



The Glorious Church

By P.A. Siemens

We are living in the day, when as the Church of the Living God we should be standing on tiptoe, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, when His glory is going to be manifested in His many membered body.

I want to write of the glory He is going to reveal in His body. Exodus 33:9,10 "And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door." You will find that whenever there is a rich presence of the Lord, you will want to worship Him, He is worthy of all glory.

Exodus 33:12 "And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. V. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee..." (Is not this the cry of our hearts today, that we may know Him?) "...that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people." V. 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee....". (There is no greater blessing known unto man) "...and I will give thee rest. V. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us

not up hence." It is only by the Spirit that we can accomplish anything that will endure.

Exodus 33:16 "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us?" (I love this next part.) "...so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." You cannot live in the realm of the Spirit and fulfill the lust of the flesh, no more can you mix oil and water, they are complete opposites. It takes the Holy Spirit to separate us from the world. We'll go to verse 18. Exodus 33:18 "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." The glory of the Lord is the presence of the Lord revealed whether in a cloud, pillar of fire, or His rich anointing. V. 19 "And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." V.20 "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live."

We'll go to the 34th chapter of Exodus, verses 5-8 "And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. V.6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD. The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, V.7 Keeping

mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. V.8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped." (Holy is the LORD and worthy of all honour.)

Verse 29 of Exodus 34 "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. V.30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him." (I remember a time in a Bible School in 1947, when the minister of the church would kneel and pray before he entered the prayer room, because of the presence of the Lord.)

Exodus 34 verse 31 "And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. V.32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. V.33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. V.34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out,

and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. V.35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him." Oh the glory of His presence. How glorious it must have been for Moses. I am sure that Aaron and all the rulers, and all the children of Israel were touched by the presence of the Lord.

II Corinthians 3:11 refers to the giving of the law being glorious. It was God's glory, His presence from the outside in. John 14:17 refers to the Spirit of truth dwelling with you and shall be in you. John 14:20 "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." He is in us. Christ in you the hope of glory. It is God in you to will and to do His good pleasure.

Now we'll turn to II Cor. 3:5-18, which is referring to what we read in the book of Exodus. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him, but He has (and is) revealing them to us by His Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 3:5 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; V.6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." Praise the Lord! It is His Spirit that is going to quicken and make alive our mortal bodies, to be transformed.

V.7 "But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, (referring to the giving of the law) so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which (glory) was to be done away: V.8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? V.9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. V. 10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. (Oh, the glory that God has prepared for them that love Him). V. 11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which is to come is glorious. V.12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we

use great boldness of speech: V. 13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is annulled: V. 14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is taken away in Christ. V.15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. V.16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. V. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. V.18 but we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image.." (means we are being transformed, transfigured into the same image as the glorified Lord) ".. from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Unspeakable glory, we cannot comprehend the glory which God has prepared for them that love Him.

Philippians 3:21 "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. ..." I Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. V.50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Verses 51-53 is bringing out we must be changed, we must be transformed. Inheriting the kingdom of God is never possible in the natural, it is by the Christ who has come to abide within.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (make alive, transform, transfigure) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

II Corinthians 5:4 "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." Divine life only comes by being changed, transformed, transfigured, being glorified. II Corinthians 5:5 "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." Oh, for the full measure of His Spirit, oh, that we might be filled with all the fullness of the Godhead, Bodily. Do we groan, are we burdened, are we in

travail? When Zion travailed she brought forth.

This is a glorious subject, so many scriptures that could be used, but I'll close with Romans 8:16-18 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: V.17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. V.18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle.

John 17:1 Jesus said, "Father the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee."

And we should pray, "Father, glorify thy sons, with the glory of Thy Son." John 17:22 "And the glory which thou hast given me I have given them. that they may be one even as we are.

May these words be an encouragement and blessing to you.

Be Silent Oh My Soul

E. Hardi Kubassek

Be silent, oh my soul, before the great King; You have spoken your part, and said so many things.

Requests of needs, of hopes and wants, It is time to be silent, and hear from your God.

