

Bread of Life

JANUARY 1961



A New Year's Message



DO YOU EVER THIRST *after the Lord?* Do you ever pant *after the Lord* as the heart panteth *after the water brooks?* So many souls think that they would “like” to have Jesus. So many souls “want” to know Him. If your heart DEMANDED that you might know Him better, He would give you a great revelation. If you want Jesus, look for Him daily. You know, He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. You do not know how wonderful it is to have Him satisfy you with Himself.

Paul says, “Those things that were gain to me, I counted loss for Christ.” That is the state we should be in. We should be so taken up with Him that we have no time for anything else. Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find. I have the right to ask that I might know Him better THIS YEAR. If you will seek Him with all your heart, He will enlarge your heart’s capacity.

Seek Him this coming year until you know Him better. Jesus Christ has planned that you and I should mean business with Him. It is obedience that makes Him manifest Himself, not just prayer, but obedience and prayer.

Edited excerpts from a message, Jan. 1, 1920

By MARTHA W. ROBINSON

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VOL. X

NO. 1

JANUARY 1961

Published monthly by RIDGEWOOD PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, 457 Harman Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Editor: Gordon P. Gardiner. Ass't Editor: Caroline Gardiner. Contributing Editor: Hans R. Waldvogel. Office Manager: Eleanor Perz. Photoengraver: Bingham Photoengraving Co. Printed in the U.S.A. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, N. Y. Address all correspondence to P.O. Box 11, Brooklyn 27, N. Y. Make all subscriptions payable to Frank G. Posta, Treas.

Annual Subscriptions: United States and Canada \$1.75; Foreign, \$2.00. Single copy—15c.

Where Holiness Is Acquired

By HANS R. WALDVOGEL

EPHESIANS is at once remarkable for the fact that it brings us into the holiest of all, into the very depths of the treasury of Jehovah, exposing to our spiritual view the great mysteries which God determined to reveal in these last days, not only in the world but among the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, and then it takes us right down out of the heavens of heavens into our kitchen where we have to wash the dishes and into our basement where we have to build a fire, into our homes where we have to be nice to our wife and to our husband. God reveals to us that He in His great heart, before the worlds, the sun and the moon and the stars were made, there was a great purpose in His heart to have sons, heirs, that should be like Him, and He determined that in the Lord Jesus Christ. God determined to create a masterpiece that would be the astonishment of all the angels and principalities and powers in the heavenly places. God Almighty determined to build a temple that should be the very manifestation of Himself to all of eternity. And here in Ephesians the Lord talks about the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you the hope of glory.

God, who talks about these great and marvelous mysteries of the heavens of heavens and of our call to be like unto Him, takes us right into the workshop where He creates this mystery—not in the heavens, not among the angels, not in the New Jerusalem, but in the streets of Brooklyn. That is where this great mystery is

worked out. In the simplicity of our daily lives Jesus Christ walks with us and Jesus Christ stretches forth His hand. It is a very narrow gate, and it is a very narrow way that leadeth unto life, and here we have it in Ephesians.

God does not fool us. He does not say, "Now you have to learn all about theology and about rhetoric." No, sanctification and holiness are only acquired as we make room for Jesus Christ to live out His own life in the commonplace experiences of our daily lives. He talks about making us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is wellpleasing in His sight.

Of Enoch it is written that before his translation he pleased God. Now all of us are still before our translation, aren't we? But how much will depend upon whether we please ourselves or God. That is going to make the difference. That is what made the difference in Enoch—*before* his translation he had *this testimony* that he pleased God, and he was translated. He was not.

You know when artists paint Enoch, they depict him as a silhouetted, dark figure walking on the horizon with his hands folded and his eyes turned inside out—"He walked with God." But the Bible paints a different picture: He begat sons and daughters, a good married man. He had a lot of boys and girls, and in spite of being surrounded by a lot of "kids", he still pleased God.

To walk and to please God, you may be tested to the utmost. You will be tempted like God

tempted Jesus Christ who walked among men, who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, who took upon Himself the form not only of man but of a servant, a carpenter. Oh, what temptations came to Jesus *before* He was crucified, before He stood that supreme test in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was tempted in all points like as we are.

Wouldn't it be good if we would take a piece of paper and a pencil and write down all the things that make us get irritable during the day?—"Aunt Susie. . . Uncle Sebastian. . . the preacher. . . the preacher's wife . . . and the people who jump around like dervishes up on the second floor while I want to pray and be inward." Then look into the Bible and say, "He was tempted in all points like as we are." It might wake us up and make us realize how to walk and to please God. We think that if we were arrested by the communists and brought before tribunal and had to defend our faith, we would expect God to give us power to give people "a piece of our mind."

