



Responding to the Grace of God

By Gilbert James

*Continued from last
Sharon Star issue*
Humility

The fact that God wants us to acknowledge our complete helplessness and relate to Him in humility under the New Covenant of Grace is brought out in many Scripture passages.

The very fact of God's ultimate greatness and being the Creator of all puts all of creation in their rightful place of complete humility in relation to Him. Isaiah declares in Isa 57:15: "For so says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity; whose name is Holy; 'I dwell in the high and holy place, even with the contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'"

We have already pointed out the Scriptures' description of man's condition as being "dead in sins and trespasses" prior to being administered God's work of salvation by grace (Eph 2:1). How much more helpless can

one be than being dead? Jesus plainly states: "I am the Vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Paul, whose phenomenal achievements as a minister of God could have easily led him to boast and overlook his absolute dependence on the grace of God, had this to say about his experience on the significance of humility in relating to God in 2 Co 12:6-10: "For if I desire to boast, I shall not be foolish. For I will speak the truth. But I spare, lest anyone should think of me as *being* beyond what he sees me, or hears of me; and by the surpassing revelations, lest I be made haughty, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be made haughty. For this thing I besought the Lord three times, that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made

perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may overshadow me. Therefore I am pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am powerful." In the end, Paul could have testified in 1 Co 15:10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

Therefore, it is in humility that we truly recognize our need of God and can receive the fullness of God's grace and empowerment to achieve God's purpose for us. James declares in James 4:6: "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

Humility, by making us acknowledge our absolute dependence on God for any

achievement, will also keep us from any tendency of being puffed up against one another. Paul admonishes concerning the practice of ego promotion and comparison in 1 Co 4:5-7: "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts. And then shall each one have praise of God. And these things, brothers, I have *in a figure* transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that you might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, so that no one of you may *be* puffed up against one another. For who makes you to differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive *it*, why do you boast as *if you* had not received it?"

Paul advises also in Rom 12:3: "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."

Faith

Faith is the other indispensable attribute which must characterize our relation to the grace of God. Humility defines our complete helplessness and dependence on God's grace. Faith brings hope and inspires us to turn to God for His grace to enable us in our need. In humility we can sincerely acknowledge our helplessness and need and by faith trust God to empower us and accomplish in us by grace what He only can. The operation of grace through faith in our salvation is well presented in Eph 2:4-9: "But God, who is rich in

mercy, for His great love *with* which He loved us (even when we were dead in sins) has made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved), and has raised *us* up together and made *us* sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

It is actually through faith that we enter into and appropriate the grace of God to accomplish the will of God in spite of our inherent helplessness. An acronym for faith is "Forsaking All I Trust Him."

Paul puts it this way in 2 Co 3:4-6: "Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

Genuine faith, while not comprehended by the common sense of the natural mind, is not based on fanaticism or illusion. True faith enables one not to illusively deny but rather to recognize the reality of one's limitation in the face of a formidable challenge and maintain a divinely inspired confidence and expectation that God will provide the necessary resources and bring about a humanly impossible result. According to Heb 11:1, "Faith is *the* substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

For instance, the faith exercised by both Abraham and Sarah in bearing Isaac in their old age is a classical example. We are told about Abraham that "Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform" (Rom 4:19-21). "By faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him who had promised *to be* faithful" (Heb 11:11).

Like the experience of Abraham and Sarah, the actual experience of the transformation of our dead, sinful nature into divine godly nature alive unto God rests on our humility in acknowledging our total inability and unworthiness in producing this transformation on our own and on our faith in God's faithfulness and ability to fulfil His exceedingly great promises to do so by His grace in Christ. In other words, to experience its reality, we must believe God's promise to effectively transform us from sinner to saint by His grace through faith in Christ.

Peter states it this way in 2 Pe 1:2-4: "May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to Himself by means of His marvellous glory

and excellence. And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires" (NLT).

Therefore, the Scriptures declare plainly that under the present New Covenant, the relationship between God and man is based on grace on the part of God and humility and faith on the part of man. This is the sole basis for man's salvation, life and godliness in Christ. There is no room for the human ego or flesh.

Philosophy and the Gospel

However, it is at this point that the human mind, shaped to think in terms of the logics of philosophy, shuts down. An essential aspect of human philosophical explanation of human behaviour is self-effort or the importance of the role of self in behaviour and achievement. Sociology and psychology are filled with such philosophical principles and explanation for human behaviour and achievement. A mind conformed to this world will find great difficulty in perceiving properly the absolute role of grace in the relationship between a believer and God. To satisfy such earthbound mindsets in the Christian religion a myriad of philosophical speculations and methods unfortunately have emerged, distorting the pure gospel of grace as the real power of God unto salvation to every one who believes (Rom 1:16). In all of these explanations, if there is not a boastful promotion of self-righteousness as the admirable basis of one's Christian behaviour and

achievement, there is usually a pitiful timidity in enthroning the grace of God as the beginning and sustaining source of the Christian life. The truth is that the Gospel has no place in the logics of human philosophy.