In quietness and confidence you will know His strength.

You will begin to hear His tender voice within. To speak with receiving an answer from Him, Is to leave His presence without knowing you've met.

Communion with God may begin with words expressed, But to go deeper we must listen to the still voice within. The Blessed Holy Spirit conveys the very thoughts of Him, Who says, my child, I love you, I know your every need and care.

Rest in the Lord, oh my troubled weary soul. You have tried so hard, your tears often have flowed. It's time now to find strength in His tender embrace, Your burdens He's bearing, be silent and listen oh my soul.

My Brother's Keeper

By Noreen Aarrestad

Today a new little member of our assembly was dedicated to the Lord. She is just beautiful, all round and pink and pretty, and she has begun to smile and take note of her surroundings. After she was born, you would often see her Daddy looking and looking at her perfect little body. Again and again he counted her wee, perfect little fingers and cute little toes. She just seemed to him to be a marvel of perfection. She had everything she physically needed. Today as we saw her parents dedicating her to the Lord, we were taught that she also has all she needs emotionally and spiritually to grow up to be a happy, fulfilled and giving person because she has been joined to a spiritual body or family too. For now her parents have done the dedicating, but later it will be her responsibility to make her own dedication and stand. That is where her spiritual family comes in. She will need their encouragement and caring all of her days.

When I was younger, it was the custom to address older people, especially, as Brother or Sister Smith or Jones or whatever. It was a sign of respect by the younger person for the older person. It was also a reminder that we are part of a spiritual family. This is my brother or my sister "in Christ". When we are part of a family, it comes naturally that we care for one another in that family, it is even more so in a spiritual body or family.

It is the responsibility of the child's mother and father to teach this child, and to bring them up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". Moms and Dads have the responsibility of teaching their children everything from how to tie their shoes, to how to choose a mate. Moms and Dads are responsible to teach their children about the great patriarchs of the Bible, to teach them about Christ and salvation, and to encourage them to grow spiritually. All this teaching takes a lot of time and persistence and patience, but it is the most important time you will ever spend with your child.

We were reminded today about the importance of the extended family, in

the life of a child. Grandchildren have a special spot in the hearts of grandparents. There just aren't any children quite as wonderful as one's grandchildren. There seems to be a special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. I remember my grandmother. She didn't say a lot, but what she said has stayed with me. Grandparents have a responsibility to become close to grandchildren, and to teach their grandchildren. How often have I heard my own grandchildren say "Tell me a story". What an opportunity to teach a little child, not just entertain them.

Because these youngsters have such a special spot in our hearts, we keep an eye on them, and when we see them straying, it is important for grandparents to instruct them in a better way. I have seen a grandmother cry out to the Lord on behalf of her grandchildren. The fervent prayer of that grandmother has gradually changed the course of that person's life. I know she will continue to pray until that grandchild is walking with the Lord as he should be. I have also seen aunts and uncles take great interest in their nieces and nephews and show that special care. Moms and Dads can't do it all. It takes people of different generations and different perspectives to give our children a well rounded upbringing.

In our assembly we have wonderful elders. Often I think of them as "fathers". It is no wonder I think of them that way, because they are responsible for me, and will have to "Give account of my soul" before the Lord. They care about me and keep track of me, and encourage and exhort me day after day. There are several older women in our assembly whom I have thought of as "mothers in Israel". How many times have I gone to them, and they have taught me how to take care of my home, and to love my husband and my children. Without their care and encouragement I would have fallen short in my responsibilities.

Recently a member of our assembly exhorted us to pray for one another. He described our walk as resembling a long steep climb up a ladder with the

rungs a long way apart. We need each other to boost and pull us up the ladder. By ourselves we won't come to the position in Christ, He has for us. With care and concern, encouragement and exhortation of each for the other we will all make it. It is easy to criticize each other when we fail, but is it partly our fault that we haven't been concerned or prayed or encouraged one another enough? They wouldn't have fallen, if we had been there with a helping hand to catch their fall, or help them out. Too often we feel "It's not my business", and remove ourselves from another's life. Even though we may not be in the midst of their business, we can pray. I remember a young member of our assembly going his own way. A member of the Body, made it their business to many times bring that person before the Lord. They carried that person's name with them, and left their picture about the house to "stir up their remembrance". Their prayers were not long or complicated. They simply brought that person before the Lord. Sometimes they prayed His Spirit would surround them. After some time that straying child made a turn-about. How could he not be affected by constantly being brought into the Lord's presence, and being surrounded by His Spirit.