Beloved, there is a wonderful secret in living for Jesus—a daily life in the very circumstances into which God has put you and to know that *all things*, *all things* are permitted of God. You think you are not seen. "Oh, if God knew my trial now!" There are a million eyes trained on you—electric eyes—a million klieg lights trained on you, television cameras broadcasting to the demons of hell and to the angels in heaven how you live, how you answer your wife, how you are answering your hus-

band, how you treat your children, what your heart is like. "There's not a word in my tongue, O Lord, but Thou knowest it altogether. Everything has a bearing on the great kingdom of God.

All heaven and all hell were interested in what Enoch did. What did he do at night—at two o'clock in the morning when little Methuselah kicked up a fuss? Just one year old. He was yelling his head off." Mrs. Enoch said, "Hey! Hear him? Get up. Go on!" That isn't easy to take at two o'clock in the morning. The bed was nice and warm. But Enoch walked with God. He *did*.

It takes grace. And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is not intended to give me a crown in heaven; it is intended to make me an overcomer here on earth where I am face to face with every trial. Oh, to please God in all points requires that I take Jesus in all points, that in every trial, in every test, I say, "Jesus," and not, "Myself." Instead of exercising the works of the flesh, you don't walk like other Gentiles, but you put on the Lord Jesus Christ. You are a new creation. There is Someone else living within you, different principles control your your life.

We ought to be so thankful for a chapter like this which tells us that what we need is not only to be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to ourselves "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody" in our hearts unto the Lord—the manifestation of the glory of God in our lives—but we also need humility—submitting ourselves one to another in the fear of God. Where do you find that? Paul takes us right out of heaven into the third basement.

To walk and to please God means a great deal more than effervescence. We enjoy the power of God and the freedom

in the Holy Ghost, and the only reason God has kept it for us is because we have had some pretty strong preaching, some digging, some drilling. That is the only basis for the glory of God. But how many have been in love just with the glory, and they have not been in love with

Choose Thou This Day

*Choose thou this day,
Thou, thou must choose and thou alone;
'Twill not be thrust upon thee; God,
Upon His Throne, awaits thy choice;
And though no bugle blast be blown,
Nor waving banner shall proclaim
His victory in thy soul, yet He
And thou shall know.*

*Choose thou this day,
Not yesterday. Thy choice was good;
Thou knowest now that it was wise;
'Twas sacrificial, blest and blessing.
Let not its glory blind thine eyes.
If thou wert wrong, be not afraid;
God will forgive. Lo! He doth say,
"Choose thou this day."*

*Choose thou this day,
And not tomorrow, when the choice
May easier be, the cost less dear,
And not so clear the guiding Voice.
Deem nothing great or small, since
thou
The final issue canst not see.
As He shall lead, choose fearlessly
And joyously. "I have chosen
You," said He—and paid the cost!—*

*Then count all other things but dross
And for eternity, my Soul,
Choose thou this day.*

—GRACE AUGUST OGDEN.

Jesus. What a fallacy! What a mistake. That is why we need to get to the Bible. "He that hath My commandments," not he that casts out devils and does wonderful works in My name, but he that heareth these sayings of Mine and doeth them."

The Lord Jesus Christ has been hindered in His operation because of lack of obedience. There ought to be a mightier manifestation of His sword. The Bible says in Jerusalem the people were afraid to join themselves. Oh, for a Holy Ghost as-

sembly where every member is a member of the body of Jesus Christ, where everyone recognizes that he is a living sacrifice. Then we shall discern what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Here God talks about the relation of husbands and wives. Beloved, if that standard were lifted up in the church, young people would not have such a consumptive craze for getting married. They would realize that to get married means to make a covenant with Almighty God not to belong to themselves. It is no joke getting married. It ought to be a joy, yes, but it is not a joke. It is the holiest responsibility. All hell has been arrayed against this institution of God. The reason that hell has won out is that, even in Pentecost, husbands are unfaithful to their wives and vice versa, and if not outwardly, then inwardly in their heart.

Jesus Christ is the Head of every husband. Now, you better toe the mark before you say, "Yes," to your bride, before you come to the altar and say, "I will hold myself to her and stay away from all others." Of course! Certainly!

Beloved, we live not like other Gentiles, who walk in the vanity of their mind. They have given themselves over to lasciviousness. That is the whole world today: he for the fifth time; she for the sixth time. What will it be next time? He for the sixth time; she for the seventh time. They have given themselves over, they have abandoned themselves, to hell. And the wrath of God is manifest against them. God has given them up to a reprobate mind, to work all sin with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ.

