Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

Volume 73

Independence, Missouri — March 1996

Number 3

No More Fear

It is time to crush the fears you hold. For our God is mighty he has given his WORD to behold.

Our God does give weapons not carnal..but mighty thru him, To pull down our strongholds we must believe this of him.

For there is no temptation or trial uncommon to man, that he will let us bare without his prepared escape plan.

His WORD is the truth and the truth shall set you free, your heart must be true and there..no doubt can be.

It is time to take a stand and to know God's work. for when faith is on the scene fear will be unheard.

For God gave us a spirit

of power, love and a sound mind, clear your thoughts and heart to be of HIS kind.

Dig out your false ideas of the counterfeit and deceit, for these are all just lies stand firmly on your feet.

Give all you have to trust, faith and belief, you can then put all of your fears far below under your feet.

Our Gods' word is sharp to pierce us within, which will purify our hearts and FAITH is where you begin!

Dianne Welsh

Submitted by Louise Grzincic

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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;

To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ; To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate/

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Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," submissions to other regular monthly Z.A. features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of Submitted Material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of <u>underlining</u>, ALL-CAPS, and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material — the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise prepare anything you send.

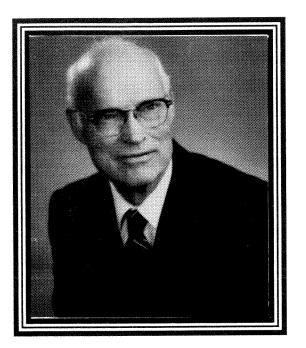
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HUMILTY & CHARITY



By: Apostle Marvin E. Ely

The basis for this article is the last sermon of the 1995 Phoenix Reunion. It was amazing how all the sermons of the reunion tied together in a remarkable manner. The hand of the Lord had to be in it for them to have fit so closely one to the other for no one knew beforehand what the others would preach upon.

The first sermon stressed the importance of putting off the natural man and becoming a saint through the atonement of Christ and become as a child: submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father. (See: Mosiah 1:119-120). We were further admonished to be reconciled to Christ and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the straight path which leads to life. He further emphasized the importance of being reconciled to our brother or sister before we approach God. It was also indicated that we must be patient and forgive all men. We were also told to put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another and forgiving one another. Forbear means that we have to put up with one another. He also stressed that charity is the bond of perfectness.

In the second sermon we were told that Christ had a very simple (plain) ministry and that He went to the humble and meek. He further stressed that we must be submissive to God. A question was asked: "Will you admit that you do not fully understand what humility is?" and then he said: "If we were truly meek and lowly in heart our problems would be done away with." He further indicated that we must explain the gospel in language we can understand and that we must continue in Christ's love.

The third sermon stressed that God is the almighty provider and that we must put off the old man and put on the new man. He also referenced the morning prayer service in which a broken heart and a contrite spirit was stressed. We were also admonished to take up our cross and follow Jesus. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matthew 16:26. A statement was made that "it is more important to be humble than have a good name." In the fourth sermon we were admonished that our goal in life is eternal life and not how many possessions we have, how many friends we have or how good a job we have. We were also told that charity is the bond of perfectness and that we must pray with all energy of heart that we may be filled with this love which is the pure love

of Christ or charity. Also he stressed that we must put off the natural man and become as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love. We were also informed that God resists the proud but gives grace unto the humble. Then the question was asked: "Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, that ye have been sufficiently humble?"

The previous sermons laid the ground work for the final sermon which was on humility and charity. It

was marvelous how all the sermons tied together. The Lord had to have a hand in it. "I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them." Ether 5:28.

The reason I had chosen to speak upon humility is because of an action taken during the 1995 August Minister's Conference. A document on dealing with divorce was under consideration at this time. A motion was being discussed on whether a guilty party is free to remarry if the guilty party has met the conditions of repentance. One person spoke that he had entirely reversed his decision of a year earlier and pointed out inconsistency in the document that was under consideration. Another pointed out that the statements in this document are everywhere inconsis-

> tent. Another person stated that his document does not deal with the matter as it ought to be dealt with.

I then felt directed to say if we would humble ourselves, we would get the answer to this question and other questions. Two years earlier under a similar difficult issue an answer came to me during the night and early morning if we would humble ourselves we would get the answer to that issue as well as other questions. It further came to me we needed to start at

the head as well as all the other ministry and all the members as well. It then came to me that our forefathers humbled themselves and were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. And now two years later we still need greater humility in order to receive the spiritual direction that is needed to arrive at a oneness on the divorce question.

After the previous statements were made a motion was made to "postpone this matter to the next year and that we spend the intervening year in sincere and consistent prayer." This motion carried so we as a ministry as well as the remain-

we as a ministry as well as the remainder of the members have a duty to try and become more humble in the sight of God. This will require much eamest prayer as well as fasting and prayer. August will be here quicker than we realize. der of the members have a duty to try and become more humble in the sight of God. This will require much earnest prayer as well as fasting and prayer. August will be here quicker than we realize.