Paul in a straightforward manner makes this declaration in 1 Co 1:18-31: "*For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those being lost, but to us being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the understanding of the perceiving ones.' Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the lawyer of this world? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom did not know God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. For the Jews ask for a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness. But to them, the called-out ones, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolish thing of God is wiser than men, and the weak thing of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brothers, that not many wise men according to the flesh are called, not many mighty, not many noble. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and God has chosen the base things of the world, and things which are despised, and things which are not, in order to bring to nothing things that are; so that no flesh should glory in*

His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who of God is made to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; so that, according as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.'"

Those who are called to preach the Gospel must preach it with boldness and confidence, exalting the grace of God and the finished atoning work of Christ as the only effective means of true moral change for humanity and leaving off the trappings of philosophical speculations and psychological and sociological precepts of behavioural change for the world's social programmes. The Gospel proclaims the wonderful benefits of the New Covenant of Grace. Every minister of the Gospel is an able minister of the New Covenant. God would have prepared him by revelation and experience to bear witness to this glorious message of grace, humility, and faith. Paul explains this in 2 Co 3:4-6: "And we have such trust through Christ toward God, not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God; who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive."

It is the pure, unadulterated Gospel that has the power to generate the faith needed for genuine salvation. "So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ" (Rom 10:17, NLT). Ministers of the Gospel must carefully and faithfully present the Gospel in its basic Scriptural integrity. The Gospel must present Christ and only Christ as

the Saviour of mankind.

Along this line, Paul gives this admonition in Col 2:6-10: "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ,

who is the head over every ruler and authority" (NLT).

In closing, let us give thanks to God for including us in His glorious plan of the Ages and relating to us by grace to bring us when it pleased Him into this great salvation in which we stand. And let us always relate to Him in response with humility and faith in order to acknowledge our absolute dependence on Him and to appropriate the abundance of provisions He has given freely to us by grace for life and godliness in this present world. "So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as

shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:7, NLT).

May God indeed help us, upon whom the ends of the Age have come, to appreciate the wonderful story of our salvation, with all its profound dimensions, and join in the end-time with the four and twenty elders as they "fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and worship Him who lives for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are, and were created" (Rev 4:10-11).

Amen!

He Who Overcometh

By Markus Hansen

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He

said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

⁶And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

*⁷"He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." (Rev. 20:1-7).*

The last verse quoted above, "He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things," should be of particular interest to those that have heard and responded to God's calling: "Therefore, Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you and I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters says the LORD

Almighty." (II Cor. 6:17-18).

These words were often spoken by prophecy in the early days of this precious Move of the Spirit which has its roots in a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a body of Bible teachers and students in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada in February 1948. Upon hearing this prophecy many chose to leave the denomination and sectarian religious systems of the day and began to walk in a new way, the way of the Spirit. Though many years have gone by since the Move of the Spirit began, there are those who continue to walk in this way and new ones who are heeding the call of the Holy Spirit. They have heard and responded to teaching and revelation that have

come forth from apostolic brethren that foretell of a day when Christ shall return to this earth and be united with His Church, the Body of Christ. This is referred to in the book of Revelation as the marriage supper between Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and His Body, the Church of the living God. When this occurs, the Kingdom of God shall be established here on this earth. Hallelujah! Glory to God! “And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!’⁷ ‘Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.⁹ Then he said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’” (Rev. 19:6-9).

God is going to establish His Kingdom upon this earth just as Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth even as it is in heaven,” (Matt 6:10). Yes, Christ will judge the world on His return but to the overcomer there is a long list of promises. Here are just a few:

“Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” (Daniel 7:27).

“To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” (Rev. 2:7).

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** shall not be hurt of the second death.” (Rev. 2:11).

“To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” (Rev. 2:27).

“And he that **overcometh**, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.” (Rev. 2:26-28).

“He that **overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.” (Rev. 3:5).

“Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.” (Rev. 3:12).

“To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Rev. 3:21).

“He that **overcometh** shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Rev. 21:7).

There are a number of questions that arise when reading these scriptures. You may ask, what does overcome mean, who are the overcomers, what are they to overcome, and how can we become an overcomer? With the help of the Holy Spirit we will address each of these questions in turn.

TO OVERCOME

The words overcome, overcomes and overcometh are used 24 times in the New Testament. In 22 cases where this word is used, the Greek word is *nikaM* meaning to subdue, conquer, overcome, prevail or get the victory. It comes from the root word *nik-* meaning conquest. In modern English, it has a similar meaning; to prevail over, master, conquer or be victorious. It can be applied to different situations. You can overcome a sickness, be victorious in a pursuit such as a sport, a nation can win a war against its enemy or conquer an enemy and become master over the enemy. In all cases though, the inference is that someone or a group of people is faced with a difficulty, there has been a battle, and victory is the result.

WHO ARE THE OVERCOMERS?

From the Old Testament we read: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

²⁹And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

³⁰And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.³¹ The sun shall be turned

into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.³² And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the **remnant** whom the LORD shall call.” (Joel 2:28-32).