Christ loved the church and gave Himself for this unworthy church—to lift her. That is the

(Continued on page 10.)

From Generation to Generation

The First Installment of the Autobiography of

Alice Reynolds Flower

**Minister of the Gospel, Author, and Wife of J. Roswell Flower,
retired General Secretary of the Assemblies of God**



Alice Reynolds Flower

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 78:5-7.

The Important Yesterday

IT HAS been aptly stated, "Today's trees rise from the rootage of yesterday." In considering the manifestation of God's grace today we usually discover occasion for praise over His grace shown in past days, often reaching back through several generations. This has been immeasurably true in my life, one evidence of which is found in the testimony of

My Mother's Healing

Seventy-eight years ago this March of 1961 God touched a dying woman in an Indiana village just outside the city of Indianapolis, and she was instantly made whole. That invalid was my mother, Mary Alice Reynolds, and this is how it all happened.

Our home was in Indianapolis where my mother had suffered a complete nervous collapse, brought on by over-work as a teacher of piano and in the public schools. In her weakened condition, gradually the vital organs of her body became impaired and, for seven years prior to her healing, mother's condition had steadily worsened. Anxious to relieve her suffering, my father had consulted various specialists in several states. They would

partially diagnose her case but would say, "What we do to relieve one difficulty only aggravates another ailment."

At last she was sent to the elderly Dr. Mayo in Rochester, Minn. He gave some relief, but on her return to Indianapolis the old troubles revived and her decline was rapid. The whole digestive tract was affected. There was an ulcerated condition of her throat and lungs which caused her, when coughing, to expell large flakes of tissue. Her stomach could assimilate little food; during the six or seven years any attempt to eat ordinary food would result in excruciating pain; and a Cincinnati specialist put her on a diet of warm milk from a fresh cow.

Lack of adequate nourishment caused her whole system to become impoverished and three internal tumors developed, with the loss of blood therefrom bringing mother very close to death. A special nurse took her to this nearby village with the purpose of making her last hours as comfortable and quiet as possible, in a private home. Through the assiduous care of this nurse mother lingered for five weeks.

Then one wakeful night God spoke to her some very definite words: "You are going to die unless

you take Me." There was no doubt in her mind as to the probability of her dying, but the thought of "taking Him" was utterly new and amazing. She had known of but one case of divine healing, Miss Jennie Smith, "the Railroad Evangelist," who on one occasion had visited the invalid. But mother was a backslidden Methodist, overpowered with the thought of her own great unworthiness for such a boon as healing. In a feeble way she had been struggling after God during those long years of suffering. Now, she pondered deeply the message God had spoken to her heart.

At daybreak the next morning, a little Quakeress neighbor who knew of mother's condition called at the door to ask permission of the nurse for a few moments at the sufferer's bedside. She, likewise, had been awakened that same night and impressed to go over as early as possible to see if the dying invalid would consent to be anointed and prayed for by a Godly Quaker minister who was to pass through the town the next day (Sunday). This minister believed in divine healing and was being used of God in prayer for the sick. The Quakeress greatly encouraged mother by pointing to James 5:16, assuring her God was no respecter of persons. In spite of her conscious unworthiness mother quickly grasped at this opportunity much as a drowning man would grasp at a straw.

Early Sunday morning, the Quakeress brought the man of God to the bedside of the sufferer. He spoke to her, and, as much as she desired to be healed, the hunger in her soul for God was so deep that she begged him to pray first for her spiritual need. This he did; then anointed her with oil in the name of the Lord for healing of the body. There was no apparent change in her when he left the house, only a deep peace and holy assurance which had taken possession of her heart. She was able to rest completely in the Lord without any consideration of her physical discomfort.

All that night this peace continued until three o'clock Monday afternoon when the little Quakeress, Eunice Wilson by name, was admitted again to mother's bedside. Leaning over the sick one, Eunice whispered in her ear, "Brother Ramsey has just called at my home to tell me he has assurance of your healing." As she spoke these words, wave after wave of glory flooded mother's soul. Like touching an electric battery, God's power flowed to the remotest part of her being, and she sprang to her feet completely healed. The three tumors were gone; the other infirmities had vanished. She was once more strong and well.

*"Just one touch as she moved along
Pushed and pressed by the jostling throng;
Just one touch and the weak is strong,
Cured by the Healer divine.*

*"Just one touch and He turns to me;
Oh the love in His eyes I see!
I am His for He hears my plea—
Christ is the Healer divine."*

Most precious of all was the uplift of soul, the Holy Ghost completely filling the temple. The nurse was dumbfounded as mother appeared in the adjoining room where several neighbors had gathered to inquire concerning the invalid's welfare. "I am healed, I am healed; please bring my clothes," she cried, and dropped on her knees before them all to pour out her heart in a prayer of thanksgiving to God. Supper time soon came and she went to the table to eat a normal meal—the first in several years. Before doing so, however, in childlike faith she asked God as to what she should eat. His answer was, "*Eat what is set before you, but use moderation in all things.*" There was no longer any doubt as to her healing.

