. Wesley

GIVE THANKS AND GIVE CARE

The Apostle Paul knew he was a sinner saved by the Grace of God. He knew he was unworthy. Was someone praying for him? God's call was on his life. When he finally believed, he got right down to business with the Lord. Time was taken to "set" his faith and walk with Jesus. He'd learned how to be a good student and a good follower. He listened and obeyed. Surely the Believers loved and helped one another. Following Jesus, they taught and led the Way. We need to help one another.

One brother wrote: "For the Holy Spirit to have free reign in us …He requires that I yield to God's knife (the Cross) and God's fire (the Holy Spirit) to bring self and strain to an end, so that I will not spoil the Holy Spirit's work. The New Covenant releases us from self-centered striving, to the wonderful ease of a Christ- centered life. Yield to the Holy Spirit and let Him impart the life of Christ to you." -Les Wheeldon

Jesus feels our sorrow and sufferings. He had the authority to call Lazarus to come forth from the tomb. He brought the widow's only son back from death to life. Alone in a room with a dead little girl and her parents, Jesus took the girl's hand and called, saying, 'little girl, arise.' Her spirit returned immediately. He healed countless people. He cast out numerous demons, setting people free. He identifies with all his creation. He can and will surely fix this broken world we live in. He makes things "better than if it never happened." He goes above and beyond. He does not compromise. His Mercy is Truth and His Truth is Mercy. His Love is pure and Holy. "And can it be that I am His and He is mine?" Christ's own Holy Blood speaks YES, Yes, Yes!

We do not easily understand or identify with God's lowliness. He wasn't putting on a show or advertising Himself while here amongst mankind. He is True God, the One and Only, The Almighty, and the list goes on. He is the great **I AM**. He is complete. We've no existence apart from Him. Our response to Him is of utmost importance. Wouldn't it be immoral for us to require of Him anything? Yet He freely meets our needs. Ask and you shall receive. He loves us deeply and cares for us. "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me". "For out of His infinite riches in Jesus He gives and gives and gives again." He is Love.

The truth of how little we give thanks to our wonderful Savior is sad to say the least. And what tragic loss we experience for lack of a grateful heart. We say we're thankful. We must be thankful and live with a grateful heart. Jesus went all the way to calvary with a grateful heart.

He knew and believed in His Father in Heaven. His life on earth was for us to see and come to know Him: for the lost to be saved. He died for us and for all mankind. Embrace Him, by faith in Him as your Savior who is your pathway to our Father in Heaven. Thanksgiving is a key to the feet of Jesus.

What about others? Thank God for them! "*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; …"* Phil. 1: 3-6

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CONFESSING CHRIST -D. Wilkerson

"*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."* Matthew 10: 32-33

What does it mean to confess or deny Christ before men? The Greek word for confess here means "covenant" or "assent." Jesus is speaking of an agreement we have with him. Our part is to confess, or represent, him in our daily lives. We do this by trusting in his promises to care for us and by testifying of it through how we live.

The Lord had just told his listeners, "*Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father"* vs. 29. Think of the many birds on earth. Not one has died without the heavenly Father knowing it. Do you think your God cares less for you? Christ pointed out, "*The very hairs of your head are all numbered"* 10:30. He was emphasizing our Father's knowledge of us and detailed care for us. Jesus commanded, *'Fear not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" 10:31* Think of what I've just revealed to you about the Father's care. You're to confess this truth to the whole world, leading a life that declares, "God cares for me." We may state our belief in Jesus, worship him and even preach his name, but if we live in fear we are not testifying to the world of his care.

Finally, Christ promises, "*Him will I confess also before my Father.* 10:32. On judgment day, Jesus will take us by the hand, lead us to the Father's throne and state, "Here is one who believed my Word. He lived before men with absolute confidence that I valued him, demonstrating that I cared for him in his life. And even in his most difficult times, he cast all his cares and fears on me, proclaiming to the world that I cared for him. He trusted me all the way through. Now, what does it mean to *deny* Christ before men? "*But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."* 10:33. When it comes to denying Christ, most of us think of Peter. We wonder, "*How could someone so close to the Lord deny him?"* Yet even the most devout among us can be guilty of the same sin.

We deny Jesus when we don't trust him in our overwhelming trials. Many Christians feel they can no loner bear the trial they're facing. Day after day they hide their agony, stifling deep cries of hurt. Their minds are overcome with fear and in their hearts they don't want to go on. Does this describe you? As you struggle to put your hurt into words, even your friends don't understand. Worse, a piercing question lingers in your mind: "Is the Lord judging me for something I've done? David fought the battle of self-doubt when he was overwhelmed. He prayed, "*Enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified "*Ps. 143:2. He was saying, "Answer my cry, Lord, but please don't judge me. It's bad enough that I'm suffering. I couldn't face it if I'm paying for doing wrong."

Beloved, that is not the way our Lord works. He doesn't try to win your love by hurting you.

What kind of man tries to woo a woman by wounding her? Jesus woos our hearts with mercy, loving- kindness and his good news. So don't blame God for your woes. And don't blame yourself. Jesus desires only one thing from you: a cry to him for help. He wants you to reach out for him. When you do, he promises to come quickly.