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote as follows: “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life. But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Even so then, at this present time there is a **remnant** according to the election of grace.” (Rom. 11:2-5, NKJV). And Jesus said: “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and gather together **His elect** from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.” (Mark 13:24-27).

In the verses above, the words REMNANT and ELECT have been highlighted. The reason they were highlighted was to signify that there are two companies of believers. There is the whole company of believers and the remnant (the elected group) which is a small part of

the whole body of believers. A remnant is something that is left over or a small remaining quantity of the whole. It can be a piece of cloth when the greater part has been cut away. The word elect, or elected means that some one, or some group, has been elected and therefore set apart for a particular task. This thought is confirmed by the words of Jesus when He said: “*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd.*” (John 10:16). This statement infers that Jesus has many sheep (followers) and someday they shall all be of the one fold.

“*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*” (Rev. 17:14). Again, in this scripture we see the inference to more than one company of believers. There is the called out company, those chosen from the called out company and finally those who were faithful to the end. It is clear that God is going to have a company of people that will be faithful right to the end and they are the ones who will be the overcomers. They are the ones who will enter into sonship, they are the ones who are going to inherit the promises of God and rule and reign with Christ over the entire world. “*Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*” (Matt. 19:28, Living Translation). “To

him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Rev. 3:21).

WHAT ARE WE TO OVERCOME?

As mentioned earlier, to be an overcomer, one must overcome something; a problem, an enemy, maybe a habit. In this study, we are looking at overcoming whatever hinders us from realizing all the promises of God. The Apostle Paul is clear in his writings that if we desire to be a son and heir of God, then we have to overcome our carnal or fleshly nature (herein referred to as our human nature). The nature we are born with is not God’s nature. In fact, it is diametrically opposed to God’s nature. Our nature is a self-serving nature; it only has its interest in mind. When children are born they are very selfish in every way. It takes a great deal of time and effort on the part of parents to affect the nature of children so that they can eventually be tolerated and civilized in their behaviour. The rules and guidelines set by parents train children so that when they leave home to live on their own they are able to function in society in an acceptable manner. There is one problem, though, and it is this; underlying our good behaviour there still lies our human nature and if we give in to it, it will always want its way. That is how, rebellion, fighting, jealousy, hatred and the likes arise. Our human nature wants to rule, it wants to reign, it wants to be in control and this is in conflict with all that God requires. We may attempt to be and even envision that we are good law-abiding citizens, but

according to God's view, "*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" (Rom. 10:23). Our self-righteousness is as filthy rags the scripture records. But God has a plan and that is that we are to be transformed into the image or likeness of Jesus. Thank God for this plan. "*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*" (Rom. 8:29, NKJV).

When we recognize and repent of our sins and by faith accept Christ into our heart, something dramatic happens. A new nature is born within us, the nature of Christ, often referred to as our spiritual or divine nature. By accepting Christ as our personal Saviour we are in practical terms partaking of a new nature, the nature of Christ. "*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.*" (II Peter 1:4). The supernatural event of being born again imparts the Spirit of Christ within us. Hallelujah, hallelujah! But we must not forget that our old human nature is still resident within us and it is this nature that we have to overcome.

Why is it that we still struggle with our self-life? It is because God has given us a free will and therefore we have the ultimate choice to do as we please. We can decide if we are going to be law-abiding citizens or not. We see on the daily news that many do indeed break the law, cheat on income tax returns, cheat on school exams, steal merchandise, steal cars, murder, abuse drugs and peddle pornography. Of course they may suffer the consequences of breaking the law

if caught and convicted. However, we have a choice and we can decide to make good choices with our lives, to be law abiding and caring individuals. This last choice typically is the result of parental guidance shaping and molding lives to behave in an acceptable manner. But as pointed out clearly in Paul's letter to the Romans, God's laws and rules set down by parents and society does not make us right in God's sight. "*No one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what the law commands. For the more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them; his laws serve only to make us see that we are sinners.*" (Rom. 3:20, Living Translation).

Oh, you may say, "I'm not so bad, I've been born again, I am trying to do what God wants me to do." In all honesty, though, are we always obeying the bidding of the Holy Spirit? We have been taught as Christians how we ought to behave, yet when someone in authority, our parents, a teacher, or an elder tells us to do something, do we like it? Let's be honest; do you like being told what to do? If your father asks you not to go to a movie, what do you do, how do you feel? When your wife asks you not to drive so aggressively, do you bite your tongue and say nothing, but inside you are annoyed at being told how to drive? If your elders ask you to visit someone that is ill but you feel that person rubs you the wrong way, what is your response? Do you obey or come up with some excuse? The brethren have taught that we are to forgive those who have offended us. Have we done as admonished? If we are honest

with ourselves, we find that we often come up short. Jesus said, "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*" (Matt. 5:48). You can see the struggle that Paul had with his own human nature if you read the 7th chapter of Romans. Beginning at the 21st verse in the Living Translation we read: "*It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.*"²² *I love God's law with all my heart.*"²³ *But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.*"²⁴ *Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin?*"²⁵ *Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*" It is evident that even though we have been born again, there still lies within us a measure of the old carnal, fleshly human nature. We thank God that when we accept Christ into our hearts a process begins whereby the old nature begins to decrease as we yield our lives more and more to the Spirit of Christ.

