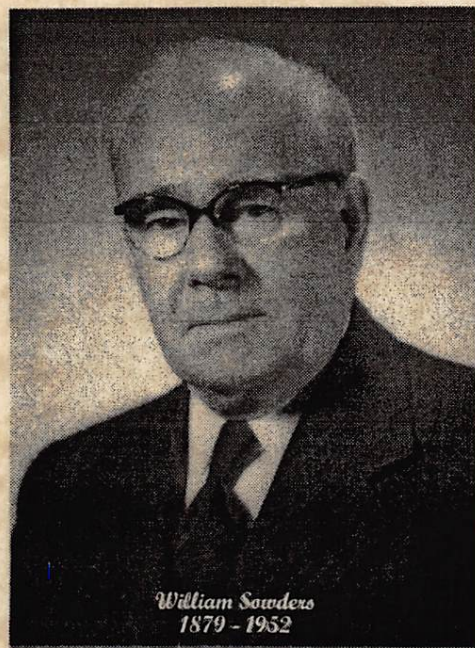


# *IN HIS OWN WORDS*



*William Sowders*  
1879 - 1952

**A MEMORABLE COLLECTION  
OF THE TESTIMONIES OF  
BROTHER WILLIAM SOWDERS**

# **Personal experiences as told by Brother William Sowders**

**Taken from papers and wire recordings.**

**Compiled by Brother Leroy Myers**

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### **The Boot and the Seine (large net)**

I had a dream I had a seine in my hand and was going fishing. I got down to the river and was going out into a deep place. I felt the weight of the boots on me, and I had the seine in one hand and pulled off one of my boots, and had it in my other hand. I felt myself going down, then woke up. Sinking on a dry bed, going, "Wa... wa... wa... wa..." gasping for breath. (*Brother Sowders had a garden.*) The boot is the garden and the seine is the gospel. You can't survive trying to do both of them.

### **The Garden vs. the Resurrection**

I had a dream I was digging Irish potatoes. They were all crooked... and knots on them. The dry ground and the clods had formed dents in the potatoes, and as I was going along I saw bowls of fruit with spoons in them and I began tasting, and was going to run and tell the people about it. Right there my father resurrected out of the ground and was eating with me.

"Lord what is it?" "Son, potatoes is too common a thing for you to fool with, for the time is soon coming and the resurrection will take place and you will eat at the marriage supper of the lamb." A drought came and my potatoes looked like my dream.

### **"I would not lose my salvation for you."**

I wasn't much more than converted when a ferryman on the river came to me and I told him on the day before, "Listen, if you can't come in my house and speak good of this people, your absence in my house is more desired than your presence."

So I met him the next day and as he jumped out at me, he said, "Will Sowders, you said something to me yesterday I won't take off of no man." I felt my fist hardening and then release. He was just sparring around in front of me... and say... God would not let me do a thing to him. My arms got as limp as a rag and I said, "Say, Jewel, I would not lose my salvation for you."

### **"It just knocked me cold."**

My wife had a sore foot, I had to carry her everywhere, do my own cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning, and caring for my wife. I was about ten minutes late one Sunday morning for service. There was a preacher and his wife there. She got up and rebuked me in other tongues and afterwards said in her own tongue what she wanted to tell me. Oh, it was awful and it just knocked me cold. I went down in a slump. I had a big Bible stand and I got my head down behind it and said, "Oh, my God!" I was so crushed

down I could not hardly breathe.

### **"Say, it pays to be a fool sometimes."**

I remember one night over on Broadway, when I had a tent out there. It seemed like, that night there was a blackness, and darkness of hell was setting down on us, and we just couldn't move. I jumped off the platform, and run right out through the aisle, out through the tent, hollering and whooping. And a fellow in the back of the tent... gasping... he thought I was after him. I came on by him, and came back. And some of the rest of them were shouting... and thank God... the whole tent was turned loose in the spirit of God. And what a meeting we had. Say, it pays to be a fool sometimes.

### **Doctors declared that it was supernatural power.**

When I was 13 years old in the Methodist Church, there were a good number of women and men in the church house with their hands lifted and eyes shut. They would walk around with their hands lifted straight up in the air, with eyes shut for as much as one hour; for men timed them. And they would turn as white as that shirt. Doctors have declared, after timing them and seeing them walk for one solid hour, that it had to be supernatural power, because natural power would never enable a man or woman to hold their hands up like that for one solid hour. I have seen them fall on the floor; I have seen them shout, jump, leap, run, and dance.

### **"I lost so much blood my skin was white"**

I had a fistula and God healed me. I had lost so much blood my skin was white. Could not walk three blocks. Kept telling God I would not undergo an operation... going to trust Him. Live, die, sink, or swim, I was going to trust God. Was I a fool? I would rather lose out trusting God, than trusting man and losing out. Therefore I stood firm. And when it seemed there was no chance, and it looked like I was done in my ministry... how be it, I had strength to go to Henderson, Kentucky, and Brother Aubrey prayed for me... was healed in a split second. I had hemorrhoids since a child of 13... developed into this terrible affliction called fistula. Actually it was gone into a cancer.

### **"Has that fellow got a doctor yet?"**

I held a meeting in La Center, Kentucky. Many were healed and many died in the plague that went through that section. I had it. I lay in bed in Brother Tom Hatler's home. There was an infidel living next door and he would walk by the house every two or three hours and ask Brother Tom, "Has that fellow got

a doctor yet?" Brother Tom would say, "No, and I don't think he is going to get one." He would come by again in a little while... "That fellow take any medicine yet?" "Nope, and I don't think he is going to." He would walk out in town... for it was small like Shepherdsville... and tell them; and the town was stirred.

I just kept lying there... and God talking to my heart. There was a Doctor in that town who did not believe in it, for he was an Atheist, and did not believe in nothing. He was saying, "That preacher is a fake." He began to lose his trade. Well, the town got stirred. One said, "That fellow has too much sense to lay there and die. I know he will have a doctor."

I had already preached God would heal, and now he was trying to confirm what I had preached. Now here I am God... I am sick. He wants people to wait on him. Oh yes, that is a fact, that is a fact. Wait on him.

**"That fellow is about to die... and now he is up preaching somebody else's funeral."**

I would rather trust God a month with no results than to trust a doctor two days. I would rather linger and wait on God and accomplish the purpose for me getting sick, and let it go all over town, "That fellow is about to die... and now he is up preaching somebody else's funeral."

A fellow died that was baptized with the Holy Ghost in the meeting I was holding. God healed me, like tonight, and I preached his funeral tomorrow. The next day the house was packed and the yard was packed to see the fellow preach the funeral of a man that died with the same thing I had and God healed me. Thank God, that did more good in making people believe than all 3 weeks meeting.

**"I went to my room and held that toe up before God."**

I had an ingrown toenail. It got so bad my leg had red streaks running up to my knee. I'm not going to get a doctor. It is too bad to let them fool with it. I went to my room and held that toe up before God. I told Him how powerful He was... and had more power than the devil to do the job. I went to sleep and had a dream that I was picking with a sharp knife on my leg, and had a hole in it as big as the knife. I was picking on a black speck in the middle of it. I woke up and said, "Lord, what is it?" The Lord said, "You have an ingrown toenail... you are picking, picking, to get the nail out. I got a knife and got that nail out, and it got well."

**I wanted more than conversion.**

Brother Frank Knight preached like a house a fire. That man had influence on me. When he

preached, I began to listen to him. He would talk to me, and his words would actually sink into your heart and put a longing in your heart for God. I began to seek the Lord in conversion. It wasn't long until I was seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Wife said, "Will, you are good enough; you've got all you need. Why act like a fool?" What are you tarrying for? You won't get it anyhow. If you keep on, I am going to leave. I'll pack my clothes and leave." She wrote home and said, "I am coming home. Will has got religion, and I can't live with him any longer." They wrote back and said, "Come on, the door is open as it has always been." She told me, "I'll bring your clothes to Brother Knight's and put them on the door step." She said this because I was at his house so much. I said, "Bring them down."

The reason I wanted more than conversion is I tasted that the Lord was good, and they told me there was another blessing, and I was going to get that too.

**"The train disappeared, and as far as I could see, Mother was wiping tears from her eyes."**

In World War I, I stood firm. My dear Mother moved from Pittsburgh, she had a home in Florida at that time. She said, "If you come to Florida and give up the ministry, I will give it over to you; the property will belong to you." She thought all I needed was a chance and I would grab it. I said, "Mother, I have been called to preach The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The work that God has put on me is bigger than the state of Florida." Mother began to cry and plead with me to go with her, as she made the trip to meet me and take me back to Florida with her. The train disappeared, and as far as I could see, Mother was wiping tears from her eyes.

**"I was going to forfeit my life if necessary before I bugged an inch."**

When World War I broke out, some of the preachers said, "All you have to do is go to New York and work in a ship yard where they pay big money. If you want to help the cause of Jesus Christ and be of assistance... go to work and help out in the financial part."

I said, "The Lord wouldn't let me go to work. When I got down to where I didn't have a penny for a postage stamp... if He wouldn't let me work then, He won't let me work now." They said, "Don't be a fool!"

I made my mind up. I was not going to war, nor to the shipyards. I stood firm in the midst of all of it. I was going to forfeit my life if necessary before I bugged an inch. I meant it! God knows when you make up your mind.



**"Ennis, the world is coming to an end before long."**

I didn't remember the historical part... I didn't remember a thing... but there was something that impressed my heart. It was all over me. I dreamed about it. And that was, that we were living in the end of the world.

When I was 10 years old, I was standing with my playmate. Clouds were gathered in the West, and it was thundering and lightning. The Holy Spirit caused me to say this, "Ennis, the world is coming to an end before long." When I said that, the power of God almost knocked me down. I thought, "What hit me... what shook me?"

**The Lord said, "Tell them to ask a question."**

I was having a meeting in Evansville. That night I couldn't find a thing to talk on. I said, "Lord, what am I to do?" The Lord said, "Tell them to ask a question." I never did that before. I said to the people, "I am going to do something tonight I have never done before, something you never heard of a man doing. The Lord told me to let you ask questions."

A very prominent man rose to his feet. "Brother Sowders, I have been in your meetings since you have been here. Is it a fact speaking in tongues is a Bible evidence of the Holy Ghost and no other?" I said, "Thank you for asking a question." God inspired me mightily. For years now I have held this kind of meetings.

**"I was coming back... and I knew exactly when I entered into this body."**

I have had experiences with God. The first time I was caught away was when I was tarrying for the Holy Ghost. I went up... up until I entered into a place. Whatever place it was, I don't know. When I was there, I knew everything there, but I did not know one thing down here. But... I knew exactly when I was leaving and when I was coming back through space. And I knew exactly when I entered into this body. And I knew exactly that it was cold lying on the floor in the wintertime, and it was cold when I entered back into it. I know by that experience... that without the soul in the body, this body is a lump of flesh.

**"The voice of the Lord... it actually jarred my head."**

A party did something to me one time, and I was alone and I said, "My God, I'll forgive them, will you?" I'll tell you, the voice of the Lord... it actually jarred my head and said, "Will man be more forgiving than God?" I said, "God, forgive me again."

**"I was a devil."**

I remember when I was out in the world... when they used to have the Baseball Park on 7th street. Jim and I would go out there and drink at the grand stand. And we said to a preacher, "Have one with us?" He said, "I don't care if I do." I was a devil. To think I would get that fellow drunk in the grandstand, on Sunday at that.

**"It is miserable for a person to be dying for 35 years and still not be dead."**

I was going up a road one day by myself after I received the Holy Ghost. And I was worrying about some fellow who I thought wasn't living the right kind of life. I was going along just worrying, and the Lord said, "Why prolong your life? You are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God, why prolong your life?" My Lord, it is miserable for a person to be dying for 35 years and still not be dead. Isn't that awful? Isn't that awful?

**"I was lying there so discouraged."**

That fellow was wearing his long hair and long beard and he tore up our meeting. The house was packed. We were on the gospel boat at the time. That boat was packed, ready to sink with people.

That fellow came in, and time came for him to speak. Of course, he thought it was time for him to speak. I guess it was his time all right. He spoke, pulled his coat off, and went after it like a wild hyena. And the people kept running out... running out.

I had a message... I was going to talk that day... and God gave it to me. I didn't get to give out my message for when that fellow got through talking, practically everyone was off of the boat. I went in the pilothouse and I laid down. I said, "Lord I quit, right now, I quit. There is no use for me to try to do anything, for these radical fellows tear up the meeting, and I'm too slow Lord. I should have got up before that fellow got up and prevented him from coming in and I could have held the congregation."

I was lying there so discouraged, and I was quitting... and the Lord said, "Let your Bible fall open." I let my Bible fall open, and it was Philippians the 1st chapter: "For your fellowship in the gospel, from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that he that has begun a good work in you will complete it unto the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:5-6) I said, "Amen, I'll go ahead." I knew that was the Lord. He said, "Open your Bible," and it fell open to that very important scripture, and it was very necessary for me to have something like that at that very time.

**"Well that was the beginning of the restoration of the order of God."**

One morning, on the Gospel Boat, after a night's rest and I had a wonderful dream... It was plain... it meant so much.

I didn't think it would be necessary to bother that fellow any more; for I had been giving him all the scripture I had, and some had an effect on him, and some did not have any effect at all. I was about ready to give up the job.

That night God gave me a dream: I dreamed I was hunting ducks, and there was two ducks I was after, and they were both black and white spotted. I would get right up close to them... and I was shooting at the old drake... and every once in a while, I couldn't tell I had anything in my gun, other than, "click." It never kicked; I never saw no effect. Then I would get another shell and put it in there, and it would hit the feathers and they would look back at me. It would sort of attract them some way or other. I kept putting shells in my gun and shooting, but I couldn't kill them.

I was so anxious to kill them. I went down in my pocket and got a hold of a shell that was bigger than any other shell... it was about that big around and that long. I began to unwrap that. I noticed it was all wrapped up neatly, and the first thing you know there fell a shell out of that roll. I put that shell in that gun and I went after them again. When I shot then, I pulled the trigger and that thing kicked me, and I liked to have fell on my face! That old duck... it killed him deader than a hammer!

Well, I rose up the next morning... I came down for breakfast and he was there. I said, "I had a dream last night." And I didn't even think of that dream meaning anything pertaining to him. He said, "Did you tell it?" I said, "No." He said, "Without dreams and visions God's people perish." I said, "Well I don't think there is anything to my dream." He said, "Well you ought to tell it," but I didn't.

I went up in Paducah that day and it was snowing and I was talking to an unsaved man. That unsaved man began to talk to me about it being good weather to hunt ducks. I said, "Mr. Washburn, that reminds me of a dream I had last night. I was this close to...." (My God, the power of God hit me.) He looked at me. I was going to tell him how close I was to the ducks, and how I shot one. The spirit gave me the interpretation of it. That I was in a position of shooting, and he was interested. The power of God hit me and liked to have knocked me down. It kicked harder than that gun.

He looked at me, and I said, "Mr. Washburn, you don't understand me, you don't understand it. I was

going to tell you about a dream I had, and that dream came from God, and I was going to show you how I killed that duck... and God gave me an interpretation of that dream that quick." I said, "Goodbye, I'm going down and get the shell."

I went down to the Gospel Boat. I sat down there and began to unravel... unroll... unroll... unroll... until finally I got in the 21st chapter of Acts, and I found there how the Brethren shaved their heads. Paul was to be charged with three other Brethren who shaved their heads. I thought that was it! That was good enough for anybody. I kept unrolling and unrolling and I got over to the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians there. When I got down in that, I'll tell you the power of God hit me, and I said, "I've got the shell sure as you live! That will put them out! They can't get around that. Just can't get around that!"

Well that was the beginning of the restoration of the order of God. The order of God! That kept branching out... branching out... I kept laboring, toiling, praying, and finally we began having schools. We were having just one-day meetings previous to that, and then we began having schools.

**"That man was so anxious to be like Jesus Christ. It enabled me to learn things in the Bible that I never would have learned otherwise."**

When I first started out, the first thing I met was a longhaired preacher, and that man was so anxious to be like Jesus Christ that he wore his hair long... and his beard long. There was quite a colony of them down in Western Kentucky, and the Lord told me to hold a meeting one night in the house of one of these preachers. I said, "Lord, I could never do anything in his home. That fellow is so radical he would break up every meeting that we started."

But the Lord showed me he could have his way, and have a real glorious, profitable meeting right in the midst of longhair preachers, if I would just deal right.

And so it was that way. I was telling the Lord that... while I was there, to show him that he was wrong. "Lord, show him that is wrong. You showed me it was wrong. You showed me I shouldn't do that. Why don't you show him; he is your child?" The Lord said, "You look to me. I am taking care of this affair. You do what I tell you to do. I am in this." That reconciled me, but I thought, "Lord, if you are in it, though, I would like to know how you are in it. And what are you getting out of it?"

I saw what God was getting out of it. It gave me revelations after revelations, and enabled me to learn things in the Bible that I never would have learned otherwise. It just aroused a desire in my

heart to understand why these things are; and God taught me that. Then after we learned these things, the Lord let him see, and he cut his hair and shaved his face.

I watched people who ran; I watched people who closed their doors and said, "They shall not come in my house again." I saw that woman after she had dropped a large pair of scissors on the floor; and it went right between her toes and her foot was actually all swelled up until it looked like it would be blood poison, and the woman would die from it. That was the home that refused to have a longhaired preacher.

**"That sweet little baby died, and they put it beneath the sod".**

Let me say farther... I saw where two New Issue preachers started in a home. And in that home, there was a little babe just about 3 or 4 years old. The only baby in the home. The parents were fine... a fine young man and woman, and they had the Holy Ghost.

These ministers started in their home and this man gave them orders not to enter into that gate. It wasn't but a few days until that sweet little baby died, and they put it beneath the sod.

I said, "O God, it won't do, to do anything like that. God, let me be merciful, let me be kind, let me be long suffering Lord, with everything I come in contact with."

**"There is a foot washing tonight, and I have to wash my feet."**

I was going down through the country one time and stopped at Brother Johnson's. I stayed at his house a few minutes, and it was time to start to service. Brother Johnson said, "O, wait a minute!" I said, "What are you going back for?" He said, "There is a foot washing tonight, and I have to wash my feet." I said, "Come on and let me wash your feet." And I washed Brother Johnson's feet that night.

**"I used to hate to see women dancing."**

I used to hate to see women dancing. I did. That is a fact! I hated to see them get out and praise God in a dance. When God rebuked me, it was in a dream. And I was out in a cane patch, and the Devil was about to get me... and I saw him first behind me. Actually he looked just like they picture him. If it would not have been like that, I would not have known it was the Devil. I made three or four strides, and he was right after me. God showed me the Devil had me, when I tried to get a message to stop manifestation of the spirit.

**"God would not even allow me to be converted in no sect - - not even in conversion, not even in conversion."**

I could not be converted just anywhere, even when I was going to the Methodist Church, and I was going to be converted. I was going to the altar that night, and I went to the altar after I got there. I was rushing to get there before the altar call was made. And as I was turning the corner here, and saw the light of that church... my God... the light of heaven fell down in my soul, and I had a greater experience there, than I ever had when I got the baptism. I had a greater experience there.

I went to that church, and when the altar call was made, I went there and knelt down and God said, "Get up, it's done. Get up and tell it, it's done." I didn't know what in the world He was trying to tell me, but I got up and testified. And after I came to the Lord 14 or 15 years after that, I looked back and could see exactly why God would not even allow me to be converted in no sect, not even in conversion... not even in conversion.

**"The housewife can feel it when she is making biscuits."**

When we get the Holy Ghost, it is with us all the time. The housewife can feel it when she is making biscuits, and knocks the flour all out of the bowl. We can go to washing dishes and knock the water all out of the pan.

My wife... when she got the Holy Ghost.... We had a dog we called Casey, and nearly every time my wife would get to thinking about the Lord, the power of God would hit her. And when she would be making bread, she would just knock the flour everywhere. And it got to where Casey, when he would pass her, would go r-r-r-r. He hated that power of God. He got where he would growl at her, because he thought she was going to jump up and down, or dance, or do something, and he would leave the house.

**"I saw The River Water of Life one time while I was talking."**

I saw The River Water of Life one time while I was talking. It ran down from Christ, on down through the old Country, and across the waters, into the United States. I saw that stream cross the ocean into this Country. And thank God... when that stream hit this Country, those people got down on their knees and began to give thanks and glory to God, who had saved them and brought them here... and it kept flowing. Right here at 28th and Wilson that stream is located. It is still here. If God hadn't of used the Roman Catholic Church in keeping it alive, we would not have been here



today.