I have to ask you: Does the world know you to be a lover of Christ? If so, are you seen as downcast and forlorn? Do you constantly talk about the things that go wrong? Have you lingered in this condition without appropriating Christ's promises? Don't deny him before men or dismiss his love for you, and don't neglect to confess him for who he is: your Savior, protector, and provider. Acknowledge his faithfulness. We do go through many trials in life. But God is true to his Word. Trust the Lord at all times and in all circumstances. David, at times wept but he also said, "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers him out of them all…The Lord redeems the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."* Ps. 34:19,22*".*

"*Unto the pure all things are pure, but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."* Titus 1: 15-16. When Paul says all things are pure to the pure, he's speaking of believers whose minds aren't defiled. A holy purity flows out of their conversation and lifestyle, and they won't allow anything to pollute this pure stream. They don't participate in the 'world spirit' which opposes God- gossip, etc. Instead, they see all people through eyes of love.

An evil heart is a deceived heart. "*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"* Titus 1:16. God wants to free us from the burden of sin; to cleanse and cover us. His heart is pure love. We must face our guilt and turn to Jesus our Savior. Believe in his saving and grace and live a godly life. Scripture clearly says: "*If we deny him, he will also deny us"* 2 Timothy 2:12. Be a blessing. Beware of worldly ways. Beware of the love of wealth, power, immorality, etc. God is faithful. We can be faithful by his grace. There's power in the Blood.

"*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea… There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God… God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early"* Psalm 46: 1-5

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THREE MONTHS IN HIS PRESENCE -V. Lively

When friends ask how I first discovered that my hands have been given a ministry of healing, I'm sure they don't expect to hear the kind of story that I am about to set down. Apparently, the fact that I am a suburban housewife who saves grocery stamps and has to watch her weight seems a poor beginning to a story of divine intervention.

It started the year my father entered the tuberculosis sanitarium in Tampa, FL. We had long since given up hope. He was too old for an operation and we had seen the X-rays. The last thing on earth that would have occurred to any of us was to ask God to step in and change medical facts.

And yet my husband Ed and I were active church members. As a banker He was head of fund- raising, our two children went to Sunday school and I belonged to all the usual groups. We were typical civic-minded church goers. Which is

why the tears, when they began, caused us so much embarrassment.

It was in October, driving home from a PTA meeting, that I suddenly began to cry. I was in charge of the school carnival that year, and at the meeting there had been some criticism of the plans. When I was still crying at bedtime Ed put his arms around me and said, "Honey, all the carnivals in the world aren't that important."

But it wasn't the carnival. Even as I cried I knew that the tears were for something far bigger. I cried myself to sleep and in the morning, as soon as I opened my eyes, the tears started again. I choked them back while I fixed breakfast. But as soon as Ed and the children left, I burst into tears again. After four days of this I took to wearing dark glasses even in the house so that my family would not guess how constantly I was crying. I was sure I was having a nervous breakdown.

It was on the morning of the fourth day, when I was alone, that a curious change took place. I saw and heard nothing. Yet all at once there was power in the air around me. The atmosphere itself seemed to hum and crackle as though I stood in the center of a vast electrical storm. As I try to put it into words it sounds fantastic, but at the time there was no sense that something beyond the possible was taking place.

I had sunk into the high-backed chair in the living room when suddenly through the window I saw the eastern horizon. Trees and houses stood between me and it, but I seemed to see right beyond to the place where earth and sky came together. And there, where they met, was a ball of Light.

The Light was moving, traveling toward me with amazing speed. It appeared white, yet from it poured all the colors I had ever seen. And then it was beside me. Although it seemed impossible that anything with such energy could hold still, it took a position at my right shoulder and there it stayed. And as I stared, I started to smile. I smiled because He was smiling at me. For I now saw that it was not light, but a face.

How can I put into words the most beautiful countenance I have ever seen? "He is perfect" was my first thought. His forehead was high, His eyes exceptionally large. But I could never fix the color of His eyes any more than I could the color of the sea. Much more than individual features, was the overwhelming impression of life---unhampered life, life so brimming over with power and freedom that all living things I had seen until then seemed like lumps of clay in comparison.

Not for a moment did I hesitate to call this Life at my side JESUS. And two things about Him struck me most. The first was His humor. I was astonished to see Him often break into outright laughter. And the second was His utter lack of condemnation. That He knew me down to my very marrow—knew all the stupid, cruel, silly things I had ever done—I realized at once. But I also saw that none of those things or anything I would ever do, could alter the absolute caring, the unconditional Love, that I saw in those eyes.

I could not grasp it. It was too immense a fact. I felt that if I gazed at Him for a thousand years I could not realize it all. I did not have a thousand years. I had three months. For as long as that, the face stayed beside me, never fading, never withdrawing. Many times I tried to tell someone else what I saw but the words would not come. And meanwhile I carried on with my usual tasks, etc. -but seemingly effortlessly. I was so fixed on Him.

