

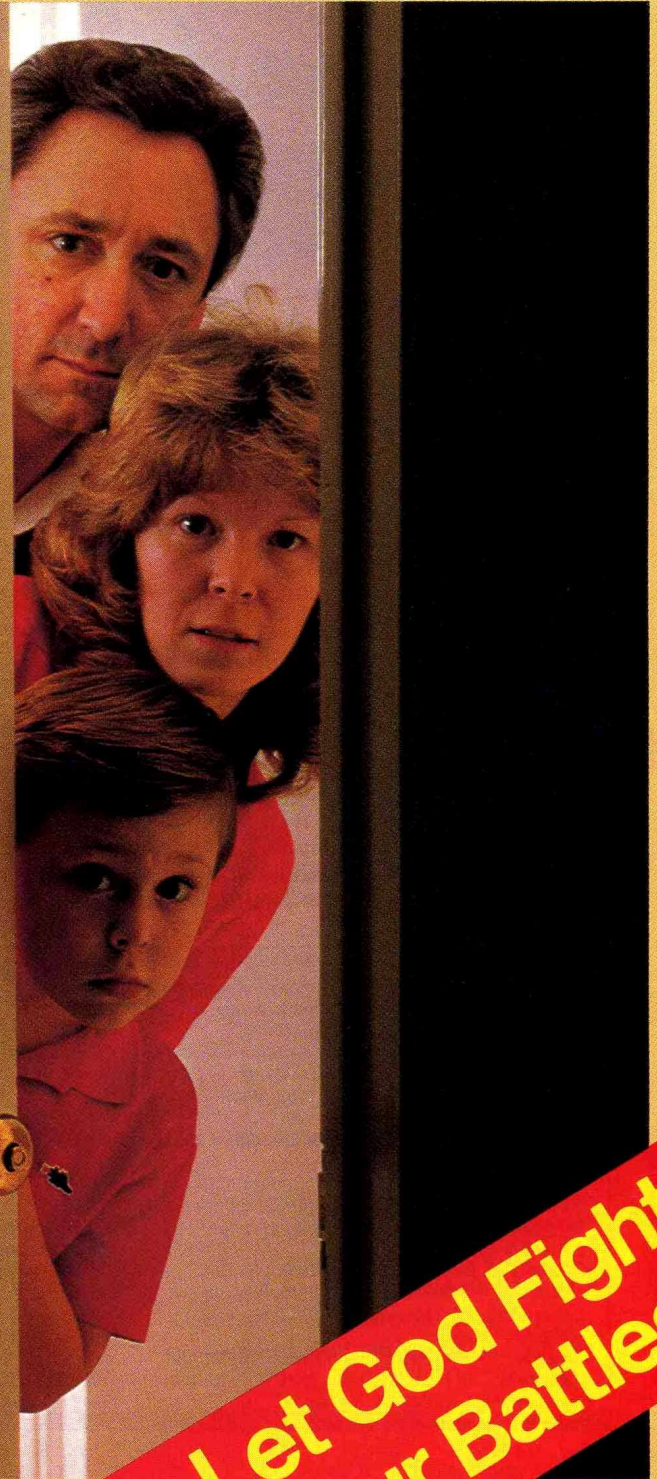
MARCH 1985

# The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

**THERE'S  
A HIDDEN  
ENEMY  
IN YOUR  
HOME!**

See Page 3



**Let God Fight  
Your Battles!**



PERSONAL FROM



# Let God Fight Your Battles!

**T**he world you live in today is a very *troubled* world. You not only have your own *personal* problems, but you also suffer from the deliberate **OPPOSITION** and **ANTAGONISM** of the world around you.

It is time you considered how to conquer these troubles — how to be **FREE** from them — how to let **GOD** fight your battles instead!

## **One lesson not yet learned**

First, *understand this*: If the **WORLD** today is not happy — if world conditions are in a chaotic state, if lives are empty and purposeless, if minds are filled with fears and worries, bodies wracked with sickness and disease — **THERE IS A REASON!**

Conditions are *exactly what we make them!*

Mortal **HUMANS**, groping in the darkness of confusion, have made conditions what they are. Humanity is **REAPING** what it has **SOWN!** Only the direct and all-powerful supernatural intervention of **ALMIGHTY GOD** can deliver this world from *all* its troubles.

What the world doesn't know is that God will not cause *its present ways of wrong living* to bring any *human* utopia. Rather, **GOD ALMIGHTY WILL SOON HAVE TO STEP IN AND RULE OVER THE WORLD** — bringing it

INTO THE *WAYS* of His just laws, which *alone* can produce this happy **TOMORROW!**

**WE, TOO, AS GOD'S PEOPLE, HAVE LESSONS TO LEARN.** Even though stubborn and rebellious mankind brings upon the world even **DARKER** days in the immediate future, **REMEMBER** — it's **DARKEST** just before **DAWN**. Take hope in the **SURE** knowledge *that* the *new* world of **GOD'S** making — and **RULING** — is **VERY** near today!

