

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman

Vol. 2, No. 5

“And ye are complete in him.” Colossians 2:10

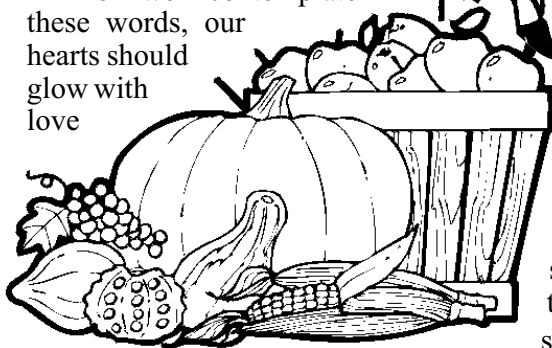
Sept./Oct. 1999

H
E
A
R
T
H
S
T
O
N
E

BRING FORTH FRUIT

Christ says, “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20) How few comprehend the fullness of this promise! The disciples did not take it in, they did not comprehend the meaning of these words, until the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them. Of him Jesus had said: “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” (John 16:13, 14)

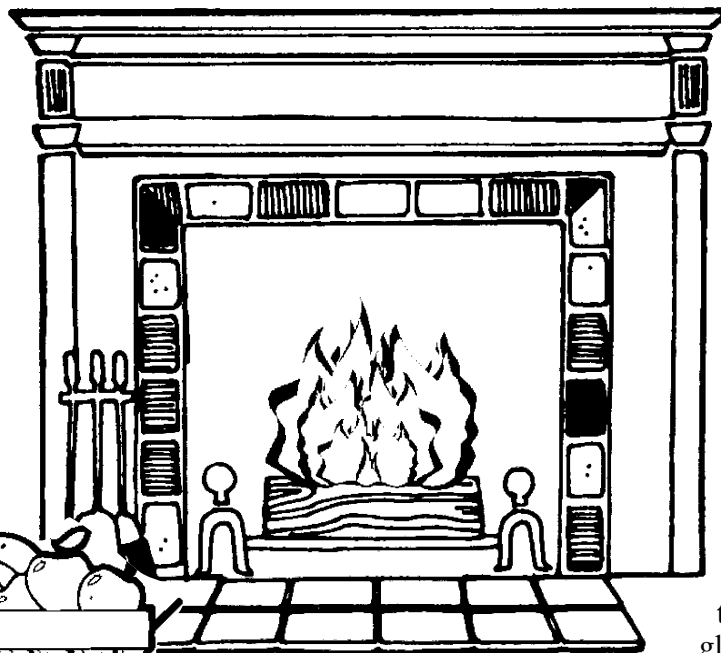
As we contemplate these words, our hearts should glow with love



to our Saviour, because he has left nothing unsaid that concerns our salvation. Though we may be harassed and beset with trials and temptations that come to us through the devices of the synagogue of Satan, yet we have

one who is fully able, and always willing, to give us the very help that we require in the time of need.

We have been invited to ask help, to come boldly to the throne of grace, to ask what we will, that it may be



done unto us. And if the words of Christ abide in us, we are the elect of God, and will bring forth fruit in steady faith, cherishing the faith that works by love and purifies the

soul from every moral defilement. “Much fruit” is the evidence that the words of Christ abide and work in the soul.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22-25)

When we are enlightened by the Spirit of God, we shall behold only the glory of Jesus. Seeing nothing but deformity in ourselves, we shall fix our eyes in faith upon Jesus. And as we contemplate the beauty of Christ’s character, we become transformed into the divine likeness. “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

[*The Signs of the Times*, February 20, 1896 and December 13, 1899; used with permission.]

Our Mission Statement: Believing that we can find completeness in all areas of our lives only “in him, who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10), it is the mission of *Hearth to Hearth* to provide a forum for Christian women to reach out to each other in friendship, with joy and hope; and to encourage each other to find our completeness in Christ as we sojourn here on our way to the kingdom.

Of Summer and Fall, Despair and Happy Endings

Where did the summer go? How could it be over so soon? Even though fall is an exhilarating time, there is something very sad about the ending of summer. I yearn for warm sunny days when the grass was growing and summer flowers were blooming and birds were busy building nests and caring for their families.

But I also love the new, energizing, crisp taste of the air and the somewhat acrid smell of wood smoke tingling in my nose! And what summer sky could equal the splendor of the clear, deep blue dome above our heads on a sparkling day in October!

Which reminds me: Every issue of *Hearth to Hearth* is meant to energize the spiritual lives of its writers and readers. Every issue is meant to sparkle with messages of cheerful hope, of bright beginnings and happy endings, of the joy and fulfillment that is ours as we find completeness in Jesus Christ.

That is not to say, however, that everything is always “sweetness and light.” We are mindful that, at any given moment among us there are sickness, pain, heartache and loss of all kinds. Sometimes the human heart must be gripped in the clenched fist of grief before joy can break it free and give it wings, and often we humans are overwhelmed with despair before hope wells anew.

The fall season never fails to remind me of the shortness and uncertainty of life and of the

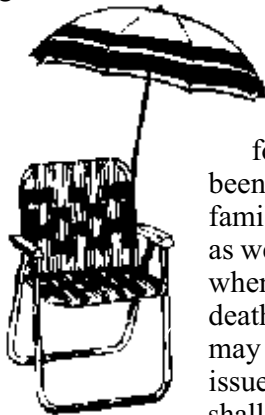
painful suffering
suffering and de-
grieve, yet must

In June our
a brother to
writes an article
injury. It has
Mattie and their

These events
the day not far off
destroyed...