**"Charity is bearing a lot of wild cats, bears, giraffes, and everything else."**

When I first started to preach, I had prejudice in my heart. And the Lord said to me, "Son, I have called you to preach a 'whosoever will' gospel! You will never accomplish what I have called you to accomplish and get out on the side, for one and against the other. You have got to get in the middle, and reach your hands out and preach, 'Whosoever will come'." I readily saw what God meant by that, so I began to move in that path of Charity. As I moved in that path of Charity, I found God in a greater measure than I ever found Him before. Charity is not giving money all the time. Charity is bearing a lot of wild cats, bears, giraffes, and everything else.

**"God was judging me."**

About judgment... I look over my past, and I remember that I reprov'd a preacher in a spirit that was wrong, and I was sick for six or seven days. I was good and sick. And I wouldn't have had to of been sick that long, if I would have confessed the thing to the Brother, and asked him to forgive me. I would have come out of it before I did. The Lord wanted me to do it for three or four days before I did it. And I was suffering. God was judging me.

My wife would not confess. Said, "No, I won't." Well that poor thing suffered for about 14 days. If she had confessed, she would have come out at the expiration of about seven days. And for that reason, God didn't cause me to burn as long as He caused her to burn, for she did more than I did. She wouldn't confess, and I did confess and I came out.

**"I sure am glad that I didn't wait until I got on my deathbed."**

I remember back through my life, when I was nothing but a boy... God has many a time... hundreds of times, said, "Won't you give me your heart?" I would say, "I will wait until I get on my deathbed, and sick enough to die, then I will give God my heart." That was what I had in mind. I sure am glad that I didn't wait until I got on my deathbed.

**"I had met somebody that had laid me flat on the floor, and I saw Jesus Christ"**

I didn't have the Holy Ghost yet. Saints came in and prayed for me. I had heard a preacher say he hadn't taken a drop of medicine in five years. And I was yet in sin and happened to hear that preacher say that. And I said, "If God can do that for him, He will do it for me. And if I get that salvation, I am going to trust

God just like he is." I said that in my heart, and I got converted, and it was no time until I had the chills. I had been sick for several days.

They came in and prayed for me each day. And the last day they came in they said, "We can't get hold of God for you. You are too sick. You will have to do something." Now that was awful good advice wasn't it? And I had already promised God. After falling on the floor one night, seeking for the baptism, I arose from that floor and stood on my feet, and a voice said, "Praise me out loud." And I praised God four times, and fell prostrate on the floor. When I was there, I saw Jesus. He actually played with me and when I arose from there I said, "I have found a man that could put my shoulders to the ground. That is the first man I ever met, that could do that." Of course, I said some very boastful things, which I shouldn't have said. I shouldn't have expressed myself in that way. But that was my manner of speaking. And I said, "From this night on, I will die before a drop of medicine ever goes down my throat." That has been over 35 years ago. Well, that was pretty boastful. I didn't know what I was saying; but I know this: I had met somebody that had laid me flat on the floor, and I saw Jesus Christ. He came to me three times. And He was so great when He got close to me; my breath would stop (panting for breath). That is just the way I went.

And the people had said, "You will die before you get the baptism." And I thought, "That is what I am doing." When I came up from there, I made that boastful statement. And when the saints went out, who had been praying for me two or three days and couldn't get any victory, I was in that room by myself with the devil. He said to me, "You said you would never take a drop of medicine, you would die first... and now you will die." He just kept telling me, "You will die!" I was studying as to what I was going to do. I made up my mind... "I will die first." The very second I said that, I was out of that bed, healed, sound, and well. I overcame him by the word of my testimony.

**"She overcame it with the word of her testimony."**

Sister Elva Mears was sick, flat of her back and couldn't let a drop of water penetrate her stomach. We prayed and prayed with no results.

One night three or four of us got together and was going to go up there and bring heaven down because we knew God could do it. She was in an awful shape. She had lock bowels. We prayed and prayed. We didn't storm the castle. We didn't holler too loud, but they could hear us outside. And people

passing on the street began to gather all around the house. Brother Mears' stepfather (Brother Jones) came up and said, "Elva, don't you see, you are not getting anywhere in prayer. Why don't you have a doctor, and take some medicine." She said, "I don't need a doctor." He said, "Well listen, the street is full of people out here, and everybody is going to get arrested around here. You are going to have to do something."

Sister Reva rose up and said, "If any body gets arrested, it will be me. This is my home." Say... when Sister Reva said that, one of the brothers that was praying had a new pair of shoes on, and the power of God hit him. And his foot went out and knocked the heel off his new shoe, and the power of God came down. And when the power of God subsided a little bit, we looked around, and there was little Elva just dancing around there having a big time, healed, sound, and well. She overcame it with the word of her testimony.

**She wrote me a letter and said, "Willie, don't have anything to do with the tongues."**

I thought my Mother loved me as dear as any Mother loved her son. I began to write Mother about being converted, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And Mother began sending me letters from Pittsburgh. She would go to her pastor and get all she could from him. And what he gave her wasn't enough to do anything... only to help me.

She wrote me a letter and said, "Willie, don't have anything to do with the tongues, because you read what Paul has to say in the 14th chapter of 1st Corinthians. Where he says, "I had rather speak five words with my understanding than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." Mother said, "Just look at that, Paul didn't want these tongues. What are you bothering about them for?"

But I read the foregoing verse, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more then ye all: yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also." He (her pastor) gave that to my Mother, thinking that might hinder me. It only gave me a boost and gave me a text that I didn't have previous to that.

**"Old Sam was just standing there, white and trembling like a leaf."**

I saw Jesus put His arms out through me to the Jews. Many would not believe that, but I did. I was talking to Sam Baron, and he let the trade (customers) come in, and he never even tried to wait on his trade (customers). And Sam looked at Brother Johnson and

said, "There is something about this man when he begins to talk to me, I forget my business. I can't wait on my trade (customers)."

I was telling Sam about the greatest battle that was ever fought in the world. And the most people that were ever killed in a battle will be fought on account of the Jewish people. And they will be the instigation of that battle, and he said, "Oh Doctor, we are the smallest people in the world, don't say that."

And I was saying, "Sam, you remember when Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, went out and fought the three great powers?" The children of Ammon, and the children of Moab, and Mount Seir, which typify perfectly the powers that are rising now. And when he began to complain, the Lord said, "Jehoshaphat, pick out a people that can praise me in the beauty of holiness and go over and view the battle." He took some people that could praise God in the beauty of holiness, and went over there and they began to praise God when they began to fight. And God set ambush between the children of Mount Seir, and the children of Ammon. And the children of Moab jumped onto the children of Mount Seir and just killed them all and cleaned the whole platter. And they got in an argument then, and Jehoshaphat went over and got the spoil. The children of Israel went in praising God, and coming out with a great load of spoil.

And I was telling Sam how it was going to be that the Jews will get the spoil all right, and he said, "Oh Doctor." And that is when he said to Brother Johnson, "This man, I don't know what kind of a man he is, but when he gets to talking I can't wait on my trade (customers)!"

Hands and arms went right out from me and it went out from my mouth, "Oh Sam, I love you!" I didn't get hold of him with my arms and hands, but white hands and arms went out from me and got hold of him. Old Sam was just standing there, white and trembling like a leaf.

**"And whatever the children hear, they are going to do the same thing."**

I remember when I was entering into my teens. At 13 years old I went to work and I got out among the men... and I was an awful strong boy. Somehow or other, there was something about me that was more or less interesting to other men. And I got smart... I would get in trouble once in a while and whip a man, and I thought I was a man because I could whip a man. I was nothing but a boy and I thought I will use their language too. I will go to cussing around here. And I got to where every time I opened my

mouth that was what it was. And they would say, "You are going to be a tough citizen." (Illustrated how it pulled him up.)

Now wasn't I a silly fool? Anybody else that curses and goes on like that is a silly fool. It is foolishness for a man to use such words, especially around his home, where his children can hear him. And whatever the children hear, they are going to do the same thing.

#### **"Who is the book of Jude written to?"**

I was sitting in a school one day. The spirit wasn't working at all for the word of God there. That was the first time I heard Brother Thomas talk, and he blessed the whole house on his line of thought. And I always knew Brother Thomas after that, and knew he was a good water boy. The Lord said to me, "Who is the book of Jude written to?" I thought, "It isn't written to anyone, if you ask me." I began to think: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called." That is a special message to a special people, and no other people will ever understand it.

"To them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called." I said, "Lord, I never thought of that before." The Lord said to me, (when He was speaking to me on that), "Paul wrote Corinthians to the people of Corinth, he wrote the Ephesians to Ephesus, but who did Jude write to?" I said, "Lord he wrote to the people who are sanctified by God, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called to the battle."

#### **"I would watch the spirit of God in his eyes."**

I would like to say that again, every one of us are not going to get all the truth. But God has some men... I saw this fellow right here (speaking of Brother Tommy Jolly), for years, about 17 years with the Holy Ghost. I saw eyes of his as the word of God was going forth. I would watch his eyes, I would watch the spirit of God in his eyes, and I knew all the time what God was doing with that fellow. He had him laying down, and was actually carving it on his heart and mind. And he was laying down... submissive too... he wasn't fooling around looking at anybody. He wasn't winking around at anybody. He didn't have anything in his mind, he had a bright mind, and God kept writing it and writing it, down in his heart. I knew what he was going to be, God told me to tell him one time.

When he and I... rising from a night's rest, and came out to eat our breakfast. We moved back from the table, and he had his little Testament, and he began his same routine... asking me questions. He'd ask me a question and it was something like that.

The Lord said to me, "You see Tommy. You remember how his Mother and Father used to take care of you and Bertha and provided you meals when nobody in that section would help you?" I said, "Yes sir." He said, "You tell Tommy I am going to make a great man out of him. There is a reward for that family for what that Mother and Father did, and it is going to fall on that boy." I said, "Tommy," didn't I? And I began to tell him... and that boy's face turned like chalk.

#### **"You can see the Holy Spirit."**

You can see the Holy Spirit. I saw it in the room just as white as snow, like a cloud of snow. And it was moving back and forth in the room. Then it formed a funnel and went up, and when it did, a deaf and dumb man's tongue was loosed, and he began to holler and praise the Lord.

I wish I could see something like that happen to our people that are sick. We are going to have to get busy. Consecrate and pray more, eat less, and bombard heaven more for our dear children that are sick.

#### **"I haven't been there since."**

My son-in-law allowed a picture to be taken out of the newspaper and put up in his store... and I referred to that... just made mention of it one day while in the store. And I found out in a hurry that they heartily advocated that. And according to what they said, things like that were only making the world better, and people always did do as they are doing, but now they are coming out bolder with it. They let me know that it was a customer that put it up there. Since it was, they couldn't take it down.

So the last time I went over there, it was still hanging there, and they knew I was opposed to that picture hanging there. It was right in the doorway from the grocery back to the butcher shop. And you had to go through that narrow place, and there was that picture hanging right there.

I saw they weren't taking it down, so I called my son-in-law. And I love those children. I said, "Billy, is that picture still in the doorway?" He said, "Yes Grandpa, why? What is the matter with that picture? That picture is..." I said, "It is?" He said, "Yes sir." I said a few words, and he said, "Why, Grandpa, that makes a strong body and a strong mind. Why, we belong to that ourselves, Gladys, Georgia, and I. We belong to that club." I said, "You do?" And he said, "Furthermore, our customer put that up there." I said, "What is the difference between that customer and me?" I spent many thousands with him last year. By that time our words were getting pretty quick and fast



back and forth. I said, "Now either it is my trade or his trade, me as your customer or him, which one will you take?" The picture and him, or do away with the picture and take me?" At that time my daughter grabbed the phone and I hung up. I haven't been there since.

**"Son, that thing that was drawing you, that you had your anchor in, is your radio... if you continue this... you will leave here."**

I am thankful for what God did for me when radios begin to be cheap enough for me to get one... and because I was a lover of music. And now that thing that loved music is gone from me. I couldn't pass a saloon. They used to have pianos in saloons, and you could put a nickel in there, and that thing would just cut it off. That meant my shoe soles were just cut off, but I couldn't stand it... I don't care where it was, if I was out on the street and would hear it somewhere. I would just have to keep time with it. I would run out my store, throw my apron down and go to any band of music, I don't care where it was at. The Lord knew if ever that thing was resurrected in me, it would damn my soul.

I got me a radio. Wife and I played it off and on all through the day the first day we had it. That night we went to bed, fixed the pillows up at the head of the bed, and had the radio going. I begin to read, and wife begin to read. We were there for quite a while... finally got sleepy and went off to sleep. I saw myself and wife in a boat. There was a line on that boat and an anchor, but I couldn't see what the anchor was made fast to, or thrown into. I don't know we were going down stream or up stream, but we were going so fast that it just seemed to me that we were just going to leave the boat. It was just going to go out from under us. I was afraid that both of us were going to get drowned.

I woke up the next morning and said, "Lord, what was that?" The Lord said, "Son, that thing that was drawing you, that you had your anchor in, is your radio. You couldn't see it, but that is your radio and if you continue this, you will go... you will leave here." I said, "Lord, from now on it, will be things that are profitable. I will listen to religious programs and political speeches." I have been interested in political speeches for a reason, but I tell you I have cut off all that other stuff.

**"Why, this Holy Ghost, the very nature of it is music."**

It wasn't long until I went down in Western Kentucky and stopped at a brother's home... and was not much more than in there, until he put a record on his graphophone. That record he put on

there was a recording of a song that always did set me crazy. Whew... and he begin to play it. I said, "Lord, where is that thing that used to run across the street to hear this?" I was feeling for it, and it wasn't there. It wasn't there... but if I had continued on with my radio, I couldn't have heard Casey Jones, Shovel Fish Rag, or anything else. I couldn't have heard it unless that thing would have jumped up and had a good old time.

I sit right alongside of that graphophone, and heard it play Alexander's Ragtime Band... that used to set me crazy. The worse thing for me to hear before I got the Holy Ghost was Alexander's Ragtime Band. But when I got the Holy Ghost, Alexander got out of me. The spirit, thank God, rebuked Alexander out of me, and I didn't care whether he had a band, or ragtime band, or what kind of band, there was victory for me.

There is a little tickling in my flesh when I am giving out the word of God. Why, this Holy Ghost, the very nature of it is music. Sure it is. And I might give a little of this (demonstrating a little jig), but that don't come from Alexander. Glory to God! Because I buried him at the altar on the Gospel Boat out on the Tennessee River, and I don't care about having that thing resurrected.

**"God can get you to the place He wants you. Praise the Lord!"**

I got converted and had more pep in me than any Holy Ghost person I have ever seen. My wife thought I was losing my mind. She wrote to Louisville to her Mother and told her, "Will has got into some kind of religion, and I am coming home." She wrote and told her to come on home. I told her, "Go on and get your trunk packed." I would have been glad if she had gone. Sure I would, because she was a pest to me, and I didn't know how to handle the pest. But, I am glad she was a pest, and I learned how to handle the pest.

Talk about your college graduate and your degrees in life... I'll tell you, for this ministry, I have gone some. I said, "Go on, pack your clothes and go." As I was going out the door that night to go and tarry, she jumped and run at me, kept begging me not to go, and I said, "It makes no difference how much you beg me not to go, I'm leaving here. I'm going down and get the Holy Ghost tonight."

I didn't treat her easy, kind, and mellow, like I'm telling you. I said, "I'm going down and get the Holy Ghost, and you get away from me. Don't bother me; you're not going to stop me. I have tasted and seen that

the Lord is good, and they tell me there is another big bite for me, and I'm going to get that."

I started out the door and all at once I felt something on my back. She stuck her knees right in the small of my back with her hands on my shoulders, holding on to my shoulders, holding on to my jacket, and pulled two great big places out in my jacket. I threw her off, and then got her down in the floor and rebuked the devil out of her, or tried to. While I was rebuking the devil out of her, she got her face out from under my arm, and looked over at my brother, and said, "Len, do you believe in this?" Well, of course Len was my brother and he didn't say anything, but he did believe in it.

I told her, "You sit there, and don't you jump on me again. I'm going down there and tarry." Somebody came in the place where I was tarrying, and said, "Brother Will, Bertha is out there in the peach tree." There she was, she had gotten up in that peach tree and was looking over to see me tarry... poor thing. She didn't know what was happening. She didn't know what was taking place, and I shouldn't have treated her that way. But, thank God... she did beat me to it when she found out there was a reality to it. I never would have gotten her to it, because I went just the opposite in getting her, and consequently she was getting worse and worse... and fell off to skin and bones, so to speak, and actually she cried day and night.

But say, when two women came along that knew how to handle humanity, they came and said, "Sister Bertha, bless your heart." They had heard how she was being treated and they said, "Can we sit down here and talk to you awhile?" She said, "Yes." They sat down and talked to her, and it wasn't long until they got her in the notion of coming to the meeting that night. The gospel boat at the river... she got sweetly saved. There I was... I had a zeal that I would jump over the moon for God if I could... but I would have been lost if I would have died, because I had the wrong spirit. Those women went to her and started treating her kind, and saying sweet and good things to her... and the first thing you know, she was down there tarrying for the Holy Ghost. I was tarrying too, and I heard someone say, "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!" And I looked around... and there was my wife. I thought, "Well, I'll declare." That settled it for me that night... for I had already told my brother and everybody else around there, "She will never be saved;- never get her saved."

I didn't think He would save everybody. I didn't know He had so much mercy. I didn't know it. She got the Holy Ghost, and then she would talk to me... and

helped me... tried to help me to get it, and I run her in the house one day. She said, "Oh Will, go down on the gospel boat, they are all shouting and praising God down there." She already had it, and I was still tarrying. I said, "You get in the house; get in there. I can never get the Holy Ghost on that gospel boat, for I can't bear to hear those people pray."

I hated the people on the gospel boat. I did for a fact. I hated them. And I had to go from Olmsted to Paducah, up the river, to get the Holy Ghost on the gospel boat after tarrying one whole week... every night, and all through the day. I had to go from Olmsted to Paducah, 34 miles, in my yacht to tarry. I thought, "Now when I get up there, I will get it at the altar in the church and lot of those Paducah people that I sported around among, they will see me and that will make believers out of them." I tarried hard every night, and I didn't get anywhere. Sunday night came, and I had everything packed to go home on Monday morning. I was tarrying... and I thought, "If I don't get it tonight, I'm done... and will never tarry again."

While I was there tarrying with all my might, that wife came and whispered in my ear, "Will, if you will go down on the gospel boat in the morning, you will get the Holy Ghost." I said, "What?" She said, "If you will go down on the gospel boat in the morning, you will get the Holy Ghost." I said, "I could never get it there." I got up from there directly and went to my place of abode for the night and got up the next morning with a hard chill. B-r-r-r-r-r. I said, "Come on, Bertha, let's go down to the gospel boat." God can whip you until He gets you to the place He wants you.

Dear Sister Weaver came over and said, "Brother Will, are you going down on the gospel boat this morning?" I said, "Y- - e - -s." There I was. I didn't feel like it, but there was something got hold of me shaking my body and my fever running high. I had the chills, and I didn't feel like it, but I just knew I had to do it. I had to do it. And down there I went like a good little boy.

That dear Mother Aubrey whose hair was white as snow, and would always shut her eyes, and shake her head sideways, and holler, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" Oh, I hated every time I would hear her holler. When she would shut her eyes, I hated it. I would despise her. I thought, "Yes, all she can do is to pray for her husband. When he talks, she prays for him, but when anybody else talks, she never prays for them. Always praying for him: "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

So when we went down on the gospel boat, Sister Weaver said, "Mother Aubrey, Brother Will

wants to tarry." She said, "all right, we will have prayer, and then I will go to the grocery, and when I come back we will tarry." We got down to have prayer and I knelt right down in the spot where my wife had knelt. Not purposely, but it was just to be that way. And when I fell over and down, it was just exactly in the form of a cross... her laying one way when she received it, and I another. She had made a wet spot crying on the floor, on the linoleum this way... and I... just across it, when I received the Holy Ghost.

Don't you say you won't do any thing... don't do it! For when I got down there, Sister Aubrey got right at my head saying, "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" I thought, "How long is she going to say Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah?" I thought, "Well, she is going to the grocery directly, for she said she was". "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah," and she never did go to the grocery. Somehow or other something began to come over me... a warm soothing balm... Hallelujah, Hallelujah... and I thought, "I don't care if she says Hallelujah the rest of my life." My God, it wasn't long until it just floated me away in the arms of Jesus, and He baptized me with the Holy Ghost. I said then, "I will never say again, I won't do it." It is dangerous to say that, for God may lead you around and be stubborn with you, and make you do just what you said you would not do. Praise the Lord!

