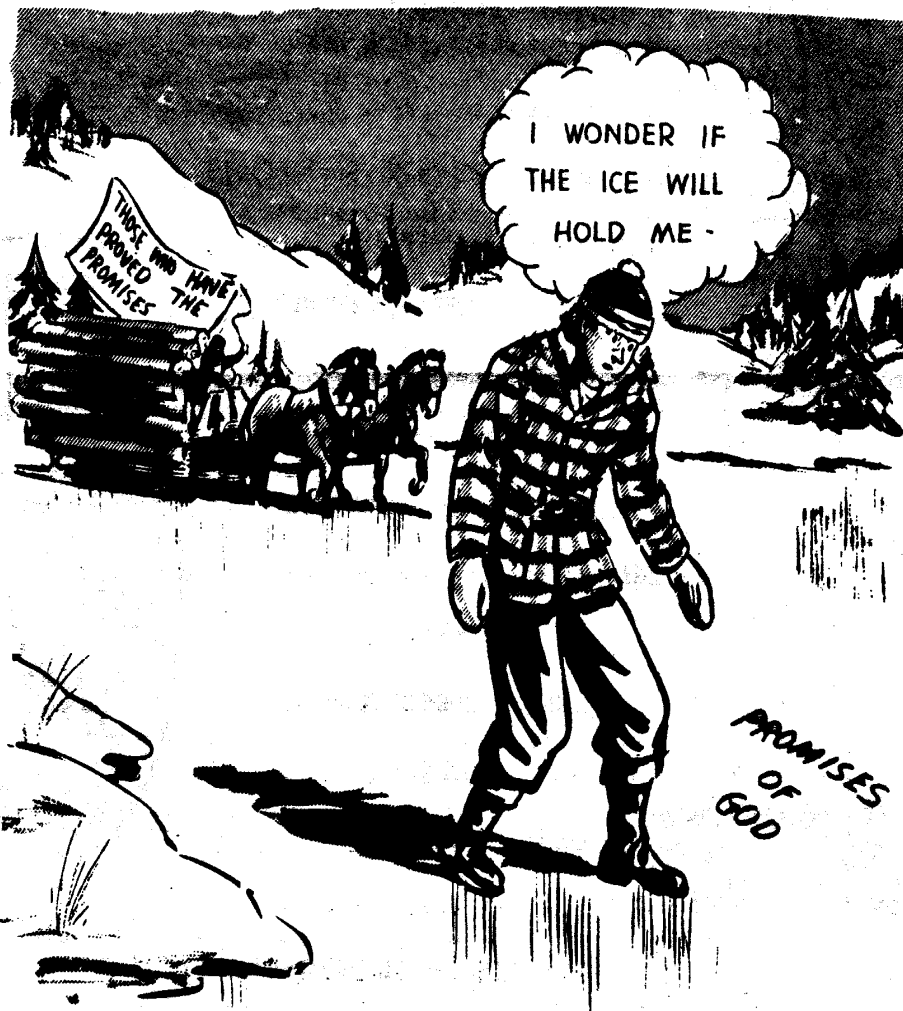


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Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.
Prov. 29:25

LIFE, ABUNDANT LIFE

Dr. Edith R. Grimes

Babies are a miracle of life and everyone loves them. It is a new life that has been wonderfully conceived in the womb and then brought forth. It is a little person with great potential for good or evil. The real purpose is to bring glory to God.

The Abundant Life consists of two births. Jesus talked to Nicodemus about them. Nicodemus was a religious man but not a son of God. His religion was not enough. Jesus knew all about him and that he needed to be regenerated. The Law was not enough, he needed abundant life.

Jesus said "You must be born again". How? There are two births necessary. The first is our natural birth of flesh and water. It produces the old sinful Adamic nature. David said "Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me". (Psa.51:5) It is an old corrupt nature under the sentence of death, for the wages of sin is death. (Rom.6:23) It makes a person the child of the devil or Satan (Jn.8:44).

The second birth is the New Birth that produces a sinless nature, that is divine and righteous. Now we are clothed in Christ's righteousness because Jesus was made sin for us. God sees us now thro' the righteousness of Christ not thro' our own righteousness because we have none. (2 Cor.5:21; 2 Peter 1:4)

The Abundant Life is a life seperated unto the Gospel of God. A life that has come out from the world, seperated by Salvation unto service for God, clothed in Christ's righteousness and looking for His coming.

A Spirit-filled life is an abundant life. In ourselves we are weak and immature but when we are new creatures in Christ Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit we can truly say, "I can do all things thro' Christ who strengtheneth me".

The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness for the Lord and gives us real joy. He directs our steps and helps us to truly walk in the Spirit. He gives us power for service and strength and protection in the time of persecution.