But in the meantime, what about **YOU** and your own private life and problems?

Let us consider some of *your own private*, personal **TROUBLES**. I know that you have them! And I want to *tell* you something — I want to tell you **GOOD** news. **YOU** are carrying a lot of worries and fears and troubles *that you don't need to carry!*

Life is simply filled with private, personal battles. We have to battle fears and worries. Sometimes it seems we have to battle **PEOPLE** who appear to be enemies — often it's a husband, a wife or a mother-in-law — and whether you realize it or not, **YOU** also have to battle **YOURSELF!**

It is like having to fight a host of **ENEMIES** — all these **TROUBLES**, these **CIRCUMSTANCES**, these adverse **CONDITIONS**, these **TEMPTATIONS!** But there is a way you may **FREE** yourself from these troubles that confront you. There is a **WAY OUT!** You can be **FREE** from fighting all of these enemies except just **ONE** — your own self — and you can receive a lot of

**HELP** and **KNOWLEDGE** and **POWER** in doing that!

Here's where that help can be found!

## **Jesus Christ is the deliverer**

The eternal Creator-**RULER** of the universe — the God who gives you the very air you breathe — sent His own begotten **SON**, Jesus Christ, into this world more than 1,900 years ago to **BRING YOU THE WAY OF DELIVERANCE** from all your trials, your worries, your problems.

**WHY**, then, do some of you not **LISTEN** to the way He taught us? And **WHY** do so many people think of Him as a dead Christ hanging on a cross? **GOD ALMIGHTY RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD!**

Jesus Christ is our **LIVING Savior** and **High Priest**, just as the Creator is a **LIVING RULER** of **ALL THE UNIVERSE!**

**DO YOU REALIZE THAT JESUS CHRIST, THE LIVING, RESURRECTED CHRIST, TO WHOM IS GIVEN ALL POWER, HAS A PRESENT MISSION TO PERFORM?** Do you realize that His present mission is to **FIGHT YOUR BATTLES FOR YOU** — to **DELIVER YOU** — to **FREE** you from all your fears, your **TROUBLES** and *even the circumstances that beset you?*

*Thousands* of you would come to *me* for help in your troubles if I had time to see and talk to you — you'd come with husband-and-wife troubles, funeral troubles — every kind of trouble. Yes, you'd come to *me* because I'm *human*



— one you can *see* — whose voice you *hear*.

But *because* I'm only human, I have not the ability, the strength nor the *TIME* to render such a personal ministry to so many in different parts of the world.

Now think this over carefully, and *ANSWER THIS!* *WHY* do you fight your *own* battles, when *HE* — the *LIVING Savior* — is living in *ALL POWER* to fight them for you?

He's *REAL*. He's *DIVINE*. *WHY* do some of you go on worrying, when *HE* is right there in *ALL THE POWER OF THE DIVINE CREATOR* to *FREE* you from all your worries?

*WHY?* There is one of two reasons. Either you have not fully *KNOWN* of this great, all-encompassing *DIVINE SOURCE OF POWER* that *YOU* can call on at will — you have not *REALIZED* what *ALL-CONQUERING HELP* you can have — or else you have, through lack of faith or neglect, *FAILED* to *CALL ON* that supernatural *HELP* in your times of need!

*CAN* I open your eyes to see that God is a God of *LOVE* — that God in all His supreme power wills above all things for you to *PROSPER* and *BE IN HEALTH* and to find the way to the *HAPPY, FULL, ABUNDANT LIFE*? That Jesus Christ is a *LIVING SAVIOR*, to whom you can go *AT ALL TIMES* — a Savior to save you from your present everyday fears and worries, adverse circumstances, troubles, sicknesses and trials, as well as to save you from eternal *DEATH* at the end?

Notice what Scripture commands: "Let us therefore *come boldly* to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find *grace to help in time of need*" (Hebrews 4:16).

### **God is interested in your life now**

God's salvation is *NOT* something you collect *only* after you die — *IT IS A PRACTICAL, COMMONSENSE, USEFUL* salvation that starts in your everyday life *RIGHT HERE AND NOW!*

What *needless* pains some have been suffering. What *NEEDLESS*

fears and worries *you* may have been carrying around. What *WONDERFUL TIMES* — what *HAPPINESS* you may have cheated yourself out of, just because you have not *REALIZED* and taken advantage of the very *PRESENT* and all-powerful *HELP* of your *LIVING Savior!*

Actually what is happening is that you may have found yourself faced with foes far more powerful than you. These foes may come in forms of troubles, of unforeseen circumstances, of worries, of sicknesses or even of other persons. These foes *NEED* not make your life unhappy.

### **Old Testament illustration**

Did you ever really think through the full meaning of I Corinthians 10:11 — that the incidents in the lives of God's people of Old Testament times were written into the Bible for *OUR LEARNING AND HELP*?

