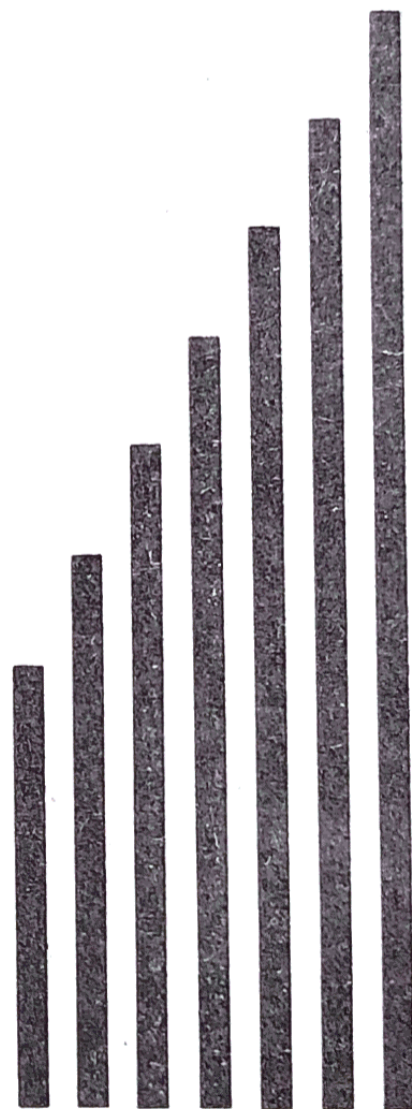


# Seven Story Christians

By  
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*Evangelist*





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Price \$1.00

September, 1966  
5000 copies



# FRIENDS, GO UP HIGHER

*Luke 14:10*:—"But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, FRIEND, GO UP HIGHER; then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee."

From this passage of Scripture, I am going to choose four simple words as my text: FRIENDS, GO UP HIGHER.

I am sure that you Colorado people with your high mountains have found out that the higher you go the more you can see. When you're on the mountain tops you have the choicest scenery.

One day, Brother Jones and I went up to the top of the Daniels and Fisher Tower. This is the tallest building in Denver and, as it was a clear day, we could see every section of the city. We were up high enough to see all the other big buildings down below. I've always found that the higher you go the more you can see.

When I was in New York City, a friend came to me and said, "Springer, I'm going to show you the tallest building in the world—the Empire State Building." This structure is one hundred two stories high and employs sixty-seven elevators. It uses as much electricity as Denver uses in a day; thirty thousand people work there every day; it can house eighty thou-



sand people. The first elevator took us up forty stories—zip!! Another took us forty more—zip!! We then walked up several flights of stairs where we could look out and see the city below us. The people looked like flies swarming around on fly paper. About the only things you could see on the streets were the big taxicabs which they have in New York, and those had the appearance of toys. As I looked out over the bay, I could see the Statue of Liberty. I could also see the Hudson River, Yonkers, Queens, and the Bronx; there was the Chrysler Building—only sixty-six stories high; and there was the little dinky Woolworth Building with only fifty-five stories. Yes, my friends, the higher up you go, the more you can see.

Some time later, I went up the Hudson River one hundred thirty-nine miles to Albany, the state capital. After I had been there two or three days, a friend came to me and asked me if I should like to see the Capitol Building. I said I should, and we started out, up a long hill. Up on the top, surrounded by a beautiful green lawn, sat the Capitol, a truly magnificent building. As we walked along I said to myself, “Oh, I just want to look around here. The green grass looks so pretty. The sun is shining so nice and warm. Oh, it’s fine out here! I feel like lying down right here on the grass and enjoying the whole day—just right here.”

I said to my friend, “Say, how much did this building cost?”



“Never mind,” he said, “let’s go inside and look around.”

“Oh let’s enjoy it out here a bit,” I said.