The Abundant Life is a life of service for the Lord. One of the requirements for this is to voluntarily surrender your life to the

perfect Will of God. It is an act of faith. To present our whole body, soul and spirit to the Lord because He redeemed the whole man on the cross. Now He desires that we present it as a living sacrifice to His service. (Rom.12:1)

Paul was truly a living sacrifice, a servant of Jesus Christ. In battle he was a warrior. In the will of God he was a prisoner of Jesus Christ, not a prisoner of Rome. In death he was victorious. What a wonderful life! (2 Tim.4:7,8)

The Abundant Life is mature and developed in the Lord. (2 Pet. 3:18) In the Word of God we find three stages of spiritual growth. First we have the baby stage that lives on milk. Their main concern is for themselves. They cry when they cannot get what they want and are easily hurt. They cannot eat strong meat nor wait on others. They have not developed yet and do not know how to talk clearly. They are carnal and look on things from the natural.

The little child stage is also concerned about self. They are sometimes untruthful, envious and cruel. If they are rebuked they consider themselves martyr's. ~~If you cross them they become resentful~~ and make an emotional scene. Usually they repeat everything they hear without using wisdom. They will accept praise from any source and love it. Are you in the child stage spiritually?

Few attain to the Young Man stage. These are strong and well able to overcome the enemy. They have a vision for the future and faith and courage to carry it out. He does all he can to prepare himself by storing the Word of God in his heart. He has put away childish things and is growing up and maturing well.

The Father stage is within reach of all but very few attain it. He has the true peace of God and rejoices in spiritual children. (1 Thess.2:20) He has learned contentment under all circumstances (Phil.4:1). He knows the only source of true strength. Like Paul said "I can do all things thro' Christ which strengtheneth me". (Phil. 4:13) He also knows that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord. (Rom.8:28) He truly enjoys abundant life now and in the life to come.

You are living beneath your priviledges if you are a believer and not enjoying the abundant life. For as a child of God with a new nature,

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filled with the Holy Spirit. Separated from the world and sin, unto God and His direct will. Empowered by the Holy Spirit for service then are you enjoying abundant life? Let the Holy Spirit have His way and direct your steps. Joy, peace and blessing will be yours.

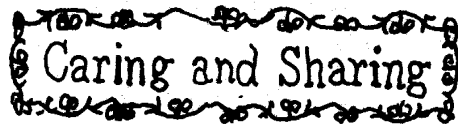
MONEY FROM HEAVEN
Elsie R. Springfield

Back when I was young, my father was an Evangelist. We travelled from Church to Church holding meetings. One time we ran out of money for gass and food. I heard my parents talking about having no money. Mother said "the Lord will provide". They decided to stop in the next little town because that was as far as our gass would take us. When we got to the town we drove past a little church and one of my parents s said, "Why don't we stop and go to their meeting?" We went in and sat down.

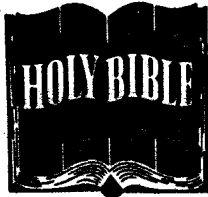
The Pastor of the Church came and shook hands and introduced himself. My father introduced us then the Pastor asked how come we were in their town. Then my father explained that he was a travelling Evangelist on his way through town. The minister asked him if he would preach the evening service. He said he would be glad to. The people really enjoyed it.

After the sermon was over, the pastor got up and said the Lord laid it on his heart to take up an offering to help us with our expenses. I remember it was just enough money to feed us and get us to our next place for meetings.

The Lord does provide!



What a lot can be done through unity and co-operation! How we need each other! What a lot can be done to "getting the Word out" when we all work together! Enough money has come in to reprint one Book but there are more that need to be done. Your donations are appreciated!



THE REVELATION
By Dr. Albert Grimes
Part Four



THE NICOLAITANS

Rev.2:6 "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate". The word "Nicolaitans" is broken into two parts and means "to conquer" - "the people".

There are two principal explanations of this term. The first relates to a sect coming from Nicholas, a proselyte of Antioch, one of seven deacons of Acts 6:5.

The Nicolaitans taught that in order to minister sensuality, one must know the whole range of it by experience. That he should therefore abandon himself without reserve to the lusts of the body, since they concern only the body and did not touch the spirit. These heretics were hated and expelled by the church of Ephesus in Rev. 2:6.

The other explanation relates to the ~~priestly system~~ that began to invade the church. The form of Church Government was changed, from collective eldership to the system of Bishops ruling over churches.

St. Jerome 340-420, author of the Latin Vulgate said "The elders is identical with the Bishops." Before this parties had so multiplied under diabolical influence, the churches were governed by a council of elders.

This was the beginning of the system of priesthood and bishops, who had authority over churches or districts. An Arch-bishop is a chief bishop who is over the bishops and the Cardinals. Seventy of these Officials are appointed to the Pope Council and they elect the new Pope. It is this system which was in the beginning stages that was to rule over the people.

The Promise To The Church

Rev. 2:7 "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches". He that hath ears, are those who have a disposition to receive truth. They will receive it when it is given to them."To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life which is

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in the midst of the paradise of God". The word "overcometh" has always been related to persons who have some special spiritual experience which classifies them as an overcomer.

It is true that the Word relates to those who gain the victory as overcomers but it must be understood that we overcome or gain the victory not by what we do but by what we believe as stated in 1 John 5:4,5 "For whatever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God!"

There are seven promises given to overcomers and all relate to the completeness of what God has for us. Those who are overcomers make up the true Church out of every age. This age is an age of relaxation.