I want now to turn to the experience of a man who lived in that time. This man found that he could *RELY* on the almighty *GOD*. This man was faced with a *FAR* more terrifying trouble than has ever beset you. He found the *HAPPY SOLUTION*. His experience will show you what *YOU* can do, this very day!

Once you *UNDERSTAND*, you will have to learn to *TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD* — *TO CALL UPON GOD IN PRAYER* — you will have to *ASK GOD* for what you need — and you may have to learn how to *PRAY*.

*GOD ALMIGHTY* will actually *intervene in your life* and help *YOU* and fight *YOUR* battles for you. Remember, God is no respecter of persons. He will not do more for one than another. He will do as much for *YOU* as for any person who ever lived. He will do as much for *you* — if you obey Him and *rely* on Him — as for any ancient king of Israel or Judah!

You may have a problem that completely overwhelms you. You may be at your wit's end — you may not know where to turn or what to do! It may be a family problem, a personal problem, a

financial problem, a problem of sickness or disease.

But let me tell you now as Jesus Christ's apostle of a man who came upon a situation probably far more terrifying than yours — one that would throw fright and terror into the stoutest heart.

The solution this man used will solve *YOUR* problems — put an *END* to *your* troubles. The same God who heard and delivered him will hear and deliver you — *IF* you will obey Him and trust Him.

The fact that this man was an ancient king makes no difference. God is no respecter of persons — He will do as much for *YOU*. God is the *SAME* today and tomorrow as He was yesterday.

This man was King Hezekiah of the ancient kingdom of *JUDAH*. He was an ordinary human mortal, the same as *YOU* today.

### **God intervenes for a man**

The vast armies of Assyria were marching westward and southward to invade Judah. The Jews were greatly outnumbered. They had no army or power to stand up against such a powerful foe.

They were *HELPLESS*. They faced certain defeat — just as *YOU* may feel *HELPLESS* in the face of your troubles today.

If some of *you* try to solve *your* problem or overcome your bad habits or resist sin in nothing more than your *OWN* power and strength, you, too, will find yourself outnumbered, overpowered and doomed to defeat!

You must learn, as this ancient king did, that *GOD* stands ready and willing to fight your battles for you.

Read his experience in II Chronicles 32, from the Moffatt translation:

"It was after this, after all this loyal service, that Sancherib king of Assyria invaded Judah, besieging the fortified towns and meaning to seize them. When Hezekiah saw that Sancherib had come determined to attack Jerusalem, he and his nobles and his chiefs

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# There's a Hidden Enemy in Your Home!

*Have we been overlooking  
the very first lesson in true Christian living?*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**here's an enemy in your home, probably. You haven't seen this enemy. He's right in your family — he's made you all suffer — he's broken up many families, caused untold suffering and a world of unhappiness.

But you never saw him. He's kept hidden from your sight.

It's high time you opened your eyes and took a good look at him, so you can recognize him for the villain he is.

The psychologists call him "emotional immaturity."

But that's something many people know nothing about. It's something "educated" people talk and write about, but seldom understand.

What is emotional maturity?

It is not something to be learned about by college graduates. It is something that ought to be taught in the first grade — and taught to 4-, 6- and 8-year-olds in the home. It is the technical art of putting into practice the Ten Commandments. It is the real secret to human happiness. *But it is just not taught!* How,

after all, can parents teach their children, when they themselves are emotionally immature? How can teachers instill emotional maturity in children when they have not grown up emotionally themselves?

Yet here is the real secret of ability to *live* the Ten Commandments. It's the real secret to Christian living and perfection. It's the real distinguishing mark of the truly educated person.

That it is not realized and instilled in children while they are growing up — that it is not a required basic course of training in all colleges — is a terrible indictment against education, religion, society.

One author defines emotional maturity as development from the state of taking to the state of giving. Taking is the way of Satan. Giving is the way of God, and the principle of His law. LOVE is *giving*. A little baby learns, generally, only how to *take*. He will take his bottle, his rattle, his toy. It becomes his human nature to *take*. Humans know absolutely NOTHING at birth. But a baby responds to Satan's negative influence, develops a selfish nature and begins to reach out to *take* whatever attracts or tempts

him. Humans must be *taught* to give. Giving is something that *has to be* LEARNED. But how many begin teaching their babies this principle — the very *principle* of God's law and of true love?

## **What we overlook**

Let us define it further. All human beings are actuated by their emotions. But do we ever stop to ask and analyze what *are* these emotions?

An emotion is a strong *feeling* — a disturbance — a departure from the normal calm state of rational thinking and acting — an *impulse* toward an action that has not been reasoned and approved by the mind.

Among the emotions are such feelings or impulses as fear, anger, disgust, grief, joy, surprise, yearning.

And first cousin to emotion are our *moods*. An emotionally immature person is usually one who is moody and has never learned to control his moods.

More and more I am impressed that one of the most important truths we humans overlook is that human beings are not equipped with instinct, like dumb animals, to guide us into the proper



course. Animals do not have the mind power, knowledge, ability to reason and mentally direct their actions. God endowed them, instead, with instinct that guides them along in the channel He intended.