Praise God that the Apostle Paul didn't end this chapter of Romans with the 25th verse. Continuing from Rom. 8:1 we read: "*So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*"² *For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death.*"³ *The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us.*

He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.⁴ He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.⁶ If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.)¹⁰ Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive because you have been made right with God.¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you.¹² So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.¹³ For if you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live.¹⁴ For all who are led by the

Spirit of God are sons of God."

In this text we see that Paul is referring to the battle that occurs in our MIND between obeying our human nature and our spiritual nature: "*In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*" (Rom. 7:25) and: "*If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.*" (Rom. 8:6).

It is our minds that determine what we think and what we do. However, there is actually warfare going on in our minds. On the one hand, the enemy of our soul, the devil, is attempting to negatively influence our minds through our human nature and on the other hand, because we asked Christ to come into our hearts, the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to help us change our human nature into the nature of Christ. We have to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit if we are to become overcomers. Here is an example. In the morning when I wake up my mind says, "It is time to get up and get ready for work." My mind thinks those thoughts because I have been taught by my parents that is the responsible thing to do. The devil, on the other hand, will implant in my mind the thought; "It's OK, just go back to sleep a little longer. It really doesn't matter if you are late for work." Now I have to make a choice. I can take control of my thoughts and get up, or I can yield to the thought that the devil planted in my mind and later suffer the consequences. If I never pay any attention to the devil but just get up when it is time to get up, it isn't long and the devil doesn't bother me on

this issue. I have learned through obedience to do as I should and over time it becomes part of my behaviour. But understand that it is I who decides what I am going to do, obey or disobey, according to the decisions I make in my mind. Therefore, it is my mind that directs me. "*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*" (Prov. 23:7).

To be an overcomer, therefore, we must conquer our mind.

HOW DO WE BECOME AN OVERCOMER?

As previously stated, if we conquer our mind by totally yielding our thoughts to the Holy Spirit, then we will become an overcomer and inherit ALL the many promises that God has for us. Paul uses very strong language for dealing with the human nature. Look again at Romans 8:13 in the KJV. "*For if you live after the flesh (our human nature), ye shall die: but if through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body (our human nature), ye shall live.*" The word mortify means to put to death. This indicates that if we put our human nature to death it will no longer be able to influence our behaviour.

There has been a lot said and written about "dying to self." One scripture that is often quoted when ministering on this subject is found in John 12:24-25, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*"²⁵ *He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*" Let this be rephrased by saying; "He that loves his human nature shall lose his life and he that hateth his human nature in this world shall

live forever.” Or we can paraphrase this scripture in this way: “He that wants his own way shall lose his life but he that is willing to give up his own way, shall have eternal life.” What Christ is explicitly saying is that we need to really dislike our human carnal nature, our self-life, our own way and be willing to let it die and then let the void left by the departing self-life be filled with the Spirit of Christ. “*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.*” (Rom. 8:9). Glory to God, OH HALLELUJAH!

The Bible speaks of “*putting on Christ,*” (Rom. 13:14); “*Christ being formed in us,*” (Gal. 4:19);

“*coming to have the mind of Christ,*” (I Cor. 2:16); “*let this same mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus,*” (Phil. 2:9).

Dear saints of God, the choice is before us, we can either choose to live by the dictates of our human nature or we can ask Christ to help us yield our minds to the moving of the Holy Spirit that abides within us. “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*” (Rom. 8:14).

There are four, practical, foundation truths that the apostolic brethren have ministered on since the move of the Spirit began and the importance of these truths to the realization of being an overcomer cannot be over emphasized. They are:

1. BIBLE READING

The Word of God, the Bible, was written for a purpose. It is not to be placed on a shelf to gather dust. We need to read it prayerfully every day. “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a*

light unto my path.” (Ps. 119:105). The word of God is an amazing book in that it provides practical direction on how to live a Godly life. In this **ONE** book, advice is provided on every aspect of our lives. You can learn from the Bible how to raise children, how to treat others (including wives and husbands), how to deal with conflict, how to handle your finances and even how to find a spouse. If we pay attention and heed the advice and admonition written in the Bible, it will keep us from sinning against God. “*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*” (Ps. 119:11). Paul wrote this to Timothy: “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” (2 Tim. 2:15). In this day and age, many are striving to find the “truth.” If you read God’s word you will find the truth. Jesus said: “*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*” (John 14:6).

If you have not been reading the Bible on a regular basis, here are a few suggestions. Begin by reading two or three chapters every day starting with the book of Luke, next read the book of Acts and then read the book of John. These readings provide a chronological summary of the life of Christ, the early apostles and the establishment of the first local Church. Set aside one month to read the 31 chapters of the book of Proverbs, one chapter a day in several different translations and read it at least once a year. If you need a lift in your spirit read Psalms. If you have been given the gift of prophecy, read the books of the prophets; Isaiah, Jeremiah,

Daniel and Joel, for example.

