ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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2820 Eshcol Avenue, Zion, Illinois 60099

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in his love, He will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _Sing Hallelujah to the Lord! _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

GOD SINGS

What a word is this! Jehovah God is in the center of his people in all the majesty of his power! This presence alone suffices to inspire us with peace and hope. Treasures of boundless might are stored in our Jehovah, and He dwells in his church, therefore may His people shout for joy.

We not only have His presence, but He is engaged upon His choice work of salvation. "He will save." He is always saving; He takes His name of Jesus from it. Let us not fear any danger, for He is mighty to save.

Nor is this all. He abides evermore the same; He loves, He finds rest in loving, He will not cease to love. His love gives Him joy. He even finds a theme for song in His beloved. This is exceedingly wonderful. When God wrought creation He did not sing, but simply said, "It is good"; but when He came to redemption, then the sacred Trinity felt a joy to be expressed in song. Think of it, and be astonished! Jehovah Jesus sings a marriage song over His chosen bride. She is to Him His love, His joy, His rest, His song. O Lord Jesus, by thine immeasurable love to us, teach us to love thee, to rejoice in thee, and to sing unto thee our life-psalm.

- Charles H. Spurgeon

Rejoice in the Lord always and be thankful!

PRAISE

A FIXED HABIT OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE IS THE BEST SAFEGUARD AGAINST DISCOURAGEMENT.

If we travel by way of praise we can always be safe from discouragement, by declaring the beauty of God as He is in Himself.

When we look into our hearts and see nothing praiseworthy, then is the time, par excellence, to turn and look at God instead.

It is only as we keep our eyes on our all-conquering Lord that we can find the inspiration of praise. PRAISE! What a wonderful word! It overflows with sunshine, is full of life and light and is a balm to the soul.

It lifts burdens and sends the weary rejoicing on their way.

It is the lever that raises the weight of discouragement from the dejected heart.

It is charity in one of its most beautiful garbs.

If praise is so great, and so full of wealth, what can be said of the soul from whence it flows? The answer is, it has the atmosphere of the eternal throne of God.

It shares the spirit of the angels and the archangels in their never-ceasing songs of praise and adoration to the Lamb.

It possesses something above nature, something outside of time, and greater than earth's passing circumstances.

Praise is a life. Praise is a love knot. Praise is a liberator. Praise is a language. Praise is a lever. Praise is the law of a holy life. Praise is a lamp

in the dark. Praise is a lotion. Praise is a livery, a garment for the wedding.

Praise is from God out of heaven to make Christians extravagantly victorious over all the powers of darkness and hell, and in all the tragic losses and disappointments of this life. Praise the Lord!

-Selected

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BE READY

If He should come this afternoon in His power and glory, would we be ready to see Him? Some who now think they are ready would be taken by surprise in that there are things they would want to take care of. They would see that they did not have oil in their vessels.

The witness of the Holy Spirit must be in your hearts. We must be prepared by His coming in us for His coming to us in the clouds -every wish in His will, every thought subdued. He will accomplish the subjugation of the flesh. But do we really love to be with Jesus our Lord and Savior? -Or do the desires of the flesh rule in us? What a battle this can be. Tell Him you love Him. Behold Him in your heart. "I am His and He is mine." Acknowledge His Presence. He is with us. Love others without exception. Pray for God's Mercy and His truth to be imparted to them. Pray they will open their hearts to Him. May our hearts be clean? His Blood answers yes! Keep God's Word prominent in your minds. Jesus rules! He can, we can't. Surrender all and rejoice, giving thanks that He lovingly receives us. Let God do His will in us each and every day!

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There is a majestic alteration of a human life when Jesus has His way: when He rules and reigns in all your life, and all is possessed by Him, when you have seen Him as the King in your heart. He prepares us for His coming.

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Mark 11: 22-26 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have *faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."* Jesus both taught and exemplified real prayer and a life in and of God. The religious leaders reasoned what they did not know. -fruitless! They were afraid, and 'out of the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE'. In rebel spirit they questioned Jesus' authority. They said to one another what they expected to hear, "Why did you not believe Him?" Tragically they rejected The SAVIOR of the World and received nothing from the very Son of God, their Messiah. Jesus loved them still! He continued in a life of prayer and intercession. He gave His all, for all. Who will receive? Who will give?