God endowed man, in His own image, with MIND. Man must first learn and acquire knowledge. He is endowed, also, with capacity to reason from that knowledge — to think, to plan, to arrive at conclusions, to make decisions. God intended man's mind to direct his actions. But man must *learn* to do this, and he can never achieve God's PURPOSE in placing him on this earth until he does.

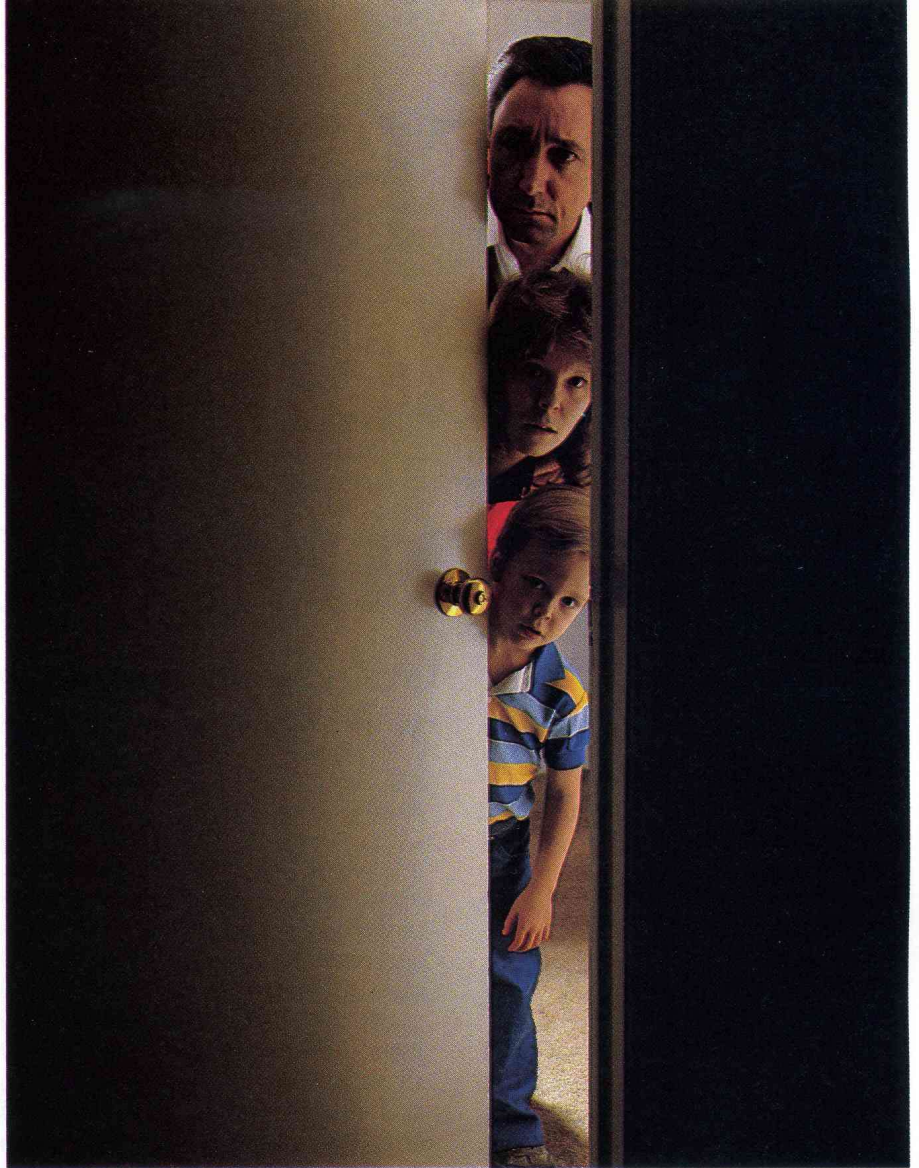
The development of right CHARACTER is the purpose of human life. And character is ability to come to right knowledge and wisdom and then to direct the mind and body into this right course. But we poor humans act as though we believed man to be merely the highest of the dumb brutes — as if man were equipped with instinct, and the purpose of life were merely to ENJOY such feelings, sensations, emotions and moods as impulse attracts us to, *without thinking or mental direction!*

#### A tragic case

I once knew a tragic example, a man highly educated, whose life had been devoted to the field of education, assuming readily the responsibility of teaching others, when he himself had not learned this central truth of life.

His mind was stored with knowledge of science, history, mathematics, literature. He had knowledge of facts about the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars. He had acquired knowledge about many other *things*, but not about *himself* — his moods, his feelings, his drives, impulses and desires. He had not stopped to study and analyze them, let alone learn to control them.

As a child he had been pampered, petted, spoiled — permitted to have his way, never taught self-restraint, self-control or how to understand his moods, feelings and desires, and to control and



Emotional maturity is the key to human happiness. It's the secret to Christian living and perfection. It's the distinguishing mark of the truly educated person.

guide them according to the sound reasoning of the *mind*, instead of impulsively following them without mental direction.