Following Through

Word of the miracle was sent to my father, who came right out from Indianapolis, supposing mother had lost her mind. He could not conceive of the miraculous healing of his wife and was greatly surprised when she met him at the railroad station with a buoyance he had never seen in her before. Father could only gaze in wonder as he beheld God's deliverance perfect and complete.

Contrary to his expectation, she did not return with him to Indianapolis, remaining in the village for a week. During this time she visited every home, giving her testimony of God's gracious dealing with her for both soul and body. These people were all acquainted with mother's desperate need and had been especially touched with the knowledge of the five-year-old twin daughters at home, apparently so close to being left motherless. It was a week of vital witnessing accompanied by fervent prayer in each home. This first ministry to others was in response to a deep impression from God and the obedience here was to be a mark of her service in days to come.

But now God's word came, "*Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion upon thee.*" (Mark 5:19). So, back to Indianapolis where many were eagerly awaiting the sight of a person who had actually been healed.

There were the many relatives on both sides of the family; there was the Methodist Church where she had worshiped and where father was serving on the official board; there were the numerous business associates of father's—to all of whom mother became an arresting witness. The editor of the leading city newspaper, a personal



Mary Alice and Charles Ernest Reynolds
Parents of Alice Reynolds Flower

friend, came to see her for himself, and to hear the full story from her own lips. It was printed verbatim on the front page of the paper. From in and from out of the city as many as thirty callers a day, from all classes, came to see if the heralded miracle was true. In her sincere earnest way, God enabled her to witness to hundreds of souls, and, in practically every case, mother prayed with them before they left the house. Declaring the goodness of God became to her a solemn responsibility and she diligently fulfilled it.

Days of Testing

There were days of testing ahead. God had wrought a notable miracle which none could gainsay, but every time mother stood in the Methodist class meeting to witness there to, there were some who resented her clear-cut testimony. Finally the pastor requested her to refrain from giving her testimony as it threatened division in the church. This she refused to do and so temporarily withdrew from the church. She had her own horse and phaeton and visited neglected souls in various parts of the city. Never a public speaker, she was a wonderful personal worker and knew how to minister to needy souls as unto Christ. Although naturally reserved and self-conscious, she definitely counted on the aid of the Holy Spirit for her sufficiency. Later, under another pastor, she was asked to return to the church and to give her testimony. This she did.

There was even harder testing to face, for my own dear father, thrilled over her healing, still could not understand why she must withdraw from the worldly pursuits which they had formerly shared together. Although a birthright Quaker himself, he had joined the Methodist Church with mother; still he had no experimental knowledge of salvation. He could not understand the dedication to God mother had made in obedi-

ence to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. He coaxed her to return to the old life of worldliness; he even threatened to leave her unless she would tone down her consecration. But God gave mother the courage to sweetly, steadfastly stand the pressure from father and the many other relatives who sided with him. She could go to no earthly source for advice and direction. The Word of God and her secret place of prayer became her refuge, and actually determined her spiritual survival.

In burning words there came to her Christ's admonition to the impotent man, "*Behold thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worst thing come upon thee.*" Jno. 5:14. She realized God had raised her like Esther to be a testimony to her generation and she knew there was nothing to be gained by compromise—too many eyes were fastened upon her, and on her steadfastness depended the faith of many. How far reaching the result of her attitude would be she little realized, for some of her worst opposers turned to her in later days for spiritual help and encouragement.

And could I not be pardoned here to express my own overwhelming gratitude for God's enabling that held her steady and caused her to glorify Him in the severe fire of testing that seemed to come from every side at that particular time. Her constant prayer life and ready praise of God were like two wings that lifted her above all her trials.

Perhaps it was at this time the comfort of the "blessed hope" of her Lord's return was made real to her. She had no Christian fellowship apart from the Methodist Church with its uncertain tide of spiritual moving. This caused her the more diligently to seek God, and step by step, He revealed to her blessed truths which are commonly accepted and taught today. She looked for the Lord's return so definitely that a sudden or unusual sound would lift her spirit in glad expectancy. Her constant endeavor was to live in the light of His soon coming.