Whatever
just pray that this
the Lord, and he

standing, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7) I like to think of that promised peace as being the “happy ending” for which we are all seeking in this life. And soon the ultimate “happy ending” will become a reality when Christ’s coming ushers in eternity, and “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” (Revelation 21:4)

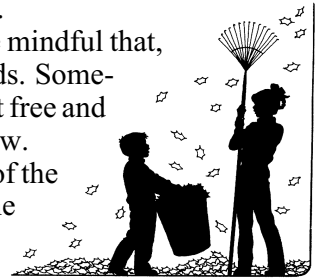


and despair that often precede death—not only the
spair of the dying one but also of those who
carry on.

layout and design editor, Esther McDaniel, lost
death. He was the son of Mattie Laurell (Esther’s mother) who occasionally
for *Hearth to Hearth*. Early in July, Mattie herself fell and suffered a painful back
been a difficult time for them, to say the least. Our sympathies go out to Esther and
family and our prayers ascend for them.

as well as the arrival of the Autumn season awaken within me a deeper yearning for
when all pain and sickness and suffering will be past and “The last enemy... shall be
death.” (1 Corinthians 15:26)

may be the losses, the problems, the troubles with which you are now dealing, we
issue of *Hearth to Hearth* will brighten the moment for you. “Cast thy burden upon
shall sustain thee...” (Psalm 55:22) “And the peace of God, which passeth all under-
standing, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7) I like to think of that promised peace as being the “happy ending” for which we are all seeking in this life. And soon the ultimate “happy ending” will become a reality when Christ’s coming ushers in eternity, and “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” (Revelation 21:4)



Grace Cox

MAIL CALL:

Thank you so much for sending me this precious little paper. I am sorry not to have responded before this but better late than never. This has been such a blessing to me I want to pass it on. Please send this publication to these dear friends of mine. [List enclosed.] I thank our heavenly Father for your ministry.

Marge/OR

I sure thank you for your paper... It was a wonderful, welcome surprise to receive the back issues. Last night I read “Prayer: Heavenly Altitude = Ardent Attitude” by Debbie Lewellen and it was a real blessing. [See *Hearth to Hearth*,

Vol. 1, No. 1, Sept./Oct. 1998 - Ed.] Would you put my best friend on your mailing list? [Name and address enclosed.] Thanks.

Barbara/OR

I just want to say thank you for the *Hearth to Hearth* Ministry paper. I enjoy it so much. Especially the articles Mattie writes. She was like a mother to us when we lived in Michigan.

Catherine/OR

[Another of Mattie Laurell’s articles will appear soon. Ed.]

Thanks for your lovely newsletter each month. I have put my sister on your mailing list and she is enjoying it so I am sending you a small gift to cover them both. When she

visited me last week she picked it up and she kept saying that “I can use this in my SS program.”

Arlene/AZ

I really do enjoy your paper. So does [my daughter]. Here are the names I want you to send [it] to. God bless and will be looking for your next newsletter.

Eva/TN

PRAYER CALL:

[Prayer requests are usually included anonymously, but of course God knows the identify of each one. Ed.]

I would like to let the one know who asked for prayer for her husband that she isn’t alone; my

situation is the same. Also, I really need your prayers for the people I'm studying with who seem to be losing interest.

I would like to praise the Lord that my mother, Mattie Laurell, has made such rapid progress toward recovery from her fall (see the editorial). Though she did sustain compression fractures in two of her L-vertebrae, she has surprised her doctors and the staff at the rehab hospital who predicted that it was going to take a "l-o-n-g time." She is now back on her feet (though still weak) and making daily progress. Thank you for your continued prayers that she will make a complete recovery. *Esther McDaniel*

PLEASE NOTE:

» Back issues of *Hearth to Hearth* are available. We will be glad to send them, upon request, to anyone who would like to have any—or all—back issues.

» We still have a few copies of *Happiness Digest* available. If you have not yet requested yours, please hurry and do so! We are offering the book free of charge, however, a dollar would be appreciated (though not required) to cover the costs of mailing it to you.

» We are always happy to add the names of your friends and relatives to the *Hearth to Hearth* mailing list. We might even mention that a few men are on the mailing list, and we know that many others besides enjoy the newsletter. While *Hearth to Hearth* is planned primarily for women, we appreciate all of the male readers as well, and would be happy to hear from them.

» The focus of *Hearth to Hearth* continues to be on concepts of Christian living in all areas of our lives, always seeking that completeness which can be found only in Jesus Christ. Reader participation is encouraged and is very much appreciated. Articles, poems and

miscellaneous items that are submitted are included according to editorial guidelines and as space permits. Thoughtful comments regarding articles printed are welcome. *The Editors*

READER TO READER RESPONSE:

Regarding the letter in "Reader to Reader" [see *Hearth to Hearth*, Vol. 2, No. 4] I would like to let Diane know she isn't alone. I don't have all of the things that trouble her, but a couple, and have also wondered if I was alone [in my] fear of being lost, and being all alone [with] no church as such to go to.

BB/AR

Dear Searching Reader,

I read your questions and immediately identified with what you have expressed. I, too, have been seeking answers to some of the same heart-wrenching questions that bother you and me and probably a lot of others. I have been trying recently to let it sink into my heart and mind that I cannot depend upon my feelings for my salvation. This is where my faith is being tested, and maybe yours too, dear Sister. It is so hard to depend on raw faith alone when the way I feel is discouraged, disillusioned, disappointed, frustrated, "different" and alone with a need to belong.

Does God still remember me? Of course; He gave His Son for me. (John 3:16) Why is this happening to me? I don't know at this time, but I'll claim Romans 8:28.

You mentioned feeling "different," that you don't belong. I have felt this way for years. I felt that there was no group, even among those of like faith, where I really "fit in." Differences in opinions and lifestyle sometimes exist between even the best of friends. This dilemma of not fitting in has been very strong in me lately. I have

found some comfort in the thought that I don't have to fit in to be beloved of the Lord, and even if all friends and family should forsake me I will still be accepted by Him; He understands—it happened to Jesus too.