The word humble means not proud, haughty or arrogant. A synonym of humble is meek, modest and lowly. Jesus said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29. Jesus was meek and lowly in heart and he desires that we also be meek and lowly in heart. We were commanded to take the yoke of Jesus upon us and learn of him. This would show our willingness to walk as he walked and become meek and lowly.

"...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble...Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:6 & 10. Pride is the direct opposite of humble and God clearly indicates that he resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

"Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening; yea cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea cry unto him against the devil who is an enemy to all righteousness." Alma 16:219. This passage of scripture shows the importance of humility and continued prayers over all things that we do; especially, against the devil. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;

and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:17-19. The word contrite means humble on showing remorse. In 3 Nephi 5:66-68 we can read where Jesus commanded that we must come unto him with a broken heart and a contrite (humble) spirit.

Alma said to a people many years ago to: "...humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love, and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord; Having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at the last day, and enter into his rest." Alma 10:28-29. This scripture not only shows the importance of becoming humble, meek, submissive and patient but of being full of love and, especially, having the love of God always in our hearts.

"And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of an angel; And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him who created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true." Mosiah 2:21-23.

The Lord spoke unto Moroni that he gives men weakness that they may be humble and that his grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before him. "Behold, I will shew unto the Gentiles their weakness, and I will shew unto them that faith, hope and charity bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness." Ether 5:29. If faith, hope and charity brings the fountain of all righteousness then we must increase these attributes in our individual lives, for if we work on these then our humility will also increase.

In Moroni 7 we can read that Moroni wrote a few of the words which his father, Mormon, spoke concerning faith, hope and charity. He also wrote that by the ministering of angels, and by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ, and thus by faith, they did lay hold upon every good thing. "And assuredly as Christ liveth, he spoke these words unto our fathers, saying, Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be done unto you." Moroni 7:26. "And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me." Moroni 7:35.

"How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope? And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you, that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal; and this because of your faith in him according to the promise; ... And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity." Moroni 7:46-50.

The above scripture indicates clearly that we must be meek and lowly in order to have the faith and hope we should have. Meek is a synonym of humble so we see that all these tie together. If a person is meek and lowly he must have charity for if he has not charity he is nothing. Charity is the pure love of Christ; therefore, we must have this love in our hearts to be meek and lowly in heart or to be a humble person. Since charity is this important, scriptures pertaining to it will now be considered.

By reading I Corinthians 13:1-3 we learn about the importance of charity (charity is the pure love of Christ. Moroni 7:52). Even though we could speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity we would be as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Also though we have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and have faith to remove mountains and have not charity, we are nothing. If we bestowed all our goods to feed the poor and had not charity, it would profit us nothing. I could not imagine a person having these attributes and not having charity but the Apostle Paul is only using these extremes to show the importance of having charity which is the pure love of Christ in our lives.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth (brag, boast) not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." I Corintians 13:4-7. Those with charity, which is the pure love of Christ, in their lives would have the above character traits. Therefore, we must work with great energy to have charity in our lives.

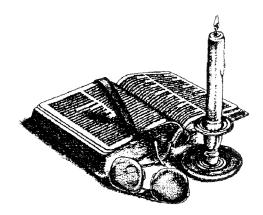
"And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times; Asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things, ye do receive; And see that ye have faith, hope and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works;" Alma 5:39-41. Alma really explains plainly that to be humble, submissive, gentle and patient we must have faith, hope and charity.

In Colossians 3:1 we can read: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." In Colossians 3:12-13 those risen with Christ are admonished to put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another. An obsolete meaning of forbear is to bear with or endure. "And above all these things put on charity, which is the **h**and of perfectness." Colossians 3:14.

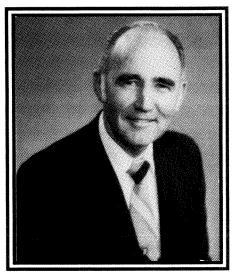
Men were given weakness that they may be humble. "Behold, I will shew unto the Gentiles their weakness, and I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity, bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness." Ether 5:29. By reading the verses that follow the above quote we learn that the Lord "workest unto the children of men according to their faith" and that the Lord "workest after that men have faith". "For after they had faith and did speak in thy name, thou didst shew thyself unto them in great power; and I also remember that thou hast said that thou hast prepared a house for man; yea even among the

mansions of thy Father, in which man might have a more excellent hope; wherefore man must hope, or he can not receive an inheritance in the place which thou hast prepared. ... And now I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men, is charity; wherefore, except men shall have charity, they can not inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father." Ether 5:32-34.

"Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen." Moroni 7:52-53. We can readily understand that charity is really important and that if we have hope of becoming more humble we must needs have charity which is the pure love of Christ for without it we can not become more humble.



