



# THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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## Living by Faith

Excerpt from *Helps to Holy Living* by C. E. Orr

"The just shall live by faith." Gal. 3:11. The sinner lives by sight; the saint lives by faith. This puts them into two different spheres of life. One lives in the world of seen things, while the other lives in the unseen world. One sees only the circumstances of every day life, while the other sees the hand of Providence in all circumstances. It makes a vast difference. By faith man lives above all earthly circumstances. He is not affected by "hard times." He lives up where all times are good times. The most abject poverty has no influence over his life. If he has no place to lay his head, he has a place to lay his heart and he is perfectly contented. Mountains of gold have no more influence over his life than the kingdoms of the world had over Jesus. He makes no more obeisance to the world at its offers of riches, honor, and pleasure than Jesus made to the devil at his offers of all the glory of the kingdoms of earth. Those who live by faith do not look around on material things. They live amid eternal things. They understand that they are to use every thing that comes to them in life to help them on in the spiritual life. Those living by faith live under the influence of the unseen and not the seen.

## Tune Your Harp

Excerpt from *Helps to Holy Living* by C. E. Orr

David calls up his soul and tunes it to the great heart of God. Keeping in tune with heaven is the secret of holy living. We must catch daily messages from the sky that we might keep in harmony with the mind of God. We must hear the voice of God, we must feel His life playing on the tender cords of our soul, we need to be moved by the impulses of His loving heartbeats to live as holy as we should. Let there be no discordant notes in the music of your soul. You can keep tuned in with the sweet harmony of heaven in the very face of strife and sin in the world. Peter slept like a child with the chopping block only a few hours ahead; Paul kept the music of heaven in his heart while fast in the stocks; Daniel kept tuned in with the world of glory at the entrance to the lions' den; the furnace cast no fear over the life of the three Hebrews; Habakkuk rejoiced in the God of his salvation with empty fields, storehouses and stalls before him; Job kept the proper wave length in his soul amid all his adversities. Beware, oh beware, lest something of earth gets your harps out of tune. Why will mortal man allow the poor, weak things of earth disturb the music of his soul!



## Salvation

Excerpt from *Helps to Holy Living* by C. E. Orr

As good old Simeon looked into the face of the Child he said, "Mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation." Who can tell what this meant to him? Who can tell what rapturous delight filled his soul? There he saw salvation in its true meaning. From this scene we look away to an innumerable company in white robes with palms in their hands standing before the throne and before the Lamb and they are singing. "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." When the sinner takes Jesus to his heart the song of "Salvation" begins. We hear

him singing it all along the journey of life. He may some times be in the furnace fire, but he never loses his song. The storm may be raging but above the howling of the winds you will hear him singing "salvation." He may be misunderstood, misrepresented, despised, and forsaken by men, but on he goes singing his lovely song. He never misses a note. The adversities of life, be what they may, cannot still the song in his soul. Men may deride him, but the angels are listening. The world may sneer and scoff, but his song rolls as a sweet anthem up to the ears of the Great Eternal. One day a company of angels came to bear him away to his home beyond this world of trial, and we behold him in the midst of that great throng singing his song of salvation. That is his theme. It began here when he accepted Jesus and it will never have an end. It is the song that never grows old. The heart can find its fullest expression in but one word and that word is salvation. What does it mean to be saved? It is to be saved from an eternity in the miseries of hell to an eternity of blessedness in heaven.

"Salvation is the sweetest thing that mortal ever found;  
My soul can never cease to sing, such love and peace abound.

"Salvation is the theme so grand—  
It thrills with joy my soul:  
I'll sing it here, and sing it there  
While ceaseless ages roll



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## Singing in Adversity—Part II

Selection from *The Secret of a Singing Heart* By: C. W. Naylor

*(Continued from the July/August 2006 newsletter)*

Paul tells his experience in II Cor. 7: 4: "I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation." He tells why this is: "God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforteth us" (vs. 6). "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation" (II Cor. 1:4). The comfort of God is wonderful. The satisfying, soul delighting blessedness of it can be known only by those who have gone deeply into the waters of tribulation. So many in times of trouble are prone to feel that God does not care for them or to feel that they have offended him. Just when they need him most and just when he would be most ready to help they cease to seek that help and feel they must meet their difficulties in their own strength without the help they so much crave.