At the same time, I had never seemed so aware of people and esp. my husband. Far from feeling that a third person had entered our marriage, I felt Christ was the marriage and that all along He was the one drawing us together. How this was possible when my mind was full of Jesus alone I don't know, but it was true.

And the Bible! All at once I couldn't read enough of it. It was like tearing open a letter from someone who had known this Presence as a flesh-and-blood person, full of just the kind of specific details I longed to hear. Certain passages in particular had a strange effect on me. When the Bible described Jesus healing someone, the actual print on the page seemed to burn. The hand that touched it tingled as if I had touched an electric current.

And then one afternoon before the children got home, I was sitting, just looking at him when all of a sudden in a patch of sunlight on the wall appeared the X-ray of my father's chest. It was all scar tissue and cavities. Then as I watched, a white mist moved slowly up the wall. When it passed the diseased tissue, there appeared on my wall a picture of a healthy lung. "Then Dad's well!" I said aloud, and after that the Person at my side burst into peal after peal of joyous laughter, which said that wholeness was always God's way.

It was Dad's healing that convinced me I must try to describe the indescribable that had happened to me. I visited and shared with an elderly pastor I knew. To my astonishment he understood me at once. He gave me books with testimonies in them of others. He said to me, "Don't be surprised Virginia, if the vision fades after a time. They usually do, you know." Jesus was with me as I drove home. But I worried and thought about myself. I hadn't veered from Him until then. The damage was done. The seed of self-concern was sown. His Presence came and went for some time. When He did return He was without accusation but full of compassion as though He knew how difficult it was for me to see Him.

At last all that was left of this experience was the strange tingling in my hands as I read the Bible stories of healing.

One day I was visiting a friend in the hospital. She was hemorrhaging and in pain. On an impulse I reached out and touched her. My hand began to burn as when I read the Bible. She gave a little sigh of comfort and fell asleep. The doctor found the bleeding had stopped.

When I last saw Jesus He had said, "I will always be with you." I said, "But how will I know if I can't see You?" "You will see Me." He said and He was gone. There were many more healings.

Years went by and the vision didn't come back and then one day while I was speaking to a church group, I saw those love-lit eyes smiling once again into mine. I looked again. The eyes belonged to a lady in the second row. Suddenly the room was full of Him. He was in the eyes of everyone there. "You will see Me…"

My incredible experience was as for a child's faith. I don't think He lets it stay that way. He didn't for His disciples; He doesn't for us today. He takes away all sensory clues. He is bigger than our eyes and ears can make Him, so He gives us instead the eyes of faith, and all mankind in which to discover His face. (slightly condensed & ed.)

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"According to the Power that Works in Us"

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Ephesians 3: 20, 21

God is able – "*according to the power that works in us."* What power? The power of the Holy Spirit. God works by spiritual laws. It is to the spiritual, not the natural man, that this door to which powers of the world to come, is open. It is the Holy Spirit who has been sent to this earth to be our guide into eternal mysteries. It is He that opens the Word to our understanding. It is He who is to teach us.

Is it any wonder that when the disciples were asking to be taught how to pray, Jesus, knowing all things and what should be their chief future need, gave a parable of the persistent prayer relating directly to the giving of the Holy Spirit? See Luke 11: 1-13. Concluding with the direct promise:

"*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"*

Remember the man at the door asking for bread ceased his quest and gave up asking *only* when he had obtained the bread. It may be as you knock at the door this Holy Spirit for Whom you are pleading may come to convict and show you your need of a cleaner life, a purer heart, a fuller consecration, and you will not for a time, understand why you are kept waiting. He wants to enter a clean surrendered vessel, but if you are in earnest, God will not fail.

When He comes in to take possession, He does the rest. The secret lies in the *yielded* vessel, the yielded life, -emptied of every earthly desire by beholding Christ's face and changing from glory to glory, thus giving up the life of self that you may put on Christ, the daily sinking into Him yielding to the control of the Spirit until the natural man is dead and the spiritual man – "*Christ in you , the Hope of glory"* –has power. Many who truly receive the Holy Spirit as a definite experience are slow in learning the yielded life, and God is only able to give *according* to the power that works in us. But again, He is our Teacher, and one poor in spirit, yielded in will, will find God answering prayer for this need as well as all others that the life may yield wholly to Him.

"Oh, to be but emptier, lowlier,
Mean ,unnoticed ,and unknown,
And to God a vessel holier,
Filled with Christ, and Christ alone!
Naught of earth to cloud the glory,
Naught of self the light to dim,
Telling forth His wondrous story
Emptied – to be filled with Him!"

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will kindle in your hearts a great desire to go all the way of the Cross. – Martha W. Robinson

FAITH HOME NEWS

Surely, we have been blessed and well cared for by our loving Lord and we are thankful. We thank Him also for you, all of you. We find ourselves: "Marching on, marching on, through Christ count everything but loss, but to crown Him King, toil and sing 'neath the banner of the Cross."

Our prayers and love are with you**.**

God bless and keep you!

HE LIVES!