Father would have no part in the family altar which mother had started with the twin daughters and maid from the kitchen. He would leave for his office down town early each morning, thus avoiding the time of prayer. However, mother's consistent living had brought deep conviction to his own heart and at last he hunted up a man whom he had known for years, one whom he knew to have been definitely saved from a life of sin. In the very unburdening of his heart to this man and in the act of kneeling with him, God spoke peace.

Then came the morning when half way down town he turned his horse and buggy around, returning to the house to join the little circle at prayers. It was not too long after this that mother

handed him the Bible and he conducted the family altar himself. This is how I always remember it.

It was because mother believed so fully in household salvation and the importance of incorporating God in the family life that she had started the family altar alone, and God surely honored her action. She often quoted Deuteronomy 6:6,7:

And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up.

Writing of those days, my sister Zella Mussen (for twenty years a missionary in China, but now deceased) gives further light on mother's concern for her household:

"Some years ago, while on furlough, in going through some old family papers and letters a little diary of my mother's was found. Looking through it I came across an entry made on the page carrying the date of the birthday of my twin sister and myself, which read as follows:

"My precious little girls are eight years old today. May the dear Lord incline their hearts to Him early in life and help them to yield unto Him that they may become good and useful, glorifying their Master and seeking only His will and glory.—Lord, grant this prayer of a loving mother."

"What a thrill these words, penned in my mother's own handwriting years ago, gave me! What a flood of recollections of childhood days came with the reading of this! How much had happened since that birthday! How much of blessing and guidance had come to me during the intervening years! And here before me was the secret of it. Mother had prayed and God had answered.

"Early in life! Yes, there was no doubt about that possibility for had we not in our earliest years learned how God would hear and answer prayer? Mother carefully taught us on that point. Many were the answers to prayer received during our childhood years. It was not difficult to believe God with such a background of faith. We had a good spiritual heritage.

"In my earliest years I had a deep-seated desire to be in the will of God. Mother did not know all that was going on in my young heart but she continued praying. Prayer was her constant practice. Often we were privileged to go with her in her carriage when she went to visit the sick and afflicted. Her ministry was largely of this character, and we would wait outside for her in the carriage long before she was ready to go. The thing that kept her was the habit of prayer before going out on such an errand for the Master. We could not understand why she had to pray so much and we were impatient to be off. But the blessing that flowed from the habit is living still, long after she has passed away.

"As we grew out of childhood she did not tell us we must not go here or there or do this or that. I be-

lieve she prayed much that God would direct us. We had no desire for the theatre, the dance-hall and things of that sort—no doubt due to those prayers. But I remember coming home from Sunday School one Sunday afternoon and hearing mother tell about one near to her who had visited her while we were gone and, in the heat of anger, told her that she would have to 'answer for it,' that she did not give her daughters certain advantages that would bring them into 'society' (so-called). Such a test it was for mother! . . . the sting of being misunderstood and thought narrow.

"It is undesirable to be considered too narrow as the young folks grow up and get out into the world. If only parents could have the eye of faith to see the future reward and to know by that faith the certainty of having their children 'rise up and call them blessed,' how their lagging hearts would be strengthened in the testing time and how they would, as Moses, have 'respect unto the recompense of the reward,' bearing patiently the present conflict."

God's Abundant "Answer"

It was God who gave the "answer." The threat of mother's relatives that she would "answer for it" was prophetic: for in God's abundant answer those twin daughters became witnesses for him here and later in China. Prior to Zella Mussen's going to China she had a specific ministry of detailed, hidden service in establishing the Gospel Publishing House at its first location in Findlay, Ohio. Leaving her secretarial position with a prominent corporate lawyer in Indianapolis, she joined E. N. Bell and my husband, J. Roswell Flower, in their sacrificial ministry of those pioneer days. She also assisted in the moving of the publishing house to its second location in St. Louis, Missouri.

There was to be a further "answer" through another daughter who was born into the atmosphere of that godly home November 21, 1890, about seven and half years after mother's healing. Actually, my very existence was a miracle in itself, for I am that daughter. Mother lived to see some of God's rich "answers" for obedient devotion to Him and courageous daily living. She rejoiced in the partial fulfillment of an oft-quoted Scripture, Isaiah 59:21.

As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My Spirit that is upon thee and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever.

But the fullness of God's abundant "answer" is ever-increasing through these intervening years since her triumphant home-going, for now God's "answer" continues even to the third generation. But, of this you will read in succeeding pages.