So there... my wife and I both had the Holy Ghost. We had come through something. I didn't treat her right. It wasn't me that got her to it. No indeed, it was not, but it was those two women that were tender and soft, and a soft answer turns away wrath. I was stirring up wrath continually, and causing that woman to suffer. But out of that I learned something. I thank God for the schooling I had in that. It certainly did work wonders for me.

**"The minister that is going to have something from God for the people, is the minister that is working for a ministry to have something."**

The minister that is going to have something from God for the people, is the minister that is working for a ministry to have something. I learned that before I started out in the ministry. One time, I saw a preacher come in the church, and I said, "Lord, give me a message." The Lord said, "What for? To be heard of men?" That is exactly what I wanted it for, to let that fellow hear me.

**"It is something that will develop Christ in us, and give us a good drink before we get a lot of food."**

I used to have a yacht there at Cairo. And it was a

pleasure for me to get that yacht all cleaned up, and everything in running order, and take a load of the saints up from Olmsted, Illinois up to what we called: "Richey's Landing." That was four or five miles up the river. And all of the saints from over in Kentucky would come over there, bring their baskets, and come in their farm wagons. They would come to the bank when they heard the exhaust of the motor as we were coming. They would all raise their hands, and holler, and praise the Lord. It seemed like with every exhaust, that boat would pick herself up and glide in the air. When we got almost there, you could see women falling all over the riverbank... women and men falling all around. And the people in the boat... if it had not been for God, would have tipped it over. I would have about 16 or 18... and that was a big crowd in there. For about a half-hour they would shout and praise God, talking in tongues, falling in the sand.

The Brethren had a place for our meeting. We didn't lose any time, but went to meeting. We would all go down on our knees before God. We would take our Bible, and go around and let each one read a verse. Just so simple, each one would read his verse. While one would be reading his over here, some other brother would jump up, and kick his heels together, and go to it like a house afire. And we just believed everything that was said. It was a good thing we did. Wholly depending on Him for the lesson... for the chapter.

Oh, the things that would happen... the things that were done to our edification! It was rich! How would you like to do that? That would be pretty nice for us ministers right now, all of us older fellows to go into a room some place, and acknowledge our insufficiency, and get down before God and say, "Lord, you tell us what to read today for our lesson." That is fine. God certainly comes in your midst when you humble your self in that manner. Actually the Lord would do it every time.

One time, a brother called out a chapter. I was a little bit in doubt. I was praying down on my face, with my testament in my hand. I said, "Lord, if he is right, and that is the scripture that you want to use, let my thumb slip into that chapter." And behold, I put my thumb in there, and when I looked, it was exactly the chapter that he said. You can't doubt that when it comes that way.

We kept on, and finally we got to where we would have questions written, and on the Bible stand. We got to where we would come together and pray, and sing, and we would have messages, without this reading of the Bible. -Sometimes we would have as many as five red-hot messages in a day, by men that were called of God.



There were lots of men who were called of God back there, and they were precious too. Finally, these fellows... some died, some backslid, and I was left practically by myself. I went from city to city, from assembly to assembly, and I didn't have any help. Brother Tommy was just a kid. He remembers well what I suffered back then.

I was not working for myself; I saw that it was not for me. I saw that I could take it all on myself, and the church would be deprived of it. But I'll tell you, I labored and poured out my life, and gave it to the church, and got behind everybody. I put men up who were my enemies, and I knew it. They were right outside talking about me, and then come into the tabernacle, and I would put them up.

Men would say, "Brother Sowders, I have come for the word." I knew they had come for the word, but if they get that, they have to get what the word tells them they ought to have. It is something that will develop Christ in us, and give us a good drink before we get a lot of food.

**"I walked on my hands and everything fell out of my pockets... and was never more anointed in my life."**

I was coming from Chicago... I was blessed there that night. I walked on my hands and everything fell out of my pockets... and was never more anointed in my life.

Coming out, I ran right in the back of that fellow. He came out on a side road, and I was going straight ahead, and don't know if he stopped or not. I know he stopped when I rammed him. I couldn't help but hit him to save my life... when I could have went around on either side, take a little dirt, and miss him, but I just couldn't do it.

Got in the car towards home, at Evansville at the time, and down here... I think it was Sullivan... I was coming on nice as anybody... had a brand new Ford, never forget that... skinned it all up. My, I hated that. There was an intersection... going right towards the intersection, and a woman came out of the intersection. I was to turn right there, and do you believe, I couldn't turn... went right straight and hit that woman... right in the side of her. She stuck her head out that door and yelled at me. I said, "Hold on sister, I'm just a human being." Then the Lord said, "Will you stay now?" I said, "Lord, I submit. This is you Lord, it isn't me. This isn't that woman either, this is you."

God made me have two wrecks I didn't want to have, and I could've avoided either one of them, if I would have had control of my mind, but my mind wouldn't function. God said both times, "Will you stay home?" I never will forget when I was praying in regards to going, and the voice said, "NO..." I thought... I didn't think... I thought it was the Lord, and I wanted to think it was the devil, and blame it on to the devil... and went anyhow. I never made a trip in my life, that I had so much trouble as I did that one.

Brand new tires blowing out. Cost me \$55.00 to make that trip.

That makes me know that God can take your car, throw it to the left or to the right, or stop it, or tell you what's coming. God can do those things.

**"I believe in angels."**

I believe in angels, I've had them to touch me. I've had them to talk to me. I had one to notify me that there was some thieves in the alley back here that was going to break in here.

My automobile was out in front, and that is what they were after... found out I was laying there asleep, why... why, I'll say something... you guess what it was... came and pulled the covers sideways off the bed like that. Pulled the covers sideways... I woke up. What in the world is the matter here anyhow? Began to rub my eyes, and something said, "Better look, maybe somebody around here." At that time I heard a car door snap. I got up right quick, looked out, and there was a car with a woman and two men out there ready to pull off the job.

I called Brother George Floor... sleeping upstairs here... and I called Brother George... and he and I sat at the window and watched them until they got back into their car, turned on their lights, and pulled on out the alley. You guess what pulled the covers sideways and woke me up.

**"I called you to preach the whosoever will gospel, and I want you to stretch your arm to the Catholic and the Protestant."**

When I was on the police force, I couldn't stop to prevent my prejudiced spirit from presenting itself. We had patrol wagons way larger than patrol wagons are now, pulled by horses. I used to drive a patrol wagon. I arrested all kinds. I would load them up. I was awful... I was awful.

When I got saved, I didn't know salvation had anything to do with that whatsoever. When I got saved, I saw in the Bible what the Beast was. And I began to declare right out, I was going to tear it up with my words. I saw it plain.

I'll never forget I made a lecture one night, and my brother said, "Will, you will die. You can't go no distance with that; they will kill you as sure as your name is Will." I didn't have the Holy Ghost then. I got that much... that I was going to die for Jesus Christ anyhow, just as well die now as any time. I knew it. It was all over Me. The next time I tried to talk on it, God actually bound my tongue, and I got as weak as water, and had to go down.

Then, I questioned Him. I said, "Lord, why didn't you let me talk tonight?" "I called you to preach the whosoever will gospel, and I want you to stretch your arm to the Catholic and the Protestant. And I don't want you to have anything on your heart as to either element, because I love them both. And if you work hard, I'll use you to save Catholic and Protestant too."

I knew this was all going to happen. I've been watching it, getting revelations on it... and we're coming right up to it... but I trust... and I may be the worst one among them, I may fail God, I may try to take my part. Because I could never be touched and wronged, something in me, I just can't do it. But I want prayer, that if any thing happens, not to be afraid. But let me have a meek spirit, and love that poor fellow... and say from my heart, like Jesus and Stephen did. "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." It would be a terrible thing for me to fail now. I worked hard back there.

**"I'll handle the situation with my own hands."**

I remember when I was over here on Broadway, and something happened out in the congregation. I said to myself... and God heard me... I said, "This settles it; I'll take care of this tonight. and it will never happen again. I'll handle the situation with my own hands." And God said, "Look out there," and I looked out there, and He said, "What would they do, if you do that?" I said, "Oh God, forgive me," and a spirit of tenderness fell over me. And I know God can do that; God can do those very things. That is one thing we got to pray for and prepare ourselves.

**"...it was God or nothing, yes sir, God or nothing."**

We can't do anything within ourselves. God told me that when I first started. A brother was always bragging on preachers you know... and if didn't know I was going to testify... I had something that might be worth something. I got up to testify, and God took a hold of me... and actually, half of the crowd was crying, because God took a hold of me.

And the next night... well, you know what the devil told me, said: "You are around here now, and they have been wanting preachers around here. Now, you are living here now, and you can fill the place, the time, it is vacant." And I said, "I'll do that too." And I was ready for the next night to come.

The next church night... "I hope there is no preacher there, I will preach again." I popped up there all at once, and... ah, ah, ah, oh, oh, oh... down I went. I got mad at God and wanted to quit. The Lord said, "Son, you know when you went to the Methodist Church, you couldn't testify... you didn't have no words whatsoever. You know when you got up to the youth... you couldn't say anything." I said, "Yes, that's right Lord." "Now, I called

you to preach... if you let me use you... but remember... you can't do that by yourself." I said, "Good," and I went back and sat down. I sat down for a long time.

In three months... after I got the Holy Ghost, God just let me sit there like a dummy. He let me see myself... all... underneath, inside, outside, over the top, under the bottom... I saw myself, my insufficiency... and it was God or nothing, yes sir, God or nothing.

**"Meet Reverend Sowders."**

Anything I despise is for some one to say, "Meet Reverend Sowders." If there is a name I despise... is for them to call me Reverend. Another thing I despise is that: "I preach." I preach... I preach... I never did preach.

Another time I was in the camp meeting... and of course, during the day, coming to church, I had coming a congregation all day long. And some of the farmers came now and then and informed me they had a camp meeting over here in Kentucky... got together and sent me word that they would pay me if I would preach a night. Well, I saw when other brethren got up to preach they would hang their heads... and they finally needed another man.

I said, "all right, I'll take it," because I saw if I didn't do something about that, they would ruin the night services in the camp meeting. And I came to the Bible stand and I said, "I'm going to bind myself tonight, to turn other men loose. I'm going to preach... I'm going to preach." And I preached, and they never did want me to preach again.

**"I had knowledge that was wrong."**

We know when we are doing wrong at a young age. I was just playing hooky all the time... playing hooky from school. I knew I was wrong... I knew I was wrong. I didn't want to tell mother, and I was afraid she would find it out. I walked on crutches for three long months... the whole winter one time. I was 8 years old; walking on crutches... had my leg up. And Mother took me to two or three doctors. I knew I was wrong. I had knowledge that was wrong. The family doctor examined me for weeks, then the doctor began to tell my Mother, "We better call in another doctor." They decided to send me to some of the leading doctors in the city. I went to them, fooled all of them. Put me on their table, and examined me from head to foot. I was only 8 years old, and fooled every doctor in this city.

At last a doctor found it; he located it. That I had something the matter with my head... and it

was sure death. Mother crying... and I knew I was wrong, here I was on my crutches. That old man, I knew the first time he laid me out on the table that he knew more than the other doctors did. My Lord, I knew he knew more than the other doctors knew. He began to thump around here. He would hit; I would jump. He kept in mind where I would jump. He would go down, then come back where I didn't jump; I would jump. Where I did jump; I wouldn't jump. He looked over to my Mother, he said, "Mrs. Sowders, the next time you bring Willie, we will have to take a red hot button, start with his hips and down to his heels... and burn it." I thought... "I wonder if that was heated in the fire... an iron button." And I asked Mother when we went out of the office I said, "Mother, is that an iron button, put in a natural fire, and burn my hips down to my feet?" She said, "That is what he is going to do." I thought, "He'll never do it to me. I'm going to be well before that happens."

I have no confidence in doctors, because I fooled them so much. I mean, I fooled them. I said, "Mother, there's an old lady, and she has been trying to get my Father to buy her liniment... that would heal the leg." Of course, I didn't want to put that old greasy liniment on my leg, and I thought I would hang out for a while here. I've had three months of it, and I knew my school days were coming back again. I said, "Mother, let's try this liniment." And after six applications, I could kick as high as anybody could.

You know what I used to do? I would go out in the kitchen from the living room when there was nobody out there, and would put my leg down to see if I could put it down there, after holding it up so long.

**"I was there with God... was one of the most glorious, beautiful places... and all around me... the air... atmosphere... everything... was one solid yellow gold in color."**

I have moved out of this body. I'm not bragging, but I have moved out of this body... left it... through the conviction of it. I went on and talked to God... had a conversation, like we are here now. When I was there, my body was laying down here on the floor. I was tarrying for the baptism of Holy Ghost.

And another time, after I received the Holy Ghost, I was taken out of this body, and carried in the spirit... and there is where the Lord talked to me about going out in the ministry. When I got back into my body, it wasn't cold. And I knew they didn't know that I was gone. They were tarrying around me when I was gone. I wasn't there. I was there with God... was one

of the most glorious, beautiful places... and all around me... the air... atmosphere... everything... was one solid yellow gold in color. And when I was there talking to the Lord, there they were tarrying with me, and I wasn't there. I was gone. When I came back in my body through my spirit... get this now... my spirit was there in that body... that body was alive. My spirit was there, but there was nothing there... my senses was gone. I couldn't see, hear, taste, or smell there. All five senses were gone. That made me know what the soul was. The soul comes through our five senses. All has a covering; the soul has a covering.

**"I was with men, but they were not with me; they envied me. But I wanted to see them abound... I wanted to see them go on in God."**

I use to have to wash my clothes. I washed my trousers, my coat, and my vest... and when they got dry... the edges would be worn, and I would take a needle and thread and cover all of those raw edges. I cut the holes out of the seat of my trousers and sewed them together, and throw the holes and seat away. When I would go after my knife or something in my pocket, I had to go a way here to get them. There was my side pockets back here. But when I put my coat on, and the pockets were hid, then people called me a "Dude Preacher".

Say, listen... it wasn't because I was lazy, or didn't have the ability to make money. I was making money when God called me, and I was fixed. When God called me, I was fixed in the natural, just like I had wanted it all of my life. Right there, was when God called me to come on and preach the gospel, and turn my back upon all of it. Of course, I finally got to where I didn't have any money. People gave me clothes, and I wore those kind of clothes. I wore shirts that were patched, and I didn't have anyone with me in those days. I was with men, but they were not with me; they envied me. But I wanted to see them abound... I wanted to see them go on in God.

But finally, I came out into a broader place, and people began to come from the north, east, south, and the west, and we had meetings and schools that had more life in them than ten of our schools have now. When we were preaching and restoring the Godhead, water baptism, etc., Brother Reva and I would stand all day and half the night and defeat the devil and defend the gospel. We certainly did. It was activity then. I will admit we have come through a different time, and now we are going out into a greater activity.



**"I obeyed them that had the rule over me."**

When I started this work, I would go from one church to another... wherever I got an open door. I took advantage of every open door. And I went in churches where women were pastors. If they asked me on the platform; I sat there, and I didn't get up and have anything to say unless they asked me to get up. I obeyed them that had the rule over me. And a woman has the rule over you when you go to her church, and sit down there. She is boss of the house, and God will honor her as being so. I would be submissive, obedient, and humble, when a woman would say do this or that. If she would tell me not to preach, I wouldn't preach, and I wouldn't strike at her if I had a chance to preach. Say, if you went through with some of those things... then you would be pretty well healed for all different occasions that confront you at this present time. Work for unity... work for love... work to gather God's people together. He has called us to be Saviors, not slayers, but Saviors.

**He sat down at the piano, and worked on those keys so beautifully, and sang: "Please don't hinder me."**

God told me over on Broadway when we were having a school... and I was advocating the fact... that our dear Ethiopian people were going to come into the Body of Jesus Christ... and at that time, Bishop Mason was in our midst. Another Brother of that race rose to his feet to go sing a special. He sat down at the piano, and worked on those keys so beautifully, and sang: "Please don't hinder me." I was thinking... what a beautiful thing it was, while he was singing, that we were willing to let them come in and enjoy the meeting with us. And the Lord said, "Because you are willing to let them come in, and let them be among you, you are going to have the very best talents among that people right in your midst!" I believe that, yes indeed.

**"The Lord let me see that man's mind and I saw him going over into the ditch."**

How many of us have had experiences of being almost hit, knocked off the highway, spin around, going over the hill for so many feet?

I was going along one day, and saw a car coming behind a big truck. The big truck was going north, and I was going south, and I saw that man's mind. See... I couldn't get by the truck and the car, and I couldn't stop because I was going too fast... and so was the car. And the Lord let me see that man's mind. And I saw him going over into the ditch, and I hugged right close to the big truck, and thank God missed him. All I could see back there was dust

flying. I believe God took that man's mind and sent him over in the ditch, and saved me, by causing me to hug that big truck.

**"When the time comes that we need a million, God will give us a million."**

If you could have been with us from the beginning of this movement... and see how we came up through a poverty stricken condition, as well as other conditions, you wouldn't wonder at what I am saying. If we would get \$5.00 in an offering, or \$10.00 in the first offering at the camp meeting... we thought that was a dandy offering, and tickled happy at the \$10.00 offering.

Well, all we needed was \$10.00. We got the \$10.00. And then I watched God as we have moved on, and on, and we needed more than \$10.00. And we received in our offerings more than enough to supply our every need. And from that day until now, God has been giving us money to supply our need. When He told me that the gold was His, and the silver was His, and to let not my hands be weak, but be ye strong... praise God, I believed Him. When the time comes that we need a million, God will give us a million.

**"That was a big sin!"**

I went into a room to pray for a brother, and I began to question him. He contended that short weighing the people was the reason that God was chastising him, and I thought that was bad enough. I started to pray that night with the saints in there helping me pray for him. The power of God hit me and knocked me right under the bed. I went half way back... just skidded right under the bed. I laid there for a while and thought, "Lord, what is the matter?" Is this all because he short weighted somebody? Finally I crawled out from under the bed. I thought, "Well, probably that was sufficient now that was the power of God, maybe the Lord will heal him now." So we left... went to our places of abode.

I went over next morning to see him, and that man was in a dying condition. His tongue had done got thick, and his right eye had done sunk more than an eighth of an inch back in his head. And he just looked like a dead man. He couldn't swallow and you couldn't understand him. His wife had to help me to understand what he was saying. He would mumble something, and I would say, "Speak that a little plainer." Finally I caught what he was trying to say. A portion of it was enough to give me a lead. He said, "He kissed her." And then from there on, all he had to do was shake his head. I had the lead what

the spirit gave me, the words exactly what happened. He said, "I kissed her." I said, "Yes." Again, I said, "Well what do you want me to do?" He made me to know he wanted me to pray for him. I said, "We will have to go and get this woman, bring this woman here at your bedside." And he also asked me there that morning, what was I going to do? And what time did I get up of the morning? I could understand that much, and I told him, "Any time that is necessary, any time to do business with the Lord, I'll be up if you say so." Then I began to tell him what I would have to do, he finally submitted.

I went and got this woman and brought her to his bedside. And I talked to her, and showed her what she had done to that man, and of course what that man had also done. She said, "I told him that just as sure as we done such a thing, you would know it." Because God would reveal it to me.

I kept dealing with the case, and I prayed for him. That afternoon, it looked like that man was going to die whether or no. And her brother, wasn't a saved man, but he came to the church. He said, "I'm going to ask my sister, if what that preacher said is true. And if it ain't true I'm going to kill him." I'll settle his case for him; I'll put an end to him. Whew, I said, "Lord did you hear that, did you hear what he said Lord? And you are able to prevent him from killing me."

I talked much to the Lord that night! After I prayed for him... went back the next morning, to see if he was dead or alive. He was sitting up drinking a glass of buttermilk. For he had done, done now what James said to do. (James 5:14-15-16) "if any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church, anointing him with oil, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and if they have committed any sin, they shall be forgiven." He was up because his case was dealt with according to the law of God. She came in, and I dealt with them too. I had the wife to go outside, because I knew the way that wife was bobbing up and down in that room, she would likely jump on to her and scratch her eyes out. I took my wife along with me. I had my wife with me, this Brother's wife and my wife were on the front porch, while we were dealing with it, and after it was all forgiven, thank God the Lord healed. That was a big sin!

**"She was mad at her sister, in fact she was a murderer." God dealt with her case, and forgiveness came.**

There was a very precious sister in this assembly, and she was a woman that wouldn't cater to you, wouldn't compromise, she was

contentious, she would tell you what she thought about you. And she declared she would not hug or kiss a sister that I was trying to get straightened up in the assembly. They were just crossed like that. She wouldn't speak to her, right in front of the saints there. She said, "I will not speak to that woman." She contended, she wouldn't speak to her, when the woman was willing to speak to her. I told her, "Now sister, I've given you an opportunity to clear yourself in sight of God. And if you would have done what I've been telling you to do... be obedient, you would be in the clear. But now condemnation rest upon you, and that cloud will hang over you until that thing is forgiven. You are going to call on me, and I will not be able to pray for you, you are going to get sick." She said, "I'll not kiss her, I'll not shake her hand." I said, "all right, all right." I went on with the lesson.