Beloved, many people wander into the grounds and go from flower-bed to flower-bed, and stroll about with delight. They glance at the great mansion, but, upon the whole, they are content to stay outside, satisfied with the free range of the grounds. They may *now* be enjoying the beautiful sunshine and beauty of nature and feel safe on the outside. I have met scores of people on the outside; many times they are right at the door, but they won’t go in. How often in our services we have seen men and women who will hold up their hands for prayer; some will even come down to be prayed for, and then go away. So near and yet so far! They seem at ease on the *outside*. Of course, the sun is shining and everything is bright, but remember, beloved, the day of storm and rain is coming and when that day comes, you’ll need to be on the *inside*.

How do you get inside? Through the door. *John 10:9-10*:—“I am the door: by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Those last two lines just thrill my heart: “I am come that they might have life, and that

they might have it more abundantly.” It is one thing to have life; it is another thing to have abundant life! The little canary bird in the cage has life, but open that cage door and it has abundant life. The prisoner in his dark, dreary cell has life, but open that prison door and he will have abundant life.

Jesus said, “I am the door.” How do you get into the building? Through the door! What if I tried to get in through the window? Do you know what would happen? There would be a man with a blue coat, brass buttons and a star, who would tap me on the shoulder and say. “What are you trying to do?” “Why, I am trying to get in this building.” “Well, if you want in, there’s the door. That’s the only way in.” There is no way in, but through the Door!

Jesus said, “I am the door.” How do you get into the Kingdom? Through the door! As you draw nearer you will find this inscription: “Whosoever will, let him come—him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” The splendid door of this great house is set wide open, and the invitation for the sinner to enter is given day and night by the servants of God. No price is demanded; no certificates of character are needed; no questions are asked as to the previous conduct; neither wealth nor social standing is required; it does not matter whether you are in overalls or tuxedos. All are welcome.

In my travels I have met some who come up to the wide marble step leading to the door,



only to look in and sigh, and then turn back. Some linger there, longing to enter in, but not doing so because they say they are unfit, or they are too unworthy, or they cannot believe. Others are trying to get in another way; by works they are trying to go through the window. Some are trying to buy their way in; some say they are good enough—self-righteous. But the fact remains that they are still on the outside.

Finally, I decided to go inside the building and see what was there. I went in, through the door. And, beloved, if you ever expect to be a child of God, you must come through the Door which is at the top of the steps of conviction (*Acts 2:37*:—"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?')", and repentance (*Acts 2:38*:—"Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'."), up which you must walk to the porch of confession (*Matt. 10:32-33*:—"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." *Rom. 10:9-10*:—"That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with

the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”) that leads to the Door which is Christ who, Himself, said—“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.” Paul states the same truth in this manner: “For through him we both have access by one Spirit (Holy Spirit) unto the Father.”—*Eph. 2:18*.

This door leads us to the first floor, which I call the New Birth.

## NEW BIRTH

*John 3:3, 5:* — “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Except a man be born of water (the Word, *I Pet. 1:23*) and the Spirit (Holy Spirit) he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

When I entered into the building, I saw many old relics—and oh, how I enjoy them! So I went from one place to another looking them over. My friend said, “Come on up to the next floor. You haven’t seen anything yet!” “But this is good enough for me. You know, my grandfather used to tell me about these old guns and flags. Don’t rush me; I want to look them over. This suits me all right.” That’s just like so many of you Christians. You are still on the first floor. Friends, go up higher! There you are on the first floor, so near the door that every time the wind blows or a storm comes up



you are cooled off. You are inside the building, but you stay right on the first floor where it is cold and draughty. You get in the big chair of ease and sit right there until some evangelist comes along and gets you warmed up; maybe you will get to the place where you will testify. Your testimony runs like this: "I was saved twenty years ago and I thank God for it!"—or "I was saved in 1892 and it seems just like yesterday."

Then a draught comes along and cools you off again—until another evangelist comes. And so it goes. Of course, you do not have such here in Denver. I am speaking of Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. There, they have folks who stay down by the door until a wind comes along and chills them, and their lips hang down like a laprobe.