It is a good idea to keep notes as you read your Bible. Also keep a selection of coloured pencils available to highlight scriptures that stand out for you. By keeping notes you will be able to look back and see that you have been reading your Bible and there will be a blessing in this as well. “*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*” (Is. 55:11). In addition, there are aids available that will take you through the Bible in one year.

Learn to treasure your Bible, it will help you to walk a Christ-like life.

2. CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Regular Church attendance is an essential part of our Christian walk, essential because you cannot progress in your spiritual walk without being part of a local Church. There are circumstances where you may not be able to attend and this will be addressed later. If you live near where a local Church meets you need to be there for two reasons. First, you are a vital and particular member of the Body of Christ, which is His Church, and everyone needs your ministry. Second, you can not stand alone and stay spiritually alive outside of the Body of Christ. Any part of your body will die if removed from your body. Your hand needs all the other parts of your body in order to stay alive, hence you need the ministry of every other person in the Body of Christ. You need to hear God speak through prophecy, teaching, exhortation and

singing. This is God's nourishment and it will keep you spiritually alive if you are there to partake of it. Paul wrote:

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Cor.12:27, NKJV). As well as being fed spiritual nourishment, you are required to be an active, participating member of the local assembly. You do this by standing ready to contribute what God has laid on your heart according to the gifts and ministry given to you by the laying on of the hands of the apostolic brethren. As a member of the Body of Christ, you can not be a loner, a recluse; you are part of a body, the Body of Jesus Christ. He is the head and you are a particular part within the Body. You are joined together to the Head and the other members of the Body of Christ by one spirit, the Spirit of Christ. *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴For in fact the body is not one member but many."* (1 Cor. 12:13-14).

In our home, it was never an issue whether we went to Church or not. We were always there unless we were sick or away. You may not have this background and perhaps struggle with Church attendance. Heed the voice of the Holy Spirit and do as prompted. Get up early enough on Sunday mornings so that you can be in Church well before the meeting starts. Remember, you are the one who chooses what you are going to do and you can determine in your heart and mind to follow God's plan. God will reward you for it. *"And let us consider one another*

in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb. 10:24-25, NKJV).

Now a short word to those who are unable to attend a local Church. You may be a senior who no longer is able to get out, or you may have some disability that does not allow you to attend Church. God knows your situation and knows your heart. He knows that you would like to attend. There is no doubt that many of our seniors who are unable to attend our local services are fulfilling the role of praying for us while we are gathering. God's blessing is upon you dear saints. We treasure your prayers and your faithfulness.

Some live in areas where there is no local Church. Jesus said: *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* (Matt. 18:20). If you are only a family, you are a micro Church. Gather your family together every Sunday morning at a set time and have Church. It should be a time of praise and worship, sharing God's word; singing and allowing everyone time to contribute in some manner. Don't be afraid to invite a neighbour or friend who shows interest in the moving of the Holy Spirit. Many local Churches have been established in this manner.

If you are alone, set Sundays aside as the Lord's day.

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Ex. 20:8). Reserve a special time each Sunday to wait on the Lord and

read the Word or God or the Sharon Star. One suggestion is to listen to summer camp meetings on Sundays. Most summer camp meetings are recorded and available for a nominal cost as cassette tapes or on CD in MP3 format. In this way you can bask in the moving of the Holy Spirit and be kept abreast of the teachings of the brethren.

As a final note on this subject, personal and family devotions, which include prayer and reading God's word, are necessary for everyone. It is in this way we prepare our hearts to be in the Spirit on Sundays and ready to minister if called upon by the Holy Spirit.

3. TITHING

Tithing is a spiritual law, just like gravity is a universal law. If you drop an object that is heavier than air it will fall to the ground. Likewise, when you tithe, God's blessings will fall upon you.

"Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

(Mal. 3:10, Amplified Version). Long before the laws of Moses were given, tithing was practised by Abraham. High Priests were commanded to take tithes of the people according to the law. Abraham gave a tenth of his increase to Melchizedek, the High Priest of Salem. See Genesis 14:17-30 and Hebrews 7:1-5.

One point should be very clear, **TITHING IS NOT AN OPTION, IT IS A COMMANDMENT OF GOD!**

Bro. Peter Siemens once ministered on tithing and said; “If you don’t tithe, it won’t be long before nothing will go right. You’ll never seem to have enough money to pay your bills. Your car will break down, you may even lose your job and be sick more often, etc, etc.” If you doubt this statement just ask your local elders. They will have witnessed these kinds of things happening to those who have been slack in tithing. Many people have missed this precious way because they were unwilling or were slack to tithe!

