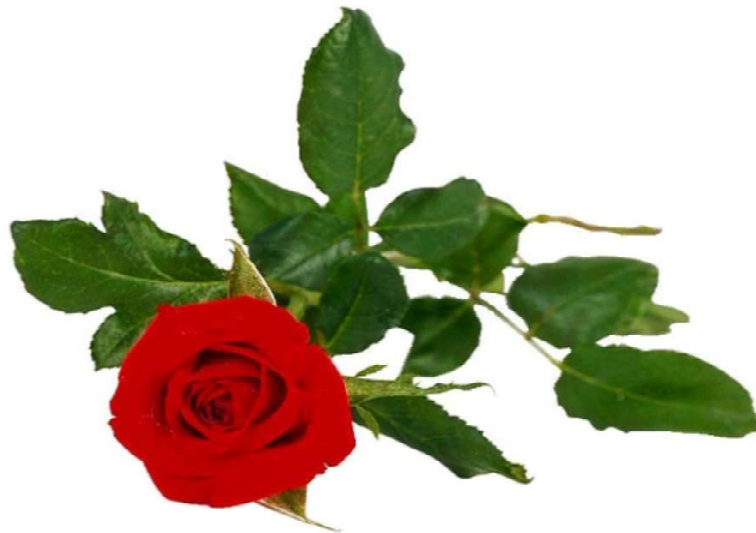


Glorious Gospel

**"I will greatly rejoice
in the LORD, my soul
shall be joyful in my God;
for he hath clothed me with
the garments of salvation..."**

Isa.61:10





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Contents:

Forty Four Years and Counting	1
He Is Raised In Power	
Gordon Crook	2
Open Our Eyes	
Vicky Moots	6
“Spiritual Awareness”	
Jack Davis	9
“Continue”	
Earlene Davis	12
“Occupy”	
Becky Swank	15
Concerning Spirituals – Part 3	
W. J. Franklin	19
Our Identity In Christ – Continued	
Abigail Sumeracki	21
The Encouraging Word	
Martha Wainright	25

Forty Four Years and Counting

This month of June marks 44 years printing the Glorious Gospel magazine. My husband Jack Davis was lead of the Lord to start it and He named it the Glorious Gospel – II Cor. 4:4 and I Tim. 1:11.

When he told me about it, I went along with him for I knew he was led of the Lord. But I must confess that at the first I drug my feet because I knew it meant a lot of work. Later on Jack told me that when I finally got in harness, he could not catch up with me (his words).

We knew nothing about how to layout a magazine. The Lord used Jane (Matney) Dean to teach me the cut and paste method using a light table to lay it out. I also had not typed since High School, so Lydia (Matney) Davis was our first typist until I got in practice.

Jack's first printing machine was a multi-lift off-set printer that Don Rogers found and Jack purchased. Don had experience at printing and was our first printer until Jack learned the ropes.

The Lord has faithfully supplied many writers that have contributed to the magazine and also different willing workers have helped with the work through the years. My pastor Gordon Crook helps me in so many ways with the computer and forming the magazine. Thank God for everyone who has shared in this ministry.

Of course through the years we experienced many up-dates and more modern equipment. The Lord has led and supplied all the way. Thank God! All glory to Him. By His grace we still print and mail out monthly the magazine to many individuals and meetings, even to English speaking foreign countries at no charge.

Earlene Davis – Editor

Crucified in Weakness – Raised in Power

Gordon Crook, Pastor
Grace Assembly, Wichita, Kansas

“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.” 2 Corinthians 13:4

This verse captures both sides of the redemption story; Jesus’ death and resurrection. There is much we can learn from breaking down this verse to understand the accomplishment of our salvation and what it means for us. Last month we considered that Jesus died in weakness; that is the weakness of a human body. This month we will consider the He **“liveth by the power of God.”**

I want to consider two main things here. Our Lord and Savior is ALIVE. There is nothing more important than this statement. All religions throughout history have had their “prophet” or “leader” that is now in a grave somewhere. We serve a living Savior who sits at the right hand of God interceding for us. The second thing is the power that is mentioned. It is by God’s power that Jesus was raised from the dead.