I hope these thoughts don't sound like pat answers. I know I don't feel as if my problem has been helped when someone merely says, "Well, sister, remember the Lord loves you." I already know that, at least intellectually; but my heart needs to claim the promises of God, and claim them emotionally, not just intellectually, to crowd out those other feelings of pain and grief.

We know Satan hates us as children of God and will try to destroy us in any way he can, be it physically, mentally, or emotionally, and sometimes in all these ways at once through sickness, stress or any havoc he can possibly cause. Please know that there are those of us out here who are struggling—and I do mean struggling—with the same important questions. May we encourage and help each other as we continue our pilgrim journey. Another Searching Reader ,

[Name withheld upon request]

Jesus said to Peter, "...Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not:..." (Luke 22:31, 32) *The Editors*

Dear Searching Reader,

I would like to respond to one of the questions you asked in your letter to *Hearth to Hearth*. You asked, "Do you feel a lonely emptiness inside?" At one time in my life I did. I felt very lonely, and especially empty, even though I had family and friends. I tried almost everything to fill that void, but nothing
(Continued on page 4)

READER TO READER

It seems that a new church exists these days, and their religion is: White Supremacy. The “World Church of the Creator” is its name, and hate is its game. They hate Jews, Christians, Blacks, Asians, gays, the government, public schools and anyone with a low IQ. That is a vast group of people. While I do not agree with or condone the morals of gays and some government officials, I don’t hate them. God hates the sin, not the sinner. Just who is the “Creator” that this group thinks they know? Is it not written that “God is love?” (1John 4:16) After all, they are in the dark. “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.” (1 John 2:9)

Their 1998 “Creator of the Year,” Benjamin “August” Smith, went on a three-day racial killing spree over the Fourth of July weekend. By the time it ended, two states had been affected. Two men were shot in the back, one Black and one Korean. Nine others, Jews, Asians and Blacks, were wounded. Then came the horrible ending to the saga—suicide. While attempting to

flee in a stolen van, and being chased by the police, Benjamin Smith shot himself under the chin.

Sometimes it seems as if we are falling behind in this race when I see all of the terrible publicity, but if you have read the back of the Book, you know who wins.

We are warned in the Word that the spirit of antichrist is coming. “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” (1 John 4:3)

While we as Christians work feverishly to lead the lost to Jesus before He comes back, this hate-group of several hundred members and more than 46 chapters nationwide is doing all that they can to reach young people with their “religion.” They are doing this by targeting college campuses and through a “kid-die web page” which attracts children. (Are you mad yet?)

Is it not enough that our children have to face the other peer pressures of today? Is it not bad enough that our kids are being blown away in

their classrooms? Are not the temptations of drugs, alcohol, premarital sex and witchcraft enough for them to have to battle? I believe the power of the Holy Ghost is the one thing that will keep our children as they strive to live holy lives; separate from the world. It has come to the point where it is not only immoral to be “of the world,” but it is dangerous!

Thank God for First John 4:4 which says, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” We must not become threatened by this group, but realize just how near the coming of the Lord is, and gather in His harvest. It can’t be long now. Do you feel the anticipation of the coming of our Lord? The worse the world gets, the more I look to the Eastern sky. One day, I’ll look up, and I’ll see my Jesus.

Kathy/TN

[I am sure Kathy’s comments will strike responsive chords in many readers. Please feel free to write and share your thoughts regarding this or any other subject that is on your heart. Names will be withheld upon request. Ed.]

READER TO READER RESPONSE:

(Continued from page 3)

seemed to help. Once I asked Christ to enter into my life, however, He filled me and I do not have the loneliness and emptiness that I once had. The more I pray, study God’s word and share, the more full I feel.

The Lord never leaves us, but we leave Him at times. He is always waiting eagerly for us to call on Him to fill us with the wonderful love He has for us. I will never leave Christ again. The more I pray the closer I become with God and the

more I feel at peace. I am so thankful that the Lord loves me so much. The more I serve Him, the more fulfilled I feel.

Teresa/VA

Dear Searching Reader,

As I read your letter I could hear the echo of my own thoughts and feelings from years ago. I spent most of my life wrestling with the sense of my own lack of direction and self-worth, searching—for what, I did not know. The loneliness and emptiness I experienced typically drove me to rebellion. Once I had gotten this rebellion “out of my system,” I would try to return to living in harmony with family, God,

and self again, only to do it all over again. This roller-coaster ride of life was all I knew until a very important personal event. Although I was raised in a strongly religious family, and attended church and church schools, it wasn’t until age 32 that I really came to know God, and who God is. What I learned changed my life, and it changed me.

“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if

(Continued on page 5)

MEMORIES

Before the rooster announces the morning and after the owl signals in the night—these are the quiet times. It is then that my husband and I take advantage of the silence to talk. We have two small children so we are accustomed to odd hours. It was during one of those quiet times when Randy began to tell me a story from his childhood, reminiscing about his great-grandmother's home.

It was a two-story structure set upon a hill; the closest neighbor a half mile away. The road out front was a one-lane dirt path. Some people making by in a car, but many still made the families who lived within walking foot. Milk was delivered by an in glass bottles.