And just about a week, I got a rap on the door... knock, knock, hello, this is Sister so and so Brother Sowders. Sister so and so is awfully sick; she is just raging with pain, going from one end of the bed to the other. Come over quick, she wants you to come as quick as you can. I said, "Amen Lord you are working." I went over there and sat down beside her bed. I said, "Sister, I'm going to deal with you just as the same as you was my Mother." I want to talk to you, like I would talk to my Mother. She was rising up and falling at the foot of the bed. She said, "Oh Brother Will, pray for me." She said, "You're a man of God. I know you are a man of God. Oh!" (Holler in pain) It was gallstones... didn't have a doctor, but I was doctor enough to receive in the spirit what it was. I began to talk to her. She said, "Yes Brother Will, tell me what you want to tell me." I said, "Will you hug and kiss that woman the first time you meet her? And tell her you are sorry the way you treated her?"

She would holler with pain, "Oh-oh yes! I will Brother Will!" She kept telling me how she wanted to do the will of God, and I felt the forgiveness from her. When that forgiveness came I dropped my hand on her head, she went right out from under my hand, and on the floor hopping and jumping, kicking up her heels, healed sound and well. She was mad at her sister; in fact she was a murderer. God dealt with that case.

**"A man who drank so much whiskey that he died from it."**

I was talking to a merchant on a train one time; we were talking about a man who drank so much whiskey that he died from it. This merchant had much to say about it. I said, "Isn't it strange, you and I know that man died from drink?" Whiskey killed that fellow,

and you have a gallon right there in that case? Isn't it strange that a fellow will take a route in this earth, and walk over a precipice and kill himself? And another will know that he fell and killed himself (in that path that he was walking in), and he is walking in the same path, and yet he won't change? But he stays in the same path and goes head over heels in the same thing anyhow.

**"Jesus wanted to dress me up... it was a battle."**

I wish I could go back to that little town that I landed at one time, and start over. I have said, and I will say it again, you would never see a necktie on me, because that which was on the inside of me didn't want a necktie on. It didn't want me to beautify the outer man at all. It didn't require any decoration, for it had something that would decorate me so far beyond what the outer man could do, that I was ashamed to use anything that belongs to Adam for the purpose of looking better.

People used to call me a fanatic because I didn't wear a necktie when I first started out. I was going to preach a funeral so I put on a black bow tie. A fellow came walking down the aisle who never saw me with a necktie on before, and I saw him nudge the other fellow beside him, (whispering to each other). Oh, I was condemned. And of course the Lord began to talk to me. I thought, "Well that man would make fun of you if you didn't have a neck tie on. He would have something to accuse you with."

The Lord gave me a dream and showed me I was losing out that much. I took my necktie off for a while. I went back to Olmsted to visit the saints, and I had my tie on then. If I had thought about it, I would have taken it off before I got inside. When I got in there it just seemed like I had a rattle snake around my neck. I went outside and I gave my tie a yank and threw the thing away. The reason I was so condemned, let me say this, was because the ministers of that day didn't wear neck ties and they got it from the Holiness people back there in Wesley's day.

I kept battling and battling with it. Then I went to Evansville to take over the work there. A fellow said to me, "Pardon me, but don't you think it is more presentable as a minister to wear a necktie then go without one?" I said, "Well yes, it is more presentable looking at it naturally but I prefer not wearing a necktie." I got to thinking about that, presentable, presentable. The devil kept holding that up before me, finally I threw away my celluloid collars and put a linen collar on and wore a beautiful necktie.

Well, I kept on battling. You wouldn't believe it but that battle lasted about two years. What was I battling? I was fighting Jesus Christ. Every time He would come around me I was fighting Him and being determined to have my way in the matter. But He wanted to dress me up.

**"I couldn't drive my automobile out on the street if it was polished or washed."**

When I began to get automobiles, I couldn't drive my automobile out on the street if it was polished or washed. I would let it get all messed up and when no new one on the automobile was showing, then I would drive it around. It wasn't the idea of the beauty of the automobile showing it was the idea of the machinery working good.

**"I am not going to quit as long as these two people are sitting here with their mouths open."**

I was holding a meeting in Granite City, and would start in the morning at nine o'clock and would stand and talk until four thirty and five in the evening. People were going out because they were working two or three shifts there in the steel mills, and here was a man and his wife, sitting along in here. Women were going out with their cloaks on their arms. I said, "Go ahead." They would go a few steps and turn around and listen. I said, "Go ahead. I am going to stand here, I am not going to quit as long as these two people are sitting here with their mouths open." I'll tell you they kept their mouths open a good little bit after that.

**"I was wondering if they were good marksmen and if they knew just where to shoot."**

I dreamed I was being martyred the other night. Two men were behind me with guns. I was wondering if they were good marksmen and if they knew just where to shoot or would I have to suffer by degrees. One of these men walked up to where I could see him from the side. He was talking to the other fellow and pulled out a shell and said, "This is a good one. This came through the White Mouse." As much as to say, "This will do the work." That didn't sound good to me. I don't mean I am afraid but what I mean is that it sounded like there was something behind that.

**"People were falling everywhere."**

One time in Southern Illinois we were having a revival meeting. People were falling everywhere. I watched a man as he fell backwards and he was falling towards the stove. However, he was too far from the stove to touch the stove, but there was a coal box beside the stove and that man's head was bound to hit the coal box. It was impossible; he had to hit the coal box. I was just scared, I was drawing up in

a knot. "Oh my God, my God," as he was going over. And I watched for his head to hit the coal box and just as his head went right at the coal box it turned that way and went beside the coal box. He didn't hit it at all.

**"They came in after the meeting, took their rules out of their pockets and measured the distance."**

I remember in a prayer meeting one night, a sister had just received the Holy Ghost and she fell towards the bench, and the bench was something like our altar benches here. It was impossible, she had to hit it, naturally speaking you see. Her head had to hit right on the edge of the bench right about on her neck. Would you believe that woman's head turned around and went under the bench.

There were mechanics standing around on the outside and they looked at that and they began to say to themselves, "It is God, that is impossible! That woman had to hit that bench unless some unseen power moved her head and prevented it." I got to talking to them and explained to them about the power of God. They admitted to me, it was God. They came in after the meeting; took their rules out of their pockets and measured the distance and it was impossible for that woman to fall and miss the bench unless some unseen power turned her head and put it under the bench. It was plain enough to see, as she was going over, that she would hit it but just as she was going toward the bench her head was swerved over by an unseen power and she didn't get a scratch.

**"In these times of refreshing, just look up and expect something."**

We have seen some people get bumps. I was one, when I first started out I was falling, falling, falling. I was tumbling here and there. I remember every time I fell, it felt to me like a pillow fell on the floor. And I fell one time and hit the end of a rocking chair with the back of my head. It just felt like a pillow hit the rocking chair. It didn't hurt me one bit. It didn't stop me or hinder me from having the spirit of God. I had a perfect contact. I'll tell you it is just marvelous what God will do if we will all get our minds on the Lord, and in these times of refreshing, just look up and expect something.

**God said to me, "Why don't you call on me to heal you when I am so close?"**

When I first started out in the ministry, wife and I rode on a tobacco wagon, it was just about 20 miles from Ragland, Kentucky to Paducah, Kentucky, and we sat upon top of a load of tobacco. I think it was in June, however

the weather was very hot. We sat upon that tobacco and that tobacco was drying and steaming and we were feeling that steam from that tobacco.

When we got to Paducah, wife had to go to bed and I toughened it out and didn't go to bed because I didn't want to bother the people. I was always very careful in watching that I didn't put a burden upon the people when I came to them, traveling to and fro in the Saint's homes.

I went to the Gospel Boat and when we began to eat our supper I was in a bad condition. I was awfully sick. I was aching and had pains from the top of my head to my feet. The power of God began to fall when we returned thanks, and when the power of God was there in our midst, God said to me, "Why don't you call on me to heal you when I am so close?" Say, I never forgot that! See I wasn't paying any attention to that. That was my first experience along that line. I lifted my hands and said, "Lord heal me." Thank God he started from my feet, went on up and stopped right here. I grabbed hold on God again and said "Oh Lord, finish it." And He lifted it right out. I didn't have to tarry a long time. I didn't have to do anything only to give over to God because He was there to do work for whoever needed it and thank God I got my share of it.

**"all right, we are going to pray while the meeting is going on."**

I remember my wife, when I first began seeking the Baptism. Wife was of a certain faith and didn't know anything about real salvation. She didn't know what being saved meant. I had been converted. And she said, "Now don't go down there, you have enough. Don't go back there any more, you have plenty. You are a different man altogether from what you were. Please don't go around those people any more." Of course I just looked at her, I thought, "Well I am going." And I had a jacket on. She got hold of me with her two hands on my shoulder and pulled that jacket into the most horrible looking shape. She stuck her knee right in the middle of my back and pulled. She tried her best to prevent me from going. Well I shook her off and I went.

It wasn't long until she was down there watching me. She rebuked the preachers saying, "You are ruining my husband. He never did anything like this before, until he met you people."

The next night she said, "Are you going down again?" I said, "Yes". I'll show you how cunning the devil is. She said, "If you will stay with me tonight, I will get down on my knees and pray with you." I thought, "I am making some headway, probably that

will accomplish something." I said, "all right, we are going to pray while the meeting is going on." When the meeting started I could hear it. I said, "all right Bertha, lets get down on our knees and pray." She knelt over here and I was over here. I looked over at her and she was looking out, I said, "What are you doing?" You fooled me tonight. You will never do this again. You didn't stay here to pray. You are not praying you are looking around. You just have a lot of imaginations in your mind." My brother was staying with us at the time and she said, "Do you believe in this?" See how cunning the devil is. "If you don't go down there I will kneel down with you and we will have prayer in our home." It sounded just like I wanted it to sound. But that was that slimy lying serpent. Jesus said, "He was a liar from the beginning and he abode not in the truth." He will lie, lie, lie. You can't believe him.

**"I would give my wife up before I would give up my tobacco."**

I remember telling a friend of mine, after seeing this people coming in and out of their homes without smoking or chewing, I made the remark that they put me in mind of freaks. They did not look like human creatures to me, eating and coming out without a pipe or something in their mouth.

I pulled my pipe out and blew the smoke out and said, "Walter do you see that?" (This was just a few days before I got salvation.) I said, "I would give my wife up before I would give that up. (My pipe) Because this I can't do without, and I could do without my wife. I could get another one."

Do you know one thing; it was no time until God had me gripped. I saw them, you see, and that was the opinion I formed right there, that I would give my wife up before I would give up my tobacco. God caught me off of my guard some way or other and kept it out of my mind until He got me saved.

And the very next morning I started to get my pipe. Oh, I was a slave to that pipe, to tobacco in general. And I wanted the very strongest that there was. Your homespun wouldn't have done me any good. I went to the little table where I prepared my tobacco every night and I would grab for that pipe before I would light the fire every morning. When I got hold of my pipe, something over my head said "ACK!". I looked around and my wife was asleep. And it came to me, "That is God talking to you." I looked up and I said, "Lord I will give it all up for you." God must have emptied a barrel of honey down on me, because it went all over me and I would do anything right there for God.

**She would say "Praise the Lord, here is where he is wrong."**

I used to be a person who couldn't stand for a woman to boss me under any consideration. I just couldn't stand it. If I would have a testimony, that woman would jump up right after me and pick it to pieces. Oh, that would make me so hot. I used to jump up and down in front of women before I was saved, and cuss and holler, "Send your husband out!" That is right.

But this woman, I couldn't stop her to save my life. Every time I would get up to testify she would get up and say, "Praise the Lord, I know the brother is called of God and is going to be a great man, but I am going to correct him right here."

I'll be honest with you, I wanted to do the right thing, and I sat on the floor over against the wall. I wouldn't take a chair. I would sit on the floor because there wasn't enough chairs to accommodate the people. And I thought, by sitting down there I was humbling myself. This night I was sitting over there after two years, just think, two years. I broke up many a meeting and I thought it was her all the time but it was me. And one Sunday morning in Sunday School when we would have a lesson as a general thing it would be on marriage and divorce, and if I would say anything she would jump up right after me. And every time she would say something there would be bitterness rise up in my heart. I did not want to hear her talk, I didn't want to hear her voice. She said something in Sunday School and I followed right after her and I sure put some heavy bolts in there.

And we broke the Sunday School up and everybody had to go home. I went home and took my Bible in my hand and began praying. I thought the Lord was going to show me all of the wrong that she did and the reason the Sunday School was broken up. I opened up to the second chapter of Romans, "Therefore thou art inexcusable O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." I said, "Get behind me Satan," that isn't the Lord. God showed me I was doing the same thing.

So I was sitting on the floor one night and I read the 19th Psalm and commented a little. She jumped up and said, "I know Brother Sowders is called of God. God is going to use him, but I am going to have to straighten him up on this, he has got that wrong." I was sitting over here and my blood began to boil. I couldn't hardly hold myself to save my life. I thought, "Wait until she gets through, if I won't tend to her case tonight. It is no use of letting her do this all of the time, there is a stopping place somewhere and that will be



tonight." I was just raring. Right in my fit of anger there, the Lord said, "Son if you can't bear with this woman, what will you do when you go out in the gospel field and many will rise up against you?" Bear with her! Bear with her! I studied what that meant. I got it! Let her say what she wants to, let her do what she wants to. Be not overcome with evil but overcome evil with good. If your enemy hunger feed him, if he thirst, give him drink, for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (Romans 12:20) That woman got up and popped off that night and I said, "Oh God, help me to bear with her." She would look at me with a silly grin, tormenting, as much as to say, "How do you like that?" And here God had said, "Son, if you can't bear with her how can you bear with many that will rise up against you?" I had it! And when you get an understanding of a thing you can't go against it. If God is working on you, you just have to take it and swallow your medicine.

She would say, "Praise the Lord, here is where he is wrong." She was just putting quinine in it all of the time. LORD! LORD! LORD! I sat there and studied and I know if it could have been weighed there was a ton of the old Adamic life that went out of me. I suffered more right there. My Lord! What in the world did God let that happen for? Why didn't He tell me before that? He could have done that. I questioned the Lord about it, "Why didn't you let me know before this happened?" He didn't let me know. He wanted to work that thing out of me. That was right at two years after God had called me to preach the gospel. See I didn't go out right away. I stayed at home. God kept me home.

**God said, "It is time for you to go now."**

God said wait until I send you. At the expiration of two years God said, "It is time for you to go now." I went out after I had two years of training, two years of education under the mighty hand of God and His house. Not in some man's house or seminary out here but in His house. And there He trained me. God said, "It is time to go, I will sell you out." Thank God He sold me out. And the first place I went to, a woman jumped on me. Over my head she said, "Sowders, Sowders, Sowders." I thought, surely I had a chance to breath or say, "Praise the Lord," or something. She was hammering her fist right over my head. I said, "Praise the Lord." She said, "You had better praise the Lord while the fire is burning." Would you take it? Do you think you could?" I had to take it. I wanted to do the right thing.

**A voice said, "There are big ones to catch when the right bait is used."**

I started out in the beginning and I went to a

church and was compelled to talk that night, and I was talking about being good neighbors. I was showing the good of the churches. They were lambasting churches, driving people out. I talked that night on the good of the churches and showed them what all the churches had done. A dear Baptist brother at the door took my hand and said, "If that could have been used all of the time here you people would have had all of us." Tears were coursing down his cheeks.

I went to bed that night and I dreamed that I was fishing. I was out here on the shore. There was the lake out before me and there was the trees. Everything denoted winter, cold weather. The water was blue, it was clear. The trees were bare. They didn't have any leaves on them. I was sitting therewith a pole, with five big crawfish on there and I put them craw fish into the water and waited for a bite and there was nothing doing. I would raise them up and there they were with their old pinchers stuck out. I would put them back in again. There was nothing doing. Being a fisherman, I knew that kind of water, and the trees without any leaves, there wouldn't be any fish biting.

That wasn't me, it was that people. There we were trying our best to catch fish with such a cold icy spirit. All at once the dream changed and I was sitting on a stump about 20 yards from shore. The water was milky looking. The cottonwood and the willows were almost full force. The sun was beaming down in that lake. I had 5 red worms and every time those hooks would touch the water the fish went, boom, boom, boom, boom. My, it almost jerked me off of the stump I was sitting on. All at once I looked in the lake and a great big fish threw water as high as this ceiling and had a tail that broad. A voice said, "There are big ones to catch when the right bait is used." A voice said, "There are big ones to catch when the right bait is used!" And there are too!

**I said, "God wants to talk to you."**

I know a sister, she wasn't proud, but she came to our camp meeting and because of some of our black children there I granted them liberty, and they took it, and all were precious in the Lord. They yielded, and the power of God like to have blessed them to death. Some kicked their shoes off dancing and shouting and having a big time. I was sitting in the back of the tent watching the meeting in progress before this happened, and heard them behind me humming a song. And I turned to these two brothers and a sister and told them to sing the song out and they started, "Early in the morning blessed Savior, I would ever be, I am on the altar gladly saying, here am I send me." Say, about that time I'll tell you... here am I,

here am I, here am I, send me, send me, I am ready for thy service, ever would I be, here am I send me." By the time they got there, everybody that was on the platform and in the front of the tent was at the back of the tent. Surrounding those three people.

Next morning this woman made the remark, "I'll tell you this Pentecostal people will actually mix with anything." She said, "I'll tell you. I'll never speak in tongues again. I didn't know she said that. Nobody told me, but God didn't stop the meeting because of what she said, but He waited until the meeting was over.

And I was there helping to pack the tents, getting things ready for shipment, and they came running up over the hill hollering, "Brother Sowders, Sister so and so fell and something terrible is the matter with her, come quick, she wants you." I started down there and God said to me in plain words, "I'm working." I said, "Amen Lord."

We went down there, and there was that sister. She had been ironing and fell prostrate on the floor and they had picked her up and put her in the bed. She couldn't say a word. Her tongue was paralyzed. She could not even swallow unless you got it down past the end of her tongue. And the root of her tongue would take it down into her stomach. I got down on my knees and said, "My God heal her now." The Lord said, "Come back again in three days."

My wife stayed with her day and night and fed her chicken broth and beef broth with a spoon. Day and night, and we had to stay until the three days expired. We went up the third day and knelt down by the bedside and got to talking to her. Sister, you talked about somebody. You told somebody something that you should not have told them. I said, "When you meet that sister will you tell her you are sorry and you want to repent because you repeated such a thing?" I could feel the spirit of God coming on her. When I felt her time had expired and God had forgiven her of the things she had said... I'll tell you, it wasn't ten minutes of praying and her tongue came out of her mouth, and I'm not exaggerating, her tongue just cracked in other languages just as fast as it could go. She said she would never speak in other tongues as long as she lived and the first thing she did was to speak a long message in other tongues. That woman was healed sound and well.

**"The chastening of the Lord is a wonderful thing."**

We went to pray for a young man, with a paralyzed tongue that couldn't swallow. I began to tell the saints what to do and how to do. Holding on to God when you come into a home where sickness is. Don't

come in there talking about cabbage and beans and bacon, but get our minds on the Lord. Gird up your minds. Everybody, gird up your mind and get quiet. So in this home, as the saints would come in I was praying and I would warn them, shy, sh, sh, sh. There he was sitting over there, looking like he was going to die, most any minute. Directly, they all got in and we began to pray. I sang a chorus of song. I said, "Son, when we say, 'Here am I send me,' you say it from your heart." Here am I send me. You can't talk but you can talk from your heart to God. He began to pray and shake his head as we began to sing. I could feel something coming and all at once I saw a white cloud fill the entire room and it just looked like white cotton packed in that room. When we got down on our knees, I saw that white cloud give it that (whirling) and go up in a funnel shape. When it went up in a funnel shape, that brother hollered, "Glory to God!" His tongue was completely loosed. Oh, it was wonderful, his time had come, had expired, and he was healed. The chastening of the Lord is a wonderful thing.

**"I was carried away into heaven somewhere.. I."**

I tarried 8 months for the Holy Ghost. I used to sit down on the floor and if I felt like it I would lay down, because that was one thing that I hated to do. I was trying to go against my own will in every way possible. While sitting on the floor I started out by just praising the Lord in my heart. You couldn't hardly see my lips moving, but I would get my mind on the Lord and hold it there. I wouldn't hold it long, until I would fall over prostrate under the power of God.