Each one of us need to feel we are needed, and that we are worthwhile. We all need encouragement. A compliment can change a person's outlook from despair to a feeling of accomplishment. One day I was "at the end of my tether" with my children. My mother, God bless her, came to me at the end of the day. "You have so much patience with those children", she said. Nothing fancy, just a small compliment that encouraged me so much. I wasn't a complete failure. I did matter. It gave me a new resolve to continue working with those children.

I met a child once who seemed to be born stubborn, and unhappy, and with a "chip on the shoulder". A wise person instructed the family to make it a practice to compliment the child, or find something positive to say to the

child at least once a day. The sister said she found nothing likeable about him, and what a hard thing it was to say anything positive to her brother, but she did like the red shirt he was wearing that day, so she told him. The next day she found something good to say to him again, and so on. In time she found there were quite a few things she did like about her brother. In time, with that constant positive reinforcement, the

child became a wonderful loving, caring person. All because a family had chosen to find good things about him, and encouraged him in those things.

Often I have found myself sloughing off the problems of others. "That's their problem; let them solve it themselves" or "they made their bed, let them sleep in it." I don't think that is the attitude that we as Christians should have, though. God asked Cain, "Where

is your brother?" And he replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes, you are your brother's keeper. You are in a spiritual family, fighting a spiritual battle. You need your brother's help to go forward with the Lord. But if you let your brother down, he won't be there to help you in your battle. You NEED your brother's care and concern and encouragement, and more so as that day approaches.

The Question of Abuse

By F. T. Paterson

Abuse takes many forms, Physical, mental and verbal. Even as Jesus came to heal the broken hearted and bind up the wounded in spirit it should be our mission as the body of Christ to fulfill the same ministry. Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord". 2 Cor 6:1 "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain". Each one of us is special and loved by God to the extent that He sent His only begotten son to die that we might be redeemed from the curse of sin. (John 3:16) We are exhorted to love one another. 1 Pet 1:22 "Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts (TLB)." Rom 13:10 "Love does no wrong to anyone. That's why it fully satisfies all of God's requirements. It is the only law you need. (TLB)" We may be aware of physical and sexual abuse because of all the media's attention to the subject over the last few years. Cases of abuse are coming to light from many years ago. The abused are coming forth with horror stories of abuse and the abusers are being called on to give account for the abuse. There are also cases of what has become to be known as false memory syndrome in which some are led to believe they

have been abused when in fact they have not. It is beyond the scope of this article to comment on this and it is not my purpose to make a judgment on any case. It is evident from the amount of abuse cases that there are no doubt genuine cases of abuse. In the last days men will do unspeakable things to each other. 2 Tim 3:13 "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." It concerns me that in the world we see the degree of abuse that is reported and I must confess that I do not know what to do about it. The cry of our hearts should be "Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Our hearts should yearn for the Kingdom of God to be established in the world. Let us pray that the Kingdom would be established in the hearts of sinful man and creation would be raised from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. Rom 8:19-23 "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pain of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for {our} adoption as sons, the redemption of our body (NAU)." As the church of God we need to travail in birth desiring the glorious revealing of the sons