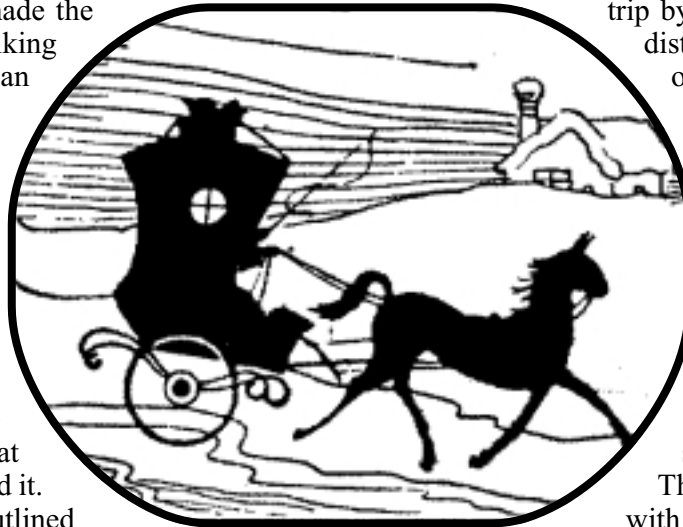
As he described these in my mind's eye. What a must have been! Back when because of their love for one ble covered with a gar-by family. Prayer to give pleasant; sitting outside whoever made the delicious

I know the street where stood. He actually lived on that many things, time has changed it. two-lane blacktop road outlined talking—not just walking—distance. A end of the street. There are no traces of the past to be seen. Time can change things to good, to bad or to sad. It is almost unfair!

Where does God fit into all this? Why can't we "hold on" sometimes? The answer is so obvious I didn't even realize it. God **did** create us with the ability to "hold on" in our minds... Memories.

Sandra Garner

[Sandra lives with her husband and two sons in rural west Tennessee. In addition to Bible study she loves homemaking, flower gardening and lately has been learning how to use a computer.]



their weekly trip to town might pass trip by horse and buggy. Other distance made the trip on older gentleman and came

things I could see it all beautiful time that families lived close together another. The dining room taden-grown meal, bordered thanks; conversation that was afterwards complimenting pie.

his great-grandmother's house street in adulthood. But, as with The dirt path has evolved into a with sidewalks. Neighbors are within new public school has been erected at the

READER TO READER RESPONSE:

(Continued from page 4)
happily [surely then] they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us". (Acts 17:26, 27) It seems the ultimate reason for our existence is to come to know God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. (John 17:3) Once we better understand God and His love for us, we will respond in love, both to Him, His Son, and our fellow man (Mark 12:29-31), much like what you are saying. That love relationship with God will calm our

fears and bring deep inner peace to the soul.

I agree that most feelings of loneliness and emptiness are the inner drives that God has placed in us to seek and search Him out. Feelings of being "different" and not belonging are not necessarily bad. Just because it's called a church doesn't mean that everyone in it is a true Christian. Being able to stand independent and separate from the crowd is vital to salvation. The Bible describes God's people at the end of time as being so few "that a child may write them." (Isaiah 10:19; see also Matthew 7:14)

However, there are times when I do feel a greater need to spiritually fellowship with someone like-minded. I have learned from personal experience that during these times the Lord will bring it about that someone crosses my path to fill that need. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

I would be willing to correspond directly with you to discuss these issues more in depth, and exchange personal experiences in our search to know the Lord.—A Fellow Searcher,
Pat/ KY

Where Is My Child's Heart?

Where is my child's heart? We'll look at two avenues in this article. **Who** has their heart and **what** has their heart? As we see these two avenues we can more clearly see how we can cooperate with heaven to regain the lost hearts, regain those rebellious, disobedient hearts in our homes. Bringing our children to a surrender of all selfishness is the most important work on this earth. This heart work must be done not only with Christ but more importantly **in** Christ; there is a difference.

Who has your child's heart right now? Is it toward the world or is it toward God? By looking at his behavior, attitude and countenance parents can evaluate accurately "by his doing" (Proverbs 20:11) who has his heart. "Ye shall know them [my people] by their fruits." (See Matthew 7:16-20) Does Christ and right doing possess his heart or do you see Satan's selfishness possessing his words, disposition and deeds? Galatians 5:16-25 lists the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit to guide your fruit inspecting to know which spirit is leading your child.

Satan is prince of this world since the fall of Adam and Eve and he possesses the hearts of our children by nature unless we redirect our little ones, our youth, to give their hearts to Christ and follow His laws instead. Satan takes control of every mind (heart) that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God. If we are not actively directing our children to Jesus, they are automatically under Satan's control! Unaided by the divine, neither child nor parent can do anything but serve sin and selfishness. How important it is for a parent to bring their "Disrespectful Danny" to Jesus that He can redeem him from Satan's service. Christ longs to empower and direct parent and child alike in the ways of righteousness. Who will decidedly take up this work?

My heart ached as I heard my two boys, ages ten and twelve, on the back porch one Sabbath afternoon with other Sabbath believer's children, entering into foolish, inappropriate talk and laughter. My heart ached, not that they were laughing for we know Sabbath should be a happy, pleasant day but they were laughing about someone not present; inappropriately making fun of someone else. Older children were leading this conversation, but my boys knew that was not right. They listened to and followed the older children and appeared to be enjoying it; that hurt me. Where are their hearts? They are not under God's control. I thought they knew better. Why aren't they doing what is right?



I was teaching (telling) them what was right. I wasn't training them. Training deals with their will, their heart, and sees to it they do what they know is right as it is in Jesus. I didn't understand the importance of bringing my children to a firm decision to do right and let Jesus direct me in the way to take so He could change their hearts.

The heart represents the thoughts, feelings and behavior. The words and deeds of my child tell me his thoughts. The character of his thoughts tells me who is on the throne of his heart influencing his doings. It's either Christ or Satan; there is no middle ground. "He that is not [actively] with me is against me." (Matthew 12:30)

Fruit inspecting said, "Satan has my children's hearts!" Satan's voice was heard (the flesh), they responded and cooperated with these thoughts, thus producing this behavior. The problem was, my boys didn't understand God's voice at this time in their lives so they didn't respond to Him; thus they followed another master. I want Jesus to have their hearts! "What must I do, Lord?"