He was married, had a fine family, an honored position with rare opportunities. But letting *feelings, moods, impulses* dominate his mind, instead of making his mind rationally and wisely direct them, his marriage crashed, his home was broken up and he fled in fear from his high position and brilliant future.

He not only wrecked his own life, he forced great sorrow, unhappiness and suffering on many others. His emotions had so

dominated his mind that he came to see circumstances through the eyes of his feelings, and his understanding became warped and distorted.

Physically he grew to normal maturity, and was reasonably proficient in athletics. He possessed a number of university degrees. He was mentally mature so far as this world's faulty education instructs. But, emotionally, he was still somewhere between ages 8 and 12! And, sadly, his spiritual age was no older.

The great tragedy of our generation is that nearly all people mature physically, perhaps half to

Photo by Nathan Faulkner



two thirds mature mentally, *but very few ever grow up emotionally or spiritually.*

One is not a fully mature man or woman, as God intended, until *emotional and spiritual* maturity has been reached!

### **Should start in child training**

The time to start this emotional "growing up" is the same time mental training is begun. It should be started *in the home*, within the first months of a child's life.

Parents, **STUDY** your own children. Remember that training of the emotions involves control and right direction of feelings, tempers, impulses. It means control over anger, jealousy, hatred, fear, grief, resentment, selfishness, vanity. And since the **RIGHT** direction is the way of God's law — and since that is the way of **LOVE**, and love is the principle of giving instead of taking — it means the teaching of your children to use their own minds to understand their moods and guiding them in the direction of **GIVING** — of love toward others, equal with love toward self.

Yelling, loud talking, bursts of temper, rudeness — all these are lack of emotional "growing up." Emotional immaturity is simply letting human nature run sway without any control from a right-thinking, reasoning mind. Teach your children to let their **MINDS** direct their natures properly and wisely.

I remember the first funeral I was called on to officiate. At funerals many people let their emotions of grief run uncontrolled. A great fear seized me. I was afraid I would not be able to keep calm and control my own feelings, and I knew I must do that and, with calm tenderness and sympathy, comfort the bereaved. I was much younger then, and in the emotional struggle that went on inside my mind over ability to carry this responsibility, I began to go to pieces.

I announced to my family I just couldn't do it. We were at the time visiting in my father's home, and he came over to me,

put his hands on my shoulders, and calmly shook me, saying in a voice of authority with which he had not spoken to me since I was a child: "Here! Snap out of it! This is your responsibility! This family is broken up in sorrow, and they are relying on you. You can't back out of it! Wake up! Come to yourself! Get a grip on yourself! You *are* going through with this, and you're going to do it with credit and calm dignity and sincerity!"

That, I remember, sobered and calmed me and brought me back to my right senses, and I replied quietly, "Yes, Dad, of course I will."

Then I went to a private room, closed the door and talked to my heavenly Father about it, and received from Him the emotional control I had lacked for this ordeal — and that first funeral *was* an ordeal. But when I literally placed myself in God's hands as His instrument, He used me, and the words He spoke through my mouth resulted in the conversion of the bereaved parents.

I found it difficult, as I was later more and more frequently called upon to officiate at funerals, to so control my own emotions as to achieve right *balance* — that outer calmness, without going to the opposite extreme of hardening my senses so that I would not feel proper sympathy. It was through God's help and much prayer that I was able to achieve emotional control, with dignity and poise, yet with extreme tenderness, gentleness and heartfelt sympathy for those in sorrow, so that I could give them the help they needed in their greatest trial, and still not break down with them.

### **Emotion in religion**

Surely no one can achieve real Christian growth and perfection until he has acquired emotional stability. Our tempers, feelings, emotions were given to us for a purpose! They are not to be nullified — merely intelligently *guided* by mind control into the proper channels of God's law!

Of all the phases of life, there

is none in which emotional immaturity is more apparent than in religion.

Here, too, people are prone to go to extremes. Either they deliberately work up the emotions to a frenzy or they make their religion a wholly mental expression, restraining the emotions and feelings entirely.

Many, usually the more illiterate or at least less educated, follow a religion that is almost wholly emotional. In "meeting," the preachers say nothing that is thought provoking, but only that which is emotion arousing. They do not teach or instruct, they generate unrestrained emotion.

They ask the congregation such questions as "Are you *happy?*" — echoed by thunderous "Amens" or shouts of "HALLELUJAH!" The main job of the preacher is to generate wild shouting, uncontrolled emotion, until the whole congregation is out of control in a frenzy of fanatical exuberance.

Then there are the more quiet emotional sects — but who also accept the counterfeit of sentimentality and emotion for deep spirituality. Indeed it seems *most* fundamentalist groups accept one form or another of **EMOTION** in place of true spirituality.