OUR VITAL HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS:PART SIX THE DUTIES OF PARENTS



Apostle Donald McIndoo

As we consider the parent's role in this vital family relationship, we are delving into one of life's greatest privileges and noble responsibilities. Seeing the many problems among young people rampant in our society today and remembering some of my own failures in parenting, I felt the need to refer to some resources in addition to the Bible and Book of Mormon. These will include Strong's Concordance & Greek Dictionary, Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words and two other references chosen with care. The first of these was written by a very conservative, Bible-oriented Christian counselor² and the other by a man with many years of experience in the juvenile court system, as director of a reformatory and now a child advocate 3.

We begin with a text containing a simple commandment to parents, and fathers in particu-

lar: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to rath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." - Ephesians 6:4

As we analyze this passage let's start with the second clause, "... bring them up in the nurture ..." This word nurture in the Greek, the language in which the New Testament was originally written, refers to the training and chastening of a child; hence, the discipline of the child. In I Timothy 3:4 there is given a description of a responsible Christian father and his discipline: "... having his children in subjection (controldem) with all gravity." This last term, gravity, refers to venerability, honor and integrity; in other words, dignity is a good word for our understanding here. Now a discipline with dignity would include no belittling, no berating nor putting down of the child, nor use of methods that would erode his/her confidence or sense of belonging and being loved.

This kind of discipline which the Lord expects of us is a training with structure. A child, even a teenager, needs structure in his/her life and it is the parent's duty to provide this structure because the child can't do it alone. It means that appropriate limits, based upon good judgment and God's laws are set for the children and definite schedules are followed by all the family. In single parent homes this is more difficult, but the effort must be made for the child's sake. What are some of the elements of a well-structured life?

- 1.A sit-down dinner, with all present should be emphasized.
- 2. Times for meals, bed, arising, personal hygiene, reading, chores and free time should be established and followed.
- 3. Meaningful chores and homework should be required before any optional activities.
- 4. There should be times for the family to play together, read a book together, worship together and enjoy some worthwhile activity together.
- 5. The parent should always know where the children are, what activity they are engaged in and when they shall be home.
- 6. An occasional bending of the rules for fun - a trip to the ice cream parlor during chore time - adds zest, enjoyment and expectation to life.

The family discipline should be patterned after God's kind of discipline. A look at the scripture shows us the important elements of His discipline.

- I. God did not overburden man with too many rules of life. In the Garden there was just one: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it ..."
- 2. And with the rule was the promise of punishment, or a chastening, if it were broken:
 "... for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Do any doubt that sickness, aging and death came upon mankind; that he became estranged from God? Of course not! The discipline of God was swift, sure and harmonious with the warning.
- 3. After the Fall, even sinful men were just given ten basic rules for life. With this code of conduct, a punishment was promised for disobedience and definite blessings or privileges were promised for obedience. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 speaks of those blessings, while verses 15 through 68 speak of the chastisement that will come because of disobedience. Read for yourself verses 63 to 66. Can any doubt the fulfillment of this promise of God? Certainly not! God's disci-

pline is a training with teeth in it. So must be yours! Good nurturing is difficult and time-consuming. It demands a consistent follow-through. It requires commitment and dedication on the part of the parent.

Now let's get back to Ephesians 6:4 and finish the phrase: "... bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The term admonition simply means instruction. It is the father's duty to instruct his children in the ways of the Lord; in short, to provide for their spiritual education. This is made perfectly clear in God's word:

"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou liest down, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." - Deuteronomy 6:1, 6 and 7

Our school year always began with an assembly of all the teachers in the district auditorium and was introduced with a knowledgeable speaker. One year we had the privilege to hear an experienced Denver Juvenile Court judge. He read this passage and then commented, "I have never had a Jewish youth appear in my court." Jewish fathers in that day were doing their job.

When your child makes mistakes in life, (and they certainly will), it is the duty of a Christian parent to verbally confront (the Bible says reprove) the child about what is wrong or dangerous and what the Word of God has to say about it. In Ephesians 4:15 we are told to speak "the truth in love." You don't have to be angry to discipline. You do have to know the Word of God and how to use it. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we are told that God's word is to be used for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness. This is exactly the responsibility God has placed on the parents, and in particular, the fathers.

A passage in Chapter 2 of Mosiah needs to be analyzed. Verse 24 speaks about our Christian relationships with one another. It says, "And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man that which is his due." Since we are speaking about the relationship we develop with our children, the pertinent question is "How are they to be treated?" Since we are followers of Christ, there is only one correct response: we treat them as we would be treated. Children deserve to be treated with patience and love; not constantly nagged, yelled at nor talked down to, for such practices are self-defeating.

Verse 26 tells us, "Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God ..." The responsible parent will not tolerate nor permit sinful behavior in his children.

Verse 27 reminds us of our duty: "But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness" A life of Christian discipline is not merely punishing our children; it is teaching them to walk in God's way. That is the true definition and intent of discipline.

While speaking of the instruction of our children, King Benjamin very wisely goes right on with this subject in verses 28 and 29: "And also ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor" Just what is he telling parents?