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest..." (Matthew 11:28) "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eyes." (Psalm 32:8)

Christ must become a personal friend and companion to you, the parent, as He was to Enoch. Become sensitive to recognize the voice of God to your conscience and then you must teach this relationship to your child by example, instructions and disciplines. Christ must be on the throne of your heart. That means by a willing surrender you will filter all your thoughts and plans through God, then do His will, not yours. He needs to be a personal Lord and Saviour.

If Jesus has your thoughts and feelings, then He has the root fibers of your heart and can transform everything else to serve righteousness: your reactions, your desires, your disposition, your habits, conduct, even your affections can serve right in this way. Christ must have access through the voice of your conscience to lead you, and you must learn to follow by actively choosing to serve God, by actively surrendering the fleshly way, and by actively cooperating to do right. Only in this way can Christ possess your heart and make His abode with you. When Christ is abiding in this way, He can recreate you into His image. Only by acquaintance and association with Christ can you become like Him. As you learn this life of surrender in Jesus, teach this to your children. (Deuteronomy 6; John 15)

I experienced God redeeming my heart (thoughts and feelings) from fearing the "bears" to trusting Him to keep the "bears." Down to the level of my thoughts and feelings was I delivered. I took my son, I'll call him Angry Aaron, to Jesus and instructed him how to surrender his heart in prayer. I had to discipline him, led of God, before he'd cooperate to pray. The flesh doesn't like to be restrained. Next I told him he'd have to trust Jesus would change his feelings in time, but for

now, even while wrong thoughts and feelings were still there, he could still choose to speak loving words in place of hateful words because Jesus would make it possible. When he chose to obey (surrender) and speak the opposite of his present thoughts and feelings, Christ took away his anger and put love in his heart in its stead. Jesus put love down to the level of his thoughts and feelings. Jesus did this little miracle every time my son listened to me and his own conscience and cooperated. By repetition he was beginning to recognize the voice of God to his conscience. Jesus possessed my son's heart in place of Satan. He was redeemed from Satan's servitude and was so much happier. With heart communication with Jesus, the back porch incident need not be repeated, for Jesus would direct them aright. Who has your child's heart?

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21) "In Him was life... to as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God..." (John 1:4, 12) What character trait has your child's heart? "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." (Proverbs 20:11)

Many toddlers, children and youth have joined Satan's rank because they do not experientially know Jesus to be their Saviour from self. Many professed Christians' children are in open rebellion against law and order in the home. They walk contrary to the ways of God because Satan leads their thoughts and feelings and they are following him. There is Rebellious Rufus, Temper Tantrum Tommy, My Way Willy, Sassy Suzy, Interruptive Ivy and Selfish Sarah. They walk in the broad path with Satan as their companion because they know no other way. The parents commonly excuse their behavior for this or that reason. There is no excuse for sin and selfishness; God hates selfishness and tells us to uproot all of it. Our children are this way because we are too busy to tell them about Jesus and take them to Him and train them how to walk the narrow path in Jesus. How sad! They will grow *into* these traits with repetition not out of them as Satan has suggested to the world.

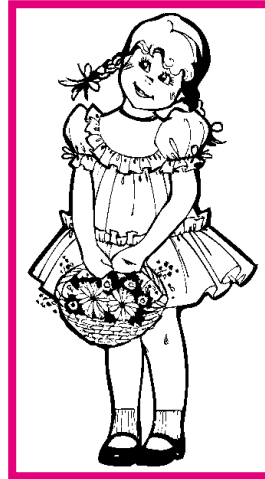
Let's not allow Satan to come into our home ranks and take our children unto disobedience and wrath without a fight! Ephesians 6:12 says it's a war with powers and principalities, it's not just flesh and blood we're fighting. We must get in Jesus first, then with a firm hand in His, deny ungodliness in our home. We must cultivate and train our children to live valiantly for God, to be servants of righteousness as it is in Jesus. They will love and respect us for this in due time.

As I committed myself to personal daily study time and prayer, God spoke through His Word, and His impressions to my heart, of my need to pull the weeds of unrighteousness. I was convinced I was allowing the weeds of disrespect, slothful work habits, lazy brain study habits, anger and poor-me attitudes to grow in my home by allowing them to be expressed and acted out. God said He would be with me but I must pull these weeds; deny them firmly, give consequences for uncooperativeness, without harshness and anger of the flesh but in Christ. I could be a barrier against allowing these evils in my home and Jesus would fight the flesh for me.

(Exodus 14:14) With fear of failure, trepidation and timidity I followed Christ and He did fight for me. In time my boys gave their hearts to Jesus and were delivered from all these ways. God led me to the replacement principle, which was leading them to think and act out the opposite trait of character as it can be in Jesus. Instead of [allowing them to] "come up" God taught me how to "train them up" in Him. What weeds of character has your child's heart?

Parents, you too must study for yourself. No one else can learn this for you because it must become an experience, not just an intellectual knowledge. It was by reading and talking with God that I saw the error of my ways of letting my children

"come up." I thought, what comes up? In an unattended garden, weeds come up, thorns and thistles come up without any care from the gardener. These undesirable fruits steal the nourishment and choke out goodly plants by crowding.



Wrong character traits, such as disrespect, poor-me thoughts, etc., that we allow in our children, are the bitter fruits of letting our children "come up." These things come up without any care on our part. It takes time, effort and planning to cultivate goodly plants of

righteousness; to provide time with God, to feed, nourish and challenge them to upright thinking, speaking and acting. Will you let Satan crowd out God in this way? Or will you redirect their ways, see to it they get time with God and "train them up" to do the right?