Friends, go up higher! Don't stay down on the first floor among the relics. Yes, on this first floor you are saved, but, friends, go up higher! How? By prayer and Bible study. Come up to the second floor, which is the Assurance of your Salvation.

## ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

I want to say tonight that if you are a child of God, you ought to know it. And if you don't know it, it is an almost sure sign that you have never been born again. If you ask folks today, not—"Are you a church member?"—but—"Are you saved?"—you will receive every kind of an-

swer: "I think so—I hope so—I guess so—I'm trying to be—I suppose I am—I won't know until I die."

Suppose you went to Brother Jones tonight and said, "Are you Mr. Jones?" and he answered, "I think so." Suppose you went to Brother Hoover and said, "Are you married?" and he answered, "I'm trying to be." Or suppose you went to Mrs. Hoover and asked, "Are you Mr. Hoover's wife?" and she answered, "I won't know until I die." How foolish it would all sound! Yet not a bit more foolish than some of the answers we get when we ask if you are saved.

If I ask a man, "Are you married?", he will answer, "Yes" or "No." If he is married, he ought to know it, and there would be no question about it. If I ask a man, "Are you an Odd Fellow?" he will answer "Yes" or "No." He knows whether or not he rode the goat. Yet I ask you if you are saved and I get all of these foolish answers in response.

Every Book in the Bible was written for a purpose. The Book of John was written that we might know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. *John 20:31*:—"But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." Every parable and miracle in the Gospel of John was written for the same purpose. And when we come to the first Epistle of John we find that it was written



that we might know that we have eternal life. It IS possible for a man to know whether or not he is saved. God says it is. *I John 5:11-13*:—“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life.”—What kind of life? Eternal life. How long is eternal? Well, someone says, forever. How long is that? Ages upon ages, life without end. — “and this life is in his Son.” Where is my eternal life? In His Son. Then it is not in me. Beloved, I wish I could get you to see that our eternal life is not in ourselves, but in the Christ. “He that hath the Son hath life;”—that’s sensible. If we have Jesus, we have life, there’s no other way. “And he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you.” Unto whom?—“Unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God;”—Believers, born-againers—that ye may “think so, hope so, try to be, won’t know until I die”? NO!—“That ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life.” Then it is possible for a man to know that he is a child of God. God said so.

I have met scores of people who are on this second floor. I will always remember being on the second floor of that Capitol. There were many pictures there that interested me and I spent much time looking them over. Finally my friend came to me and said, “Springer, come on, let’s go up to the next floor.” “Don’t rush me. I want to look around here a little more, I’m enjoying this so much.” That’s just like a great number of Christians. They’re saved and

they know it. Every time they testify it's the same thing—"I'm saved and I know it." Yet they have loved ones to whom they have never spoken one word about their souls. They never ask a blessing at the table. They have no family altar. Remember, they are close to the door and every time the wind blows they are cooled off and are absolutely indifferent as to whether or not their loved ones go to Hell. An evangelist comes to town and after about two weeks they will come in and get warmed up a bit and will testify—"I'm saved and I know it." They never grow. When the evangelist is gone, they are gone; they stop; they cool off. Oh, friends, go up higher. How do we get up higher? By prayer and Bible study. My friends, if you can attain this next floor, Consecration, you will have no trouble going on up higher.

## CONSECRATION

*Romans 12:1-2*:—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

I know of no desire in the heart of the Christian today that is greater than the desire to know the will of God, but probably the first question



arising in his mind is—How can I know the will of God? God's will for you may be one thing and for me it may be another. If that is true, then we must ascertain His will by revelation. I wish to read that verse again. Now listen: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Present your souls? Present your spirits? What are we to present? "Present your BODIES"—a dead sacrifice? No! "A living sacrifice." How often we hear missionaries tell the story of people in the foreign lands laying down their lives on the altar for their gods. Is that a living sacrifice? No! That's a dead one. It's a great victory to die a triumphant death, but I believe it is a far greater victory to live a triumphant life. Too many of us are willing to take our sins and lay them at the foot of the cross and say, "Here, Lord, blot them out," but we are not willing to take our lives, our bodies, and say, "Here, Lord, take this also, and use it to your honor and glory."