How to Pray

By MRS. C. NUZUM

LUKE XI

WHEN THE DISCIPLES asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He first gave them the Lord's Prayer that taught them how to pray for themselves in connection with others. He then taught them to pray the unselfish prayer of intercession, wholly for others. He said, "Which of you shall have a friend?" We have a Friend, and His Name is Jesus. "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." The parable goes on, "and shall go to him at midnight, and shall say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves." "Midnight" represents the state of the friend for whom we intercede, as being that of the most grievous sin or woe. In prayer we ask for the "three loaves" for our friend who is in trouble. Jesus is the Bread from Heaven to give life to spirit, soul, and body. "Open your mouth wide and I will fill it." That is, ask much and you shall have it.

These loaves are not for myself but for "A friend of *mine*,"—not a friend of *ours*. This person had not become a friend of the Lord by obedience, but in his journey he had come to me. This life is a journey, and all we meet are come to us. God says, "A friend loveth." If we love those whom we meet, they are our friends, and God bids us love all, even, to "love the stranger as one born in our midst." It is love that makes friendship. I see that this friend has need and I confess my inability to supply that need. I have nothing in myself. How little and empty and helpless we feel as we see the great need of the lost ones, and it pleases God when we confess that we are unable to help them.

But oh, how precious that we have a Friend in whom dwelleth the fulness of the Godhead, and He loves to give Himself, a whole loaf for spirit, another for soul, and another for the body. Will Jesus, the One within, say, "Trouble Me not"? Oh, He never thinks it a trouble to be called upon for help.

"The door is now shut." "Your sins have separated between you and your God." Only sin can shut mercy's door. It may be the sin of hardening the heart against repeated calls, or it may be doubts and unbelief. "Jesus could do no mighty works because of their unbelief."—Here unbelief closed the door. It may be the sin of wavering, for "He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord" (James i. 6, 7). Midnight and the closed door represents the person prayed for in the worst condition possible. Jesus pictured the worst case possible, so that we might know that none was beyond our power to help through prayer.

"My God shall supply all your need." "I say unto you . . . He will rise and give him as many as he needeth." Jesus does not tell us to examine and see how much our friend needs and just ask for that, but He wants us to ask for all that he may possibly need. Jesus promises to give because of our importunity. We are importunate if we sacrifice rest, comfort, convenience, and also if we persist in going. In this case it is sacrifice of midnight sleep, rest and security. Ah, if we pour out our life for

others, God will see that things move, that our prayers are answered.

Intercession is the highest form of prayer because it is oneness with Jesus, Who "ever liveth to make intercession for us." We should delight in it because it brings us into oneness with our Lord. But it also causes us to meet our Lord: He will arise and open the door at which we are knocking and not only meet us, but give us what we need. Would not this meeting with Him richly repay us? But in addition, He assures us we shall get the closed door open for the one who could not get it open for himself, and that He will use us to carry to them the blessings for which we have asked.

What a wonderful covenant God presents here, and He laments that, "None stirreth himself up to take hold of My covenant." Let us lay hold of this covenant and help the many needy ones about us to get the doors open and receive the loaves. God's promise is all we ever need to inspire our faith, but I will add two circumstances that came under my observation.

A Christian mother wrote, asking me to pray for her very wicked son. I wrote her to thus take hold of God for him herself, which she did and in three days her son threw away his pipe, tobacco, cigarettes, whiskey; he left his evil companions, gave himself to God, was saved, pressed on, and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Here God gave a loaf for spirit and soul.

A woman had all her life been afflicted with serious stomach trouble. She was greatly swollen, very sore, and full of pain. Everything she ate caused her great suffering. She was so occupied with her suffering that she seemed unable to get hold of

God, and the door seemed to be closed to her. I held this teaching of our Lord up to Him. I asked in Jesus' Name that He would heal her, and said, "I stand on your Word that You will give her as many loaves as she needs; I stand in Jesus, in His faith, in His unwaveringness, in His merit." Every time I thought of her I reminded God that His Word could not fail and that my feet were planted upon it. In a week I went to see her, and the swelling was gone; all the pain was gone and the soreness, and she was eating what she liked without discomfort. This was a loaf for the body.

"I say unto you He will arise and give him as many as he needeth." "The works that I do shall ye do also." "Those that know their God shall do exploits." Who will say, "Here am I, use me"?

Where Holiness Is Acquired

(Continued from page 4.)

way men ought to love their wives. They owe it to Christ who loved them. How different married life will be when we get married that way!

When people are married, it ought to be Jesus Christ proposing it, not men. God says young people are better off single. It is only this apostate Pentecost that today is ringing the bells. "Wedding bells, it's time to ring again," as soon as a girl comes in and as soon as a boy comes in to an assembly. Look into the magazines advertising Bible schools; there is always a picture of a boy and a girl. "I got a girl and you got none. Go to Bible school." It is a shame, out of the pit.