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Jesus, God's only begotten Son, stayed true to His Father's divine and perfect will. It was perfect for us, his created ones, that He died on the cross that day. But how could it be perfect for Him. Wasn't it horribly unjust -man's treatment of God's Son. Well, yes. <u>But GOD IS LOVE</u>!

Jesus prayed that night. "*Father, if it is Your will take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but yours be done."*

Now Jesus knew His Father's will. He is now fulfilling Their Divine Will, for His creation

ruined by sin. How? -the Cross. Why? He is Love HE/THEY, the eternal God-Head- Father, Son and Holy Ghost IS/ARE LOVE! With His BLOOD He purchased you and me through faith in Him. "BEHOLD the LAMB, BEHOLD the LAMB, Slain from the foundation of the world. For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice, Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb."

John 4:34 *My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*
John 5:30 *I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*
John 6:38 *I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

His never-wavering commitment to God's plan and purpose is the reason He could say to His Father having finished His ministry:
John 17: 4 *I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

He cried out from the cross,
John 19: 29 ***IT IS FINISHED!*** *And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Jesus fulfilled His Father's will. His prayers were heard because of His reverent submission.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
Hebrews 5:5-9 *So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become high Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek; who, in the days of his flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of his godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him…"*

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A PASTORAL LETTER

The Zion Faith Homes 1967
This is the 60th year since the inception of this Faith Work in 1907. Many thousands have passed through these Homes during that period: visitors, residents, trainees, and including the very blessed members of the church-in-our-house who have faithfully followed this simple teaching to "seek the Lord with all our hearts.' The Presence of the Lord has been the great wonder and continuous blessing and glory through all these years; that Glorious Presence being the foundation of Permanence for all who desire to walk with God.

Two things have been ceaselessly taught during this long period: 1. To seek Jesus with all the heart to KNOW HIM. 2. To live and walk in love according to The Word of God.

This means: 1. to want Jesus for Himself alone; to *know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death*. Eph. 3:10. It means that Jesus must be first and chief before all other loves known to humans. It means that The Giver is supremely the object of the heart rather than the gifts of the giver. 2. To live and walk in Love means: to live in the wording of the Love Chapter 1 Cor. 13; and also the words of Jesus as in Matt. 5 and

John's gospel. In fact, that is the express teaching of the whole New Testament: filled with Love, rooted in Love, walking in Love, perfected in Love.

These are the two primary purposes of the "gifts of the Spirit.". And all true teaching concerning the Kingdom of God is, by means of these truths, "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace." God's first aim in His children is not miracles and wonders (as man sees such) but to establish and keep them in the true Oneness of the Spirit. And that is only possible in Love. God's "Love" is the Life of Heaven. Man does not know that Love except by The Holy Spirit.

The "gifts of the Spirit" are for the express purpose of building up the "Body of Christ" in this Love and divine Oneness. Nothing but that Love will endure and remain. All that is not of that Love will sooner or later fail and pass away.

God has kept this simple Work in that blessed heavenly Light for all these years, through endless problems of spiritual warfare. He has kept that call, and objective, before us by countless calls and teachings and exhortations of the Holy Spirit. He has kept the Work in a simplicity of faith on these lines. That is a miracle of Divine Grace. Through all these years, in countless meetings, he has maintained His gifts here as the means by which He has kept the Work alive and developing.

Just to keep, and remain in, "the unity of the Spirit" takes all we have, all the time. But that simple and beautiful unity of The Spirit can only be maintained by Love-in-action. And Love-in-action is Mercy. "Mercy" and "Lovingkindness" are the same word in the ancient language. "Lovingkindness" is Love in action. "Mercy is Love-in action." And that is the true preparation for the Coming of Jesus. He is coming in Glory to be acknowledged AS LORD OF ALL, in the whole world. Your "church" needs to be a demonstration and manifestation of that Love and spiritual unity. And that means your life is a whole burnt offering unto God. He does it in you by the Holy Spirit and Fire – AS YOU SEEK TO KNOW HIM. …

Pray-read 1 Corinthians 13 -Rex Andrews

1 John 2: 5-6 *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

Our hearts and prayers are with you. Be blessed in His Holy Name. Thank you for your prayers. God is moving by His Spirit!