I had several experiences during that time, which were just as rich as could be. During that time I was carried away into heaven somewhere and the Lord and I had a conversation and He told me what I would have to do. It almost scared the wits out of me; but anyhow when I came back I did. In fact, I noticed in particular that, I didn't come back until I was willing to do it. I was there and I was hanging there, I don't know where, until I said, "Yes Lord I will." When I said, "Yes Lord I will." Back I came. After I was carried away and came back to myself, I did as I promised God I would do. And I noticed that I could get in contact with God in quietness, easier and quicker than I could with loud praises. I thought, that was the way I was going to get the Holy Ghost.

But as I was tarrying... dear old Mother Aubrey would come by as I was sitting so nice and quiet, getting in contact with God, she would shove me over. When she did that, it broke the spirit, and roused my spirit. I readily found out I couldn't get mad and get the Holy Ghost. I had to get where, when they shoved me

over I would praise the Lord. Well, I continued on as I said for as much as 8 months. Two nights I tarried all night long, until daylight. I promised God I would. I said, "Lord, I will stay here all night long until daylight to get this Holy Ghost." Say I stayed all night twice and didn't get it.

**"A doubt that big will actually break the spirit of God and leave us all down here high and dry."**

One time, we were all praying on the Gospel Boat for a woman that was right on the verge of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and brother Bob Shelton was a very fine man, wonderful in the spirit of God. The power of God was falling, everyone of us were in the spirit with each other. Brother Bob rose up, shaking under the power of God and he came over and laid his hand on that woman. Just about the time that I thought she was going to receive it, I thought, "What is he putting his hands on her for? She would get the Holy Ghost if he didn't put his hands on her." Right there the spirit left. I said to myself, "He broke the spirit because he put his hands on her." The Lord said, "You broke it." I said, "How did I break it?" He said, "You doubted Brother Bob and when you doubted you broke the spirit between all of you and me."

I didn't believe it at first, but I had to submit and ask the Lord to forgive me. I am the man; I am the one that hindered her from getting the Holy Ghost. What hindered her? Just doubt. Doubting whether the Lord was leading him to put his hands on her or not. A doubt that big will actually break the spirit of God, and leave us all down here high and dry.

**"God put us together, and worked on me."**

When I first met Brother Aubrey for the first time, he came up in his boat and threw me the rope and said, "Tie that rope to that tree out there." I never took anything from anybody. I was never domineered by anybody. That struck fire right there! God put us together, and worked on me year in and year out. My God, what I went through with what trials, what tests, what sufferings.

**"But that which he desired for himself to have, the other party would get it."**

I used to have a home open to the preachers. I always have had, as far as that is concerned I still do. And I would hear a preacher pray, "Oh Lord, give me a big ministry. Make me a great minister." And I never did hear them say, "Lord bless Brother Sowders and give him a great ministry." I paid attention to that and I got a thought out of it. They were in my home eating at my table and sleeping in my bed and there they were praying for themselves. I knew he wasn't going to get

anywhere. But that which he desired for himself to have, the other party would get it.

**"You pray for other boy's mothers, and I will send someone to pray for yours."**

I began to pray for my Mother. I prayed, "Oh God, baptize my Mother." The Lord said, "You pray for other boy's mothers, and I will send someone to pray for yours." I quit praying for Mother and began to praying for others. It wasn't any time until God began to move on my Mother.

Humanity is selfish, and when we try to bring God down to our selfish ways of doing things. And it is always a selfish motive in their minds and they work accordingly. Do you think God is going to be in a thing like that? No indeed!

**"I began to help the spirit."**

Praying too loud. See, I have learned all of this through experience. I was praying one time and there was a fire engine house across the street in Paducah, Kentucky; and I was mighty anointed in prayer, I was inspired to pray. The spirit was praying through me and I began to help the spirit. It was loud enough but I began to put some of my power into it and I went on up, beyond and over anything that the Holy Spirit would have done. And like a big hand something came down over my face. I could feel the wind of the hand and something said, "What are you doing?" I knew what I was doing; I saw it in a moment that I was hollering too loud.

**"I readily saw that this was a spiritual life, and it was prophetic utterance that was going to enable us to accomplish that which God had called us for."**

When I went out in the ministry, I readily saw that this was a spiritual life, and it was prophetic utterance that was going to enable us to accomplish that which God had called us for. And I was studying as to how to continue in that prophetic utterance and improve daily. First, I tried to shut my eyes when I talked and then talk fast and loud. Shutting my eyes was for the purpose of not seeing anybody looking at me and laughing and making light of me, so that I could keep the unity of the spirit. And talking fast was for the purpose of keeping the words of the spirit coming in and out without any disturbance of anything getting in there.

A fellow said to me one night, as he was going out... Whispered it in my ear, "It is not all in loud hollering." I just went down like that. I didn't say anything back, but oh, how I could see that he was exactly right. I didn't get the least bit offended but I took it.

**"There is something about this that is certainly alive..."**

I have been sitting on the platform at camp meetings and just feel something welling up in my breast and have something tell me to do this or that and if you don't, so and so will happen. And keep everything right in the channel, and all other out on the side all day long. Sure, my Lord there is something about this that is certainly alive and is intelligent. And the beauty of it... it can see around the corner, and if we keep it fixed up right, it will tell us whether there is a cold wave around the corner or whether prosperity is around the corner.

**Knowledge and Wisdom - The balance for the middle of the road.**

God has always made me to take the middle of the road. Driving a team of horses you have two reins to guide them. Pull the right to go right, pull the left to go left. Hold both loosely and go straight-ahead. Pull back on both to stop. God showed me the two reins are knowledge and the other wisdom. Use both in balance to stay in the middle of road.

**The Old Man is after you.**

The devil had me believing I just couldn't make it. The Lord gave me a dream. I dreamed my Father came to me. (He was a very cruel man) He told me before I found the Lord, and he had a way of telling me, "I'm going to put it on you." In my dream he came to me saying, "I'm going to put it on you." I said, "Don't you touch me." He said, "Yes, I will, I'm going to put it on you." I said, "Don't you touch me." And he grabbed me. I said, "Don't you see you don't have any power? I have got hold of you."

What was the dream? Don't you see? The Old Man is after you. And I got some help. That is why when you get the Holy Ghost the battle is hard and long.

**"Study to shew thyself approved unto God."**

I would study a verse and read it over for half a day. That night when I would try to quote it, I could not. I said, "Lord, there is something wrong with me. Lord, there is no use, I can't preach the gospel, for you have to remember what you are reading." The Lord said, "Didn't I give Nebuchadnezzar a dream, didn't I take it away from him?" I said, "But I don't see what you would want to do that to me for? For how in the world could I preach if I can't remember?" Then the devil said, "There is no use to read for you can't remember what you read." I said, "That is right." Another voice said, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)"

**"They gave me \$2.00 more than I asked for."**

God told me He would sell me out. I did not advertise and the first week nobody came around. My wife said, "See you missed it, the Lord isn't selling you out, you are getting ahead of the Lord." I said, "He said He would sell me out and now it is up to Him." I just quit work and waited until business started. The first week it was nothing and the next week my things went so fast, I just had to shove it out. What they offered me was always more than what I thought they would bring. Then I had a rig of nets on the river and met two men and they said, "I hear you want to sell your rig of nets," and they gave me \$2.00 more than I asked for them. The Lord had said He would sell me out. So I went.

**"The Holy Ghost is a wonderful thing."**

Brother Kinne gave me a ballad of a song one time and I forgot the tune. I said, "Lord give me the tune to it." The Lord gave me a tune for this song. My Lord I had it right there. I thought, I wonder if this is anything like the original? Would you believe that when I heard the person who knew the song, it was the same tune that I had? The Holy Ghost is a wonderful thing.

**In type... The Church is a Wife.**

After I got wise to an Evangelist one time, I said, "Say fellow, don't you never again write my wife a letter." He said, "I never did write to your wife." I said, "Don't tell me you didn't, you got several of my saints addresses, and it is my wife. For I'm doing my best to take care of her. You had just as well been writing Bertha a letter and from now on don't you write to none of them."

**"You ought to send for an Evangelist."**

One time a preacher came in to preach for us at Evansville and there was only a handful out that night, comparatively speaking, and he said, "My goodness, have you got a revival on?" I said, "No." For I understood what he meant. He said, "My God, you ought to send for an Evangelist."

**"I wasn't going to be a burden to nobody."**

I started out... wife and I with two suitcases and our songbooks. We had songbooks... five of each kind that Pentecost used. That poor woman and I walked over four miles through the hot sun. You seldom ever saw an automobile unless it was a tin Lizzie. We started out, and I had some money, but nobody ever gave me a penny. I was a barber and I would shave them and cut their hair and never charged for it. Maybe the woman of the home... be at the wash tub and have my wife's clothes in there

and I would get at it while she would step away and I would wash the washing, I knew how. And I wasn't going to be a burden to nobody. If there was a wood block out in the yard and a saw I would go out and use that cross cut saw and I would saw all the wood and make it look nice. I would take my clothes and clean them and press them. Of course, the husband of the home, his clothes needed pressing too and I would press them with mine.

God said go to Cairo and from that day to this, He has give me my every need, He has blessed, blessed me.

**"If I did that for Nehemiah, won't I do it for you?"**

I was only getting three sweet potatoes, and of course that will make a fellow think or try to scheme to get it. I thought, "I'm going to tell the saints that I have a little system so I will get a shower occasionally." I always had the Bible in my hand. The Lord said, "Let your Bible fall open." It fell open to the 5th chapter of Nehemiah. God said, "If I did that for Nehemiah, won't I do it for you?"

**"That is what I was worth to the Lord and He paid me off."**

It was at Paducah, Kentucky that I would watch after the work when Brother Aubrey would be gone for three or four months, and I got .25 cents a week. If not that, I would get three potatoes, or three pork chops. That was from a wash woman at that. That is what I was worth to the Lord and He paid me off.

**"It was hard to sell them, but I did it."**

I was in Paducah on the Gospel Boat with not one penny. Before I had sold all of my tools, there was some of them... and I could make three or four dollars a day and that was big money in those days. My wife was crying every day, for I did not have a penny. We ate sorghum molasses and hard biscuits that were three or four days old and rinsed them down with hot water. Talk about coffee, or Postum, my Lord, butter? I never saw it. I would go to the market morning after morning and not a penny. I would see those nice round steaks. Not a penny, not a penny. And I was always a hustler. I remember the last letter I wrote I cut the paper out of some brown paper and did not have enough to pay the postage. And there was a place that I could go to work any time. Nobody could give me a penny. God did not let them. I had spent all of mine. Here was some telling me to go to work. Man, he will test you out. I would pray and God said not to go to work.

Finally, God said to me... when Sister Aubrey went to the Mayor to get a pass for my wife to come to Louisville... while she was gone the Lord said to me, "Sell your tools and, I'll send you out." I sold my tools, at almost a sacrifice. When

I sold them I went to Cairo and met Brother Bob and began a meeting. And a brother one morning knocked at Brother Bob's door and said here is \$5.00 for you preachers. \$2.50 that was the first money I had for a long time. But would you believe that with all this... what this one would say and that one would say... "Brother Will, you ought to do this and that." God said, "You can't do it." God said, "Sell them tools." Of course I always put my foot on them. My wife knew that I could always get a job along the river. It was pretty nice to know that. But when the Lord said, "Throw that thing away you have got your foot on... that you are depending on." It was hard to sell them, but I did it.

God said, "Go to Cairo" and from that day to this, He has give me my every need. He has blessed, blessed me.

**"God healed the calf."**

One dear sister from Anna, Illinois... her husband died and she had a barn full of hay. She had sold her horse and buggy. Before he had died, he said, "Wife, I am going to die; but wife, I want you to join Brother Sowders church." He died and she came right to our house and received the Holy Ghost.

The house wasn't paid for and she was paying so much a month, each time she had it. The weather got cold and the snow 1 1/2 feet deep all winter long. There was a lady not very far from her and she had a cow that was starving to death. It was a fine Jersey cow. She heard about it and said, "Do you think it is wise for me to buy that cow since I have all that hay?" She bought the cow and turned it loose on that hay and it began to give milk, and she supplied us with milk and butter... and for all the preachers. It wasn't long and that cow gave birth to a calf, and the calf got old enough to veal it. The calf got sick and selling that calf was her only means of meeting her obligation of paying on the house that month. She came to my house and said, "My calf is sick and it is all we have hopes of, selling that to pay on the home." I said, "Sister, God can heal your calf and then you can sell it." She said, "Brother Will, will God heal that calf? Would you pray for a calf?" I said, "I should say I would, come on in here and we will pray. We knelt down and prayed. God healed the calf; she sold it and had the money for her home.

**"One day God began to talk to my heart."**

When God called me, I was going to be an Evangelist and preach the gospel to every creature. One day God began to talk to my heart. That was before going out in the ministry. He brought a vision before me and it was very simple, for He knew that He was dealing with a very simple person. Here came a coal bucket, a milk bucket and a water bucket before my eyes. I looked at each one of them. The Lord said,



"The water is for water, and the coal for coal, and the milk for milk, but I can take the milk bucket and make a coal bucket out of it, and take the water bucket and make a milk bucket out of it. But it will be just what it is, and never amount to anything." And then the Lord began to say, "Evangelist for Evangelist, Apostle to do the work of an Apostle, a Teacher to do the work of a Teacher." If you will let me use you, as what I have called you for and you are contented to be that, you will become that. But if you want to be an Apostle and I haven't called you for one, and you want to be an Evangelist... you study and try to equip yourself for the unsaved and you never will equip yourself for the church.

**"What are you anyhow?"**

I was riding on a train before I received the Holy Ghost and I was talking to the Lord. The train was running at a fast speed. I got to thinking. "How is it, this train is running so fast, and down here above Cairo I felt God and here I am and I still feel God?" I began to think about that. I remember working at a trade in the bottom of a boat; the spirit of God would bless me. (I was about twenty years old.) I remember that when I came back to the Lord again. I began to think, "You are a funny God, surely you are an individual... and how it is a person can get in a submarine under the river, ride in an airplane or train at fast speed, and still feel God. What are you anyhow?"

**"The first meeting I held, the spirit of God was there."**

The first meeting I held, the spirit of God was there. All kinds of things were happening. People were getting the Holy Ghost in homes. All the time I was doing that, God said, "I didn't call you for this." I would say, "What did you call me for?" Am I not doing that?" He wouldn't answer. I would keep going on, and God would say, "I did not call you to do this." Not in it! Look at all these people that have gotten the Holy Ghost and have been healed, and you are not in it? What about it? I began to seek God as to what to do. If God was that kind of a God, I wanted to find out about it. God showed me how to close the meeting in a perfect way. I began to study God.

**"Don't trifle with God."**

I remember going into a home where they were dying with the flu. (The Father, Mother, and three children.) I went in and prayed for them and didn't get anywhere. It is a good thing to search out to see what the cause is. I rose to my feet... sat down, and got quiet. "What is the matter Lord?"

"Frankie is the father of the house. I want to talk

to Frankie," the Lord said. I said, "Frankie, you love your family don't you?" He said, "Yes I do." This family belongs to you, not me, not God, but you. You are the head of this house, and you want to see them healed don't you? He said, "I certainly do!" He was spitting up blood. I said, "Frankie, are you about ready to pass over, if God don't do something for you?" He said, "Yes, I know it Brother Will." I said, "God wants to talk to you. You are the father of this home and it is up to you whether you see these people healed or not. Are you going to serve God?" He said, "Brother Will, I have been pretending to serve God. I have tried to make you people think I was serving God, but I have been short weighing people in my business. I promise God, if He heals my family, if I can't do an honest business, I will move back to the farm. I said, "all right Frankie, take courage. I am going home and fast."

I fasted for a day or two and came back. They were in a critical condition. I began to talk to Frankie and the power of God got on him and he almost shook the bed down. The spirit of God came on me and I rebuked the flu, and all five were healed in five minutes. It was only a few days when I went back to Frankie's. When I came along I saw a mattress coming out of a window. The devil said, "You thought you prayed the prayer of faith, some one has died." I walked up there and said, "What is the matter?" Frankie is moving back to the farm. "He couldn't hold out, he had done so much short weighing, he was going back to the farm. I said to his brother, "Where is Frankie and the family?" He said back in the kitchen eating. I went back there, and they were going after it.

Well it was too bad! Frankie went to the farm and couldn't make money fast enough and went back into business again. It was a scandal and a shame... in about two or three months they went back into business. It wasn't long until his wife became sick. We prayed, and prayed... we couldn't do a thing for her, with all our importuning. She went to a hospital in Saint Louis. Frankie is a money man, and some pick pocket relieved him of his money. His wife came home and died.

It wasn't long until his boy; a fine young man got his leg cut off. One calamity after another... and Frankie went six feet under the sod. Don't trifle with God.

**"The next thing I knew, he was working, and never did anything in the ministry."**

About 30 years ago I remember a man who would have been a wonder in God. He married. He said, "Marriage is honorable." I said, "But you are going to ruin yourself." He said, "Look at the wives Abraham

had, and Solomon... surely I can take care of one." I said, "You had better watch yourself."

It wasn't long until he had about 15 children. When I saw all of his children, it looked like a litter of white pigs. The last time I saw him, he was in an automobile; children were hanging out the windows. The next thing I knew, he was working, and never did anything in the ministry.

**"Can you be perfected by sticking your head under a pillow?"**

We see the moral condition of the world. It doesn't look as bad now as it used to because we are getting used to it. I said to the Lord, "When the women began to cut their sleeves off, and lower their neck lines a little bit..." I said, "You said all things work together for good, but if that is working for good, what good are you getting out of it?" The Lord said, "Son, until the devil brings forth his seven fold corruptness in the world, my people will never be able to be perfected and bring in a seven fold righteousness." I said, "all right Lord!" Can you be perfected by sticking your head under a pillow and staying there the rest of your life? No you won't! Not the perfection God is calling for.

**"You can't trust any other Bible but the King James Version."**

You can't trust any other Bible but the King James Version. I got that from God in Anna, Illinois. My Holy Ghost began to talk to me; God authorized the man to translate that Bible called the King James Version. And men have taken it upon themselves to revise it and we have version after version. I got that from heaven... study the King James Version and leave the other revised versions alone. God authorized men to do it. He didn't authorize any other. Men did it because they thought they had brains enough to do it.

**"When the light of heaven is shining, you can't hide."**

The assembly I was reared in was a home where we worshipped with about 20 saints. And we would go in there with no Pastor. A Pastor that doesn't get in God's way is a dandy. Brother Knight was there and Brother Shelton, no one was head over it as a Pastor. We saw some wonderful things happen in the meetings. God revealed things, right there. When the light of heaven is shining, you can't hide. If you had a quarrel with your wife someone would say, "You did so and so... and so it was rich.

I'll tell you we were anxious to come to church and see the manifestation of God. There was no

preacher to say, "All right we are going to start the meeting, or; now we will have testimony service." We started testifying when we came in.

**"My son, this night you are ordained to preach The Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ."**

In a meeting the Lord said to me, "Tell them I want to bless them." I didn't want to tell them for fear he wouldn't, and they would call me a false prophet.

"Tell them I want to bless them." I thought, if I tell it, they will call me a false prophet.

I told one of the brothers, "The Lord tells me he wants to bless us." "You tell them," he said, "the lord didn't tell me, you tell them." When we couldn't sing I said, "The lord wants to bless us."

Mother Aubrey said, "Let's go down and get it." We didn't get it! There wasn't any blessing that came. I could feel the minds... "He is wrong." I said, "Lord, bless them."

I felt pretty bad. I got up... of course I didn't feel like it; and the lord began to bless. And Brother Bob started going through a manifestation. We wondered what He would do. And the Lord said to me, "He is going to ordain you tonight to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ."

I was wondering what He was going to do. I didn't know what ordaining meant. Brother Bob kept it up, I knew the Lord was going to bless. All at once He got in front of me. I knew He was going to ordain me, but I didn't know what He was going to do. All at once, He raised his hand and said, "My son, this night you are ordained to preach The Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ." Oh... it went to my feet, like dynamite! The Lord said, "Notice the congregation." There were the saints shouting and praising God together.

The Lord told me to tell them He was going to bless them, but we want to get it in our way, when the Lord wants to do it in His way.

**"That doesn't stop us from having our feast of Charity."**

There are people who come in our midst that give us the laugh... make fun of our interpretation of the word of God. A fellow left the camp ground with a truckload of people, and in leaving he said, "Good bye you suckers." It was nothing but somebody looking for an outing place, a place to get a rest. They got everything cheap... used our water, sat in here as though they were saints. They were spots in our feast as sure as you live. We have them often but that doesn't stop us from having our feast of

Charity.