Right here many are tempted to give up trying. They feel they are unable to overcome or to endure through to better days. They feel that God has forsaken them in their hour of need. Their feelings and their attitude shut them off from that help that God would delight to give them. It is just here that we need to face things squarely. We need to consider God as he is. We need to take a right view of our relations with him. In the time of the child's need a true and loving parent yearns with sympathy and with an earnest desire to help. The heart of God is more tender than the heart of a mother. His love is stronger than any human love. In these times of tribulation and trouble, of sorrow or care, of anxiety or foreboding, we should remember that he is waiting to take us into his arms and to comfort us with that comfort that only he can give.

The clouds may seem to hide his face; he may seem far off: but he is not far off. The clouds may prevent us from seeing him, but they do not prevent his seeing us. He does see us and he desires us to turn to him for that partnership in trouble which we need in order that the heavy load may be borne. He desires that we confide in him, that we pour out our soul's bitterness and longing to him. He expects us to act as men and women should act. He expects us to use what strength we have. But beyond and above our strength is his abundant strength and help ready to supply whatever deficiency there may be in us. He always sees the way out of our difficulties. He always knows just how much grace we must have. He always measures out to us the needed supply when we give him opportunity.

No one ever lived, whether he be a Christian or not, but who has had his times of discouragement, heaviness, sorrow, and disappointment. Care and anxiety come to all. Unsaved people have to bear their own burdens, meet their own adversities, suffer their own sorrows, without divine help. They get through them in some way in their own strength and we could do the same without divine help. There would always be a way that we should get through somehow. But God knows a better way than we know and he will help us into that better way. He will give us the strength and fortitude necessary if we only trust and go forward courageously.

James tells us to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations.

There is a way to do this. That way is the way Paul took. Paul looked behind the tribulations to the outcome. James exhorts us to do likewise. These tribulations all are fruitful. They are good for us. If we bear them as we should we shall look back upon them presently and rejoice that God let them come.

Let us now look at Paul. It was midnight. He and Silas lay in a Philippian dungeon. Their feet were fast in the stocks. Their clothes were rent, their backs were bleeding from the many stripes that had been laid upon them. It seemed that death might be only a little ahead of them. Under these unfavorable circumstances they did not lament; they prayed (Acts 16: 25). After they had prayed they did something else—they sang praises to God. They did not do this for mere bravado. They did not do it to keep the other prisoners awake. They did it because of the joy that was welling up in their own hearts. They were suffering so they could not sleep; so they spent the time in the very best possible manner. They spent not a moment in regretting what had happened. They did look for the needed help. Their faith reached out to God and help came. Their souls were filled with joyful praises and they sang from full hearts.

There were reasons why they could do this. First, they were innocent. They had a consciousness they had done nothing wrong. They had been trying to do good. Now they were suffering for it. There is "rest comfort in being innocent under such circumstances or in any circumstances. A clear conscience inspires to song. So if our conscience is clear we can rise above our circumstances if we follow the course taken by Paul and Silas.

Second, they were hopeful Christians. They did not look on the dark side. They looked beyond the present suffering and the threatening circumstances. They saw not the dungeon nor the stocks nor the executioner's sword. They felt not their galled ankles nor their smarting backs. They looked to God. They saw his approving smile; and they sang praises.

Third, they exercised definite faith. They believed God knew all about their circumstances. They believed they were in his care. They believed nothing could come to them without coming through his will, by his permission. So they rested in full assurance of faith in him and in their tribulations sang joyfully. Paul taught others to rejoice and he set them an example. If we face our adversities as he faced his we too may sing in adversity.

In adversity we sing a different song than we do when we are untroubled. We must join courage to trust. When we do this we can sing songs of confidence born of our confidence in God's help. We can sing songs of trust that allay our fears. We can sing songs of anticipation as we look forward to the victories that lie before us and at the crown at the end of the road. We can sing in joyful remembrance of God's former mercies.

The song of adversity is more difficult to learn than the song we sing when everything is going pleasantly and prosperously, but these songs are no less joyous in the depths of the heart when they spring from faith. In fact they can often be more truly joyous than the songs of prosperity because they go deeper into the depths of the heart and rise with fuller trust. But no matter how many tribulations we have, if we trust God we may be "exceeding joyful" in all those tribulations.