Jesus is the master of every man. And the man is the head of the wife. And now there is union, and when they come together and are married, they

ought to be married in the Lord.

Read the biography of Hudson Taylor and some of those men of God how they prayed through when they needed wives to help them on the mission field. The mission field was *first*. The kingdom of God was *first*. And when God gave them a companion, He gave them a companion that should be a help to them, not a hindrance, but a help. That is God's program. It is beautiful. It is wonderful.

I am thankful to God for a father and mother who lived like that. My father and mother lived that life before us children. They lived a holy life. I have often said that all the while I was a young fellow, I never heard an unkind word pass between my father and mother. If they had it, we did not hear it. And another thing. They never discussed church conditions; they never talked about the faults of people before the children. They did not poison our minds, but their whole life was directed toward the edification of the children. What a heritage children have whose father and mother are united as Jesus Christ is united to His church! And when God gives them children, they know that these children are a gift of Jehovah, and before they are begotten, before they are conceived, before they are born, they become a subject of deep seeking after God.

Isn't that what the world needs today? Beloved, the great catastrophe in the world today is this looseness in the married life. Oh, for men and women who practise godliness, in their homes *first of all*.

How did Enoch walk with God and please God? It must have been in his home. Tempted in all points.

Talk about a perfect tongue. Does God demand a perfect tongue? Why should he register

my every word and hold it for the day of judgment? *Every word*. That ought to make me realize how greatly I need Jesus Christ to control my talk.

Oh, He loved the church and He purchased it with His own blood to make it a holy church without spot or wrinkle, perfect, perfect. Jesus Christ, my heavenly Bridegroom, gave Himself that I should be perfect in every good work to do His will. And if there was ever a time that Enoch ought to be followed and copied, it is now. We ought to say, "O God, before my translation I want to have this testimony, that I am pleasing to You."

Be ye followers of God as dear children. Beloved, we are now the children of God. We are born into this family. But there is going to be a great difference when Jesus comes. Some folks are going to be like Him because they have paid the price, they have purified themselves. They recognized their impurity, and they purified themselves even as He is pure. When we think of purity, we naturally think of sexual or moral purity, but it reaches deeply into our souls, into the intents of our hearts, into our very feelings.

Who is sufficient for these things? Jesus who was tempted in all points like as we are. And God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape. He will allow you to be tempted, but He will be faithful. It takes the faithfulness of God to unite me to the Son of God, to purify me even as He is pure. But think of the goal that lies before us—to be like Him.

Isn't the example of Enoch wonderful? A man way before the Flood, translated, a prophet of the translation. Are we expecting to be translated when

Jesus comes? Beloved, there has to be some very thorough-going searching of ourselves, a getting down before God and a getting into the Bible. How glibly people talk about the rapture! It is almost funny, almost amusing, if it weren't so catastrophic.

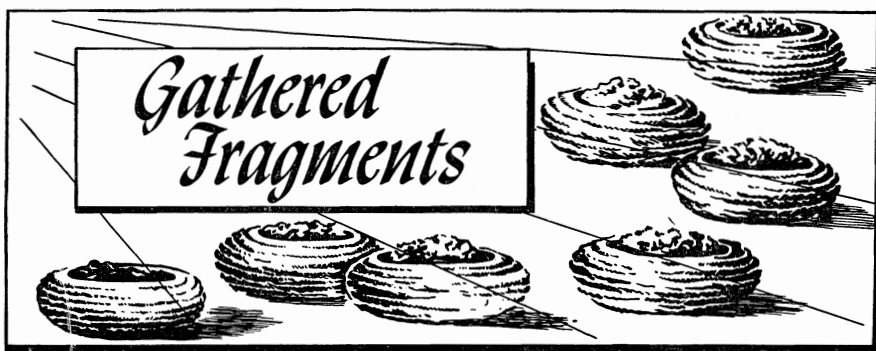
But the Bible tells us that God has purchased this body with a great price. Oh, how little we know about that! How little married people know about that! This body, not for fornication, not for lust, not for the things that the Gentiles perish in, but the Lord. Your wife's body belongs to the Lord, not to you.

Oh, how holy is this temple, this purchased possession. We are filled with the Holy Spirit because God wants this body and wants to work in this body a great mystery that eternity has not yet seen. Present your bodies a living sacrifice. That means that while I live in this body I present it to Jesus moment by moment.

What a call! Do you realize why we need waiting upon the Lord, and do you realize how few will find that straight gate? Straight is the gate. Try to enter in.

Oh, to know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God! But what will it do for me? It will make me a member of His body, a member of His bride. It will unite me to the Son of God. That is my call. We are made partakers of Christ. Just as I belong to Him, so He belongs to me and the Father belongs to me.