**"He has put me in the ministry of Jesus Christ."**

I have seen men go out of this tabernacle, and go six feet under the sod. I heard a man say, "Popery," and went home and went to the insane asylum. It is a pity, the things I have seen happen. My ministry has been the hardest ministry in the last days because of the fact He has put me in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It has not been my will to come in here; it has been against my will for these many years. I have not been anxious. It is not the idea of me being puffed up because of what God has done. I am compelled to do what I have done.

**"God knew how to supply every need, and poured the spirit out on them for five days."**

I remember when the Lord first began to teach me how to conduct Camp Meetings. I started in that particular camp meeting and tried to give out the word and I could not get anything. I was praying, and said, "Lord why is it that you don't give me the word to give out?" I prayed, and the Lord said, "Five days." And I had to guess why He said it. Every time I could think about it, He would say, "Five days." And He made me to know what He meant.

Five days before the word would come forth. I thought, "I wonder why is it we, had to wait five days before getting the word?" The Lord made me to know that when we come together there was a lot of people who were not in an Assembly that did not have a chance to get a blessing, and they needed a drink of water. God knew how to supply every need, and poured the spirit out on them for five days.

I watched in particular the meeting to see what would happen at the expiration of five days. And there was nothing but the word of God from there on to the end. It proved God was more concerned than I thought that He was.

**"You have to be willing to help and assist anybody that asks a question."**

I used to write a lot. I did not have anything to do but take care of the home assembly, and do the janitor work, etc. I would write to the saints a lot and answer their questions. I had a perfect inspiration. A dear old lady asked me a question one time and I said, "She don't need to know, for there are others that have asked questions that are more profitable." That certainly gave me a stab. It stabbed through my heart. All I did was... said to myself, "Others need to understand, she is too old."

Many times after that... I would be writing and I

was minus that wonderful, perfect inspiration, and I was inquiring of the Lord why it was not there. And that dear old lady came up before me who... I had refused to write to her... but I would write to this one and that one, and the Lord said, "She is mine, and you should have supplied her need... and when you refused, you did wrong." That is not Charity. That is not the right spirit. You have to be willing to stop, help and assist anybody that asks a question. Having no respect of persons, without hypocrisy. A person wants to be the same every day.

**"What I am... I am through the power of God."**

I haven't been bothered with holding things against people. There was a man, and this man did me more harm, or tried to, than any man I ever met. I'll tell you it got on me. That was after my wife died and I was in a whirl, a ball of fire... and this fellow did this at that time. I just thought it was too much. That is why I could not get it out of my heart. I tried my best and it would come before me. But my goodness, do you know that we have both been in the same town and God would never let us meet face to face. But now, thank God!

That was one thing that got in my heart and I could not get it out. My heart was in no good shape after my wife died. Wherever I turned, the fire was blazing red-hot acetylene torches. But God brought me through. I came through it, and it did me good.

I know what it means to go through judgment! Every time you turn there is a flame of fire pouring on you. You turn from that, and there is another over here, and then another. I could not have done it, but it was God!

I have known when I was going to say something and God would not let the party appear. God was showing me that He was helping and assisting me not to bring a reproach on His cause! I have come through enough to know that what I am... I am through the power of God. And if God don't want me to fail, I'll get through.

**"We let the biscuits burn. We put Him first."**

It is hard for you to give up, to throw your will away and say, "I won't have my will in my life, but thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." It is pleasant sometimes and sometimes it is not pleasant. Take a person like I have been - full of activity, full of business. It sure does hinder a lot. But I know a life like that can be lived. I have lived it and I have seen others live it.

I remember Brother Aubrey and Sister Aubrey, wife and I lived that kind of life; worked that way for

years. We got down on our knees every morning the first thing. Breakfast would be burning up, and the power of God falling. The Lord was blessing and talking to our hearts. And we let the biscuits burn. We put Him first. Sometimes, starting to eat at 7:30, and would eat at 10:00. If He was blessing us we stayed down as long as He told us any thing. We talked to Him as long as He talked to us. It was like that all through the day. Beans would burn up, boil away.

**"The most beautiful sun you ever saw."**

The time came that we had to have the gospel boat repaired. And there was no money to be had. It would cost several hundred dollars to have the boat on the docks. It needed repairing badly. We said, "Let us pray and see if God wants us to put the boat on the docks." It wasn't long until I saw the boat move over to the docks and it began to be pumped out, and I saw the sun shining down, the most beautiful sun you ever saw. I said, "We are going to put the boat on the docks." But we had no money, how could we do it? I'll tell you, that was faith. Would you believe God provided? God put it in the hearts of the people to put the boat on the docks, they didn't know if they would get any pay or not. But the boat was finished.

**"I'll give thee the heathen for thine inheritance."**

When I had the church on Market Street and things were hard, the light and gas bill running high, and the rent also. There was nothing much doing and things were hard and rough. My Lord I was running to Evansville every few days. I said, "My Lord, do something, for I can't stand it." I drew the promise, "I'll give thee the heathen for thine inheritance."

See... for a certain length of time, I had to keep my doors open for the Pentecostal people. There would be as much as eight or ten or fourteen preachers there in one night. They were preaching, exhorting and having a big time. But when I would get up... and one by one they would leave. I saw there was nothing being done yet. I said, "Lord do something, I can't stand much more of this." The Lord knew my heart that I was looking for the Pentecostal to come in and He said, "I'll give thee the heathen for thine inheritance." I said, "Let them come, let them come!" Would you believe that night, the power of God swept through and stayed me on my seat. When I came to, dear Sister Delta and Sister Berlie were at the altar seeking the Holy Ghost?

**"If you and I don't use what God has given us, somebody will get what we were to have."**

When I first started out, there was a brother who had a miraculous voice. The first time I ever heard

him singing, it was the song, "The Cloud and the Fire." I was standing back in the congregation, and actually that mans voice just rang out. But the time came when that man would not go in the meetings, and for an excuse he would hold his baby in his lap, just to keep from standing up and leading in the song service.

He had a dream and came telling me the dream, "I dreamed I died, and I was lying on the bed. A man came with a pair forceps and pulled two gold teeth out of my mouth." The interpretation was... he was dying spiritually and God would take two teeth out of his mouth. Two teeth were two talents. And that was exactly what God did. Two talents is singing and testifying and we all have either one. I told him, "You have two talents, and you won't use them and God is going to take them out of your mouth and give them to somebody that will use them."

Would you believe from that time on, I had a throat that never tired, such strength in my throat in song. It got to where they would say, "Oh, here comes Brother Will, sing a song for us." I was singing, singing. I would rather sing than try to preach. Actually I would know songs if I just heard them once.

Finally... voice began to crack and it got weak. One night, I was wondering why it was, after the strength my voice had at one time, and I said, "What in the world does all this mean?" God said, "I gave you two talents." Finally my voice began to leave me and I sat down and began to cry and I kept saying, "Why is it?" After praying and weeping before God. God said, "Son I called you to preach and you are using song instead. I have to take it away from you." Well that was some consolation that it was not being taken because I had done wrong. I knew by that Brethren, if you and I don't use what God has given us, somebody will get what we were to have.

**"The Lord gave him space for repentance..."**

Brother Raincloud, I remember when we were in a meeting one day in Wood River. You said, "I have no more confidence in you." Because you wanted to give a revival meeting. I said, "You had better watch out." It wasn't any time until you began to have hemorrhages of the lungs. You came one time and repented. You said, "I repent," but God didn't give you space. When suffering with consumption, you came from Chicago to repent, and thank God He gave you space for repentance. The Lord gave him space for repentance and healed him sound and well. That has been about 13 years ago.

**"That was ME that laid my hand on you... just wanted to let you know I am with you."**

When wife and I were lonely, no place to lay our heads, no place to go for the night, unless the sister whose home we had been in would invite us. We were not invited yet. We were lonely and got down on our knees to pray. While praying, a hand was laid on my shoulder. It laid heavy there. I quit praying, I thought wife thought I was praying too loud. I looked over in the corner and there she was praying, I wondered, "What was that?" A voice on my left said, "That was ME that laid my hand on you... just wanted to let you know I am with you."

**"I will die before I take any medicine."**

I had said I would die before I would take any medicine. And I was very sick. The saints prayed for me and there was no victory and they went out saying, "Brother Sowders is too sick, we can't get hold of God."

They left me all alone, no one to help me. The devil was hounding me, he said, "You said you would die before you would take any medicine. And now you are going to die." He showed me my green corroded organs and said, "How are you to get that out of you unless you take a round of medicine to do it? You said, you would die first, and now you are going to die." I was lying there flat on my back and listening to that scoundrel. I turned over and said, "I will die before I take any medicine." An angel touched me and I was healed. There was a picnic on Lovers Leap and the people were coming toward me because of my shouting, I said, "Come on down and I'll tell you what God has done for me."

**"I was led perfectly by God in visions, dreams, etc"**

I had a wife up to a few years ago. I was led perfectly by God in visions, dreams, etc. When I would get bull-headed and God couldn't lead me, He would tell my wife what to do.

**"Paul was speaking to the Pentecostal people in the last days, the latter rain people."**

I remember when I first started preaching 2 Timothy 3:1. (*This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*) I used to preach it to people out here in different sects. One time I was talking on it and the Lord said, "Son apply that to the baptized people and it will be properly applied. I didn't think the baptized people were separated, divided. I thought everybody loved everybody like I loved everybody. I found out that everybody did not love everybody. I found out Paul was speaking to the

Pentecostal people in the last days, the latter rain people.

**"I learned... God would take a worldly tune with sacred words, and bless to His glory."**

I remember when I learned that God would bless a worldly tune. I was going to Lola, Kentucky, I stopped at my daughters and she was playing a song on the piano. I took the tune and put sacred words to it. "I prayed, I cried, now I'm satisfied." I went to Lola and got up, I always sang before I talked. I said, "Lord I am going to try you out tonight. If you bless in this song, I will take it for granted that you will honor a worldly tune if sacred words are put to it. If not, don't bless." I opened my mouth and sang that song... never in my life did the Lord bless me in singing a song, as He did it. The people in the congregation took on. They said, "You turned so white... there was all around you a light beaming. You wasn't yourself, you were another person tonight." I felt I was another person. I learned there God would take a worldly tune with sacred words, and bless to His glory.

But say, the attitude I was in when I started it... it was nothing but the life of God buoying me up and singing that. At that time I could sing. There is not a man in here that could sing as good as I did. I did have a voice, but God took it away from me. I used it more than preaching. He had to take it away from me to preach.

**"I was so dead to the things of the world; it had no effect on me. Salvation will do that very thing."**

I'll never forget when I came from Southern Illinois and back to Louisville, and I had that wonderful experience for eight or ten years. I passed places that at one time I would not have passed without stopping. And I made this remark, "If I would have died and they would have shipped me to Louisville in a casket, it would have had no more affect on me than now when I am walking right past them." I was so dead to the things of the world; it had no affect on me. It was just the same as though I was being carried along in a casket. Salvation will do that very thing.

**"God slipped around and caught me unaware."**

A few days before I was converted, I saw Brother Knight coming out of his home with a tooth pick in his mouth, and I had a big corn-cob pipe and I was standing talking to a fellow that was an unsaved man. I said, "Walter, you know one thing," and inhaled and let her go, I said, "I would give up my wife before I would give up this!" I knew I could get another wife, but I could not do without that pipe, for I tried it. I loved it. I would get up in the night and smoke a pipe full. The older it would get the better it was. But God slipped around and caught me unaware.



**"I reached over to pull him out  
and felt myself slipping..."**

A very dear man was with me and helped pray me through and was a preacher in the Holiness movement for six years. I watched his work, his labor and it was a wonderful lesson to me. That man stayed by me. And the gospel boat was my headquarters.

He went to a Camp Meeting and joined up with that Organization. Another brother that had joined it, broke the news to me. That like to have killed me. He came and told me it was the body of Christ where the gifts were going to be placed. I said, "Well you are wrong."

I said, "Lord, you called me to preach the gospel and I won't do it wrong if I know it." I said, "I'm done right now unless you show me what to do."

That night I had a dream. (You see he told me I would have to join that organization.) I said, "Lord, you have led me this far, and I am not going any farther unless you lead me." I dreamed that night I was up in a tall building and was walking around and I saw a hatch hole about three feet square. I looked down there, and there was that brother down among the mules. I reached over to pull him out and I felt myself slipping, and a voice said, "Be careful or you will go in there too." I said to my wife the next morning, "Get your clothes ready we are going to Columbus, Kentucky. I had done got orders from heaven."

**"You can say you are the precious  
among your race."**

Our dear saints here (colored)... I remember when the devil said, "You are going to get arrested." I was preaching in Brother Reed's in this city, and the power of God was so great in there, it actually stirred the people on the street and heads were sticking in the windows, and the doors. It filled the place with people. And of course there were police right out there. The devil said, "You are going to get arrested." The Lord said to me, "Are you willing to suffer for this people?" I said, "You know if I am or not." God said, "I am going to give you the precious of this people in the city."

And you can say you are the precious among your race.

**"This beats anything I have ever seen in my life."**

Here came a very intelligent man, a man of note in Pentecost at that time. "all right Brother take my chair." He said, "Oh, Brother Sowders." I said, "Sit in my chair." I got off on the one side of the church and I watched.

In those days they had a way about them that

they would make you believe they were right by the blessings. He started preaching and made rushes up and down on the platform. I watched my people to see if they had any weak places. I sat there and just smiled... no one got mad.

He looked at me and said, "This beats anything I have ever seen in my life." He couldn't get the power of God to blessing. He said, "I have never had any more freedom in my life but you people don't believe what I am saying, even Brother Sowders don't believe what I am talking about."

**"As I was with Moses, so shall I be with you."**

Before the war broke out, while we were on Broadway, some of the brothers were putting a linoleum in the hall. While sifting there, the darkest cloud filled the room and settled all around the room. It looked like streaks of ink and streaks of mud, all different colors. It was nothing white, nothing pure, whatsoever. I looked at it and said, "What is it Lord?" He brought sorrow and trouble before me. I said, "Help me Lord." And the Lord said, "As I was with Moses, so shall I be with you." I shouted and came down in the hall and told the brethren and we all shouted.

**"You are not catching anything, just pollywogs."**

Here is an experience I had working to win some people. This man and his wife had five or six children all ages. He would smoke until it would actually strangle you when you ate. But I stuck on the job trying to win them.

I had a dream. I was out with my fishing pole and line, and directly I pulled out a pollywog as black as tar. The Lord said, "You are not catching anything, just pollywogs." I wasn't partaking of his pipe and conversation, unless it was on the line of crops.

They had a room for wife and I, they built it for us, and said it was my room. I thought surely God would give me those people and I tried to win them. God showed me I was catching nothing.

**"I'm a peculiar man."**

I was telling Brother Tommy the other night when we were talking about prophetic utterance, I said, "Well, I'm a peculiar man, when I get up to talk I never think of what I am going to say. I just feel like something is hanging on the inside of something and I never pay any attention to what I am going to say. I don't know, but something comes." That is the fact. I feel it now. Something, just hanging on the inside of something. The thing is hanging on the inside of me... is doing the talking.

**"I never heard a message on love like that in my life."**

Thirty years ago or more, God said, to me, "Get up and say Pentecost." I had not been in the ministry over two years and I was going through experiences I never had before. I said, "Lord what will I say then?" He said, "Get up and say Pentecost." I said, "What if I have no more to say?" He said, "Say Pentecost." He gave me nothing more. I said, "Well what does it mean?" He said, "Say Pentecost." I just had to get up and say it. I rose to my feet and said, "Pentecost." My Lord, something hit me in the back of the head and the words came floating through my lips and it turned the whole assembly around. A brother rose to his feet and said, "I never heard a message on love like that in my life."

**"Go and pray, go and pray, go and pray."**

Before I was converted and heard of the Holy Ghost I served God for one year or maybe a year and a half and then I was overtaken suddenly and got in a fight, and was so condemned that I just stayed away from the church and didn't go back. There was a voice that said, "Go and pray, go and pray, go and pray." I said, "God take this voice away from me." Several years later when I came to God... (I repented in bed) but I had to pay up and one day I called for some ungodly people so I could take care of some things, that was after my experience when I was carried away out of this body.

**"I kept on treating them good."**

I was having prayer meetings in my home and right across the street was a home with five or six young men and one daughter, their father was dead. But the boys were good providers for their mother. After first meeting they waited on me and said, "We are working people and are not going to stand for a lot of that." I said, "We are making a lot of noise aren't we? You go on home and I'll see that it gets quiet." Say, we are a noisy people. He thought he had me bulldozed. I went back in the house and told the saints we are going to have to quiet down, until we heap coals of fire on them.

Well I got to studying. I had a garden with a variety of vegetables. I took notice of what they had in their garden and it was very little. I went out in my garden and pulled up onions, lettuce, I sent them down to them. The next day I sent some more. The boys came in and said, "Mother where did you get those onions they are fine?" She told them the preacher sent them. They said, "WHAT! After we talked to him the way we did?" The next day or so I sent them vegetables. The next morning the little daughter came up with a little

glass of jelly. I knew it was working. I said, "Oh thank you Lord, it is just like you said." We asked her to sit down. We went to the extreme in kindness. There was a promise box on the table and I said, "Little one, every one of those cards have a promise and you draw one out, for it contains what God will do for you." She drew one out and then I said, "Draw one for your mother." And it said "And ye shall receive the Holy Ghost not many days hence." I said, "Eva, take this to your mother and tell her how you found it." She took it down... and she was supposed to be a good Baptist. The little girl brought it back and I said, "What did your mother say?" The girl said, "She just laughed." I kept on treating them good.

Directly, some of the boys went to war and left only two at home. They had a great big hog and they did not know how to butcher it, so I butchered it, cleaned it, trimmed it right up, put it all away, salted it, fixed it. All they had to do was eat it. Directly, they needed a closet built and asked me where they could find a carpenter. I said, "I'm one and I'll build it." Asked me how much it was... I told her only a good will. "Oh, you can't do it for nothing." I told her I was glad to do it. She said, "Well, now you have to take something." I said, "Well, I'll tell you what you do, you give me half of the \$5.00 and let that go at that. Let it be for the cause of Christ and not for the building of the closet." It wasn't long until that dear woman was right in the meeting where her son said, "We dare not have another."

One night I had a Baptist preacher preaching and when she heard that preacher saying he could go and drive a stake right where he was sweetly saved and that was right where this woman had lived. She jumped up and said, "Glory to God that is where I was saved." And went to talking in tongues and shouting.

**"The K.K.K. was filling the country...  
it was getting bad."**

God showed me why Al Smith was not elected. The K.K.K. (Ku Klux Klan) came in and defeated him. God showed me that He put men up. I was going through suffering at the peril of my life. The K.K.K. was filling the country, taking possession. You couldn't hardly have a meeting. It was getting bad. I began to question God. He showed me why it happened.

**"it is more than I thought it was."**

I remember a time when I was discouraged. A man came along and said, "You have been here too long." He was supposed to have been my right hand man. Of course, before I would let the work split, I left. I let him have it. I was discouraged. I said, "Lord I might as well quit, I am not accomplishing anything. I am not

doing enough to justify me to keep on."

That night I had a dream. I landed a seine (*a large net*), and what fish I caught I threw out on a bar. Landed again, and what I caught I put them on the bar. I made my last haul and didn't catch any more than before. I thought, "It seems like there is no use to gather them up." A man said, "Gather them up." I went to gather them up and the man held the sack for me. I noticed the sack. That man was tall and he had a sack that was higher than I was. He said, "Let's weigh them now." I can't remember whether it was 150 or 175 pounds. When he put the steel hooks in the sack I said, "Oh my goodness, it is more than I thought it was." I looked in the sack and they were all big ones.

What is the dream Lord? The Lord said, "You think you are not accomplishing anything, but you will see in the end what you have accomplished." The beauty of it... they were all big fish.

I would rather have the proper nets and catch big fish than minnows and work and labor to get rid of the minnows.

**"I thought all you had to do was  
get the Holy Ghost..."**

When I first started out, before I received the Holy Ghost, a brother told me, "Now Brother Sowders, there is only going to be 144,000 in the Bride and that number is about made up, so you better hurry." I got to hurrying too. I would get down and pray, "My God, don't let the number be made up before I get it." I thought all you had to do was get the Holy Ghost and you were ready to go up.

**"That river was preventing them from  
being consumed with the fire."**

Right here, on the old platform, I was talking and I had a vision. Right out of the sky, came a river clear as crystal and the flames of fire were rolling all around it, lapping and consuming. Right in the middle of the stream were saints with their hands raised up, and that river, the stream, was preventing them from being consumed with the fire.