We trust Him with our sins, but not with our bodies. Beloved, don't you think a God that made you, a God that made the universe, a God that gives you every breath of air, a God that knows all about you, a God that knows every

thing—don't you think He is able to guide that life and lead it in the right way? Present your bodies, a living sacrifice! Beloved, God never made that body for sin. If He had, you would be perfectly comfortable when sin is in it; but sin begins to break out and man cannot endure the agony of its breaking out. Let a man turn his body over to sin and sin will break out. That's the reason men by the thousands rush down to Hot Springs, Arkansas. They have turned their bodies over to sin and sin is raising hell in their bodies and they can't endure the hell so they hurry off to Hot Springs to get the sin boiled out.

God never made that body for sin. He made it to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. *I Cor. 6:19-20*:—"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." He wants you to present your body to Him just as you presented your heart and inner life. Paul said, "I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." "Renewing of your mind"—how do you get the mind of Christ?



How do you get the mind of Shakespeare, Milton, Emerson?—by reading them. How do you get the mind of Christ?—by reading God's Word. You can be renewed by reading, and reading and reading. I want to say to you without fear of successful contradiction that a neglected Word means a neglected Christ. I know what some of you are thinking. You say, "But you do not know my mind."

I have no doubt that there are many men and women in this congregation who do not drink, gamble, go to shows, and one could not bribe them to turn over any part of their body as an instrument of unrighteousness. They would not yield their members as members of unrighteousness, yet they will seek the satisfaction of desire and craving of thought. Listen! Are you listening? It is time that we were brought to the place where we have the mind of Christ within us that we might live above these things. You cannot do it in your own strength, but Christ in you, the Hope of glory, can.

Jesus must be wrought in you. Jesus—this is the hope of the world. Have you Christ within tonight? Is He your Savior? Do you love Him? Do you long for Him above everything else? Do you long to look in His face and feel His touch and hear Him speak to you more than anything else in the world tonight? If you feel like that, that is evidence that Christ is within you and, if Christ is in you, you can live above the things of the world. No matter how bound

by sin and lust and desire you may be, if once you give right-of-way in your heart and mind to Him, He will make you hate the things you once loved and love the things you once hated.

Here's Paul asking us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. "Be not conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Not the permissive will, but the perfect will of God. Yes, it is more than good—it is more than acceptable—thank God, it is perfect! Did you ever know that God had two wills—the perfect will and the permissive will?

What do you mean by "permissive" will? Let me illustrate: When I was a small boy and the green apples were about the size of a half-dollar, I used to go to Mother and say, "Mother, can I have a green apple?" Mother would say, "No, son, a green apple will make you sick." "But, mother, I want a green apple." Mother would say, "No, a green apple will make you sick." Maybe I would play for a few minutes and I would be right back in the kitchen begging and pleading for a green apple and would whine and cry, "Mother, I want a green apple." Finally my mother, out of patience, would say, "Well, go get it, but when you have the stomach ache don't come around to me crying." I would get the green apple and



double up in knots. Was this my mother's direct will? No—permissive will. My mother's perfect will was that I should not eat the green apple. Does God have a permissive will? Beloved, I would to God we had time to read the 106th Psalm; however, I will read a part of it. The rebellion of the children of Israel is recorded here. We find that the children of Israel forgot the mighty works and the mighty powers of God, how He rebuked the Red Sea and it was dried up, how He had saved them from the hands of him that hated them, how that He had drowned their enemies. Now, the 13th verse: "They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert." Now the 15th verse: "AND HE GAVE THEM THEIR REQUEST: BUT SENT LEANNESS INTO THEIR SOUL." God's permissive will. They tempted God in the desert and He gave them their request and sent l-e-a-n-n-e-s-s unto their soul.