Tithing is so simple. When you receive your paycheck, hold back 10% of your gross income and put it in an envelope. The next Sunday bring your tithe to Church and deposit it in the offering. This is an open sign to God of your obedience and it will not be forgotten. If you do not attend a local Church, mail your tithes to your home Church or the local Church closest to you. ***“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”*** (Luke 6:38). As a last note on this subject, remember it does not pay to be stingy in giving beyond your tithes. ***“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*** (2 Cor. 9:7).

4. PRAYER

The Oxford dictionary defines prayer as; “a solemn request or thanksgiving to God, coming from the root word

“pray” meaning to make devote supplication, to entreat, beseech or ask.” This is partly true if we limit our prayer life to simply asking for God’s help. However, a more encompassing meaning is, “to communicate with God.” Prayer should be a two-way communication where we entreat God to listen to our hearts’ requests, cries and supplications but also where we listen to the voice of God as He makes Himself real to our hearts through our spirit.

A long lasting, happy, intimate and fulfilling marriage only results when couples communicate and spend time with each other on a frequent basis. By communicating I mean full open, sincere, mature dialogue. Spending time with each other, I mean, spending quality time together ALONE. Likewise if we regularly make time to talk and listen to God in a similar manner we can expect to develop a very close relationship to Him.

The Bible indicates that we are able to pray on two levels: one by our native language and the other by our spirit, what the scriptures refer to as “speaking in tongues.” Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 14:15: ***“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”*** Then in verse 18, Paul makes this statement: ***“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.”*** In verse 14, Paul explained that when he prayed in the unknown tongue, his spirit prayed. If you have been filled with the Holy Ghost

it is imperative that you communicate in the spirit for it is an asset that God has given you. ***“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*** (Acts 2:4). Obviously the Apostle Paul thought it was sufficiently important or he wouldn’t have mentioned it and one only has to look at his life and writings to see that God was with him in a most miraculous way. If Paul felt the need to speak in other tongues, how much more should we. Let us not forget that this is the move of Holy Spirit. If we desire to flow along in the moving of the Holy Spirit, then we must be in the Spirit. Speaking in tongues on a daily basis helps us to become sensitive to God’s Spirit.

In closing, if we allow these four foundational truths to become part of your lives, we will automatically begin to bear spiritual fruit and this will ultimately result in becoming an overcomer. Any Christian who strives to go on with God and puts these practical truths to practice will not be left behind.

As previously mentioned, the Bible speaks about: “putting on Christ,” “Christ being formed in us,” “coming to have the mind of Christ,” “let this same mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus.” **To become an overcomer let us be overcome with Christ.** With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us determine in our hearts and our minds to heed what God is saying to the Church in this hour and strive to be overcomers.

Truth

By David Luff

In John 18:36 (NIV) it says, "Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.' 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate. Jesus answered, 'You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'" In verse 38 Pilate asks, "What is truth?" We live in a world today in which many people have no idea what truth is. It's an interesting thing that Jesus, when He was speaking here, didn't say that He came to die for our sins or to save us from eternal death, although all that is true. He said, "...for this reason I was born, and for this [reason] I came into the world, to testify to the truth..." The next sentence says, "...Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." What does that phrase indicate to us? There are other sides than the side of truth, and there are people lining up in all of these different sides today.

My wife and I had an opportunity to attend a short seminar recently that was sponsored by Focus on the Family, called *The Truth Project*.

The Truth Project has been put together for home settings for people to bring in friends and neighbours and go through a series of studies on truth. It's sad to know that there are so

many people in the world who don't know the truth. II Cor. 4:4 says, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." There are so many people out there whose eyes are blinded, and they cannot see the truth. There is a tremendous need in this hour for people to know the truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me" (John 14:6). Young people, if someone were to ask you, "What is truth?" what would you say? Jesus is truth because Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." But even in a more practical, everyday way, what is truth? Truth is reality. It's the way things really are. It's the way that things are designed to work.

Brother Andy Snoke was sharing with me a little bit about their ministry to the Africans concerning the AIDS epidemic. It was amazing how simple the teaching was: one husband, one wife, for life, no AIDS. One husband, one wife, for life, no AIDS. Simple, isn't it? That's the truth of God. Yet most of the world is living in insanity. Do you know what insanity is? It's a break with reality. It's not being able to see reality for what it really is. There is not one area in life, no direction that we can go, whether it's in the area of religion, whether it's in the area of education, politics, sociology,

government, our social life, etc. to which the Word of God has not spoken. There is not one single area that the truth of God has not been made known to us.

John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." This is a very clear and straightforward statement. The word of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, flowing from the fountainhead of wisdom, the Lord God Almighty, is truth. If we are not walking in the truth, there will be negative consequences. The very thing that the African people are plagued with and we in the west are beginning to feel the impact of, is the break from the reality of one husband, one wife, for life, no AIDS. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says over and over, "It has been said of them of old time, thou shalt [do or not do so and so], but I say unto you..." He said, "It has been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

But I say unto you, that any man that looketh on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28). Many times the enemy of our souls whispers the same thing into our ears that he did into the ears of Eve in the garden. The first thing he asked, "Hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1). That question got Eve's mind off of God and thinking about something good that God was withholding from her: knowing good and evil. The next thing

he said to her was, “Thou shalt not surely die...” (Genesis 3:4). How many times, even in the lives of Christians, does the enemy whisper in our ears concerning an instruction given to us by God in His Word? “Could God really have meant that literally for me? Surely *He couldn't have really meant that the way it sounds.*” Then we read that God said if you violate my command here, thou shalt surely die. But the enemy whispers in people's ears and says, thou shalt not surely die. The enemy of our souls is the father of lies. He is the author of the law of sin and death. The fruit of obeying the law of sin and death is what? Sin and death! The fruit of obeying the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faith, meekness, and self-control.