O, what a call! The Spirit that searched the deep things of God is ready to take us alone with God and to teach us these things and to communicate them to us. God did not catch away Enoch to be alone up there. No, no! He wants you and me also.



NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE marks the 350th anniversary of the publication of the *Authorized* or *King James* version of the Bible which has remained the most popular translation of the Bible in the English language.

* * *

The first major revision in almost four hundred years of the *Spanish Protestant Bible* was recently completed. The work of a group of evangelical scholars from Mexico to Chile, it took about ten years. According to officials of the American Bible Society, the grandeur of the Reina-Valera text, first published in 1569, has been preserved, new words having been used only where the meaning of old ones has become obsolete.

* * *

RIDGEWOOD'S TEXT FOR 1961: *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."*—1 John 2:28.

* * *

In his sermon on this text Pastor Waldvogel brought out that there are two results of abiding in Christ: 1. *"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not"* (1 John 3:6) and 2. *"he that abideth . . . bringeth forth much fruit"* (John 15:5).

* * *

A few minutes before 1961 dawned the Holy Spirit gave this word to the Ridgewood congregation: *Let Him take you by the hand and then be very grateful for the fact that God brought*

again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep who'll lead you across the boundary into the new year and then make every step of the way to count for the Kingdom of Heaven and for your final perfection.

* * *

And again at the New Year's meeting, January 2, the Lord gave this exhortation for this year of 1961: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. And make up your mind that you're going to be happy this morning and every day of the coming year, and I'll guarantee you that the unction of the Spirit of God will remain upon you.*

* * *

There are so many blessings that are included when you want just Jesus Himself. Why don't you call on Jesus and tell Him you want Him more than anything in the whole wide world? And you can have Him—just for the asking.

* * *

"Lose this day loitering—'twill be the same story

Tomorrow, and the next more dila-

tory;
Each indecision brings its own de-

lays,
And days are lost lamenting o'er

days.
Are you in earnest? Seize this very

minute!
Boldness has genius, power, and

magic in it.
Only engage, and then the mind

grows heated.
Begin, and then the work will be

completed."

“AND WHATSOEVER YE DO . . .”

JANUARY is usually the month reserved for making resolutions, for making a new start for the New Year. I am reminded of a resolution I made—not in the month of January, however—which changed the whole course of my life.

It happened while I was employed as secretary to a sales manager in a publishing company. I had a very interesting job, but as with most occupations, there were a few “chores.” In my case they included long, involved reports that were so tedious and seemingly unimportant. There were also a number of other little menial jobs. Needless to say, they were done in the spirit of “I don’t care.” If I didn’t feel like doing them, I grumbled. And, of course, they usually didn’t turn out right or gave me lots of trouble.

Then one day, during my Bible reading, I discovered some verses in Colossians 3 which unfolded their secret to me. They are the 17th and 23rd verses:

*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. . . .
And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*

The words—WHATSOEVER, HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD—really struck me. Somehow I felt that something would happen if I obeyed those verses *to the letter*. Then and there I decided to try the Lord’s way.

It wasn’t long before my obedience was put to the test. A day or so after, a report was placed on my desk for typing. Before I started on it, I prayed: “Jesus, you know how I detest working on these reports, but I’m going to type this one as if I were doing it for You and not for Mr. L.”

To my surprise, I found the “task” a joy! It looked better than any report I had ever typed, and when it came back with additional notations for retyping, I wasn’t upset in the least way. I did it again—for Jesus.

It was then that I discovered that not only were the despised jobs easier to do, but there was real joy in my heart, the joy of knowing that I had pleased Jesus. Not long after there were some outward benefits—I was asked to consider another position, a promotion. Why? Because I had learned to do the *little* jobs well.

But this was only the first step. I have applied these words in Colossians to my everyday life. Even floors can be scrubbed just to please Jesus. The dishes, too, and the ironing. Everything. Everything comes out so much better when it is done *heartily, as to the Lord*.

But this isn’t a new discovery. In *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence says, “I put my little egg-cake into the frying-pan for the love of God . . . lifted up a straw for the love of God.” He found such joy in doing the little things in his monastery kitchen solely for the love of God “that it was difficult for him to contain himself.”

Such a life of joy this is—doing everything for Jesus alone. I’m ever thankful for that word in Colossians. It has wrought a marvelous change in my life.

Do you need a New Year’s resolution for 1961? Here’s one:

AND WHATSOEVER YE DO IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS. . . . AND WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD, AND NOT UNTO MEN.

—Eleanor Perz.