Brother, have you ever prayed for any thing and waited for the leading of God? Have you ever started out and, after you had gone a way, wondered if you were in the center of God's perfect will? Let me ask you—did He send leanness unto your soul? His perfect will, never will—his permissive will, always will.

A few years ago, many of you were prosperous, but you failed to listen to the voice of God and God has sent leanness into your soul.



Every time sickness, adversities, etc., come, search your own heart. Maybe you will find you are out of the perfect will of God and He is sending leanness into your soul. Get down on your knees and tonight consecrate that life to God. After you are in the perfect will of God and you have said, "Here, Lord, take my life, take it all—you have given me all and I am done with self, Thy will be done, not mine." then you will have no more trouble in going on up higher. Friends, go up higher! After a consecrated life, you will go automatically on to the next floor. I call this fourth floor, "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT." Friends, go up higher!

### FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

*Ephesians 5:18*:—"Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." Each Christian should desire everything God has for him. I realize when I mention being filled with the Spirit, immediately, there is a great opportunity for discussion. Some of our friends claim that the Bible evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit is a miraculous speaking in tongues and that no one has the baptism of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost unless it is proved by speaking in tongues. Others claim that there is no such thing as being filled or baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, there is only one way to settle this question—and only one—and that is by the Word of God. We may be assured that God in His



Word does not leave us in doubt nor in darkness on such an important matter as this. I will not take too much time upon this tonight. Sufficient to say, that this is a command and not just some mere passing word of Paul—"Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." Remember that word, "filled," is the same word used in *Acts 2:4* to describe what happened at Pentecost. We are commanded to have what they had. Since the disciples at Pentecost were baptized with the Spirit, they were filled with the Holy Ghost in *Acts 2:4* and, since in *Acts 4:31*, identically the same words are used, "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost," it is manifested that New Testament disciples had the filling thrice. Many other places in the Bible make it clear that we can have His power and blessing every time we need it. The Holy Spirit comes in to dwell in the heart at the day of conversion and never leaves His home there. *I Cor. 12:13*:—"For by one Spirit are we baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." But His filling, His baptizing, is another matter, which we need day by day. Thank God, we can have it whenever we need it. But speaking in tongues is not Biblical evidence of Holy Spirit baptism, and the Bible does not say so. Many New Testament Christians, when they were baptized by the Holy Ghost, even when it was the first time, did not speak in tongues. The tongues were

known languages regularly used at that time and were not an unknown jabber. Rarely given and purely incidental, speaking with tongues was clearly an outward manifestation to fit the particular circumstance. It is remarkable that a body of Christian people would ever found a doctrine without one statement in scripture to support it, and I say to you, tonight, that the fact remains that not one verse in the Bible can be found which says that speaking in tongues is the evidence of baptism or filling with the Holy Spirit. Search the scriptures. Follow verse after verse, writer after writer, line upon line, precept upon precept, and not once was any Christian told in the Bible to look for tongues as a sign of that baptism. There is Biblical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus, Himself, plainly stated this to His disciples. It is given in *Acts 1:8* and holds good for today.

*Acts 1:8*:—"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

You may go into a trance, roll upon the floor, boast of living a perfect life, talk in a jabber that no one can understand, but this is not evidence. The one outward sign which is proof that a Christian is filled with the Spirit is stated here. He will witness for the Lord and God will put



power on his testimony and unless you have this plainly promised Biblical evidence, you are not baptized nor filled with the Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is given to Christians so they may have power to win souls. Jesus told His disciples that they were to preach repentance and remission of sins to all the world, but to wait for His Holy Power. He told His disciples this before the Day of Pentecost. *Luke 24:47-49*:—  
“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” 48: “And ye are witnesses of these things.” 49: “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Read through the book of Acts with this thought in mind and you will be amazed and marvelously blessed to see, again and again, wherever people were filled with the Holy Spirit, how they spoke with holy boldness. Sinners heard it and were converted and souls were saved. When we have this same filling, this same power, this same baptism that the new Testament disciples had, and which every Christian should have and may have, we will have the same blessed power and results that the disciples had. Again, the Biblical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the power of God on our testimony. Peter, being filled with the Holy Ghost, won three thousand to Christ on the Day of Pentecost. When

filled or baptized with the Holy Ghost, we will be soul winners and automatically go right on up to the fifth floor of a FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN. Friends, go up higher!

## FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN

Read *John 15:1-27*, and see how God commanded us to bear fruit, more fruit, and much fruit. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." Have you been bearing fruit? Are you a fruitful Christian? Listen! Get up and go home and start a family altar and win that loved one to Christ. Is your neighbor a Christian? How about the milk man? Have you talked to him about his soul? Bear much fruit. Then you will know the real joy of a Christian life.

Well, we're getting along fine. We're up five stories. We have come up through the floors of NEW BIRTH, ASSURANCE OF SALVATION, CONSECRATION, FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT and now the FRUITFUL LIFE. We get the big head and begin to boast about what "I did." "Well, sir, I prayed," "I," "I," "I", "I". I think the scrubwoman left a bar of soap on the stairs and about the time we begin boasting, our foot hits that bar of soap and we don't stop until we hit the basement—down five flights of stairs into a dirty, old, dingy basement right among the old musty cobwebs, old tobacco cans, old, dirty, filthy literature. Let me



just say this, beloved,—it won't cost anything—I will just give it to you—no one denies the danger of physical filth. If unchecked in a community, it will cause disease and spread plagues. Whole communities have been wiped out by diseases which had their origin in lack of proper sanitation. Mental filth also breeds diseases of crime, acts of violence and all forms of immorality, and undermines the moral code of the individual and society. Sanitary measures, should be taken against mental filth the same as they are taken against physical filth. People need only to be awakened to the fact that mental filth is as destructive as physical filth. The mind needs to be bathed as well as the body. Anyone with a grain of intelligence, as well as the scientist, agrees in teaching this fact. Remember, Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth." And the purpose of salt is to keep things from becoming rotten. It is our duty as God's people to throw the salt in just now and, while publishers who circulate poison by the ton polluting our news stands may do so for the sake of dollars, yet it is our duty as God's people to protest in every way possible, particularly by the power of prayer, because this is the most forceful weapon that the Christian possesses for correcting evil. I would to God that Christians could be awakened to the evil, and pray, work and act to put into effect a law to prevent such awful trash from being published, or, at least, to prevent horrible and damnable



sexy, luring, filthy, dirty, MacNasty, erpy pictures from being printed on the outside of books and book covers. Brother Jones, that was a mouthful.

Now, what I started to say, before I said all that, was—this—down in the basement where there is very little air and sunlight, and most basements are cold—down there, we are freezing to death. Try to have a revival. Somebody invites us out to hear the preacher. We make every kind of excuse—“I don’t believe in revivals;” “I don’t believe in repentance;” “That preacher preaches too long;” or “He doesn’t preach long enough;” “prays too loudly;” or “doesn’t pray loudly enough.” Say, when they fell off of that story, were they lost? They were still in the building weren’t they? That’s where many of you are tonight—down in the basement. I believe you are saved, but you’re so cold and indifferent to the things of God; put good warm Christians about you for five minutes and you’ll catch pneumonia. Come out of that old basement! Friends, go up higher! Come up out of that basement. Take God’s whisk broom, brush yourself off. What is God’s whisk broom? Here it is—the Word of God. Friends, go up higher!

All right, we start right back up and go to the sixth floor. What is the sixth floor?

## VICTORIOUS LIFE

*I John 3:6*:—“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen



him, neither known him." *I John 5:4*:—"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Does this mean that a man can live a perfect life? No. It means that we can live blameless, and not faultless, lives. We should be victors over every known sin. It's an insult to the power of God to say that we cannot get the victory over every known sin in our life. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." Every born-again believer should be able to say the same thing. A great many people attain this floor and never go farther. Friends, go up higher!