If you do this, you will need much time with them to become their companion, confidant, and regain the respect you need for authority over them. You must win them by love and much prayer, but never letting down the standard of righteousness. Rather, uphold firmly the right in and with Jesus, ever pointing your child to Jesus who is able to change them in heart and life. They will fall in love once they come to know Jesus their Saviour from selfishness. A neat and orderly home doesn't come up without a work plan to get it in order and daily disciplines to keep it that way, does it? It's the same with our child's character traits. The plan is, there is a need to daily come to Jesus to soften their hearts, to water the goodly plants, to nourish the right and to keep it all clean.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 says discipline and denying self are important. "Because sentence against an evil [selfish] work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Any wrong permitted to be done will grow and strengthen with exercise and repetition. Then parents need to be diligent to pull the weeds when they are little and more easily removed. Proverbs 13:24 says, "He that spareth his rod, hateth his son." When conflicts arise and discipline is necessary, you need Jesus to direct you aright in this warfare!

(Continued on page 9)

Looking to Jesus

All of us at times feel that we have lost that sense of well-being that reassures us that God is caring for our every need. As an adult, I first came close to God again about five years ago and when His spirit was new in my heart I didn't think anything would ever take that away. Little did I know I was about to be tempted to lose faith, as all young and old Christians, too, are tempted.

Just Don't Stop Praying

Fortunately within the group where I attended Bible study a wise sweet lady had prepared me ahead of time, just so that I had the words I needed in my heart when the hard times came. One night she confided to our small group that a minister had once told her that when you don't feel like praying, that is the time when you must keep on praying; you just keep on and don't stop. "You won't always feel like it," she said, "but just keep on anyway; He will hear you, for He has said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.'" (Hebrews 13:5)

It was her beautiful soft voice that sealed her words and the quoted Biblical verse into my memory, the voice I had heard so many times welcoming others reverently, lovingly into the church with "You'll never be more welcome anywhere else than you are here at Mt. Zion." And so I began early to just keep on praying when I seemed separated from God, even if it took the whole day to keep praying, because what I had found seemed so precious I didn't want to lose it.

Ask God to Help With Your Needs

What had made God's love seem so precious to me was the realization that He wants to provide us with everything we need, even the little things that bring us joy. He wants us to ask Him for our needs so that we know it is He who provides them. When He does that, we have those unforgettable memories of answered prayers to sustain us in times of extreme distress so we don't lose faith.

When I was a child I seemed to view God as an all-powerful Being, as He is, but I never realized He truly is a Father to whom one can and should go to actually talk about childish hurts and losses and joys. The way I learned to trust in this simple manner is through listening to our "Joys and Concerns" segment of our worship program at the church I attended.

Time after time I heard men and women give thanks to God for answered prayers: the recovery of a treasured lost watch after prayer, the "miracle" of a person's getting to church on time when it had seemed impossible, the resolving of a conflict in a job situation that had been troublesome. I had never thought to pray for something I had lost! I had

always wasted time and energy being angry at myself and God too, I think, for causing and allowing the loss.

I began to pray about small situations in my daily life. For example, when a slippery contact lens dropped into the sink, if I remembered to whisper a prayer or ask silently for help, He graciously heard me and answered quickly. With a little perseverance on my part, my hand would touch or my eyes would see the elusive object. It happened too often to be a coincidence. I was amazed how quickly and consistently this could happen, again and again, when I prayed my childish prayer, "Please, God, help me again," adding "in Jesus' name," according to the promise.

Now, it is true that sometimes my prayer would apparently not be answered; but after so many consistently positive answers, I began to have faith that my prayers were being answered according to God's will, in His own time, and I tried to patiently accept that. In the case of missing contact lenses, He never left me without sight; I always had glasses! Still, to learn that God would answer a prayer like this for a contact lens, or even for more trivial treasures, was amazing to me. He was giving me physical proof that He would answer a request that some might consider too selfish. Evidence! He did it over and over, in different ways—and still continues to do so, helping me to start a car, thread a needle, calm a child's tears or find a trinket when I ask. I know why He answered my prayers that way. I think He has a different way of showing each of us His love, and this way was exactly what I needed.

As a college English teacher I had always told students to support any thesis on a paper with good evidence, physical evidence if possible. If the student had chosen a logical thesis, it should be possible for that student to offer convincing evidence to prove that thesis. God was giving me what I had asked of students, evidence for His thesis, that He cared for me every minute of the day in the most intimate, loving way. Think of that; the omnipotent, almighty Jehovah loved me enough to come down to my level to show me what I had always been too stubborn to see before this. As the psalmist writes, "Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thy heart." (Psalm 37:4)

Please understand that I had been raised a Christian and joined my church at twelve years, and I knew how to pray for abstract ideas, like peace in the world, but not how to pray for little miracles in my own small world. Many years passed before I finally asked. After I asked Him to reveal Himself to me and teach me how to lean on Him, He began to move in mysterious ways. He showed me how to be dependent so that I asked about every move in my life, because I needed His guidance so much at that time.

As God took care of these small problems I began to have faith that He was resolving the larger problems, though I had no proof yet of His response on those complicated issues.

Share Your Faith

When friends worry about me I tell them that I do have troubles as we all do but that I have so much evidence that God is working out problems for me that I have peace. When I share a story like this I usually get a faith story in return. God is so good at providing more than you can give away.

One friend shared with me that she couldn't get out of bed in the morning because she was so crippled with arthritis that her knees would give way. Then she began praying for healing. Now every morning she rolls out of bed and gets on her knees before she makes a move to do anything else and thanks God for her movement. As a result she leads an active life once again.