### My Surrender

By. Gertrude E. Worthington

I have given up all to my Savior so dear,  
And His praises I ever will sing;  
And though all of this world should forsake  
me while here,  
To my Savior I ever will cling.

I've received such great light, and its  
beams are so bright,  
That the past of my life's way seems dim;  
I will walk in this light by day and by night,  
Still closer I'll cling unto Him.

Some think I've done wrong by leaving the throng,  
Who abide in sectarian strife;  
But I've only come back where God's people belong,  
From Babel I fled for my life.

I have a good home in the fold of my Lord,  
Where His sanctified children all dwell;  
I am glad that I heard the truth from His word,  
And now with my soul all is well.

Someday when my life and its labors are o'er,  
And my sheaves at His feet I lay down,  
I will meet all the saints on that beautiful shore,  
And receive a bright, glittering crown.

He leads me each day in the heavenly way,  
So onward and upward I'll climb;  
In the straight, narrow way, I'm determined  
to stay,  
Till I leave this old dark world behind.



### Grow in His Strength

Excerpt from September 30 devotional—Streams in the Desert

*"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange God with him" (Deut. 32:11, 12).*

Our Almighty Parent delights to conduct the tender nestlings of His care to the very edge of the precipice, and even to thrust them off into the steeps of air, that they may learn their possession of unrealized power of flight, to be forever a luxury; and if, in the attempt, they be exposed to unwanted peril, He is prepared to swoop beneath them, and to bear them upward on His mighty pinions. When God brings any of His children into a position of unparalleled difficulty, they may always count upon Him to deliver them. --The Song of Victory

"When God puts a burden upon you He puts His own arm underneath."

There is a little plant, small and stunted, growing under the shade of a broad-spreading oak; and this little plant values the shade which covers it, and greatly does it esteem the quiet rest which its noble friend affords. But a blessing is designed for this little plant.

Once upon a time there comes along the woodman, and with his sharp axe he fells the oak. The plant weeps and cries, "My shelter is departed; every rough wind will blow upon me, and every storm will seek to uproot me!"

"No, no," saith the angel of that flower; "now will the sun get at thee; now will the shower fall on thee in more copious abundance than before; now thy stunted form shall spring up into loveliness, and thy flower, which could never have expanded itself to perfection shall now laugh in the sunshine, and men shall say, 'How greatly hath that plant increased! How glorious hath become its beauty, through the removal of that which was its shade and its delight!'"

### Deeper

September 9 devotional—Streams in the Desert

*"Not much earth" (Matt. 13:5).*

Shallow! It would seem from the teaching of this parable that we have something to do with the soil. The fruitful seed fell into "good and honest hearts." I suppose the shallow people are the soil without much earth--those who have no real purpose, are moved by a tender appeal, a good sermon, a pathetic melody, and at first it looks as if they would amount to something; but not much earth--no depth, no deep, honest purpose, no earnest desire to know duty in order to do it. Let us look after the soil of our hearts.

When a Roman soldier was told by his guide that if he insisted on taking a certain journey it would probably be fatal, he answered, "It is necessary for me to go; it is not necessary for me to live."

This was depth. When we are convicted something like that

we shall come to something. The shallow nature lives in its impulses, its impressions, its intuitions, its instincts, and very largely its surroundings. The profound character looks beyond all these, and moves steadily on, sailing past all storms and clouds into the clear sunshine which is always on the other side, and waiting for the afterwards which always brings the reversion of sorrow, seeming defeat and failure.

When God has deepened us, then He can give us His deeper truths, His profoundest secrets, and His mightier trusts. Lord, lead me into the depths of Thy life and save me from a shallow experience!

*On to broader fields of holy vision; On to loftier heights of faith and love;*

*Onward, upward, apprehending wholly, All for which He calls thee from above. --A. B. Simpson*

## Paul Tells the Wise Men of Greece about the Unknown God

Story 20 from *Egermeier's Bible Story Book*—Acts 17:16-18:23

While Paul waited in Athens for his companions, Silas and Timothy, he walked about the streets and saw many idols standing here and there. He saw that the people of this city worshiped many different gods. They had even built an altar to the Unknown God.

There were Jews in this city also, and Paul visited their synagogue to speak to them about Christ. In the crowded streets he met some thoughtful, earnest men to whom he spoke daily about the gospel. Others gathered round, curious to hear the conversation. When they heard Paul speaking about Jesus and about the resurrection from the dead they believed he was bringing tidings to their city of a strange god from some other land.