Do you notice the higher up we go the closer we are to the sun? Likewise, in our Christian life. Friends, go up higher!

And the seventh floor is—

### HEART REST IN JESUS

*Matt. 11:28*:—"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We preachers often quote this verse and apply it to the sinner, but if we notice the context we shall find that it was addressed to Christians. "Rest in Jesus." Do you know what it is to believe in *Romans 8:28*? "For we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Let me spell "things" out for you. T—trials, H—hatred,

I—infirmities, N—necessities, G—griefs, S—sorrows. “All things work together for good to them that love God.” Adversities may come. Illness may come. Death may come. What?—Death? Yes, all things.

Often many Christians go through life crippled, maimed and hindered because of some perplexing burden, sorrows that press sorely upon their hearts and they are not able to lay them all upon Jesus and get the heart rest that He has for them. Listen! If I can, I want to help you. There was a long time in my life when my heart was weighted down because of certain burdens that I wasn't able to lay upon the Lord. Beloved, we need to learn to classify our troubles and then to learn what to do with them. We have a great many troubles that are only imaginary troubles, homemade troubles. All homemade troubles are like the homemade clothes our mothers used to make. They outlast any other kind. Now, what do I mean by homemade troubles, borrowed troubles, imaginary troubles? I can illustrate it better than I can present it to you in any other way.

Here is a good mother, kind-hearted woman, to say nothing of her good, common sense—her children come in and say to her, “Mamma, can we hitch up old John and drive over to Mrs. Henry's this afternoon?” And the kind-hearted mother says, “Yes.” She knows that John, the old family horse, is gentle and trustworthy, is



perfectly reliable and they can do anything with him; and really when the children come and play about him in the lot he puts his foot down and seems to shake it to see if any of the little fellows' fingers or toes are under his foot. Old John has learned to love the children and seems to think as much of them as the mother does. The children hitch up old John and the mother's last words are, "Be sure and be back by four o'clock." and the children promise they will. The mother goes about all day with her home duties until four o'clock comes but when the clock strikes four, the mother looks up and says to herself, "My children have not come home as they promised to do and I am afraid something has happened."

Now, she starts her trouble machine. She gets everything working — hands, heart, soul, spirit, everything working together, conjuring up troubles. The good woman thinks, "I know something has happened." The minute hand points a minute over time and she says again, "I know something has happened—and the fact of the business is, I dreamed about muddy water last night and I know that horse has run away and killed every child. I am not fit to be a mother. I am not worthy to have any children. Oh, yes, and I remember, just now, the last time I drove old John he took a fearful fright and I said I would never let my children drive him again. The Lord knows that I am a careless mother and don't deserve anything more than to

have every child dead and I am certain they are and that is the judgment sent upon me for my carelessness.”

About that time, her husband walks in and sees the situation and says, “Wife, what in the world is the matter with you?” She replies, “I gave the children permission to drive John over to Mrs. Henry’s and they promised to be back at four o’clock and it’s four fifteen now and they haven’t come, and you know, husband, those children never did lie to me. I am sure they have all been killed.”

“Why, wife, they lie to you every day.”

“Well, I forgot to tell you too, husband. I dreamed about muddy water last night and I am sure they have been killed by that horse.”

Husband laughs, “You’re always imagining something, but I am sure those children will be here any minute.”

“I forgot to tell you too, husband, old John sidestepped the other day at a piece of white paper and I know my children are killed and I want you to go and get them, dead or alive, and do it quickly or I will be crazy.”

“Wife, I’m not going to bother about those children. They will be here shortly.”

But she says, “If you don’t go, I’ll go myself,” and well, he knows what that means and off he starts.