But emotion is not spirituality. Emotion is *physical* reaction. While a certain emotional reaction *should* naturally follow true and deep spiritual experience, nevertheless it is a physical reaction *from* that experience and is not, in itself, spiritual experience. Emotion is produced by the nervous system of the fleshly body. It is, therefore, of the **FLESH**, not of the **SPIRIT**!

The Holy Spirit of God is given only to those who **OBEY** God (Acts 5:32). Most religious bodies who mistake the emotional counterfeit for genuine spirituality preach that "God's law is done away" — preach a doctrine of "salvation without works," by which they mean without obedience to God or to God's law.

No one is a real Christian unless he has received and is  
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between Satan's broad, all-encompassing, something-for-everybody way to destruction and God's narrow way that leads to life (verses 13-14).

But the devil doesn't want you to know that. He wants you to think that what makes the difference is whether or not a church "preaches Christ" and believes Christ is the Savior. He doesn't want you to know you can believe Jesus Christ is the Savior, even worship Him, all in vain (Matthew 7:21-23, Mark 7:7)!

### Don't trust appearances

Satan is an expert in making evil look good. By compromising he can take something that is evil and combine it with enough good to make it look perfectly innocent. His strategy is to use disguise (Matthew 7:15). He made Eve believe that the innocent-looking but forbidden fruit was good for her (Genesis 3:1-6). When he tried to get Jesus to disobey God, he quoted good, valid scriptures (Matthew 4:6).

But beware: A glass of good water with a few drops of cyanide in it still looks like an innocent, perfectly good glass of water.

Satan is deceitful. Your only hope of not being fooled by him is to study and believe God's Word and obey God's laws. You need to ask for God's Holy Spirit to give you light and understanding.

Do what Satan doesn't want you to do: Surrender to God. Then "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

That's how to get rid of Satan's influence in your life. That's how to come to the place where you can make the same victorious statement Jesus made when He declared concerning the devil, "He has nothing in Me" (John 14:30)!

For more information on this powerful and supremely evil being known as Satan the devil, send for our free booklet *Did God Create a Devil?* It contains much more that Satan definitely doesn't want you to know! Just use the literature request envelope or write to our mailing address nearest you. □

## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

agreed to stop the water of the fountains outside the town. . . .

"Then, appointing officers over the citizens, he gathered them in the open space at the gate of the city, and encouraged them. 'Be firm,' he said, 'be brave, be not daunted nor dismayed for the king of Assyria or for all his host; we have with us One greater than all he has; he has a mortal force, but we have with us the Eternal our God, to help us and to fight our battles'" (verses 1-3, 6-8).

Continuing: "His officers said even worse things against God the Eternal and his servant Hezekiah.

tains, in the camp of the king of Assyria, till he had to go home in disgrace. He [later] went into the temple of his god, and there his own offspring murdered him with their swords. So the Eternal rescued Hezekiah and the citizens of Jerusalem from Sancherib the king of Assyria as well as from all other foes, *protecting them on every side*" (verses 21-22).

That experience was written into the very WORD OF GOD for *your* learning and to SHOW YOU THE WAY TODAY! Perhaps YOU are faced with a foe more powerful than you. It may be some TEMPTATION. It may be some circumstance or condition or trouble. Some serious WORRY.

Then let me ask you, WHAT

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If you will let GOD have HIS way in *your* life, then you will have begun to learn how to let Him fight *your* battles, solve *your* problems and deliver *you* from *so* many troubles and worries that you are suffering.

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(Sancherib also wrote letters, insulting the Eternal the God of Israel and attacking him thus: 'As the gods of the nations elsewhere in the world have failed to save their folk from me, so shall Hezekiah's God fail to save his folk.') The officers shouted aloud in Hebrew to the citizens of Jerusalem on the walls, to terrify them and scare them, that they might capture the city. They talked about the God of Jerusalem as one of the gods of the nations on earth, mere handmade idols" (verses 16-19).

Now notice what the king of Judah did: "King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz *PRAYED* over this and cried to heaven" (verse 20).

They *PRAYED* for help. They did not know exactly HOW God would intervene. But they knew God would ACT! Here's what happened: "Then the Eternal sent an angel who swept off all the gallant fighters, the leaders, and cap-

ARE *YOU* RELYING ON to withstand the siege of this trouble — to deliver you from it?

### Rely on God and His power

What do some of you do when some fear, worry, trouble comes up against you? Do you not first FEAR AND WORRY, and then either try to RUN FROM this trouble or else try to meet it in your own power and strength — with your own thinking and planning and doing?

Do YOU ever search your own heart and life to see if it is YOUR fault? In almost every in-law or marital trouble, for example, both are at fault.

Did you never realize that the very CREATOR who caused you to be born — who gives you the life you have — who called you into His truth — is able and anxious to fight all these battles for *you* just as He did Hezekiah's — if you will only turn to Him and ask Him for wisdom and guidance,



RELY on Him and TRUST Him with the result?