of God. We, as Christians, have been redeemed from the ways of the world and have experienced a life changing experience of salvation. In the light of this it causes me great concern to hear of cases of abuse creeping into the church. Eph. 2: If Phillips) "You, who were spiritually dead through your sins and failures, all the time you followed this world's ideas of living, and obeyed the evil ruler of the spiritual realm -who is indeed fully operative today in those who disobey God. We all lived like that in the past, and followed the desires and imaginings of our evil nature, being in fact under the wrath of God by nature, like everyone else. But even though we were dead in our sins God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, gave us life together with Christ". Because of this our actions were the actions of the world. Now, in Christ, we have become new creations, our old manner of life is changed and a new life comes forth. 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." If we were abusers in the past, that is past, and we no longer live like that anymore. Although abuse is prevalent in the world around us it should not be named or tolerated amongst us as Christians. Abuse is something that often happens behind closed doors and we may feel nobody will know. Be aware that the Lord sees and will defend the abused. 2 Chr 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." Luke 12:2-3 "There is

nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs (NIV)."

Sexual abuse - is unsolicited touching, lewd remarks and suggestions of a sexual nature. If we find our manner of attire is inciting sexual remarks and unwanted sexual attention, it only makes good common sense to change our manner of dress or we may have to suffer the consequences of whether or not the unwanted attention is called sexual abuse. I am not condoning sexual abuse in any form whether one is dressed inappropriately or not but I am simply suggesting ways to present ourselves so as not to be a target for sexual abuse. Sexual abuse will happen regardless of attire, let us not judge the abused victim, regardless of how we perceive their manner of attire, for then they will be doubly wronged. There is no excuse for sexual abuse of any kind, especially among Christians. Sexual abuse can cause personality and behavioral problems which may cause long lasting psychological difficulties for the one that was abused. The church of the living God should be a haven for healing of the abused not a place of judgment. Especially repugnant is the sexual abuse of children, sometimes even by their parents. God's ears are always open to the cry of the oppressed. 1 Pet **3:12** "For the Lord is watching his children, listening to their prayers; but the Lord's face is hard against those who do evil (TLB)." God is calling the church to repentance, it is time for judgment to begin at the house of God, (1 Peter 4:17). If these issues are in the church how can we expect to tell the world it is wrong. Thank God for Godly counsel, it has in some cases been able to set the oppressed free, but now we see the church relying on counseling alone to help people. God has placed within the authority of the church the gifts of the Spirit to deliver those who are bound. The anointing breaks every yoke and sets the captives free.

Isa 58:6 "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?, (NKJ)" **Isa 10:27** "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away

from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing. (KJV)" In Jesus ministry he was able to deliver all that came to him. **Acts 10:38** "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" The scripture declares that greater works than these shall ye do because he went to the Father (**John 14:12**).

Physical abuse - consists of hitting, striking, pushing, shoving, pinching, threatening and hurting in any manner. There is an increase of physical abuse in all its forms. To name a few; parental, spousal, bullying, elder and abuse in the work place. Physical abuse is a despicable, cowardly act directed against those least able to protect themselves. Spousal abuse is a point in example, abuse against a loved one by a loved one. Abuse by a loved one is especially degrading as it drains away self-worth. As self-image becomes lower there is a tendency to take the blame, thinking it is our own fault. As the abuse continues we lose our ability to make decisions and become controlled by the abuser. If you find yourself in the position of the abused or the abuser, I pray you will seek godly help to break the cycle of abuse. With abuse our perception is often clouded and we may not see that we are abused or abusing and are in a state of denial. In the church God has placed fathers as shepherds over the flock. He has also set in the body those who are sensitive to the hurting. It may mean sharing your pain with someone who cares. We don't have to tell all the sordid details, but to share Your pain with someone who listens and is supportive. Lord help us, as ministries in the body of Christ, to be sensitive to the cry of the wounded, to say words of comfort and not enter into judgment of those that come to us.

Words that hurt, words that heal - Verbal abuse. The familiar "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names can never hurt me," may sound good in theory but they can cause every bit as much anguish as physical abuse. Abuse in any form strips away self-worth and gives the abuser control over the life of the abused. The verbal abuser does so by belittling those around them, often using humour to downgrade and humiliate them. Self-esteem is very

fragile and a person who does not have a good self-image to start out with is easily made to feel unimportant by cruel words. Without realizing it parents sometimes compare one child's ability to another, sending the message that one child is better than the other. A husband may deflate his wife by being critical of her efforts to please him. An employer may instead of noticing the efforts of his employees, focus on mistakes and short comings. This creates a very difficult place to work and does not bring out the best efforts of the employee. The school yard bully taunts with "sissy", "crybaby" and other destructive words to deplete the self-image of those, upon whom they work their havoc.