It is so important that we know the truth and allow the truth to set us free. I hope that in every camp meeting, and every meeting of our local assemblies the truth will be proclaimed in every song we sing, in every prophecy that is given by the Spirit, in every song sung in the Spirit, and in every message given from the Word.

For the truth is what sets us free. I read something the other day where a man said he's been a Christian for 20 years and he had been a prisoner for 20 years not realizing that the doors of the prison cell were already open. I long today for all of us to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the authority that has been established under the law of sin and death by the enemy has been broken for us. We no longer have to live under that

authority, but it is our choice of what we're going to do.

In the book of Colossians, (I'm amazed at how much of the scripture is written to Christians. Sometimes, I think people read a lot of these things and think it's about the unsaved. It's not! This is speaking to Christians), in the second chapter and the eighth verse it says, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depend on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” The very context of this statement seems to say to me that it's possible to be taken captive. It's a warning to us as Christians not to be taken captive by these things. We don't have to be taken captive by these “...hollow and deceptive philosophies, which depend on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” We need to gird our loins and make sure that our minds stay active to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us. The Holy Spirit speaks to our spirits. The way God communicates with us is through our spirits and it is by our spirits that we know the things of God. It is with our minds that we come to understand the things of God and then we can communicate those things to other people and be a blessing to other people. It is by the Holy Spirit speaking to our quickened spirits that the things of God are revealed to us and we need to learn to listen to the voice of the Spirit. I think about the number of times my parents would talk to me and I'd be doing something else and I'd hear them say, “LISTEN to me!” “Listen to me.” I'd square up

and start paying attention. I'd look them in the eye and focus on what they were saying. We've got to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us, as He speaks to our spirits. We must learn to differentiate between that banging that goes on in our heads and our minds from time to time and just listen to that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. I like that scripture that speaks about when God was going to communicate with Elijah. First came a fire, then an earthquake, then a great wind, but God wasn't in these things. But then the still small voice. We have to be quiet to listen to the voice of God as He speaks to us and as He reveals and unfolds to us the truth, the things of the eternal. Jesus said, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3). That's eternal life. It's more than length of life; it also speaks of the quality of life.

There is one more scripture that I would like to share that I heard ministered at that little two-day conference we went to. It's from the sixth chapter of Isaiah. “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am

ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty” (Isaiah 6:1-5). What happens when we look into the face of God? What’s the first thing that happens? We are aware of our own sinfulness, our own unworthiness! What’s the second thing that we’re aware of? His Glory! We’re also aware that we’re in good company, aren’t we? We dwell among a people of unclean lips, but He says our eyes have beheld the Lord.

“Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and

your sin atoned for.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:6-8). What’s the third thing that happens when we look into the face of God? He prepares us, He quickens our hearts to go forth and minister, minister the gift that God has given us by the Holy Spirit, step in and fulfill the ministry that has been given to us by the Holy Spirit. Let us not neglect these things, which were so wonderfully imparted to us. They were not meant just to tickle our minds or to educate us or make us smarter. These gifts of the Holy Spirit and ministries were given to us to be able to build up the Church, the Body of Christ. I hope that in

various respects all of us will somehow see the face of God in a deeper and different way perhaps then we ever have before. It will lead us to an attitude of repentance, to know that we are people who have sinned and come short of the glory of God. That doesn’t mean that we’re not on the way and that God hasn’t done wonderful things for us by His Spirit. He has, and we’re on the way and we’re thankful for that. But there is nothing wrong with having a broken and contrite heart, because God wants to take us on. He doesn’t want us to be satisfied with where we are. As I said, we are in good company and we want to pray and lift each other up and overlook the weaknesses in others for we all have them. Then when God says He wants to use us, in whatever way He desires, we can say, “Lord, here am I, send me.” To try to do that without really coming face to face with the Lord God, we’d just be gritting our teeth and trying to do it in our own strength and it just won’t work. That’s what the world is trying to do. It’s trying to do everything in it’s own cleverness and strength and it’s just making a mess of things. The only way that we can enter in and see the things of the glory of God come about is to have that face-to-face interaction with the Lord God personally. These days appear to be drawing to a close. It would seem the cup of iniquity couldn’t get much more full than it is, but only God knows these things. It’s a time for us to be sober. It’s a time for us to – as a young man said at our young people’s meeting – “Pull up your socks and get with it.” Praise God!