In the Old Testament, God had already prophesied that Jesus would raise from the dead. “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One

to see corruption.” **Psalms 16:10.** Peter quotes this passage in **Acts 2:27** which let’s us know with certainty that it refers to our Lord. God foresaw this because He foresaw that Jesus would satisfy the penalty for sins.

From Romans, we realize that baptism represents our death and burial with Him, but also, and very importantly, our rising with Him. **“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.** It is then, this resurrection life that is in us and gives us life and hope. It is because of the risen Jesus that we can live a life that is pleasing to our Lord. We no longer have to “walk” (conduct our lives) according to the old nature because we now “walk” in newness of life; His resurrection life.

“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:” Ephesians 2:5-6. Not only are we able to be pleasing to our Father, we are actually sitting provisionally in the heavens because of the resurrection life of Jesus. We are made alive. Not just life, but “abundant” life. **John 10:10.**

Secondly, we have to consider the power of this resurrection life. The power it took to raise Jesus is

beyond what we might really understand. Consider the moving of the stone that was needed to reveal the empty tomb. I really don't think God needed to move the stone to get Jesus out of the tomb, but it was necessary so all could see the empty tomb. But more importantly, the power to raise a person from the dead. Power beyond ours.

That same power that God used to raise Jesus, is available to us to empower our life and our walk. **"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20.** We may not understand well exactly how much power is at our disposal, but Paul prays for us that we would get a revelation of that power that will work in our lives to produce a life that is pleasing to God.

Paul himself wanted to have that same revelation. **"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" Philippians 3:10.** While Paul did not claim to have attained to that ultimate prize at this point, he desperately wanted to know and understand the power that would get him to that prize. How about you? Are you longing to understand and know the resurrection power in your life?

The resurrection matters, because it is our eternal hope. **"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God**

bring with him.” 1 Thessalonians 4:14. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” 1 Peter 1:3. We are looking forward to a time when we will be raised and receive a glorified body. That hope should keeps us going in this word of turmoil and distress.

The resurrection encourages us to keep our focus on our Lord Jesus. **“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1.** The original translation should say, **“Since you are risen with Christ.”** That resurrection should keep us pointed towards Jesus and the heavenly things that are most important.

I encourage you today to seek to know Him in the power of His resurrection. To seek to be changed by that power, to press towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus.



***More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me.***

OPEN OUR EYES

Vicky Moots

In II Corinthians 4:4 the apostle Paul explains the reason for spiritual blindness: "...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Who is the god of this world? It is Satan himself. Mankind has been spiritually blinded by his lies.

Paul knew this by experience because he had been blinded to the gospel by Satan. Prior to his conversion, he had sought to destroy those who had become followers of Jesus. Paul, who was named Saul at the time, was a very religious Jew, a Pharisee, who strove for righteousness through the works of the law, and thought he was blameless before God.

Acts chapter 9 records the story of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Verse 3 tells us that a bright light shone from heaven, and he fell to the ground. He then heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him and revealing who He was. When Saul arose he discovered that he was blind. What he hadn't realized was that he was already blind spiritually.

Three days later, God sent Ananias to him to pray for him to receive his sight and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Verse 18 states, "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received his sight..." God opened his blinded physical and spiritual

eyes and called him to preach Christ, the one whom he had previously rejected and persecuted.

Paul's eyes were not only opened to the gospel, but to many other spiritual truths which he has since revealed to us through his epistles. His desire was for our eyes to be opened also. In Eph. 1: 17-18 we read Paul's prayer for the Ephesian Saints, and for us also: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

Satan not only blinds the eyes of unbelievers to the gospel, but he also tries to blind us as Christians to keep us from seeing the spiritual riches that go beyond initial salvation. He tries to keep us from laying hold of our inheritance and the fullness of God's grace.

Jesus wants to reveal Himself to us through the Scriptures, as He did to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-32, after His resurrection. In vv. 15-16 we find that Jesus drew near to them, "but their eyes were holden that they should not know him." Then v. 27 states, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." In vv. 30-31 we read, "... he took bread and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him...."

The eyes of these disciples had been blinded to the Christ of the resurrection. Many Christians today, likewise, only know Christ as a man, but do not know Him in the power

of His resurrection. May the Holy Spirit enlighten the eyes of our understanding as we study the Scriptures and feast upon the bread of life, so that we may truly know Christ in His fullness.