### Two examples

I know of a lady who, when in her middle 20s, had a problem that was MOST SERIOUS in her life. Three times this girl had been disappointed in love. She had at last been tempted to marry a man she had no right to marry. She brought her problem to me, as God's representative. I found she was looking ONLY AT PHYSICAL APPEARANCES.

She reasoned that, so far as she could see, if she obeyed God and refused to marry this man, she might *never* be married.

I counseled her to OBEY GOD — to stop looking at the material circumstances and using human reason to disobey God. I counseled her to do, first of all, WHAT GOD INSTRUCTS IN THE BIBLE, and then to TRUST HIM for the outcome.

But that girl did not RELY ON GOD — she relied on her human reason. She obeyed impulse and temptation and married the man. He left her to commit adultery with another woman on their very wedding night. Her life became miserable, terribly unhappy.

Then at another time, another similar case was brought to me. THIS young woman rejected the temptation — she obeyed God and RELIED ON THE ETERNAL to work out circumstances — she *trusted* HIM with the result. Her faith was tried and tested. God did not answer AT ONCE — but in due time, just the RIGHT man came into her life, they fell in love, they were married and GOD HAS BLESSED THEIR MARRIAGE WITH SUPREME HAPPINESS.

### The experience of King Jehoshaphat

Now I want to bring you one more case history — a REMARKABLE experience that will show you the way out of *all your difficulties* and troubles.

If you will let GOD have His way in *your* life, then you will have begun to learn how to let Him fight *your* battles, solve *your* problems and deliver *you*

from *so* many troubles you are suffering.

Now, notice the experience written for OUR learning and help today:

“It was after this that the Moabites and Ammonites, with some of the Meunim, made war on Jehoshaphat. Word came to Jehoshaphat that a huge host was moving against him from Edom, over the Dead Sea, and that they were already at Hazazon-tamar (or Engedi). *Jehoshaphat was afraid*” (II Chronicles 20:1-3, Moffatt).

Is fear your usual reaction, too? But observe what the king of Judah did.

“He resolved to have recourse to the Eternal, and proclaimed a *fast* all over Judah. So Judah assembled to seek help from the Eternal; people came from every town in Judah to worship the Eternal” (verses 3-4).

Jehoshaphat did exactly what God wants *you* to do today when faced with any temptation or trouble — HE TOOK IT TO GOD IN PRAYER AND FASTING!

And as he continued to ask God for help, he said (verses 6-10): “O Eternal, the God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven, and ruler of all realms on earth? Such power and might is thine that no one can resist thee. O our God, didst not thou evict the natives of this land before thy people Israel, giving the land to the offspring of Abraham thy friend, for all time? And they settled in it, they have built a sanctuary in it to thine honour, thinking that if evil befell them, the sword in judgment, or pestilence, or famine, they would stand in front of this temple and before thee (for in this temple is thy presence) and cry to thee in their distress, till thou didst hear and save them.

“Now here are the Ammonites and Moabites and folk from mount Seir, whom thou didst not allow Israel to invade, when Israel came out of the land of Egypt — no, Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them!”

There was no reason for these neighbors to be enemies. Some-

times your own neighbors become your enemies, too, don't they?

But notice what the king said to God: “Look how they reward us, coming to eject us from thy very own country which thou hast given us to be ours. O our God, *wilt thou not deal with them? We are helpless against this mighty host* that is attacking us; we know not what to do, but we look to thee” (verses 11-12).

### God answers prayer

Now I want you to notice! Jehoshaphat cried out for God to come to their aid. Here is God's answer (verses 14-17):

“Jehaziel . . . was inspired by the spirit of the Eternal in the midst of the gathering to cry, ‘Listen, all ye men of Judah, ye citizens of Jerusalem, and you, O king Jehoshaphat; *the Eternal's message to you is this*: “FEAR NOT, falter not before this vast army; *it is for God, not for you, to fight them*. March down against them to-morrow; they are coming up by the ascent of Haziz, and you will come upon them at the end of the ravine in front of the desert of Jeruel. *You will not need to do any fighting*; take up your position, stand still, and watch the victory of the Eternal, who is on your side, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not, falter not. Move out against them to-morrow, for the Eternal is on your side.”’”

And notice that Jehoshaphat *obeyed* after God instructed him. Verses 20-23 declare: “Next morning they rose and moved into the open country round Tekoa. As they advanced, Jehoshaphat stood and said, ‘Listen, men of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! Take hold of the Eternal your God and you will keep hold of life; hold by his prophets, and you will prosper.’”

“After this counsel to the nation, he appointed the Eternal's singers to praise him in sacred vestments, marching in front of the army and chanting, Give thanks to the Eternal, for his kindness never fails.

“As they began to sing and praise him, the Eternal set men in



ambush against the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the folk from mount Seir, who had attacked Judah, and they were routed. The Ammonites and the Moabites *turned on the* natives of mount Seir, determined to wipe them out.”

They turned against one another! That is how God answered Jehoshaphat. “And then, after destroying the natives of Seir, they all helped to kill one another. So when the men of Judah reached their post of attack looking over the open country, they saw the host were so many corpses stretched upon the ground; not a man had escaped” (verses 23-24).