He is saying that we best teach by our example: "Attitudes are caught, not taught." If Dad uses profanity, such expressions will work their way into his children's vocabulary. If parents constantly yell at each other, the children learn this is the way to solve differences and problems.

A great problem in our nation today is a definite "lack of respect for authority" and it is increasing daily. It begins in the home with disrespect for parents. From there it moves into the school with disrespect for the teacher and the rules; then out into the street with a more serious lack of respect for the law and those who enforce it. Its culmination is a complete disrespect of God and His laws. There is a prophecy being fulfilled in our day:

"For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole staff of bread, and the whole stay of water, the mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning arti-ficer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children unto them to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And my people, children are their oppressors" - II Nephi 8:39-42, 50 (Also found in Isaiah 3:1-4, 12)

A prominent legislator recently advised Congress that we are on the verge of a youthful rebellion and violence such as we have never seen. In the Bakersfield Californian of December 10, 1995 was an article about a former policeman from London who now is a Bakersfield police officer. He describes the difference in police work in the two areas: In London, bobbies (policemen - dem) don't carry guns We didn't have pepper spray. We didn't have batons. I didn't have handcuffs. "You say, 'Hey, you're under arrest.' They say, 'OK.' "Everybody played by the rules. Nobody plays by the rules here."

What are the rules of which he is speaking? It is the ancient, basic rule of civilization - a respect for authority. A nation can govern only as long as her citizens are willing to be governed. Our nation, where "nobody plays by the rules", is moving toward a precarious position. This respect for authority is precisely the kind of attitude that children catch by observing adult behavior. If I slide through a stop sign or break the posted speed limits, if I cheat on my income tax or pad my expense account, it teaches my young child more about "respect for the authority of the law" than my lecture of a thousand words. Such simple infractions teach great lessons with dangerous consequences for us all.

Hopefully, from an examination of just the final clause in verse four of the sixth chapter of Ephesians we have learned some valuable lessons about the nurturing, training and discipline of our children. In the next issue we shall examine the first clause of this important commandment of God to Christian parents.

1. Vine, W.E., VINE'S Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, World Bible Publishers, Iowa Falls, IA, 1981.

2.Adams, Jay E., Christian Living in the Home, Presbyterian and reformed Publishing Company, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865, 1972.

3. Hayes, E. Kent, Why Good Parents Have Bad Kids, Doubleday, New York, 1989.

Announcement

There has been a vehicle fund set up for Elder and missionary Ken Oar to aid in his work on the Navajo Nation. Donations should be made out to the Church of Christ and mailed to Meredyth Malone at 2701 E. Utopia, #33, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

This vehicle should help Brother Oar to be nearly self-sufficient in his work on the Reservation. Up to this point he and others that have gone with him have to rent a motel or stay at the K.O.A.. We have already purchased a fully self-contained camper, but his truck (1/2 ton) will not haul the camper's weight. Our goal is to sell his present truck as soon as we can locate and purchase a 3/4 ton truck that will haul the camper. This should benefit the general church by saving several hundred a month that can be put to other uses.

Resentment

Practical ways to overcome sin in your life.

By Elder Gordon McCann

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (Copyright 1973) defines the word "resentment" as follows:

A feeling of indignant displeasure or persistent ill will at something regarded as a wrong, insult, or injury.

The words' resentment and resent can not be found in the holy scripture but the synonyms of those words can be found and were used throughout both the Bible and Book of Mormon. The following are examples of synonyms for both resentment and resent:

Resentment: anger, bitterness, exasperation, rancor, ill will, spit, ire, indignation, displeasure

Resent: be insulted, take offense, feel indignantabout, dislike, be annoyed at, be vexed, be offended by, frown at, feel angry about

Once the word resentment is defined it is easy to see that it is a basic human or flesh oriented feeling that is contrary to the Holy Spirit. The differences between the lust of the flesh or human attributes, and the attributes of the Holy Spirit is clearly defined in the writings of Apostle Paul to the ancient Galatians. manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:19-23)

Hatred, variance, wrath, and strife are all emotional outcroppings from those individuals who allow resentment to fill their soul. There is a classic example recorded in the bible demonstrating the power that Satan can yield over individuals who succumb to their human emotions and allow resentment to come to full fruition in their lives. The record that I am referring to can be found in the bible within the book of Genesis and it involves our first parents and our progenitors Cain and Abel.

After Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden of Eden, because of disobeying the commandments of God, the Lord granted them a period of time prior to death to repent. Adam and Eve became separated from God because of sin

"Now the works of the flesh are

and found themselves in what was referred to in the Book of Mormon as a state of probation (Alma 19:84). This probationary period was a space of time granted by God for mankind to repent and prepare to be reunited with Him (Alma 16:228). The conflict of good and evil would be present during this preparatory state and mankind was left to make a conscious choice between the nature of man (works of the flesh) or the nature of the Spirit of God.