Luke 4:18-20 records the account of Jesus standing in the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath and reading from the book of Isaiah. The words which He read in v. 18 were a prophecy which was fulfilled by Jesus Himself: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind..."

Yes, Jesus came to recover sight of the blind and praise the Lord He is still delivering captives that are bound by Satan and opening blinded eyes today through the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit.



Spiritual Awareness

Jack Davis

"In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemeth good in thy sight" Luke 10:21.

Solomon requested, "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in...Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart..." Read I Kings 3:5-12.

It is interesting to consider what Jesus prayed for, and how He prayed. It is enjoyable to think of what He enjoyed while here as a man. The Scriptures record His rejoicing and thanksgiving, and we attend to them to our benefit, for they are very instructive.

We know that He delighted in the Father's will. Psalm 40; Heb. 10. From our text, he seemed to be enjoying the manifestation of God's choices for divine revelation. **We do well to follow suit.**

We notice His rejoicing over things hidden, and from whom they were hidden, and of things revealed and to whom they were revealed. Would it not be better for us to do likewise instead of crying why, why, why? It is wise to give thanks to the Father who is omniscient. He always has His right reasons for all things. It is unwise to think we can judge God and justify ourselves, Rom. 12:3,16.

There are times when that which our Father permits, purposes, and provides for, may seem very contradictory to our reasoning. And even when we have attempted extensively with prayer to understand, they still remain a mystery.

We rejoice that sacred secrets are divinely revealed at our all knowing Father's discretion. In the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God, there are judgments unsearchable, and ways past tracing out – Rom. 11:33-36. Yet, in Christ Jesus, God hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence – Eph. 1:8. For in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge – Col. 2:3.

Glory to God, we are so glad to recognize the wisdom of our Father in choosing what He chooses, and using what He uses unto His eternal glory. Jesus is made to trusting hearts wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption that no flesh glory in His presence – I Cor. 1:26-31. Praise God, in Christ there is indeed a wealth unsearchable – Eph. 3:8. There is a love that passes knowledge – Eph. 3:19.; a peace that passes understanding – Phil. 4:6-7, and a joy unspeakable – I Pet. 1:8.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable (inexpressible free) gift" – II Cor. 9:15. Whether we are able to tell all this gift is, and contains or not, we do have the wonderful privilege of giving thanks for all that we have and see in Him.

God has given mankind reasoning faculties, (Prov. 20:27) yet they must be submitted to the Holy Spirit in order to grasp what all He has in mind for us. I believe

He would have us know that intelligence is a hindrance only if we allow it a place over God's Word. We cannot allow any thing credence above, "thus saith the Lord." Let us not permit anything to get in the way of faith – Prov. 3:5-7. All that reason contrary to faith are fools, in danger of shutting themselves out of God's best blessings.

"I thank thee"

When Jesus spoke this as recorded in Luke 10, it seems to be a confession of full acknowledgment of God's will, as well as an expression of praise. **"That thou hast hid...and revealed..."** Whatever God has hidden who can uncover? What He reveals who can hide? Prov. 25:2.

"Unto Babes"

We are given to know that spiritual awareness is not arrived at by human intellect, and not dependent on human reasoning – I Cor. 2:9-13. There are "babes" unlearned and learned that recognize their need, even helplessness in things spiritual, that are totally dependent on the Lord. These are privileged to receive in child-like faith, divine revelation. "For so it seems good in the Father's sight." **REJOICE WITH JESUS!**



If our greatest need had been information, or technology or money or pleasure; God would have sent an educator, or scientist or economist or entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior!

CONTINUE

Earlene Davis

While meditating on the Word for a message, the Holy Spirit brought one word to my mind – “Continue.” I feel the Lord has ***instruction*** and also ***encouragement*** to give us. It is not always correction, but it is God’s desire that we ***increase spiritually, growing in Christ***, that we might be ***perfected*** to win Christ’s best for us.

Satan would tempt us to slow our pace in running to win Christ, perhaps even to give up. That would please Satan. As that would allow him to rob God of the perfecting that He is doing in our lives that would bring Him glory. In what would the Lord have us to increase that He may bring us to perfection? Let us consider what our Apostle Paul has written to us of this Grace Age. He wrote as the Holy Spirit gave it to him.