In this city was a place called Mars Hill. Here important matters were discussed, and the wisest men of Greece met on this hill. They brought Paul here and asked him to tell about this new doctrine of which he spoke so earnestly on the streets. Then Paul rose up before all the wise men and said: "I saw an altar which you have built to the Unknown God. Of this God I wish to tell you now, for it is he who has made the world and all things in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth, and does not dwell in temples that are made by men. He gives life and breath to all creatures, and has made the people of every nation. This God whom I declare to you is not far from every one of us, and he desires that people of every nation should seek to know him. They should not try to make images to represent him, for he is not like gold, or silver, or stone, fashioned as the idols your own hands have made. The time was when you did not know about this God; but now he commands you to repent of your sins, for the day will come when he will call all men into judgment."

Paul then spoke to them about Jesus, whom God had raised from the dead to be the Savior. But when the wise men of Athens heard these words some laughed in scorn, while others shook their heads in doubt, saying, "Come again some other day to tell us more about this strange thing." They did not believe that the dead shall rise again. So Paul left Mars Hill and went again into the city.

Some who had listened to his sermon followed him and asked to know more about Christ. One of them who followed was a chief man of the city. He afterwards believed and was saved. A few others also turned from their idols and believed in the true God and in his Son, Jesus Christ.

From Athens, Paul went to another city of Greece, called Corinth. Here he found a man and his wife who were Jews and who, too, were strangers in the city. Because they were tent-makers by occupation, and Paul also knew how to make tents, he worked with them to earn his living, and on the Sabbath-days he preached in the synagogue of the city. Among the Jews who believed his preaching were this man and his wife, Aquila and Priscilla.

Finally Silas and Timothy came from Philippi to Corinth, and Paul rejoiced to see them once more. From that time he began to speak more boldly concerning Christ, and many of the Jews opposed him. Then he left them, and turned to preach to the Gentiles.

The chief ruler of the synagogue and his household believed the teachings of Paul, and many others, too, received his words with gladness. These believers were baptized in the name of Jesus. Because the Jews who worshiped in the synagogue would not receive the gospel, these believers worshiped in a house near by which belonged to a believer named Justus.

One night while Paul was in Corinth, the Lord spoke to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, but speak boldly, for I am with you and no man shall hurt you here. I have many people in this city who will believe on me when they hear your words." After this vision Paul stayed in Corinth a long time, faithfully preaching the gospel to all who would listen. And many believers were added to the church in this city.

When Paul had been there many months, some wicked Jews who

hated the believers planned to make trouble for them. They caught Paul and took him before the ruler of the city, accusing him of wrongdoing. But the ruler paid no heed to their words, and Paul was set at liberty. After this the Greeks caught one of the Jews, a ruler of a synagogue, and beat him cruelly; but the Greek ruler did not help the Jew.

Paul decided to return again to Jerusalem. Taking with him Aquila and Priscilla, he sailed from Greece to Asia Minor. Here he left his friends in the city of Ephesus and continued his journey to Jerusalem, to attend the Feast of the Passover. And from Jerusalem he went once more to visit the saints in Antioch.

### Bible Study—Living for Christ (2 Cor. 5:15)

From *Bible Readings for Bible Students* by S. L. Speck & H. M. Riggle

#### I. To Live for Christ We Must

1. Live Holy  
1 Peter 1:14-16    Luke 1:74, 75
2. Live sinless  
1 John 2:1            John 5:14            John 8:11
3. Live blameless  
Philippians 2:15    Ephesians 1:4
4. Live honestly  
Hebrews 13:18      1 Thessalonians 4:12
5. Living soberly  
Titus 2:12
  - (a) The elders.  
1 Timothy 3:2
  - (b) Aged men.  
Titus 2:2
  - (c) Young men.  
Titus 2:6
  - (d) Young women.  
Titus 2:4



#### II. Conclusion

Ephesians 5:1-5

The Church of God    Pastor:    David Chancellor  
701 S. Eastern Ave.    Email:    dchancellor@juno.com  
PO Box 6187            Website: http://www.moorecog.org  
Moore, OK 73153      Phone:    (405) 794-2765

Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

#### Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.