"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:21-24)

Another aspect of this separation from God was that the only avenue given to mankind to cover his sins so that he would be acceptable before God, during this probationary period of time, was to shed the blood of selected animals from their flocks of sheep. The type of animals to be select from their flocks were lambs that were first born males and they were to be pure and without spot or blemish. This offering was to help point them to the offering that Jesus Christ would make on the cross for an everlasting sacrifice for mankind's sins. Adam and Eve were sufficiently instructed concerning the law of God and what was required of them to obtain a covering of their sins. The following scripture in the book of Hebrews supports and verifies the fact that the shedding of innocent blood was the only

avenue from God for the remission of mankind's sins:

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22)

The story continues where we are told Adam knew his wife Eve and she bare him a son and they called him Cain. Cain was a tiller of the ground and he brought fruit from it for food. Eve again bore another son to Adam and his name was Abel who became a keeper of sheep. So it was whenever Cain wanted clothing or any other byproduct that comes from sheep he was obliged to go to his younger bother Abel and barter with his crops for the items Cain needed. Though Abel was in a similar position where he had to obtain fruits and other food staples that came from the ground from his elder brother Cain, that was different in the eyes of Cain. Anger and bitterness came over Cain when he considered the thought that the only way he could pacify his God was to obtain a sacrificial animal from his vounger brother. Cain's thoughts vexed his soul each time he had to go to his younger brother for another animal for food and clothing. Cain became offended at the thought that God might not accept the fruit that he labored so diligently to produce and he said to himself, "Surely the Lord would accept the bounty that comes from the sweat and toil of my hands". Satan at this time was using the weaknesses of the flesh to work on Cain's ability to reason and to make sound decisions that would be based upon the leading of the Holy Spirit. The attributes of resentment, of being offended, angry, bitterness, and having ill will feelings towards his younger brother, were becoming a part of Cain's thoughts and eventually would transform into his actions and deeds.

When the time came for Cain and Abel to come before their God with an offering to cover their sins, Cain made the decision to offer God the labor of his hands that came from the ground. Abel, desiring to be obedient to the commandment of God, brought his offering of a firstling of his flock and presented it to the Lord. The Lord accepted the offering made by Abel and blessed him because he had met the standard that God required for the covering of sin but Cain's offering was rejected because it fell short of God's standard. Cain became very angry with his brother Abel and took offense because the Lord had accepted Abel and rejected him and his hard labor.

The Lord attempted to reason with Cain and assure him that if he would present the specified offering to Him, Cain would be accepted like his younger brother Abel. Cain felt that this request from God was too much for him to bear because he still had to come before his younger brother to obtain the sacrifice and his feelings of ill will towards Abel had grown too great to do that.

Cain chose to ignore the direction and counsel of the Lord and followed the prompting of Satan by devising a plan to get rid of his younger brother. After Cain made prior arrangements with Abel to meet him in a field, Cain allowed his indignation towards his brother to overcome him and Cain slew Abel.

In the example above I took some liberty when I portrayed Cain's thoughts where no text could be found, yet Cain's actions and deeds would point to the conclusion that I presented. The fruit that came from resentment in this example was murder and it should be to us a warning to control our emotions by listening to that

still small voice of God when He speaks to us and to obey the commandments of God in all things.

"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." (Romans 8:1-2)

This story recorded in the book of Genesis of two brothers, Cain and Abel, and their struggle in the flesh is a good example where with Cain the will of the flesh overcame the will of the Spirit fulfilling the words of the Lord to him when the Lord said:

"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." (Genesis 4:7)

The scripture provides us with several practical avenues to help us in our desire to overcome sin in our lives. One of the first avenues that comes to mind can be found in the Book of Mormon where the words of Jesus Christ are recorded when he spoke to the multitude saying:

"Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation;

For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be

given unto you." (3 Nephi 8:50-51)

Prayer is the most important avenue that should be active in our life if we are desirous to have the strength to follow Jesus Christ and to avoid sin in our lives. This personal one on one communication between you and your God must be developed to the point that you become instant in prayer in all things. When you avail yourself to prayer you develop a closer walk with God that strengthens your faith and gives you the power to over come the desires and will of the flesh. Once prayer is a keystone within your life you will be able to build upon your faith traveling the road to perfection as in the words of Apostle Peter:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:4-8)

Humility is another important attribute within the lives of those who desire to follow God, that provides the fertile ground for the Holy

Spirit to work within our lives. I will finish my thoughts on the subject of resentment with the following quotes from the Book of Mormon that depicts the depth of humility that the Lord requires of each of us:

"But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father" (Mosiah 1:120)

"And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things.

And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God.

Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them." (3 Nephi 5:39-41)



Path Tights

Testimony of Richard Wheaton

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the many prayers throughout the Church, in my behalf during my recent cancer surgery, on July 18, 1995, from which I have now fully recovered, and am back to my previous strength and energy.

I also wish to testify to each of you, that I felt your many prayers, like a warm and precious blanket about me, during my surgery and recovery, and relate the following experience.