We read in Acts 14:22, that Paul returned to the churches he had establish to see first hand of their faith. He found it necessary to exhort them to ***Continue in the faith***, as they were experiencing tribulations. Paul’s words have much weight to me, for his own trials were so great that he was stoned and left for dead – V. 19. He did not give up, but continued to travel and preach the Gospel and exhort the saint to continue in the faith.

In Col. 1:22-23, Paul says, that Christ suffered that He may present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight; If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

In Col. 4:2, we are admonished "***Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.***" This is taking hold of God in earnest prayer. As we pray and continue in the attitude of prayer, thanking God that the answer is on the way even when we see no evidence of it. Delayed answers, causes the muscles of our faith to be strengthened. Let us keep on believing, seeking the Lord and His will. Acts 6:4, to give ourselves to an attitude of prayer continually.

II Tim. 3:14 – ***Continue in the truth of God's Word*** and be not entangled with every doctrine of men that comes along. Read this whole chapter. II Tim. 3:16-17, All Scripture is inspired or "God breathed," it has life, for it is the living Word of God. That is why when we believe God's Word, it works effectually in us. God's truth becomes a part of our very being and gives us spiritual strength. It is ***profitable***, for doctrine, (accept no other doctrine), for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (we learn how to walk pleasing to the Lord). Praise God, His Word refutes the reasonings of our mind and keeps us from error. If we be otherwise minded, God will correct us by His Word.

Thank God for His working in us as we yield to His Word. He would have us to be made perfect in Christ and known for all good works of faith. In Acts 13:43, Paul and Barnabas persuaded the Jewish believers who formerly had trusted in their own works, to ***continue in the grace of God.*** And in Heb. 13:1, "***Let brotherly love continue.***" The love of Christ shed abroad in the hearts of the saints makes for healthy growth. We will bear one another's burdens and provoke one another to good works.

Heb. 13:2 – Sometimes we can get so self-contained. The Lord has other children who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. But we must try the spirits of professed people, who are religious runabouts. V. 9, It is a good thing that the heart be *established* with grace.

V. 15 – ***Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.*** V. 16 – To do good and to communicate. With these sacrifices God is will pleased. Spiritual fruit is what God wants. Praise is the fruit of the lips. Doing good to others by pointing them to Jesus as Savior. And communicate, giving of yourself, the fruit of the hands and feet and of our earnings in support of the Gospel. V. 17 – Loyalty to our spiritual leaders that God has appointed to lead and teach. Vs. 20-21 – not that we did not know these things, but as Paul said in I Thess. 3:12-13 & 4:10, that we ***increase more and more*** in love toward all men. That we may be found establish in holiness before God our Father at the coming of Jesus Christ. Shall we continue? Yes, by the grace of God.



***Feasting on the riches of His grace,
Resting 'neath His sheltering wing,
Always looking on His smiling face,
That is why I shout and sing.***

***Soon He's coming back to welcome me
Far beyond the starry sky;
I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown,
I shall reign with Him on high.***

– L. B. Bridgers

“OCCUPY”

Becky Swank

“...And He called His ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come...” Luke 19:12-28.

As we read this parable, we find that when the nobleman returned the first servant came saying, “Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.” He was given ten cities. The second came saying, “Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.” He was given five cities. “Another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layest not down, and reapest that thou did not sow.” So his pound was taken away and given to him that had ten pounds.

The Lord wants us to occupy till He comes, being fruitful through Him. He does not want us to be as the other servant and lay up in a napkin the Word which He has given us, and just “kill” or waste away time till He comes. We all have had disappointments, let downs, and many trials. It is so easy to get preoccupied, dwelling on situations; and before we know it days, weeks, months, possibly years have gone by, and we really have not occupied in the way He planned at all. Occupying is not just for the ministers, Sunday School teachers, elders, and so forth; we all are to occupy. We do not have to find something to occupy ourselves either. As we read in verse thirteen – “He delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.” He gave to them. And the Lord has given to us!