Another who is a pianist shared that she listened to a friend play "Precious Memories" on the piano and prayed to be able to play it in that same sweet way. God granted her prayer to play it exactly like she had wanted. She surprised us one night at Bible study with the result.

A missionary friend prays for guidance to know where she will be traveling next and goes where she is led, safe in the knowledge that God will carry her through crime-ridden streets, hurricanes, hostile customs agents, or classrooms of unruly children!

Another drives home from work during lonely midnight hours safe in the knowledge that God hears her prayers and those of the friends who pray for her to come home safely.

My daughter shared that when her son has a scraped knee it is natural for him to offer his pain to Jesus. It is so simple: "Please Jesus, my booboo." A sweet gentle calm will follow, for a time at least! I am then reminded that we as adults also may offer our heartaches to Jesus and He will calm our fears.

We can sustain each other if we share these stories. Jesus tells us, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

Read the Bible to Increase Your Faith

Shared experiences support the credibility of the experiences of Bible heroes like Daniel, Moses, Isaiah, and many others who had faith in God to bring them through trying circumstances.

Daniel joyfully informs King Darius "O king, live forever. My god hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him

innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt." (Daniel 6:21, 22)

Moses' prayer to God was a request for evidence: "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he [God] said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." (Exodus 33:18, 19)

Isaiah's prophetic words proclaim faith in the justice of the Lord: "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you." (Isaiah 35:4)

Please dear heavenly Father, may we continue to share with each other our faith-building knowledge and experiences which You have granted us, and may we remember to ask and may we teach our children to ask for Your gracious intervention in our lives. I ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Kay Stinson Glymph

[Kay is the mother of two grown children and the grandmother of two small ones. Formerly a part-time teacher of high school then college English, she writes from her childhood farm home where she is presently living in west Tennessee. She enjoys hiking in the fields around her home, accompanied by several furry friends including a very special Dalmatian named Spanky.]

(Continued from page 7)

My studies showed me that evil is anything that is against the will of God; it's any and all selfishness. Lord, help me with this great heart work! It's not simply behavior modification I need for my children; it's a "new heart," therefore, I need you to direct me in this warfare!

I experimented to apply what I was reading on union and communion with God. I took God with me in my home schooling endeavors. He would be the Principal and I would be the under-teacher. It was an excellent method. Christ did put thoughts in my mind how to direct my boys to a true-heart surrender. It takes time and effort. Without Christ I only gained outward conformity in obedience, but with Jesus leading, He obtained the heart of my sons and obedience. This obedience came from the heart, the inner man; how sweet it was. When Christ possessed the heart all unrighteous thoughts had to leave; all the I can'ts, I don't want tos, all fears of failure and all tears were cleansed away. With Christ on the throne of his heart righteous thoughts came in; I can do my math, I enjoy English, I'll get this done as quickly and as well as I can, let's see how good I can do on my math timed tests, I need not fear it. It's wonderful to have Jesus have my heart and gain the heart of my son in our day to day life. It's time well spent. Communication with Christ is as vital as breathing to sustain our life. *(To be concluded.)*

Sally Hohnberger

[Reprinted by permission of *A Voice From the Wilderness*, a publication of Restoration International, Inc., 14000 North Fork Road, Polebridge, MT 59928.]

Small Attentions, Oft Repeated

“Man’s work is from sun to sun, but woman’s work is never done!” What woman has not despaired because the food that she prepared yesterday has been eaten and everyone is hungry again. The dishes she washed yesterday have to be washed again today. The beds she made yesterday are all a-tumble this morning. The laundry she did last week and folded and put away so nicely—even her husband’s shirts, so recently ironed—are scrambled in a heap in the dirty-clothes hamper. Dust bunnies are rapidly multiplying under the beds and in the corners where she so carefully vacuumed (was it just last week?).

And then there are the larger jobs: the windows and mirrors that she worked so hard to make shiny-clear are again streaked and smudged, her feet are sticking to the floors that she scrubbed clean so recently, and the woodwork shows (again) the finger marks and smudges of small hands and even some big ones. The oven is already dirty again, and the burner pans on the stove top are crusty. All these “small attentions” have to be repeated over and over. It’s true (sigh); woman’s work is never done!



Can a solution be found? Are there ways to cope with the myriad tasks that must be done without feeling as if I am a slave to my house? I don’t give up easily, so I choose to believe there are!

Speaking for myself, the first part of the solution is my attitude. If I approach my household tasks as drudgery to be endured I will not find much joy or satisfaction in performing them, but if I view them as labors of love to make our surroundings more pleasant for my family and myself, the work at hand becomes delightfully fulfilling. Also, knowing that God loves order and beauty, it is my joy to cooperate with Him in making our home attractive in its order and cleanliness.

Another part of the solution may include involving other family members in my efforts to maintain a clean, orderly household. Most husbands are willing to take charge of some of the chores, so if I haven’t already enlisted his help I should (politely and graciously) ask him now! A general plea for his assistance may go unheeded, though, because he probably won’t have a clue as to what he can or should do. So I will need to think through my plan and develop a clear view of what I want him to do, and then be specific when I approach him.

Children should be taught at an early age to share in the workload of the home; not for pay but because they are a part of the family and all family members do their share. By the time they are teenagers they should, if the need arise, be able to run the household on their own.

All youngsters three years and older should have their own little chores to perform and, with adequate instructions and loving encouragement, they will learn to do them. How well I recall my grandson’s delight, as soon as he could walk, in carrying things to the trash basket for me and dropping them in! A simple thing, but he was learning to be helpful.

Certainly it requires an investment of time and effort for parents to train their children to perform their work efficiently and well, but they

will eventually reap the rewards of their investment. So will the children when they take their places in society as responsible adults with good work ethics.