My surgery was peformed July 18, and for the first three days following surgery, my doctor and I, felt I was making excellent progress. However, on Saturday, July 22, 1995, I began to have difficulty with my stomach, which my doctors could not explain, though they made many tests, examination, x-rays, and a scan of my stomach and intestines.

Early in the night Saturday, I felt an evil power come into my room. My room became as twilight, neither light nor dark, but very much like early evening. I felt that my life was being taken from me, but I was not in great pain. I had great concern to be leaving my wife in her weakened condition without me to take care of her. I was also very concerned that I had not yet finished the work which, my Savior, Jesus Christ, has called me to do. I do not know any particular work He has for me to do, other than to continue to preach and teach, the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, to every soul I can reach, and espe-

cially the Lamanite peoples.

I was not concerned about where I would be after I died, I had no thought of it at all.

In sincere, humble, and earnest prayer, I began to plead with my Savior, whom I could feel was very near at the head of my bed, just beyond my sight, where I could not see Him, nor did I hear His voice, BUT HE WAS AT MY SIDE. I pled with Him to let me live and finish the work he had called me to do, and to care for my beloved wife. In my pleading I told Him, I knew I was not worthy, as His servant Job was, whom He would not allow Satan take his life, but I prayed that He would not let Satan take my life either. I pled with Him many times all night long, that He would not allow this evil power from Satan too take my life.

My nurses came in to check on my condition several times during the night. I could hear and understand what they said to me, that my blood pressure and temperature was very high. But I could not speak or communicate to them about how I felt, that I believed I was dying, or anything else, and they did not seem to be aware of the evil spirit, or the Lord's presence in the room. My bedding and nightgown were soaking wet from perspiration.

I was not able to sleep at all during the night, and continued to pray in this most earnest manor all night. Sunday morning, I began to feel some relief from my approaching death. I was very

exhausted when my wife Velma arrived, and at times incoherent. I asked her to call for some of the Elders to come, after the morning service, to administer to me, After the services Bros., Al Harris and Roger Bruner came and administered to me.

Following the administration, I received relief from my concern for my part in the work of our Lord, and my ability to care for my wife. I slept most of the afternoon, and began to feel better, though still very tired and weak. During the afternoon, I had a number of visitors, but was hardly able to visit with them. I remember brother Randy Sheldon, with a few of the young people, and members of my family were among my visitors.

Velma asked for the Elders to come again after the Sunday evening service, And again Bros., Harris and Bruner came. After this administration, my physical problem was relieved, and from then until now, my progress has been I the last days.

miraculous. My doctor came in early Wednesday morning, July 26, and said I was well enough to go home, which I did as soon as Velma arrived.

August 23, my doctor released me to return to my normal activities, cautioning me to begin them sensibly. On October 20, I received the report that I no longer have cancer.

I know I am not worthy of this blessing, and I know it was the result of prayer, of all my brothers and sisters in Christ, that brought about this miraculous blessing. I am deeply thankful for this wondrous gift which my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has given me.

I would like to ask in closing, that you remember Sr. Velma, that her heart may be restored to normal, as well as a problem that has just developed with her liver, so we can resume our labors for the Lord together.

Both of our prayers are for each of our brothers and sisters, and the work of our Lord, in these

Cheer for Old Age

- They call it going down the hill when we are growing old.
 - And say in mournful accents that our tale is told:
 - They sigh when talking of the past. the days that used to be
 - As if the future were not bright with immortality.
 - But oh, it is not going down: It's climbing high and higher,
 - Until we almost see the mansions that our souls desire:
 - But if the natural eye grow dim, it is but dim to earth
 - While the eye of faith grows keener to perceive the Saviour's worth
 - Who would exchange for shooting blade, the waving, golden grain,

- Or when the corn is full ripe, would wish it green again?
- And who would wish the hoary head, found in the way of truth,
- To be again encircled with the sunny locks of youth,
- For though in truth the outward man must perish and decay,
- The inward man shall be renewed by grace from day to day.
- They who are planted by the Lord, unshaken by their root,
- E'en in old age shall flourish still, and still shall bring forth fruit.

Submitted by: Sister Vida Filley

Obituary Alvina Caroline Bell

Alvina Caroline Bell was born to Edward and Bertha Schnuelle on November 1, 1903 at Diller, Nebraska.

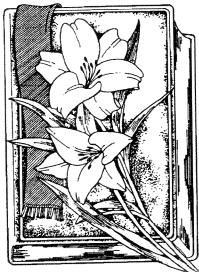
She was married to Harvey John Bell on March 14, 1923 at Sidney, Nebraska. To this union seven children were born, all of whom survive: Alice Larsen, John Bell and Lois Bell of the Grand Junction area, and Irene Case, Edith Case, Fern Saraatt and

Caroline Hedrick of the Kansas City area. Also surviving her are 23 grandchildren, 40 greatgrandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Many other relatives and a host of friends remember her loving service to those about her.