Ephesians 2:1-10, "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Colossians 3:1-17, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth...For which thing's sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience; in the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these...seeing that ye hath put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him...but Christ is all, and in all. Put on

therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another...And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...and be ye thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."

Oh, it is so important to fill our time occupying in the Lord! It is the only way we can put off the old man and put on the new man. That in itself will keep up busy till our beloved Bridegroom comes! In verse eight we read, "But now ye also put off all these." It is not that we put off all these last year, or last week. But now! This is daily yielding to the new man. If we are doing that, we are occupying! It is a living testimony which will bring forth fruit! In Luke, we read how the servants were rewarded as much as their pound had gained. The pound of the one who laid his up in a napkin was taken away. Oh, let us not lay up in a napkin God's precious Word; but let us be fruitful and receive the maximum reward, Jesus Christ as our Bridegroom!

I Corinthians 9:24-27, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the Prize? So run, that ye may obtain...I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection..."

Philippians 3:8-14, "Yea doubtless, I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may

win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness...but that which is through the faith of Christ, and righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection (out from) the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the Prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."



MAJESTY

***Majesty, worship His Majesty,
unto Jesus be all glory,
power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne, unto his own,
His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high
the name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify,
Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all Kings.***

CONCERNING SPIRITUALS

Part 3

W. J. Franklin

(V) The Working of Miracles

Miracle is a word used to denote a non-natural, beyond natural, supernatural order of things or works contrary to nature – accomplishments of which we are unaccustomed to.

The Gift of the working of miracles operates by the energy or dynamic force of the Spirit, a sovereign act of the Spirit of God, irrespective of laws or systems.

Let us consider some uses of the Gift in scripture:

- (1) For delivering God's people. Exodus 14:16
- (2) To provide for those in need. Exodus 17:5-6
- (3) To confirm the preached Word. Acts 8:6
- (4) To deliver in unavoidable situations of danger.
Matt. 8:23
- (5) To display God's Power and Magnificence.
Psalms 150:2

They show forth His Greatness. Miracles are explosions of almightiness, wonders, the expression of the Divine walking among men, the visible tokens of an invisible Power.

(VI) The Gift of Faith

Let us remember that though faith we are saved (Eph. 2:8); this is faith that goes before salvation.

Then there is faith which is named in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), which can only be developed by the Spirit as we walk in the Spirit. Fruit can only be grown,

not made. This fruit of faith also speaks of God making us faithful.

But **the Gift of Faith** is distinct from saving faith and the fruit of faith. Remember that this is the **greatest** of the **power gifts**, and those that possess this gift believe God in such a way that God honors their word as His Own, and miraculously brings it to pass. It is a supernatural endowment by the Spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by man shall eventually come to pass. This faith utterance covers blessings, cursings, destruction, and is different from the gift of the working of Miracles and the gifts of Healing in that often its operations are not immediately or even generally observed.

The operation of Miracles is more of an act as when the Red Sea was rolled back by Moses, while the operation of the Gift of Faith is more of a process.

The gift of Faith is a sudden surge or boost of faith given by the Holy Spirit when needed, as seen in Joshua 10:12-13, Acts 9:40, and Acts 13:11.

Continued in next issue



OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

CONTINUED

Abigail Sumeracki
Michigan

We are Citizens of Heaven

Phil. 2:20 – “For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Citizenship in the natural is something that we are fairly familiar with simply because most people are born citizens of a country where we have certain rights, privileges, and responsibilities towards. Citizenship is also something that we lay claim to. I am an American, people identify themselves by their country they are – Canadian, Brazilian etc.

In the natural our citizenship really is a central part of our natural identity. Certain countries have certain holidays and cultural expectations. Every country in the world has a 4th of July on the calendar but America celebrates the 4th of July as a holiday because to us it is a special day, it is our nation's birthday. When the Bible says we are citizens of heaven what it is saying is that we are to see our identity as citizens of heaven, we are to see ourselves as a heavenly people. I am a citizen of Heaven.

In the natural there are two ways a person is a citizen of a country. They are either NATURAL BORN or NATURALIZED citizens. A person who is a natural born citizen is one who was born with the citizenship of their home country. A person who is naturalized was not born with citizenship in their country, but through a legal process EARNED the right to be a citizen of their country.