**"They were very demonstrative."**

I was called to a Camp Meeting one time, to a place where they were very demonstrative. Thirty-two fell at the altar. The platform was full of saints and they were in habit of dancing every time they felt the power of God. They certainly danced too, they did not just waltz around lightly, but they really put them down! Well, they began... and they fell over each other. When all those came to the altar, several came to pray with them. The majority fell

over from the platform on to those at the altar, and when I looked around, most everybody was gone, I drove conviction away and most of those at the altar were gone.

**"Our big strong God takes weak things  
and does big things."**

We were called to pray for a baby who had pneumonia. The doctor had already named it that. The mother called me to pray for it. I knew wife was weak in faith; I knew she was because she took little remedies. She wasn't sick enough to resort to doctors. However, she was on one side of the room praying... Brother Tom Hatler and I were praying for the child. Here we were two preachers, no use to pray if it be God's will to lay hands on it.

All at once (stomping) here came wife, and "Boom" the child was healed that quick.

A little weakly woman prayed and the child was healed. I said, "God you are more merciful than I thought you were, you go the limit. I wish I knew your limit. I wish I could be as merciful as you." I looked at my wife different after that. It don't take strong things to do big things. Our big strong God takes weak things and does big things. I didn't think God would use her in healing, especially if two preachers were there to perform their duty. However, He has an order and works in that order to His own satisfaction.

**"God told me to hit around the edge of it,  
and not hit it square in the middle...  
not to hit right on one of those doctrines.."**

I remember Brother Knight had a tent up there on the hill, and I didn't have the Holy Ghost yet. I made a talk that night from a political point on the Catholics. There was hatred in my heart.

I knew some day the Catholics some day would rule the country. And when I looked into the Bible and saw "BEASTS" and somebody told me what that was, I sure filled up. I was showing the Democrat ticket was the Catholic ticket, and the Republican ticket was the Protestant ticket. That power was coming in a way that we were putting in there. I was showing that and thought, "Now the next time we have a meeting, I am sure going to talk on that again. But something happened to me that took all the strength out of me and I almost backslid. I asked the Lord, 'Why didn't you give me something to say?' He said, 'Son I love the Catholics, as well as the Protestants and I have called you to preach a whosoever will gospel.'"

Over there in Kentucky were doctrines being

preached, and the battle was long and hard. I was going over there to tear that doctrine down and the Lord brought a barrel before me and I saw a bung there in it and a mallet. That mallet was raised up by an unseen power. And then I saw it hit, and the bung popped out and then it went back in place, and that mallet hit it right in the middle and made it tighter than ever. I asked God what it was and God told me to hit around the edge of it, and not hit it square in the middle... not to hit right on one of those doctrines. Thank God! The idea now of working and hitting around the bung is a job, and stay off the bongs.

**"I kept teaching and teaching."**

Finally, the Lord sent me to Evansville and they were brought out by a second work people. There they were, all believing that and were certainly zealous for that doctrine and no man had ever preached the second time in that Mission. That was not a finished work preacher. But God led me there and He knew He had taught me well enough to just hit around the bung and I certainly had a job with all those wild, second work people. For six months I stayed there just hitting around the bung. But thank God, when I had been there a while, I kept teaching and teaching. Why, they would come to the altar to tarry with someone and ask them, "Are you sanctified yet?" They would say, "No." And they would tell them, "You have to be sanctified before you can get the Holy Ghost." When I left there that was cleaned up clear of all that.

**"I found out it wasn't wrong to get aggravated at the devil."**

Say... when that devil starts out there, God must do something more for us. I found out it wasn't wrong to get aggravated at the devil. Right here in this town, Sister Lewis was laying flat on her back... that was years ago, and they called Brother Tom Hatler and I... and we came and began to pray, and she was practically healed and I saw it was coming back on her. And the Lord said, "Tell her it is coming back." And I told her and the Lord said, "You prayed just long enough to start the healing but you quit too soon." I told them that and said, "This time now, we are going down on our knees," and I said, "when it comes, Sister Lewis, keep it here." I said, "All right, let's get down and go to praying." And it began to come, and I said, "Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, don't quit, don't quit, don't quit."

Out came Sister Lewis, cooked breakfast and was never touched by that affliction anymore. It comes by getting right down and rebuking the devil. If I will do that, victory will come. That is

something we are coming into possession of, and when we get it, we will bring it to the children of God. It just takes a little more exertion on the part of the ministry to bring about better results for healings.

Dear Brother Reva Mears's boy had 30 some odd chills. They declared the boy was going to die. He asked me what I thought about it? I said, "Let's stand firm. The people in both New Haven, Illinois and Evansville got stirred. That little fellow looked so bad you thought he could not have had another chill and lived, and yet he had another and another. Reva still stood firm and said, "Lord you called me to preach the gospel and here is my test on healing... proving you in this. It is proving I mean to trust you for my life and my family. We waited, and one day that child was healed. Directly, when that child grew up and could walk around, they would say, "There is that boy that we got so sore about, because they would not have a doctor and trusted God for it.

**"It was the finest Hebrew he had ever heard."**

When we were holding a meeting in Cairo, one night, Brother Bob spoke in tongues in six or seven different languages. There was a Jew there by the name of Mike Riesman, and he wrote the languages down and went to his store. The next day told the people he understood what that Holy Roller was saying. Say, he had more customers coming in and saying, "Say, did you understand what that fellow said last night?" He would pull the paper out and say, "Yes, this is what he spoke." He had it on paper. It was the finest Hebrew he had ever heard. Say, we were a reproach, but God lifted it by letting him speak in tongues and that Jew understanding it.

**"Standing before the Federal Judge... I saw tears in his eyes."**

At the breaking out of the war with Europe, while standing before the Federal Judge in behalf of Brother Meeks, who did not want to take up arms, I sat like a little lamb. I could tell when God was beginning to give it to me. I could see that man falling. Say, he was lifted up, a Federal Judge, but when I began to talk to him, I saw him going down, and directly I saw tears coming to his eyes. The power of God was on me, and I gave it to him. He said, "He never heard it before, it was the best he had ever heard, and he had no idea there was a people in the world like that." God was speaking through me. Brother Meeks said, "My God I came near to almost shouting."

Finally I said, "Judge, your Honor, I will have to be going." He said, "Say, will you come back?" I said,

"I'll be glad to."

**"The manifestation of God in the earth  
will make men mad."**

I was raised in the Methodist Church, rocked in the Methodist cradle; I was christened and grew up in it from a child. My Grand Father was in it for forty some odd years, before he died. And the first time I heard anyone speak in other tongues it made me mad. I thought, "I feel like shoving my fist down your throat." It was dear Brother Knight, at a baptismal service. I found out it was the devil in me that made me mad at the manifestation of God. It just made me fighting mad. I saw by that, that the manifestation of God in the earth will make men mad. Put murder in their hearts.

**"It was awful hard, but now I feel so good."**

Let me relate something to you. Brother Aubrey and I were very chummy, in the gospel work; we were together in the beginning of my ministry and were traveling up and down the river together in the gospel boat. Occasionally we would get in an argument. One time, wife and I thought he had done something he should not ' have done. We thought we would talk about them. We did, and I began to get sick, and got good and sick, but I didn't think God would do anything to me for what I had said for it was the truth. I had gotten to where I would just tell him, it was thus and so. He would say, "All right and hum... the Lord will take care of you." I would say, "Bless God that is the truth." He would, "hum," is all I would hear. We went off to ourselves, wife and I, and we would talk, my I thought, Lord I just told him the truth.

I began to get sick. I said, "Lord you know I will trust you, I promised you I would never swallow another drop of medicine. Heal me Lord. Heal me Lord." That is the way I use to get it, but this time I couldn't get it. The Lord said, "Let your Bible fall open." I let it fall open and it fell on 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Numbers. Miriam talked about Moses. I looked at the Bible; I looked at the bed. I hated to go tell him I was sorry and repent. I saw that I had to or else.

They were getting ready to leave for a camp meeting and they had their clothes packed. And I had to hurry up for God had just a certain length of time to chastise me and He wanted to relieve me, and if I didn't get to them before they left I would have had to be under chastisement until they came back. Finally I went down and looked at Brother Aubrey... oh, I hated to do it. But I said, "Oh Brother Aubrey, forgive me for talking the way I did to you and the way I have about you." He said, "Of course son, I'll forgive you." I was healed

just that quick.

They walked out and took the train on to the camp meeting. I was going to the pump to get a bucket of water and oh, I felt so good. I stood in the middle of the railroad track and I said, "My, I feel so good. It was awful hard, but now I feel so good it is wonderful to have God deal with you in that manner.

**"If I have to have a piece of paper to show to the  
Mayor, or anyone, that I have the authority  
to preach, I'll quit!"**

I have always made fun of that little piece of paper called a "license," giving authority to preach. There is a certain man, was my enemy. When the flu plague broke out and they quarantined everything in town, but my little mission. They closed his tent meeting right across the street from me. He went to the Mayor of the town and pulled out his license and said, "Mayor, you closed me up and that man has a mission and he hasn't even the license to preach, not a thing, not a piece of paper to prove his authority." I have said from that day to this, "If I have to have a piece of paper to show to the Mayor, or anyone, that I have the authority to preach, I'll quit!" If God don't prove I'm called, I'll quit!

**"I want you to preach MY GOSPEL."**

When God called me to preach, I didn't have the Holy Ghost. I was in my yacht, kneeling down fitting the floor in the engine bed. I was a boat builder; it was my trade. The Lord kept saying, "I want you to do something," I said, "What do you want me to do?" A voice like a clap of thunder over my head said, "I want you to preach MY GOSPEL."

I want you to preach my gospel... I have started coming back, I looked up and a golden light was all around me. That was a wonderful experience. I started out from there to study God's gospel. I didn't get it from some seminary; I got it from God. The gospel I got from God included healing.

**"I was not afraid... I looked to the God  
of heaven for protection."**

I remember a preacher... he and his family. He had a wife and three children, five in the family. They got small pox out on the field and came home, all with the small pox. I didn't have the Holy Ghost yet. I went there and prayed for them. I had nothing on me to prevent me from getting the small pox. I prayed for the boys, like tonight, and said, "Tomorrow the boys will

be well. God healed the whole family, but the preacher. I went in there without a thing to prevent me from taking it. The people would say, "You are going to get small pox." I began feeling bad, I thought, "This is it." I was aching all over. Oh, how bad I was feeling. I forgot that I was taking it, and walked on the back porch and started whistling, a voice said, "Better, better." I said, "Bless God, I am healed." Why? Because I was willing to make a sacrifice and pray for them. I was not afraid... I looked to the God of heaven for protection.

**"Why wouldn't I still preach it?"**

I have seen people who had consumption healed. Old consumption, honest to goodness old consumption, now of course, it is TB. I have seen every disease practically, healed. Why wouldn't I still preach it?

**"Brother Isabel brought him to our altar and he was healed."**

I looked back and saw Brother Isabel in the paper the other morning. Was a picture of the boy he brought to be prayed for. He was healed of chalk bone when we were on Broadway. A doctor who specialized on bones pronounced it chalk bone. Brother Isabel brought him to our altar and he was healed of it. The next day he put his clothes on and went down the steps and went into the back yard, and excited his parents. It wasn't any time... he was on the Camp Ground.

**"...how people were living, and why it is."**

My sister, in a place where she was working, used to tell them I was a Baptist preacher. She was ashamed to tell them what I was. She would forget herself and say, "My brother is a preacher." They would ask her what kind? She would say, "Baptist." She ought to have said, "A minister of the Gospel."

They were in an argument one day on how people were living, and why it is. Of course Pansy wrote me telling me to give her something for them. I gave this illustration... when Mother went to the faucet to get water in the country home and the water was muddy, she couldn't clear it up. Run the water and run it and it wouldn't clear up. Take the faucet off and it was still muddy water. Work up to the end of the line, and it was still muddy and got to the place where she found a duck in the spring. Got the duck out, and the water was clear. There are a lot of ducks that ought to be gotten out.

**"we were talking about the soul..."**

I was riding in my automobile. The Lord led me to pick up a man. I am not in the habit of picking up anyone. I used to feel condemned if I didn't. I see it is not wisdom. That young man... as we drove on, we were talking about the soul, how our conscience can be seared. He said, "That is the way with me. I used to have a conscience, a pity for people. See those two men on the highway, I could get out of here and kill both of them, and get back in the car. That is what the war did for me." If it did that for that intelligent young man, it did it for others. They are coming back with cruel hearts.

**"So don't you try to feel. Just trust and believe, and He will bless and make you enjoy your salvation before you know it."**

I remember I was in the same predicament after receiving the Holy Ghost. I did not feel alive. Mother Aubrey was in the same town at that time. She said to me, "Brother Will, how are you?" I said, "I'm in a terrible predicament." I began to tell her how I felt and she said, "Brother Will it is not by feeling, it is by faith... by faith. Why, Brother Will, you have still got it." I began to see. Oh, it was wonderful. So don't you try to feel. Just trust and believe, and He will bless and make you enjoy your salvation before you know it.

**"Oh God, spare my life until I can be saved. Don't let me die."**

Even when I was in sin, not fit to come into the church house because of sin in my life, yet occasionally I would pray, "Oh God, spare my life until I can be saved. Don't let me die. I'll do better tomorrow." The next time, I would do it again, but it was always in my heart. I always remembered the meetings in the old Methodist Church.

**"Men told me some of the most scandalous things."**

When I came in contact with this people, I was told by some people that the women spin like tops on their heads, and the men climb tent poles. I remember the remark I made, "That is a disgrace to the world, let alone the people of God."

I went for the purpose of seeing the women spin on their heads like tops. I never did see them spin on their heads. Men told me some of the most scandalous things.

**"If the natural spirit will rub off on you, so will the spirit of God."**

My Father used to scold me and whip me for mingling with boys out on the street who were of bad characters, and He would say, "Willy, don't you play



with that gang again, don't let me see you playing on the street with them again." WHY? Because their life was wrong. They did not have the right conduct and He knew their spirit would rub off on me. Say, if the natural spirit will rub off on you, so will the spirit of God. The devil knows he will lose you if you get this.

They said, in the town where I landed... and there found this salvation... the men I made friends with said, "Will, you have been a fine fellow and you were making friends... but now since you got with those people, you have lost out... and people won't have anything to do with you now."

Say, it was something I was looking for all my life. Something to shake the devil off, and I found it when I found this people.

**"I swallowed it, hook, line and sinker."**

I sat in the Fourth Avenue Theater and it was the first show of the season. I had tried everything, I was so thirsty, so hungry I wore the parks out, wore the streetcars out, wore this out and that, and there I was in the theater sitting there like a fool, trying to find something to satisfy.

I would go to my room about 2:30 in the morning and get up again at 11:00 o'clock and go out and try again. Thirsty! There was never a man more thirsty for the world than I. And there in the theater when the curtain went up, I beheld an elderly man, about my age now, and he was singing a son. "Darling I Am Growing Old, Silver Threads Among The Gold, shine upon my brow today, life is fading fast away." Any other time that song would have been hissed off the stage. I listened to him, and as I did, thoughts of Mother, Father and home passed through my mind. Father used to sing that song! It made my heart sad to think Father was dead and Mother was in Pittsburgh with my sister.

In that saddened condition a voice said to me, "This is the first theater of the season and have you ever found anything in it yet?" I said, "No." I did not know what was talking to me, but I said, "NO!"

Just a week and a half from that time and my trunk was in the depot leaving Louisville... was going somewhere. No, there is nothing out there, but there is something in this. When I left Louisville, hunting for something, I found a man who gave it to me, and who wasn't ashamed of it and I swallowed it hook, line, and sinker. It brought about just what it was intended for. Sure my friends turned against me, but I noticed I was getting 10-20-30 more friends for a few.

**"And so like priest, like people."**

Way back there years ago in the early days, we used to have preachers that all came from the farm and they had the odor on them. They smelled like hickory smoke. They stood in the pulpits with the odor still on them. Lots of them had copper toes on their boots, made out of grained leather, coming up to their knees. Some had custom made boots, we called them, and they out shined everything around them. Their clothes were made out of jean in those days and when they would get out in the sun, it would turn green. They never pressed them, for they did not know what pressing meant. Their coat sleeves had twenty-five wrinkles in them. There was no vanity about them whatsoever. They did not know what pride meant. Their hair came way down on their neck and curled way up. They usually had something around their neck similar to a red bandana.

And so like priest, like people. Here they would all come together with their baskets for all day meeting. Pumpkin pies, and pones of corn bread, light bread. And all sit down... just put their baskets anywhere, just so the dogs and cats did not eat it. The preachers would holler, "GLORY TO GOD." And some grandma would holler, "AMEN." They would start singing, shouting... some grandma over in the corner... "Amen," and the preacher saying, "Amen, go to it."

**"I saw the preachers when pride began to creep in."**

I saw the preachers when pride began to creep in. And they began wearing their trousers with creases down the leg, and getting collars, and neckties. And they kept getting prouder and prouder. And then they went back and began to hold meetings in the same places they had previously, where the shouts had been heard. And what was it now? "Right down this way, quiet now, quiet now, right down this way, quiet now." What was he saying "quiet now" for? Because he was afraid somebody would go to shouting and when a soul begins to get close to God and they will begin to shout. And so, to prevent that he just got ahead of it and said, "quiet now." My God, give me the wild fire if that is what you call it.

**"I baptized my own Mother in the Ohio River."**

I remember the time my Mother was really saved at my altar, and I baptized my own Mother in the Ohio River. Before that, she was always active in church work. She came to my altar and was really saved. She shouted and praised God out loud and

the people said to her, "Oh Sister, you were sanctified tonight."

"I always thought I was saved before, but this is the first time I was ever saved." Mother began to seek the Holy Ghost and she received it, and shouted and praised God, and was happy until she departed this life.

**"That man is not educated."**

People say sometimes, "That man is not educated." I'm glad I'm not. When I went to school, I could spell cow. I could count the children in the class, and count down to my verse to read, and if somebody missed theirs ahead of me, my Lord, I don't know what I would do. When I would count down to my verse, I would read it over and over and over and over. And if it said the -c-o-w-, and they would come to me and say, "All right Sowders, pronounce it." Sometimes I could not say "cow" to save my life. But some how or other at examination time I would pass on from one grade to another. The teacher would complain about me to the principal. She would send me down to him to get a whipping and I would stand at the door and if he never came out, I never would go in there. I got 3 or 4 whippings a week.

One day he came up to the room. But this is one thing that I know God would not let me learn. I had plenty of brains, it would not take me over three years to learn my trade. Well here came Mr. Tool wearing his glasses down on his nose. He came in and began to call on first one, then another to spell words, and he would give them just a little word. I kind of thought he was trying to catch me. This child would get up and blunder around and then that child would get up and blunder around. Finally, he said, "Sowders you spell," and he gave me a great long word. I got up and out it came. He turned to the teacher and said, "Why, Miss Molly what's the matter with Sowders?" Oh, it was God. I did not have anything to do with it.

**"He knew all about the natural heart,  
but he did not know about he Bible heart."**

A doctor said to me, after hearing me talk on the heart, "Reverend I would like to talk to you." He said, "Reverend, I am a doctor." And I said, "Oh, you are, let me give you a glad hand." He said, "Reverend, would you care if I would tell you, you are wrong?" I said, "No." So he said, "You said, with the heart man believeth." There is no mind in the heart. He thought I

was talking about the natural heart. He said, "You said with the heart man believeth." I said, "No, the Bible says it." I began to show him about the heart. He said, "You get me all tangled up."

Sure, he was not learned in that. He knew all about the natural heart, but he did not know about the Bible heart.

**"I had no place to sleep, and an  
unsaved man took me in."**

When I was young and tender in the Lord I came up against giants. Highly educated, intelligent men in the ministry. For thirty some odd years they have given me the laugh and said, "What will that 2 by 4 do?" When the New Issue came in like a flood among the Baptized people, all kinds of ministers rose up, and I had nobody to stand by me, not even from the church I loved so dearly.

I had no place to sleep, and an unsaved man took me in. I said, "How is it Lord the saints won't make sacrifices, and here is an unsaved man taking me home with him. How is it?" He said, "Didn't I cause Jonathan to love David, even as his own soul?" I said, "Amen Lord." And I went on. Back in those days this body of people were little in number, but I stood firm and fought the battle.

**"I am rich unto all who call upon Me."**

If I had gotten in something like this when I first started out, you would have to had to hog tied me. I couldn't have stood it. If it was not for divine government, you could not stand it, that is a fact.