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- Camp North Battleford July 1 - 8, 2007
- North Carolina Summer Camp July 22 - 28, 2007
- Pinelow Summer Family Camp Aug. 6 - 12, 2007
- Trinidad West Indies Camp Aug. 6-12, 2007
- Trinidad Young People's Camp Aug. 14 - 17, 2007
- Hidden Acres Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2007
- Park Valley Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2007
- Winkler Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2007
- Minden Meetings Sept. 28 - 30, 2007
- New Jersey Camp Oct. 26 - 28, 2007
- Pinelow Family Camp Nov. 9-12, 2007
- North Battleford New Year's Youth Retreat Dec. 28, 2007 - Jan. 1, 2008

“A Good & Faithful Servant”

Our first visit to the Price home was in 1954 while passing through Kimberley and Marysville B.C., a visit I shall never forget. We had such a delightful time of fellowship with Gilbert and Esther during and after dinner, and spent the night as guests in their home. It taught me the real value of Christian Fellowship and the Bond that exists in the Body of Christ. I found that one could never spend an evening or an hour or two with this remarkable “Man of God”, without having learned some valuable spiritual lesson. He shared from the wealth of his own experience with the Lord and nuggets of Truth from the Word of God. More often than not, drawn from the little things experienced in daily living. He was a very good conversationalist in both talking and listening. He always spoke with an impeccable honesty. He found it very hard to lead a worship service without tears of joy flowing down his cheeks.

Gilbert was a friend that one always knew where you stood with him. One had to look long to find an Elder or Ministry that loved God, his congregation and family more. I know I speak for many when I say our lives were greatly enriched by his acquaintance. We were privileged to have him on the Board of Directors and Travelling Ministry of Global Missions for the last few years of his Life. His contribution was always greatly appreciated by all the Brethren.

We were able to visit with Gilbert and Esther a few times where they lived in the Nursing

home. Each time, his greeting would always be the same, “Oh Brother this is a wonderful hour”, His hope and expectations of the coming of the Kingdom of God never dimmed, but rather



GILBERT PRICE
February 19, 2007

strengthened with years regardless of his deteriorating health, about which he never complained. He was far too taken up with the glory and privilege of his walk with God. He lived so close to that realm it’s no wonder he talked so much about it.

His faithful influence in the Nursing home was remarkable. He was often asked to come and pray for someone in the home, who was not doing so well.

His ministry just never stopped. He always looked at the positive side of the each situation, not just turning a blind eye on things that needed attention, but never critical especially of another person. He will be greatly missed by us all. So, “Until Then” the memory of his singing, guitar and violin playing, minister-

ing the Word of God and rich fellowship, will also remain with us as a blessing strength. His life reminded me of the scripture in the Psalms 119:165. “Great peace have they which love Thy Law; and nothing shall offend them”

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he who doeth the Will of God abideth forever”. 1 John 2:17.

Bro. Merv Smith

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- The Present Move Of God
- The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit
- You Are Loved
- Growing In Christ
- Born From Above
- Honor The Lord With Thy Substance
- A Word To The Wise
- Sexual Intimacy
- A Testimony - M. Sundbo

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- The Church
- The Nine Gifts Of The Spirit
- Government
- Submission And Headship In The Christian Marriage

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A Call to the Body of Christ to Prayer and Fasting

June 3 through June 9

Dear Members
of the Body of Christ,

The Church which is His Body faces many serious challenges in this hour in which we live. The enemy of our souls is coming against the Church with all the strength and power he has at his disposal. In our gathering before the Feast of 2007, there were a number of things that were weighing heavily on the hearts of the Brethren concerning the Church. Among them were as follows:

- There are many saints in our midst who are suffering with serious health issues and are in need of a real healing touch from the Great Physician (Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 4:23).
- The enemy is seeking with all his might to separate us by attacking our unity as a corporate body of believers. This is happening in marriages, in local assemblies, and among brethren in other parts of the world (Ephesians 4:3-6, Psalms 133).
- Worldliness continues to make inroads into the Church all over the world but particularly so in North America where there are so many things to divert our focus away from the pursuit of holiness (1 John 2:15-17, Hebrews 12:14).

However, Jesus said, "...upon

this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18). For this we praise God. Even though the final outcome is sure, in the meantime, God requires us to do what He has called us to do.

In times of crisis and major challenges, the people of God have come together to fast and pray and seek the will of God as a corporate body. The Brethren are asking that the week of June 3, through June 9, be set aside by the Church worldwide as a time of fasting and prayer with particular emphasis on the issues stated above. As we fast from physical food, let us also heed the admonition in Isaiah 58:6-12. God has called us to "rend our heart and not our garments" (Joel 2:13).

May this be a time that we draw together as one and seek the will of God for the Church.

God bless you all,
The Brethren

'Bro. Frank Paterson wrote an article on Fasting in the March/April 2004 issue of the Sharon Star. Bro. Ewald Wanagas also wrote on Prayer and Fasting in the March/April 2002 issue. It would be good for you to locate these "Stars" and review. Both articles can be read online at www.thesharonstar.org

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