The Apostle Paul, a Jew, lived in the Roman empire and was a free born citizen of the Roman Empire. Paul was arrested and the chief captain asked Paul if he was a citizen of Rome. Under Roman law a citizen of Rome had certain rights such as not being beaten to get information. This chief captain was also a citizen of Rome. However he paid a lot of money to become a citizen of Rome. He was a NATURALIZED citizen whereas Paul was a NATURAL born citizen.

The first question about our heavenly citizenship that we need to answer is are we NATURAL born or are we NATURALIZED citizen of Heaven. Because we are born into this world, it would be easy to think we are naturalized citizens of Heaven, but a naturalized citizen has to EARN their citizenship. The chief captain said that he paid money to become a Roman citizen.

If anyone wants to know the application fee to become an American citizen costs \$710 if filed on line – and that is just the filing fee for the one application. The person who is applying must also have been a green card holder for 5 years, pass a background check, speak English, and pass a test. As to our heavenly citizenship, if we were naturalized citizens **we would have all failed** the background check – we are all sinners. We could not pay the necessary fee to become a citizen of heaven, Jesus had to pay that fee for us. We are **NOT** naturalized citizens of heaven – heaven actually has no naturalization process or naturalized citizens.

We are NATURAL BORN citizens of heaven. There are two ways someone is born a citizen of a country – “jus sanguinis” which means because of blood (because our parents were citizens) and “jus solis” which means by soil (we were born inside of the country). The first and most

common way to be a natural born citizen of a country that is found in the world is the first one “jus sanguinis” – **Children inherit their citizenship from their parent**...if my son was born in Canada he would still have been a U.S. citizen because both me and my husband are U. S. citizens, he would have inherited at birth our citizenship.

Matthew 6:9, I Corinthians 1:3, Galatians 4:6 are just a few verses that show God is our heavenly Father. The Bible makes it very clear that we are God’s children. We have inherited our heavenly Fathers citizenship in Heaven. **We meet the legal requirements of “jus sanguinis” to be a natural born citizen of Heaven.**

The second way of being a natural born citizen of a country “jus solis” is not a very common way to be a citizen of a country. Only 33 countries in the world are like the U. S. in that almost everyone born in that country is a citizen and of those 33 countries the only that is comparable to the U. S. is Canada.

Yet we meet this legal requirement for our heavenly citizenship as well. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3 – **“Verily verily I say unto you, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** We have been born again; we have had a spiritual birth in the spiritual heavenly realm. Therefore we meet the “jus solis” requirements to be a natural born citizen of heaven as well...

The second thing we need to determine about our heavenly citizenship is do we have dual citizenship with the world sense we have been born in this world...The supreme court case that gave us birthright citizenship was called Wong Kim Ark vs United States...What is

important in that decision is that children who are born in the U. S. to parents who work in their countries embassies are **not** U. S. citizens...

II Corinthians 5:20 says that we are ambassadors for Christ. Not everyone who works for their countries embassy is the ambassador...there are people who work in support positions but all are employed by their country and are in our country and no child born to any of them is a citizen of the U. S. – they are citizens of their parents' home country.

We may have been born in this world but **we do not have dual citizenship** with this world. All of us would be considered in some way, shape or form part of the embassy staff...and all of us are important for the vital functions of the church – that would be the embassy – within this world. **So when we look at our spiritual credit report we see that we are natural born citizens of heaven and we do not have dual citizenship with this world.**

When we agree with God that we are citizens of heaven and not of this world we end up walking in this world like we are citizens of heaven.

Yet, we meet this legal requirement for our heavenly citizenship as well.

The End

A Note from Pastor Sharon Townsend of Grace Assembly, Chesterfield Twp, Michigan – Abby use to work in immigration which makes her article more interesting.

The Encouraging Word

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture." John. 10:9

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul." Psalm 54:4

"My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me."
(Sustains me) Psalm 63:8

"O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you healed me." Psalm 30:2

"Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but he who trusts in the Lord, loving kindness shall surround him,"
Psalm 32:10

"Even to your old age I am He, and even to hair white with age will I carry you. I have made, and I will hear; yes, I will carry and will save you." Isaiah 46:4

"God is faithful through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
I Corinthians 1:9

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