Another part of the solution involves taking care of routine chores before they become major jobs; in other words, “small attentions oft repeated.” Doing a load of laundry every day can take the place of having to do many loads in one day. A quick daily swishing of the stove burner pans will save a major scrubbing to say nothing of a few fingernails. Cleaning one shelf of the refrigerator



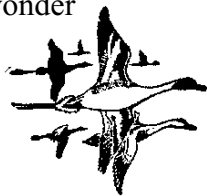
every day or so will result in the whole thing getting cleaned every week. Spraying and wiping down the shower every day prevents the build-up that requires a lot of time and elbow grease to remove. Sweeping the kitchen floor daily and cleaning up spills and drips immediately can delay for weeks the thorough scrubbing that it will eventually need.

If I clean the windows, inside and out, of one room each week, my windows will always be clean enough to see through, and clear enough to admit sunlight to brighten and cheer the corners inside my house and my mind! Thoroughly vacuuming and dusting one room each week along with a “once-over-lightly” of the rest will keep the whole house relatively dust-free.

(Continued on page 12)

HELP!

There are times in my life when I wonder
Why am I here?
My life seems so simple, so silly,
And sometimes full of fear.



But God, You said You had a plan
And though I cannot see
I must depend upon Your care
To keep me safe and free.

Time passes so quickly, the years are here and gone
In a twinkling of an eye.
I thank You, God, for Your tender care
As they go flying by.
Quiet my heart, clear my mind,
And stay Thou by my side.

You've given me such special friends,
And they add flavor to my life.
They're always there in time of need
To help me with my plight.

So thank You, God, for putting up with me
And all my silly ways,
And please, dear Lord, continue on
To guide me all my days.

Marilynn Dick

[Marilynn is a wife, mother and grandmother who has traveled and lived in different parts of the world, but now makes her home in the small town where she grew up in west Tennessee. Sharing her poetry with others is one of her favorite ways of sharing her abiding faith in God.]

Where Did the Summer Go?

What happened to the summer?
I really couldn't say—
I'm sure it must have taken wings
And quickly flown away.
Just yesterday was springtime,
A robin told me so.
How could it be September's here,
Where did the summer go?

What happened to that June night,
That sweet and happy thought,
The pleasant days of dreaming
That mid-July had brought?
Vacations long since over,
The winter just ahead,
The summer quickly fading,
And autumn glows instead.

What happened to the roses?
My goodness, they look blue,
Their petals slowly falling,
Their leaves are dying, too.
What happened? I've the answer!
It isn't strange at all—
Old Mother Nature's summer
Is changing into fall!

Author unknown

Day in Autumn

Dear Lord, forgive me if I cannot pray;
Your world was far too beautiful today!

I woke and heard a mockingbird's clear call,
And went far past my neighbor's garden wall,
Where high up in a gold-splashed poplar tree
The mockingbird sang on with ecstasy.
Its blue-gray breast shone brightly on that limb
As if the glory had been made for him.

And then because the maples were on fire,
Their golden flame filled me with keen desire
To drink in all the wonders I could find,
And leave all fret and worry far behind.



I followed slowly down an unknown road
That ran across the fields where sunlight showed
The Dogwood's jewels of burnt orange and red,
With sound of beating wings high overhead.

A brooklet's song was like a silver lute,
And apple orchards bent with crimson fruit.
The purple hills, like some great tapestry,
Were hung against the sky, and blinded me.

At last the wings of night came softly down
With stars like candles guiding me to town.

Dear Lord, forgive me if I cannot pray!
I was dazed by the splendor of Your world today!

Author unknown

(Continued from page 10)

Just remember: “Small attentions, oft repeated” on a daily basis, and the routine house cleaning practically takes care of itself! “Small attentions, oft repeated” soon become habits of life, and the resulting order around me is its own sweet reward.

There are some daily chores which, if I do them promptly, give me a feeling of really being in charge of my household and my time. That in itself is very energizing! For example, making the beds very early—before breakfast, even before I am dressed—gives me a sense of accomplishment with which to start my day! Putting the dishes away as soon as they are washed (or, if one is fortunate enough to have a dishwasher, as soon as they are dry) also gives me a mental boost. There’s just something about a clean, clutter-free kitchen counter that makes me feel good! So does getting up in the morning to a neat, orderly living area, so I like to pick up the newspapers, magazines, books, etc., that accumulate during the day or evening, and put them in their proper places before bedtime.

No doubt many other suggestions could be made, shortcuts described, techniques utilized that would make the job of “housewife” easier and more rewarding. (And

every married woman is a housewife, whether or not she is employed outside the home.)

While I am striving to keep my home clean and orderly though, I must remember that “small attentions, oft repeated” are also required to maintain a clean, clutter-free relationship with Jesus. I must be careful to give Him first and last places on my daily agenda, inviting Him into my heart and life each morning; and remembering to discuss my day with him in the evening. Then as I go about my work with a song of praise to Him in my heart and on my lips, even the dirtiest and most boring tasks may be performed joyfully as unto the Lord. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Amanda Mallory

[Amanda Mallory is the pen name of the author. Perhaps you have some helpful suggestions that Amanda didn’t touch on. Please share them with us. The Editors]

Hearth to Hearth is published bi-monthly and sent free upon request. Voluntary donations are appreciated. Managing Editor: Grace Cox, 68 Skiff Barton Rd., Trenton, TN 38382, (901) 855-4805, hearth@iswt.com. Layout & Design Editor: Esther McDaniel, 1420 Johnson Rd., Chunky, MS 39323, (601) 655-8813, emcdan1274@prodigy.net. Printed by Smyrna Gospel Ministries.

Hearth to Hearth Ministry

**68 Skiff Barton Road
Trenton, Tennessee 38382
U.S.A.**

Address Service Requested

**Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Trenton TN
Permit No. 47**