About the time he gets to the front gate, here comes old John jogging along and stops right in front of the gate. The mother looks upon the picture a minute and turns and goes into the house. She sits down and buries her face in her hands and says, "What a goose I've been."—and I'd say so too. That's exactly my judgment on the question. Of all the geese in the world, the featherless goose is the most ridiculous.

Women are not the only creatures in the world, I am sorry to say, that borrow trouble. You men are just as bad. Some of you men don't know what it is to get a good night's sleep. Do you know what that bed was made for? It's made to sleep on, not to roll and toss on, and God sent night into this world that we might sleep and rest for the next day's battle. Did you know that He has given us His precious promise that "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." and, again, "as thy days, so shall thy strength be." How sorry I am for the man who says, "I know starvation is right at my door;" "I have made buckle and tongue meet up to this time, but I never will again;" and so he worries on and on a great deal like the old woman who prayed to God for twenty years that He would give her grace to die in the poor house. She had a great mansion that was worth \$50,000 and yet that was the burden of her prayer for twenty years. The Lord will never give one grace to die in the poor house when that person is to die rich. Oh, that we could all say with the colored porter,



“I ain’t a-goin’ to worry any more,  
I ain’t a-goin’ to fuss and fret about it,  
We’ll get what’s comin’ to us sho’.  
Or, thank God, we can get along with-  
out it.”

The devil has a great joke on the Christian when he keeps him awake half the night and, I imagine, when the devil bids some Christians “goodby,” he will turn around and say, “They have gone to Glory, but I had enough fun out of them before they went there.” I’m not going to be joked in that way. I’m not going to be kicked around in that way, for I have the promise of God’s word—“Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed.” Beloved, as long as the birds of the air are fed, I know God will take care of the man who trusts in Him.

Troubles — homemade troubles — borrowed troubles and all this sort of trouble! Oh, that we might separate and classify our troubles, that we might eliminate the borrowed troubles, that we might be able to get rid of them! There is but one remedy for homemade troubles and there is but one remedy for heart troubles—it is good old-fashioned religion and common sense mixed in equal parts.

Let us come now to the real troubles.

There are burdens pressing upon millions of hearts on this earth. There are burdens



that I cannot bear and there are burdens you cannot bear. Oh, how many burdens press upon the hearts of fathers and upon the hearts of mothers, upon the hearts of children and upon the hearts of men all over this land! There is a point beyond which you cannot go with your load. I believe in my heart, tonight, that if it were not for the cross of Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ, the Burden-bearer, the great heart of this word would break.

I visited an insane asylum in Oklahoma. I went through the different wards with the keeper, and as we went through ward after ward I could see a distorted, mad face of a mother, once so pure and sweet and, as I looked at the glare of her eyes and the hideous expression on her face, the doctor would say, "This is the wife of a prominent man and the mother of a large family of children;" and I would say to myself, "Mother, what tore you away from your family, what robbed you of the care of your children, what took you from the side of your husband and shut you within this dreary, desolate place?" and her very face spoke the answer back to me, "Trouble did this, trouble did this—overburdened, overburdened." I pick up the daily newspaper. I read the tragedy of a poor suicide lying with a pistol by his side, the self-inflicted wound in his temple is covered with his own blood. As I read the story, I say, "What did this?" Trouble did this. I had

more than I could bear.” Overburdened, overburdened! Oh, how many hearts are burdened! I believe the greatest curiosity that the world could ever have would be an unburdened heart. What are we going to do with life’s burdens? There is the burden of guilt, the burden of grief, the burden of anxiety. And, oh, the burden that you and I carry for those we love! And the question comes to us, “What shall we do with these burdens?” The part of the philosopher, the wisdom of the Believer is to know what to do with his burdens. It’s not wise to sit down and count them. It’s not wise to see how crushing they are, but what can we do with them? The answer comes to me and I pass it on to you—  
“Cast thy burdens upon the Lord and He will sustain thee.”

“FRIENDS GO UP HIGHER.”

Western Voice Publishers  
Englewood, Colorado