Abusers are often victims of abuse themselves and because of this they have learned that abuse is a method of control. This leads to lack of self-worth in the abused to the point they may feel it is their own fault and they deserve to be abused. This may happen in all cases of abuse but can be especially traumatic in sexual abuse. One who has been abused in this way is often robbed of the ability to be intimate in marriage, to show normal affection and can lead to promiscuity. This is especially true in children who have been sexually abused. They often live with deep physiological scars. In the Holy bonds of marriage God joins two people together as one flesh. **Matt. 19:6** "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder". There is also an unholy Bond in any sexual act be it adultery, fornication or sexual abuse. **1 Cor 6:15-16** "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh". In the case of multiple unions or multiple abusers there is a bond formed between the abused and the abuser. It is a fractured bond and causes many problems in human relations.

Although the effects of abuse are many and varied, with the help of the Lord and the support of the body of Christ, one can rise above the effects of abuse. By this I do not mean we should pray and then say snap out of it. It may be necessary to pray and

counsel and support many times and with the help of the Spirit of God the anointing will break the yoke of bondage. Abuse will hold us hostage to guilt, causing us to believe that we are to blame and it is all our own fault. Lord help us to realize that in the case of the abused they are victims not perpetrators. I believe one of the first steps in healing abuse is to forgive ourselves. **Rom 8:1-2** "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." **When God forgets he forgets completely.** **2 Cor 5:17** "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!" (TLB) **The slate is wiped clean.** **Col 2:13-14** "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" **Ps 103:12** "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." As we are able to forgive ourselves it opens the way to forgive the abuser. The road to deliverance and freedom lies in forgiveness not in revenge. **Rom 12:19** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath, for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Matt 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you,

do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" This may sound contrary to what the natural mind will tell you, but it is the way of freedom and the Spirit of God. **1 Cor 2:14** "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Conventional wisdom may tell us to confront the abuser and see that they are punished. This may well have to happen, especially in the sexual abuse of children. To take revenge and hash over and over will not remove the effects of the abuse, it will still have to be dealt with. These memories don't only disturb but continue to have power over the actions of the abused. I am firmly convinced there is no help in dwelling on the problem, it only becomes greater. It is far better, as the memories come, to sincerely pray for those memories to grow dim, to lay them at the foot of the cross, where Jesus purchased our physical and emotional health. As in the words of the old hymn; "Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there". All our energies should be brought to bear on forgetting those things which are behind and pressing on to those things which are before. **Phil 3:13** "No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead," (TLB) As we take heed to the wisdom of scripture there is deliverance.

The abuser also needs help. They are often in a state of denial or they may believe it is the fault of the abused. "They tempted me." We need to pray the Holy

Spirit would convict them and cause them to accept responsibility for their acts. That is part of the work of the Holy Spirit, to convict men of sin. **John 16:8** "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" Until this happens there can be no deliverance for the abuser. Some have gone to the grave protesting their innocence even though they were guilty. There are those who are genuinely innocent and because of the mean spirit of others are convicted as abusers. Lord help us to discern right from wrong so that we will not accuse someone falsely. The end result of false accusation is to cast doubt on the accused's character whether he is guilty or not. To charge an innocent person is in itself a form of abuse. I pray that truth will win out and will prevail over accusations that are false. Lately we have seen men in high places being accused and convicted of their impieties. The things they said and did in secret were proclaimed throughout the world. **Luke 12:2-3** "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops." **John 10:10** "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Though the thief come to take peace and joy, Jesus has come that we might have abundant life. Praise God there is hope for the broken hearted and for those who are held captive by abuse.