Her early years were spent on a farm in eastern Nebraska. German was the language spoken in the home. She learned English in the first grade when she was six years old.

When she was nine years old, her father homesteaded near Sidney, Nebraska and raised winter wheat. That is were she met and married Dad.

They farmed near Sidney for several years, then lived six years in a rural area near Harrison, Nebraska before moving to Ava, Missouri in 1936. Their older six children grew up there. In 1955 they and Lois spent the summer with the



Ted Elys and Dad did carpenter work with them. They liked the area and the Ely family and Lois' health improved, so they moved to Grand Junction, Colorado.

Mom was converted to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was baptized by Elder Prettyman, July, 1924 at Sidney, Nebraska. May 27, 1928, she and Dad both transferred to the

Church of Christ (Temple Lot) and were always diligent in faith, in works, and in teaching their children.

Mom was a wonderful example to us. We knew of the many times when her prayers were answered because of her faith. She stayed independent, doing her own work and cooking with the help of Lois until her final illness. She always enjoyed the beauties of nature, camping, gardening, reading and fancy work. Most of all she enjoyed her family and church.

She was preceded in death by three grandchildren, : June Larsen, Tim Larsen and Leonard Dale Sarratt. Dad left this earth on October 25, 1990. Mom joined him on January 12 of this year, 1996. Attention <u>Teens</u>!

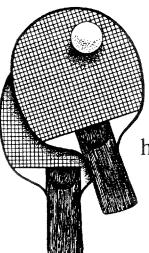
Teen Challenge Youth Camp *August 11-16, 1996*

12-18 Years/\$80. The camp is located 18 miles east of St. Joseph Missouri. There are Cabins and a Dorm for sleeping. There is a big cafeteria for eating.

Archery, Choir, Volleyball, Art and Rapelling are just a few of the classes that will be offered this year. There will also be *new classes!*

During free time you can go boating, swimming, fishing, or anything that interests you!

Camp is also a time to make new friends! In the evenings you can enjoy



a campfire filled with singing, skits and lots of Fun! The camp has a scripture theme and a study class that follows the theme.

It's a time for all who come to learn more about God and His work. Start saving your money now! Camp will be here sooner than you think!

If you have any Questions call Buzz and Sue Brickhouse at (816) 356-9214!

Local News

Mogollon Local Report

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, it has been sometime since I last reported, I could not write the words until now. Last summer our Pastor came under condemnation, with him left our sunday school teacher and piano player. We were in disarray for a moment, but have the great blessing of having other ministry to care for us.

We made it through all the holidays and are setting in to our new roles for the new year. Jim Yates Jr. will be our Pastor, with Andy Brown our Assistant Pastor. Karli and Kathy Cloyd will share sunday school activities, and Karli will do her best on piano for us. We must tread forward, knowing and trusting that God will strengthen us and direct us.

We know not yet the outcome of our Pastor and what will become of his family, these thoughts are hard to bear, but full of prayer. Joel Yates, Jim Yates Sr., Hube Yates and Bill Malone nurture us here in Showlow with ad-

monitions of the Lord; sometimes a little harsh, sometimes not, always plain and true. Jay Moser and his family tried to come but a snow storm prevented it.

Elmer fell down some steep steps and dislocated his shoulder, we are thankful that was all. We were so very happy to have Bob and Liz and their children come to church this month, we hope to see more of them this year.

We plan to study prophecies concerning the future of this continent. Have you heard of the expression "In pursuit of the American Dream?" what it, a nice home, good health, security, happiness? I profess to you, every American can attain this, it is called "Heaven". It is a goal easier to reach than the temporal one. This year let your dreams be on things above. There are many struggles in all the world, it is part of our journey. It is during these times we must focus on the only thing that is really important the great, I Am.

Reporter: Kathy Cloyd

Ravenna Local Report

This has been a long cold winter, and its a long way from being over, we had a very nice Christmas program that was written and directed by Sister Debbie Vogal, it was very unique. The young people of our church acted in it and did such a nice job. We were very proud of them, and we know Sister Debbie put a lot of work into it. They portrayed the birth of Christ and how it would be reported in this time and place. We all enjoyed it very much. We need to have our young people participate more often as they are our future. The Elders in our church have decided that before our class on Sunday one of our young people will read a chosen verse from the Bible . This will be a good way for them to get used to speaking in Church. We had a get together for New Years Eve. There were about twenty of us, and we all made pizza. It was an enjoyable evening. We were home by 9:30 so we didn't have to be out on the roads late on New Years Eve.

I read Debora Cobbs' article in the November issue about the young peoples camp and enjoyed it very much. The young people must have had a very good time, and it seems like they learn a lot. Elder Max Spencer and his wife Vivian go there every year and they tell us about it. But I also enjoyed reading about it. All the people who work must enjoy it too. How good it must be to know that you are also teaching these young people.