THE MESSAGE TO SMYRNA

Rev. 2:8-11. The church under persecution. Again we see how Christ introduces Himself to this church in Rev. 2:8. "And unto the angel of the church of Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead and is alive;"

It is evident according to the message given to this church that its members were about to come under great persecution, even to death. Christ was assuring them of the fact that he had already overcome death, and it could hold no terror for them.

Christ has no condemnation for this church, but commends them regarding their riches in spiritual things. Rev.2:9 "I know thy works and tribulation and poverty, but thou art rich!" Like most believers in the early church the majority of its members were of the poorer classes and they were many times robbed by their persecutors. "And I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are of the Synagogue of Satan". These Jews were being used of Satan to revile and persecute believers. As a church they were to suffer more persecution as stated in vs.10. "Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days:" This ten days of persecution may predict the ten different persecutions that came upon the early church by the Roman Imposters until Constantine.

(over)

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of Life!" This message is prophetic in the fact that it relates to the time the church came under persecution of the worst kind.

Again we are to understand the meaning of the name "Smyrna". It means "Myrrh" or "Bitter". It comes from a plant, when crushed produces a fragrant smell.

THE PROMISE

Rev. 2:11 "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." This is the reason why Christ introduces Himself in Rev.2:8 as "He who was dead and is alive". He had overcome death and because of this victory, no believer who died under persecution would be hurt of the second death.

The second death is referred to as being cast into the Lake of Fire in Rev. 21:8. Or in other words eternally separated from God. But these believers were promised a Crown of Life.

THE MESSAGE TO PERGAMOS

Rev. 2:12-17. The Church settled in the World. This was the reason why Christ introduces Himself as He does in vs.12. "And to the angel of the church of Pergamos write; These things saith he that hath the sharp sword with two edges;"

The City in which this Church existed has been described as a Pagan Cathedral City. It contained a celebrated and much frequented temple of a Pagan God, who was worshipped in the form of a living serpent fed in the Temple.

It is taught that the Babylonian cults had also settled in Pergamos. This would account for the words of the Lord in vs.13. "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat (throne) is" Because of these pagan cults Satan had been able to establish a throne, a place of authority in this city.

"And thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth".

(to be continued)

9.

ALL IT CAN BE



Lord, I need to talk, there's been something on my heart all day.

It weighs heavy and I want to turn it over to you right away.

I know you are so powerful, I know you are so great,

But why, oh why is there still so much hate much hate?

There's hate in this world, even hate in my mind.

I long for that day when only love I will find.

But this world never stops with its lieing and sin,

And more each day I feel it trying to pull me in.

It scares me sometime, though I know that it shouldn't.

You have control of my life and give it away you wouldn't.

So take my life and make it all it can be.

I can withhold nothing, take all of me.

Break my mind, break my body, break my being,

Continue the heartache until only on you can I lean.

And when that day comes, only then will I know,

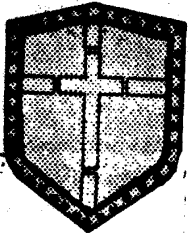
That my work is completed and home I can go.

(over)

Until then give me strength to proceed
on this earth,
To spread the good news about your
Son's birth.

I have chosen to love you, and
love you I do,
I would be no where without you.

Truly, to live a full life you
are the key,
So once again I ask, make my life
all it can be.



George Springfield (17)

**WORDS OF
WISDOM**

MY PACESTER

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.

He makes me to stop for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness
which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency through
through calmness of mind,
And His guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to
accomplish each day,

I will not fret, for His presence is here.

His timelessness, His all-importance will
keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment in the midst of my activity
by anointing my mind with His oil of tranquility.

My cup of joyous energy overflows

11.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be
the fruit of my hours,

And I shall walk in the pace of the Lord
and dwell in His presence forever.

Author Unknown



NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to Joe and Lois Cummings on the birth of their daughter, Stacie Noelle, born Dec. 11, 1984. She weighed 7lbs, 4 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Elsie and I had the privilege of having Joe and little Daniel, who is almost two now, come to visit us for a few hours last Thursday. What a fine, well behaved, little man Daniel is!

Ben & Desiree Hirsch are real busy. Ben is finishing the last year of his Bachelor of Theology degree from Life Bible College and is working ~~full time at Security Pacific Bank. He has recently been promoted to~~ the position of Assistant Vice President. Congratulations Ben!

Desiree is completing her coursework for a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Cal State, L.A. and is still teaching 4th graders in Monterey Park. They attend the Four Square Church in Eagle Rock. An interest in your prayers for their future after June would be appreciated as they would like to work for the Lord according to the way He directs.

George (17), my grandson, is joining the Marines and expects to go to Boot Camp in June after he Graduates from his Senior year. He went for his physical and passed with 100% except for a hernia which has to be removed. He is to have surgery in three or four weeks. It will cost about \$2,000,00. They have no health Insurance. Pray God will provide for this need. Phil. 4:19 is still true.

Mike & Sue Behan are getting settled in their new house in Fairview Heights, Ill. They would appreciate you keeping his Mother in you prayers for healing.

"Crusader"

Christian Training Center
1967

