

Faith Alive

in

Heart, Home and Church.

by

Wilbur S. Johnson

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HIGH APPRECIATION!

It was in the beginning of time that God said "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper...." (Genesis 2:18)

My wife, Imalee, and our finding each other is also a matter of Providence. My life would be incomplete and the stories and the writing of this book unlikely without the every faithful assistance of MY HELPER--

Imalee B. Johnson

Imalee first shared this poem prior to singing at one of our revivals. The golden deed thoughts describe her important ministry of life in a beautiful way.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my bread with you, and sometimes share a sorrow, too--as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can sit an hour with you, and I can share a joke with you, and sometimes share reverses, too--as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my flowers with you, and I can share my books with you and sometimes share your burdens, too--as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my songs with you, and sometimes come and laugh with you--as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my hopes with you, and I can share my faith with you, and sometimes shed some tears with you--as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do, but I can share my friends with you, and I can share my life with you, and oftentimes share a prayer with you--as on our way we go.

DEDICATION

TO the EVERLASTING GLORY of GOD, my Father: JESUS, my Saviour and the HOLY SPIRIT, my Guide.

The testimonies and history of this book tell of a faithfulness that has no equal on earth!

*Of a love that followed me as a prodigal thru a desert land of many a year...

*And a voice that never grew weary of calling me from the country hills of my childhood on to town, thru the cities, to the East and back to the West.

*With beautiful provisions of "Water from the Rock," "Quail in the wilderness," "Manna" from the sky with "Ravens" and Angels all along the Way.

*Guidance as clear as a "pillar of cloud by day" and a "pillar of fire by night." He led the Way!

*And always and always that CERTAIN ASSURANCE "FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU."

Praying and Praising!

Wilbur S. Johnson

Please meet the author---

The author and his wife, Imalee, and daughter, Lisa, are true examples of what it means to walk with Jesus in living by faith. Just as we see the rainbow after a rain, so we see the rainbow of thanksgiving and praise in the lives of the Johnsons. They have learned to wait on God and follow orders in knowing that God is able to work all things together for good.

As we were driving down the street one cold blustery Sunday, a column of leaves was marching, dancing, swirling in front of our car. They had fallen from their lofty home in the tree tops to the street below; but, they were not overcome. I called it the "Ballet of the Leaves" for it seemed as if they were leading us.

Wilbur and Imalee Johnson are like that in that no matter what happens, good or bad, they never forget that there is victory in Jesus. Like the dancing leaves in the wind, the Johnsons have their own special way of rejoicing in the Lord. They are spiritual leaders worthy of following.

Since the Word of God never grows old--being the same yesterday, today and forever--there is always a new truth to be learned. I have known these folks for many years and they have been a blessing to me as I sat in their "Faith Alive Revivals" and attended the "Dealing With The Devil" classes. The Johnsons not only tell it like it is, they live it!

This book is written that multitudes whom the Johnsons can not possibly reach through "Faith Alive Revivals" may be encouraged to step out on faith and find the joy and comfort that comes from a greater commitment to God.

It is exciting to see the manifestation of God's love as He leads His faithful servants and gives them joy unspeakable and full of glory in the fruits of their labor!

To God be the glory!

-*Hazel Burghardt -
Dodge City, Kansas

(*)Hazel Burghardt is one of those beautiful "dear hearts and gentle people" who knows Jesus and wants everyone else to enjoy Him too! She has a daily prayer ministry which includes us and a multitude more. Besides her gifts of gold and daily prayers, she has a ministry of golden words which has often blessed us. Now in her mid-eighties she is still a faithful member of the Central Christian Church of Dodge City.

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-A PERSONAL WORD-

Not until my teenage years did I know that churches met on Sunday morning. For the church I attended as a child met at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon. The PLACE was an old country church building atop one of the lonely Gyp Hills southwest of Medicine Lodge, Kansas. Founded in 1910, it is called "UNION CHAPEL". The REASON for the unusual meeting hour was that four of the town Preachers--Methodist, Christian, Presbyterian and Baptist--rotated through the Sundays of the month, preaching in town on Sunday mornings and driving the seventeen miles of dust or mud through the wind and rain, cold and heat, to preach for us each Sunday afternoon.

I found my way into this world about three miles down the road from this old grey stucco church building via the heir-lines of my parents, Galen and Tempest Johnson. The day was June 4th and the United States was in the middle of the Big Depression.

I found my way into another world on a cold winter night during a Revival Meeting in the Union Chapel building. Revivals were very rare in this country church and getting

there was a challenge. Our Model A car had to be filled with water at home and the radiator covered with a blanket while we were inside the church building. Upon arriving home my Mother crawled under the car to turn the valve to drain the radiator. I asked her to let me crawl under the car and turn the valve. She always responded by saying, "Get in the house where it's warm! You'll catch your death-of-pneumonia out here."

This Revival was preached by a Rev. Amos Rundus telling us to "flee from the coming Storm of Judgment!" I had started stealing when I was five and shoplifting at age seven; but the bad dreams started at age six. In this frightening dream, I was falling through space into a pit that seemed to have no bottom. When I would scream loudly, my Mother would come in, shake me awake, make inquiry and sometimes let me sleep with her and Dad. Now, in this Revival they were singing "Only Trust Him" for the second time. They had reached the last chorus and the preacher was saying, "*His Door is standing open. No need to perish in the Pits of Hell. Is there one more?*" I said out loud "*WAIT FOR ME, I'M COMING, TOO!*" I skirted around the wood-burning stove and ran down the aisle into the arms of Jesus. The dreams ceased and I had peace!

Converts were encouraged to join one of the town churches as Union Chapel had no membership roll. On Easter Sunday I joined the denomination my Mother and Grandmother were members of. The year was 1944 and I was twelve years old.

Two years later, our family moved to a farm in Southeast Kansas and into Cherryvale the following Spring.

Drawn to the First Christian Church of Cherryvale through a Revival invitation, I made my decision to be baptized on a Sunday morning just as the congregation was singing the closing hymn. I hurried to the baptismal dressing room and started knocking loudly. Anxiously I inquired, "IS IT TOO LATE TO BE BAPTIZED?" From inside, Brother Bob Cox calmed my fears when he answered, "CERTAINLY NOT! COME ON IN AND GET READY." I was taking yet another

step in following Jesus. It was Sunday, September 28, 1947!

I started preaching at age 16 in 1948. My preaching material consisted mostly of five truths that I had found and obeyed--1. Baptism by immersion including a five-step plan of salvation; 2. Communion every Sunday; 3. Tithing; 4. Wearing the right name; and 5. Church government according to the Bible. This desire to have ONLY TRUTH at that particular time in my life led to my later problem of becoming a "Pharisee." With these facets of truth I proudly judged others for the next twenty-five years. I nearly starved to death on this "menu" as did others who "ate" from my preaching. But, I was young and proud!

THIS BOOK is T-H-E STORY of how the Lord delivered me from this vicious vise and became the Lord of my Life. It is as Bill Gothard of Basic Youth Seminars says: "A LIFE MESSAGE--Sharing with others how God is using my weaknesses to conform me to the image of His Son." Romans 8:28, 29. I write this story for HIS GLORY and the GOOD of the Saints!

Part 1

Faith Alive Through--

LEARNING TO DIE

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The Quicksands of Mule Creek

A Strange D.V.B.S.

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Self-life Check List

This Servant Washes Feet

Put Up Or Shut Up

Two Preachers Learn To Obey

The Lord Opens My Eyes With Truth.