My daughter Sue Heath tells me that it is Sam and Peter Gould who brought the young people to the Michigan Reunion. Those young people are so well behaved and they have questions that they are seeking answers to. I see that these young people love and respect Sam and Peter.

> A careful man I ought to be; A little fellow follows me I do not dare to go astray for fear he'll go the selfsame way Not once can I escape his eyes; What er he sees me do he tries Like me he says he's going to bethat little chap who follows me. I must remember as I go through summer sun and winter snow, I'm molding for the years to bethat little chap who follows me

Parents be careful where and how you walk; someone's following in your foot-steps.

A child may not inherit his parents talents. But will absorb their values.

Your Reporter: Norma Keith

Phonenix Local Report

Greetings from the Phoenix local! As we begin a new year, the first item on our list of New Year's resolutions seems to have been put there by our Heavenly Father. One theme has emerged in many of our sermons: Use your time ... To teach your children. To fast and pray. To forgive your enemies. To serve the Lord.

Brother Emery Pinder quoted to us from the classic Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem, "The Children's Hour":

Between the dark and the daylight, when the night is beginning to lower, there comes a pause in the day's occupation, That is known as the children's hour.

He asked us, "Do you, with all your labor saving devices give your children an hour a day?" We were reminded, "The Bible doesn't set a time limit on how long you should honor your father and mother. You should honor your father and mother until you take your last breath."

Apostle Jay Moser warned us not to think, **"I'll serve God as soon as I get my life in order... There is no time to get everything in order."** He encouraged us that we can serve God in the most difficult circumstances. He told us that the gospel was carried throughout the ancient world **i determine in a field stayed dry enough to work**.

by the testimony of slaves. "Whatever situation you're in, you can be free and you can serve Jesus Christ."

In his opening remarks to our first sacrament service, Pastor Joel Yates exhorted the congregation on the importance of giving time to the Lord in meditation and prayer. He used the life of David to illustrate the importance of taking time to talk to God and ponder His word. **"Do you always remember Him?" "How long has it been since you woke up in the middle of the night to meditate?" "That is why the Lord remained with David...because David gave Him time."**

We were privileged to hear a sermon by visiting minister, Bob Ely. Brother Ely shared with us some of the testimonies of brothers and sisters who have gone on to be with the Lord. One story was especially poignant because it is the testimony of Sister Alvina Bell, who has just passed away.

Alvina and Harvey Bell were struggling to raise their family in the farm lands of Nebraska. They depended on the yield of their garden to feed their family each winter. One year there was a drought. Sister Alvina knew how much her family needed the produce from that garden. In faith she knelt and asked God to send rain. A small cloud appeared just overhead and drenched their garden. Harvey, working the thrashing machine in a field less than a mile away, never stopped thrashing as the field stayed dry enough to work. We extend our sympathy to the family of Sister Alvina. We would also like to express our gratitude for the steadfast testimony of her life.

Brother Ely closed by encouraging us all to order and listen to a series of tapes on the family recorded by Apostle Don McIndoo. He asked us all to listen to each tape two or three times to absorb its full message.

At one of our Wednesday night Worship Services, Brother McIndoo presented a flannelboard series about Christ's ministry to Israel and to the Americas. Missionary Ken Oar says the series has been well received on the Navajo Nation. We ask your prayers that God would continue to touch the hearts and minds of our brothers and sisters there.

We also ask your prayers and help for our brothers and sisters in Yucatan. They didn't suffer death or homelessness like many in other parts of Mexico, but their crops were completely destroyed by the recent hurricane. At our annual Yucatan Dinner, through the generosity of everyone, we were able to raise over \$3,000 for aide in Yucatan. Brothers Don McIndoo and Jay Moser have left for a month long missionary trip to Yucatan. We ask that you remember them in your prayers.

We ask as well, your prayers for Brothers, Hubert and Jim Yates who are laboring in the eastern U.S. and Canada.

At the Thanksgiving Reunion this year

an earnest plea was made by Apostle Marvin Ely and the attending members of these groups, that the Lord would provide ministry for the brothers and sisters in Toppenish, Washington, Oakland, Ontario and Hogansburg, New York. We ask all to join with us in diligent prayer that these needs will be met.

In the Adult Sunday School class, we are continuing a study on Genesis. During the last year, the Young People's class joined in the section of our study dealing with Creation. They were given lots of scriptural and scientific evidence to refute evolution and support Divine Creation. We are really looking forward to our next section, a study of the Flood. In each portion of our study, our teacher Brother Brian McIndoo, has drawn parallels to our modern world from the events of Genesis. From the beginning of time we see the consequences of sin and the blessing of righteousness.

So long for now from Phoenix, Arizona. Let's pray that we will use our time wisely in the time that we live in.

Reporter: Marlene Dan

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1996 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 29 & 30. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1996 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 21 through 23, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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*NOTE: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for SS materials to Debbie Vogel,403 Colonel Drive, Indep., MO 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

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Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes) — Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

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RETURN, THE (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

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PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.