Jehoshaphat did not merely leave this trouble with God and then do nothing about it himself. First, he prayed and asked for wisdom, guidance and HELP. Then he DID WHAT GOD SAID. He had to do HIS PART — but the BATTLE WAS GOD’S, and Jehoshaphat did not try to fight GOD’S battle. He merely did *his own* part. But he BELIEVED God, and RELIED on God.

The point I want you to REMEMBER is that YOUR battles are not really yours, but GOD’S. If you look to Him, He makes them HIS battles, and HE fights them for you. HOW FUTILE for you to try to fight GOD’S battles for HIM.

God says, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all” (Psalm 34:19).

In the New Testament we read, “By GRACE are ye saved through FAITH” (Ephesians 2:8, Authorized Version). Yes, but the FAITH that saves us is a *living* faith that is practical — it WORKS — it really RELIES on God! So PUT IT TO PRACTICE!

God does not promise us an EASY time during this life in this world. But He DOES promise to fight our battles for us — to deliver us from EVERY trouble and affliction.

WILL YOU LET HIM DO IT, AND LEARN HOW HAPPY YOUR LIFE MAY BECOME? GOD HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND! □

## Hidden Enemy

(Continued from page 5)

being *led* (in obedience to God’s law) by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9, 14), and the Holy Spirit *in us* is the LOVE OF GOD (Romans 5:5), which is the *only* love that fulfills God’s law. And also the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a SOUND MIND (II Timothy 1:7).

True spirituality, therefore, is SOUND MINDEDNESS, for true spirituality can come *only* from the SPIRIT OF GOD within us. True spirituality is RATIONAL.

On the other hand, true spirituality is not a mere mental religion divorced from all feeling and emotion. There are the purely mental religions that do not even believe in the Holy Spirit of God.

And there are some of us, perhaps, who have come to know God’s truth — who have surrendered to God, truly repented of our own way, turned from the ways of the world and who are devoted to studying the Bible to learn *God’s way* so that we may *live by every word of God* — and who also pray a great deal, but who yet LACK the very second FRUIT of God’s Spirit — JOY!

### NOT emotionless maturity

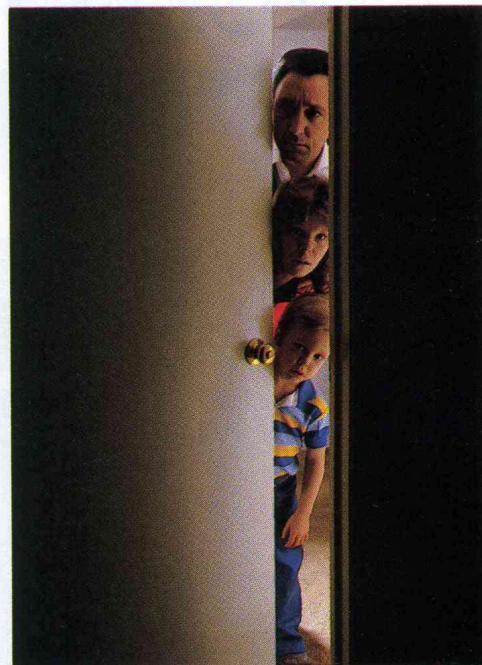
Emotional *maturity* does not mean *emotionless* maturity any more than it means uncontrolled emotion. The truly emotionally mature are Spirit-guided by sound Spirit-mindedness — by God’s Word — and the emotions are CONTROLLED, but not anesthetized. The emotionally grown-up DO express enthusiasm, JOY, happiness. They DO *feel* and express gratitude, reverence, adoration in their worship of God. They do feel and express compassion, mercy, sympathy.

God is a spirit, and they that *worship* Him must worship IN SPIRIT and IN TRUTH. One cannot worship IN SPIRIT unless he has received and is led by God’s Spirit. One cannot worship IN TRUTH without UNDERSTANDING of God’s Word with a sound mind. But this kind of worship is not

devoid of *feeling* and resultant emotional expression. Even though the emotion is *physical* reaction, it does truly *accompany* or *react from* true spiritual experience. But it is not a substitute for it.

The emotionally mature will properly express sympathy in a most sincere manner, from the heart. They will express, on occasion, when called for, sorrow, anguish, compassion. And they will also express good cheer, happiness, enthusiasm, zeal and that happiness that is brimful and running over, called JOY!

It sort of sums up, then, that the emotionally mature *combine* the controlled expression of emotion *with* physical health and an



educated mind that is Spirit-begotten and Spirit-led, doesn’t it? In other words, emotional maturity develops hand in hand with physical, mental and spiritual growth, the four blending into, finally, the perfect spiritual CHARACTER we were put here to become.

You probably have a long way yet to go. YOU have a grave responsibility, if you have children, in their EMOTIONAL training as well as their physical health, mental education and spiritual guidance. We shall all be called to account someday. How will YOU answer? □