Be Not Anxious

By Andy Snoko

It seems that life is always full of things to worry about. There is no shortage of reasons to be distressed. Yet we read where Jesus said, "Therefore, I say unto you, be not anxious for your life" This and many other scriptures teach that God has intended His children to enjoy divine peace. A divine peace that comes, not because of our circumstances, but in spite of them. A peace that comes only by trusting fully and completely in the

risen Saviour.

Jesus spoke to his disciples in Matt 6:25-33 and said: "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more

value than they? "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of lit-

tie faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

It is evident by what the Lord spoke; that God is truly interested in supplying our physical needs. He is keenly aware that we have a need to wear clothing, we have a need for food and drink, for a place to live. But if we spend our life worrying over how much surplus we can gather to ourselves, and then worry about how to keep our surplus, then we are no different than the non Christian. We are commanded to take one more step, and that is to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then all of these things shall be added". Our Peace can be robbed, when we do not make the Kingdom of God our number one priority, above all else.

On this same subject, previous in the same chapter Jesus said: Matt 6: 19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Lord was not implying that if we have a surplus of money, possessions, etc., that we should not save them or "lay them up", but the real question is: what and where is your treasure? If your treasure is in money and possessions, you will never have enough. When you are without, you will worry how to get it. When you have it, you will worry how to keep it. When you spend it, you will worry how to get it back!

If our treasure is in the eternal realm of the spirit, it is safe for all eternity. Some day this heaven and earth will pass away, but not our reward that is kept where "thieves do not break in and steal". Our peace can be robbed when our treasure is in the wrong things.

The Bible has a very simple and straightforward plan to walk under an umbrella of divine peace. Basically I could sum it up in one word, and that word is "trust". Putting our trust and confidence in Christ. Believing that He is ultimately in control of our lives and destiny if we yield to Him, however, we

are told to bring our requests to Him, and then trust him with them.

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Permit me to quote just a few other scriptures regarding walking under the umbrella of peace, of trust in God.

Phil 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

I Thess 5:16 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Ps: 37:1-8 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it only causes harm.

We are told in the scriptures above, as well as in many other places, to "rejoice in Christ Jesus". In other words, our rejoicing should not be in the circumstances, but in the Saviour, regardless of our surroundings. I heard a man say just today, that after his daughter recovered from a near fatal accident resulting in memory loss from a brain injury, someone told him that "It is so nice to see your daughter improving,

isn't God good?" He replied, "If my daughter had died, God would still be good!" This brother had learned to rejoice in Christ Jesus, not the circumstances.

It is amazing how much stock we put into our surroundings, and into our circumstances. Often times things that we think are good may be bad. And things we think are bad may be good! Hypothetically, let's say that you are struggling along financially, but your trust is in the Lord. If somehow you suddenly inherited a large amount of money, you would think that it would be a good thing wouldn't you? In fact, you would probably give a testimony that you had been "blessed"! But what if the money was so much, that you began to buy things that began to take away your time with God, and eventually the money became your treasure. If the money were to draw you away from God, then it really wasn't a good thing after all, was it?

Rejoice in Christ Jesus, regardless of the circumstances. For the circumstances can be deceptive. There is a story that took place during the US civil war that goes something like this: a poor farmer's only horse runs away. Soon his friends gather at his house and say to him: we have come to help share with you this terrible loss. The wise farmer says "What makes you think it is a bad thing?" Soon after, the horse returns on its own with a dozen other wild horses with it. The same friends come over and say "We are here to rejoice with you in this great joy". The wise farmer says, "What makes you think it is a good thing?" Soon after, his son is breaking in one of the wild horses and is thrown resulting in a broken leg. Once again his well-meaning friends gather with him and say, "We are here to share with you this loss." Again the farmer says "What makes you think it is a bad thing?" Soon, the military comes to town looking for able bodied young men to draft into the war. The farmer's son is spared because of the broken leg. The friends gather again to share in the joy and the farmer says, "What makes you think it is a good thing?"

This little story can go on and on. But by trusting in Christ Jesus, regardless of, and in spite of our circumstances, we abide under that umbrella of divine peace. *(Continued in next Sharon Star)*