Say, when I first started out, I looked in the Bible, and every place where I saw B-E-A-S-T, it made my hair stand on my head. When I was a child I would fight day and night. There was something in me that was actually just... whew... so prejudice. I couldn't rest good. In voting, I knew which ticket was which. On the police force, I would load up the wagon, and stay all day in court. There was something in me that made me to know something was coming. I had a knowledge of that before I was saved. When I looked in the Bible and saw "beast," I didn't know exactly what it was, but I imagined it was the R.C.C. I couldn't read anything but Daniel and Revelations.

Finally, after talking one night. (Of course, the people bragged on me.) My Brother said, "Will, you are going to get killed. You cannot live talking like that." The next time I talked, my knees began to knock. Not that I was afraid, but I said to the Lord, "What does this mean anyhow? Why did you bless me the other time?" The Lord said, "I have called you to preach

the gospel. Get in the middle." He said, "I am rich unto all who call upon Me. If you preach against the Catholic you will get the Protestant. And if you preach against the Protestants you will get the Catholics. Preach to both." I submitted, "Amen Lord." I learned to get in the middle of everything.

**"Just because he fell out of the ranks, did it stop?  
NO! It went right on, marching right on."**

There is a brother who helped pray me through to the Holy Ghost. I worked right in and around him for about five or eight years and then he left this country. My activity in the ministry then did not amount to much. I found out how to govern the work of God. Many a meeting we lost because of not knowing how to appoint men, and by favoring some we should not have. After losing the Camp Meeting you remember, at Anna. There is where I learned more how to govern the Kingdom of God than all through my experience. I saw then there was no use to appoint men as committee men. Men did not understand, and if you gave them a ray of hope of having influence, they take authority and bring things to chaos. So I governed things in schools and camp meetings. Then another brother came in and we governed it together.

Well, the brother who had left came back in six or eight years and things were changed. And he did not know his own son in the gospel. And he fought, and blinded himself, and now we have the most perfect things in the way of the gospel. And to him, it is just a bunch of doctrine. What is the matter? What caused that? He didn't walk right up and it kept going on, stepping, stepping b-r-r-r-r-m, b-r-r-r-r-m. Just because he fell out of the ranks, did it stop? NO! It went right on, marching right on.

Now they say, "Let's have a meeting." And it is the same old seven and six.

**"We are going into something - but we will come out  
with something we never had yet."**

He has made me to know He is all power; and I'm still Will Sowders unless God has His hand on me. I'll never forget when the hour came for God to take me through judgment. I was sitting on the side of the bed putting on my socks and my wife was laying on the other bed, sick. A voice said, "From this day on I'm going to judge you." You know what happened? First I broke my arch at the Elco Camp Meeting and I suffered untold agony. And I came back home, and when I came in the room I sensed death and my wife died in a few days after me coming back.

Before I left for that camp meeting she said to me, "I want to go with you." And when I came back, she was in bed,

and she died in a week or so. Here I had my foot all broke down, and for mercy's sake, at that meeting I had done something, which caused me to suffer terribly in another way. Here I was, my arch all broken down and my wife dying and the cover had been taken off of me and I was exposed to every spirit in the catalogue of Adam. Bang here, boom, and boom there! It just kept it up. A voice said to me, "What do you think about it?" Oh, no one knew what I was going through. I was getting greater revelation right then, than I had ever got right at that time! Say, my wife was gone and I was thinking about many, many things to end it all. My, the devil was talking to me in every way. Then every time, almost, I would draw a promise it would be: "As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord. My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed." Isaiah 59:21.

My God... I would take encouragement and then I would go back into darkness again. I thank God I found out it is all God and there is nothing to me unless God makes you. I'm not afraid of you if God has His hands on you.

The very idea of talking about you is liable to do something wrong, but we ought to have confidence in God, man is able to do nothing unless God covers us. But if God covers me I can go into slosh, mire, and come out without being stained with the serpent's touch! We are going into something - but we will come out with something we never had yet.

**"This is something that has stood every storm."**

I had just taken over the Evansville work and here came a lady, she had bills to advertise. Here she came and was going to have a big meeting. Right when I was trying to get things started in the right direction. Here came that woman. I said, "Lord, I am wasting my time," I had a dream. I dreamed I was under the eaves of a shed. Over the hill came winds, rocks, and dust flying every direction. I thought the thing was going to fall down. While I was running the sun came out. I looked, and it wasn't a thing. I thought, "What does this mean?" It was just a storm that didn't amount to anything. This is something that has stood every storm. Big revivals and great things that were supposed to be happening; it all blew over.

**"He was one of the dirtiest rascals that ever walked  
in two shoes."**

Before I received the Holy Ghost there was an old man and a woman that lived with me. He was an expert river man, but he was one of the dirtiest rascals that ever walked in two shoes. He said to me

one night, "Will, I have had what those people have got." He said, "One time I went to a revival meeting and we were in the country, and it was early when we started, and the sun wasn't down, and so we got tired and sat down on the side of the road. And while there, we began to pray, and something happened to me and I got, sitting right there on that rock, just what those people have got. And I can still talk like those people and that was over 20 years or so ago." He went ahead and began to speak in tongues and he was a dirty old rascal. After you get the Holy Ghost you can speak in tongues in a dive, in a saloon.

**"When Paul was among the weak, he became as the weak, that he might win the weak."**

When I used to pastor an assembly at Anna, Illinois, and there was a church just a mile from there in Jonesboro, the people were divided and some went to Jonesboro and some to Anna. So when I had meeting one night, and the next night there was to be a meeting at Jonesboro. And they said, "Will you announce the service in Jonesboro?" I knew it was wrong, for God had sent me to Anna. If I would announce a meeting there, it would look like I was encouraging it. I said, "Let's pray." I said, "Lord, now you sent me to these children and what will I say? What excuse will I make for not announcing the meeting?" The Lord said, "When Paul was among the weak, he became as the weak, that he might win the weak." So when prayer was over I said, "Meeting at Jonesboro tomorrow night."

I would go back and forth, and all the time I was teaching unity, love and bearing with one another. One night, while we were at Jonesboro, it was time to take the offering for the rent in Anna and I said, "What will we do?" One of the advocates for the meeting in Jonesboro said, "My God... lets all go back to Anna."

**"There are many things we can receive if we will listen to a person."**

I knew a little fellow; he was just a little freak apparently. He could quote more scripture than any man I had ever met up to that time. And the preachers was going to put him out. Some of the sisters rose up with tears and said, "Please don't treat him that way." Brother Bob and I took that fellow and took care of him.

We were having services in homes in the afternoon. That fellow happened to be in there. In fact we kept him with us. In the missions, the preachers wouldn't let him have anything to do in the meetings. He would take a chapter and start with the first verse and quote on down. Hardly ever would he comment on anything he quoted. He quoted the

parable of the Prodigal Son. When quoting about the ring that was put on his finger, he said, "A ring is the token of an endless love."

Just as soon as he said that, God gave me that parable. It was worth a billion dollars. I wouldn't sell that parable of the Prodigal Son for a billion dollars. There is more depth in that than money could buy. I said, "Thank you Lord." The Lord said, "They didn't want that little fellow to come in their midst and you took him in." (He'd walk up and down and use his liberty.) There are many things we can receive if we will listen to a person.

**"I never saw God any greater than in the place I found Him. Olmsted, Illinois... It was a humble place..."**

I will never forget how fooled I was. I was raised in this city. I thought, in a big church I could find it all. God turned me around, and I wouldn't want to describe it to you. I never saw God any greater than in the place I found Him. It was a humble place, but our great big God was there as sure as you live. God began to talk to me.

I was on a boat going to New Orleans and at Olmsted, Illinois, I saw a cabin on a hill there. I said to the fellow on the boat that I was talking to, "How can a fellow live in such a God forsaken place as that?"

Would you believe? I found God in that place. Not the house... but in Olmsted. I looked up and viewed the place. The Lord said, "This is the place you said was a forsaken place." I found life there. God began to show me, He began to talk to me, "Mind not high things."

**The Lord said to me, "Son, I am the one that elects the Presidents of the United States." He said, "I put the ones in that I want in." "I was the one who put the colors in the flag... I put the stars in the flag."**

A fellow came to Evansville, Illinois when I was there. I was preaching Jesus Christ, and didn't stir the town. This fellow came along preaching Ku Klux Klan. He had a fellow with him singing, dressed up with a frock tailcoat on, and he stood out there... supposed to have been a great man. He had a little red schoolhouse built on the platform and began to preach. He had everybody shouting. He would take a run and Pentecostal people would run after him. He had water and he sprinkled holy water on the people if they didn't shout. That fellow had 100 women banded together to make me kiss the flag. People thought I wasn't upholding the flag. I love the flag.

The Lord said to me, "Son, I am the one that

elects the Presidents of the United States." He said, "I put the ones in that I want in."

The flag has a great significance. That flag means something. The Lord said, "I was the one who put the colors in the flag." Imagine how I felt when the Lord told me that. I said, "What does it mean?" I began to ask God in regards to the colors of the flag. Notice how we speak of the colors. We never say blue, red, white, we always say Red, White, and Blue. The Lord said, "I put the stars in the flag." This country belongs to Me. I had this country reserved, just as I had Palestine or Canaan in reserve for the Jewish people. I brought them out of Egypt when they were oppressed and gave them a country of their own. I did that.

When I changed from the Jewish people to the Gentiles... when the Jews refused to accept salvation, I came to the Gentiles with salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. They were oppressed in Europe. They couldn't serve God according to their conscience. I brought my people across the waters. This country was discovered by God's people and for God's people. And I am in the Constitution knowing they were to worship God according to their own conscience. I put the flag over it. The Red, White, and Blue.

The Red signifies the blood of Jesus Christ. The White is the purity through the blood. And the Blue is the loyalty to the red and white. As long as the people follow me, the Red, White, and Blue will wave over the country. If they fail, another color will come on the flag."

**"I'll tell you it is hard to obey God, and disobey your people! But those are the things you get a reward for."**

The question was asked, "If Brother James was in serious trouble and needed you and Brother Dudley was in serious trouble, would you ask God which one to go to first?"

I certainly would. I would pray and ask God. I have proved myself to a great extent in that way. My sister Pansy... her daughter dies, and they wired me immediately to come and preach her funeral. Then, Mother wrote me and said, "This is your sister, and you can not say no to your own sister." I answered it back, "It is impossible, I can not come."

Mother wrote to me again and said, "Pansy will never get saved." She really thought that, but I was busy about the Master's business and God was blessing me. And so, of course, I did not go, and the child was buried. And of course, Pansy was terrible offended right then. But it wasn't long until she got

saved and then on the Camp Ground received the Holy Ghost. I'll tell you it is hard to obey God, and disobey your people! But those are the things you get a reward for. By doing it now, for the will of God, and when it is crossing you, you will get great results. But if we go by the course of our mind, where are our rewards coming from?

**"If that teacher had treated me right, I would have done it."**

If the teacher would have known my disposition, he could have made me do anything. But he worked just the contrary and made a dunce out of me in school. However, I could read and write, but I do not remember learning it in school. I always had it in my mind how I could kill the teacher when I got big for he was so cruel to me. I had other teachers, but that was the main one when I was 9 -10 -11 years old. If he would have dealt right, he could have got me to do something.

He put down a verse on a slate, or a sum and say, "Sowders you copy that down just like it is." Well, I would draw boats all the time. He had already dismissed everybody else and I was sitting alone. I knew I was going to be dismissed at 4 o'clock, and he would say, "Come on up and get your whipping." And I would get it and say good bye and go home. He worked against me so bad, if he would have put a 4 down and said, "Copy it," I would not, to save me. My Mother has seen drops of blood on my under clothes many times from those whippings. Yes indeed, I would sit there... and thinking of means to kill him. If he had understood me and put the strap up, and would not have tried to conquer me with the strap... all he would have had to do is say, "Willie, you are a wonder... so I have wonderful confidence in you and I'm going to stand by your side and see you make a wonderful man in life." I would have braced up. And I could do it, for at examination time, I passed. If that teacher had treated me right, I would have done it.

**"Willie, you are the most industrious boy..."**

My Mother said to me, "Willie, you are the most industrious boy, you have more concern than your Father has for the home." I would make \$100.00 a month, and in those days that was equal to \$1000.00 now. She said, "It is just wonderful the interest you take in the home." I would work, work, work... and make \$100.00 a month and maybe spend only \$50.00 out of it for myself. She said, "Willie, I'll tell you, you certainly love to see your Mother have things she likes, and I do love to have plenty of

chips when I am baking pies." I would get a tub and clean up the neighborhood. Just brag on me and I would do anything. But don't think that - does anything for me now!

**"I am willing to take anything God has for me!"**

I will never forget a very fine lady, a good Baptist, who was going to have to be operated on or die. And her husband was compelling her to go to medical aid and be operated on. But when she heard of this people healing people by prayer, she went to her husband and said, "Husband, just let me go to... (at that time I was at Raleigh and Maryland Evansville.) Let me go and let that people pray for me. I heard they get results through prayer." He was willing to let her come down and be prayed for. We prayed and didn't get anywhere. You can tell when you are getting somewhere in prayer. I spoke to her, "Sister, are you willing to receive God in His fullness? Are you willing to let God fill you with the Holy Ghost and have the manifestation of that in your life?" Are you willing to accept what God has for you, other than healing?" She said, "I am willing to take anything God has for me!" I said, "Are you willing to receive the Holy Ghost if God will baptize you?" She said, "Anything! All I want is healing for my body. I will take the rest of it." We got down and prayed and the woman was healed, sound, and well and received the Holy Ghost. The idea is... you can't get the things of God if you are ashamed of the gospel and the confirmation of it.

**Mother got the Holy Ghost and said,  
"Willie, God called you like he called Apostle Paul."**

My Mother was a prominent member of the Lutheran Church. She came to one of my meetings in Southern Illinois, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she was living at that time. My sister's husband was a Greek and she learned quite a bit of Greek. While Mother was there a woman rose up and spoke in other tongues. Mother understood it, she said, "My, Willie, I understood what that girl was talking about."

My sister Pansy, who is on the Camp Ground now, came to me eventually and we all met together. She heard a sister speak in other tongues. My sister understood her. She said, "Oh Willie, I know why the Bible is written in Greek. Everyone that talks, talks in Greek."

Why was she talking in Greek? God was talking to my sister. "Tongues are for a sign not to them that believe, but to them that believe not." 1 Corinthians 14:22 That very sign God gave them made a believer out of both of them and left them under such condemnation.

Mother said, "I believe God called you to preach the gospel, but I believe He called you to preach to the poor." But it wasn't long until Mother got the Holy Ghost and said, "Willie, God called you like he called Apostle Paul."

**"I remember how they used to  
shout and praise God..."**

I remember how they used to shout and praise God in old camp meeting style revivals. I remember how the little fellows came in, and the spirit of God got hold of us. We would get out after they dismissed and say, "Say, I felt like going to the altar. If I feel like I do tomorrow night I am going to the altar. If you go, I will go."

Here came the power of God. Grandma Jones shouted, Grandpa Blunk clapped his hands, Grandpa Needy, my Grandfather, would hit me on the head and it was like a clap of thunder. He would say, "I long to see the time Willie, when you are following in my foot steps." He didn't know how heavy his hand was. Anyhow, thank God for an old saintly Grandfather who shouted and kicked the dust out of the floor in this city.

**"When I sang it, the power of God would fall.  
I said, 'Lord, I see it is all right to  
sing sacred words to worldly tunes.'"**

Say, I tried God in several different things, and a thing I was in doubt of, when I first started out. I saw the Salvation Army as they sang songs on the streets and some of them were worldly tunes to sacred words. I thought, "Now is that right?" I was a little afraid of it. So wife and I were visiting her sister one time. She had a phonograph and played it occasionally. I listened to it, and a tune actually appealed to me. And as that phonograph began to play, words began to come to me to that tune. I thought, "God is that right? You gave me the words for that, didn't you?"

From here I went to Lola, Kentucky, there I tried the Lord out. "Lord if you are in this, bless me, if not, don't bless me". I started to sing that song, and the saints began to shout and praise God. And they told me afterwards, "Brother Sowders, you looked like marble, you were not yourself." I was not myself! God changed me, transformed me. I was standing there in space, as it were. I sang the words God gave me to that worldly tune. I thought, "Lord, I am sure now, that worldly tunes with sacred words are all right, it is not displeasing to you."

As the phonograph played that song, these words came to me, "Sweet Jesus, is coming some night, sweet Jesus". It was the tune of, "Sweet Kisses That Come in the Night." I loved the tune. These "words



came to me:

*Verse:*

*There is joy in the morning, in the afternoon.  
Joy in the nighttime, to think He's coming soon.  
My heart is overflowing, is filled with great delight,  
To think that my Lord is coming some night.*

*Chorus:*

*Sweet Jesus, is coming some night.  
Sweet Jesus, let me walk in the light.  
For I know He's the pearl of a wonderful price,  
I found Him on my knees at the altar one night.  
Help me to keep my lamp  
All trimmed and burning bright.  
Sweet Jesus is coming some night.*

I could sing in those days. I tell you, that song blessed the Pentecostal people, and blessed the people wherever I went. When I sang it, the power of God would fall. I said, "Lord, I see it is all right to sing sacred words to worldly tunes. Of course God gave me several after that.

#### **"I have always stood for music."**

The first time I put music in the church... while talking, the spirit of God came on me. I beat a drum with my feet. I liked to knock the floor out. I said after that, "I am going to get a drum." I bought a drum. I'll tell you, the Holy Spirit got in my fingers, "Th-rump, Th-rump." We had a fiddle, a guitar, and an old organ, with a lot of rat's nests in it. As the people came in the house and that music... just think, a drum, guitar, and an old organ, and a violin, and unsaved people when they would come in the door would say, "That is the sweetest music I ever heard in my life." I have always stood for music.

#### **"My teaching when I was a child never got away from me."**

I was taught to keep Sunday, not work on Sunday. When I was nine years old, I'll never forget... I was building a little boat, on Sunday morning. I had a few more boards to put on the boat before I launched it in the water called the graveyard pond. I needed to nail a couple of boards on. When mother heard me pounding, she said, "Willie, don't you know this is the Sabbath day? Quit that!" I said, "I will, when I get this board on." The next stroke I made with the hammer I hit my thumbnail. Mother said, "That is because you were working on the Sabbath. You would never had done that if you hadn't been working on the Sabbath. God

certainly whipped you." I believed what Mother said. After that I felt bad if I worked on Sunday even though I was a devil on wheels. Mother taught me that when I was a child and it never got away from me.

I remember when I was in Paducah, building on large boats. When I was working on Sunday and somebody would come down where I was working, I'll tell you, the sound of my hammer rang out so loud. I hated for people to hear me working, even when I was in the world. My teaching when I was a child never got away from me.

I eventually came to the Lord. I got sweetly converted. A lady that took a big part in helping me to get converted had dinner for us... on Sunday afternoon, after, service. I had chickens of my own, and I looked out the window of this certain Brothers home and said, "Brother so and so, I would like to... oh my Lord, forgive me Lord. He said, "What is the matter Brother Will?" I said, "I was going to talk about trading roosters on Sunday!"

#### **"I had a chill and it was a hard one"**

I remember when I first started out. The first thing after God converted me, He healed me, healed my body of chills. I had a hard chill, and my home was not far from the mission and I could hear them singing. I had a chill and it was a hard one, and I was so hungry to go to that meeting. It came to me, "Would you let a chill prevent you from going to the meeting?" I said, "No indeed." And I rose from the bed and got ready and went around the house, and when I saw the light of the mission... there I was, healed sound and well.

#### **"I remember when I was praying for my son."**

I remember when I was praying for my son. My heart was broken and I wanted to see my children, but I was in Paducah in a meeting and I would not leave there. I was faithful to the gospel that God gave me to preach. All at once I had a vision, and Jim came up as a little boy in my bosom and disappeared into me. I never knew what that was until one day on my way to Indianapolis; I met my daughter Gladys. And she said, "Pop, would you take brother with you if he will go?" I said, "Sure, if he will go." He was hard as a rock and desperate as could be, and I did not think he would go, but Gladys asked him, "Brother," she said, "Pop, will take you to Indianapolis if you will go. Will you?" He said, yes he would go, and so we went. When we got there I rented him a room and we ate our meals together. He went to meeting with me day and night. I saw him softening, and one night

he arose from his seat. I never saw a man fall so hard at an altar, and in five minutes he had the greatest experience I ever saw.

I left him at Indianapolis and went on to Evansville, and he came on there. He got there in the night and sat outside of my door until we got up, for he didn't want to wake me up. And that very night was Tuesday night; he tarried for the Holy Ghost at my altar. What did that? I say it was because of my faithfulness to God. I did not regard my children, but I forsook them and was working among God's children, and God gave me that boy.

**"God calls who He wants."**

God calls who He wants. There is my daughter; she has been a kind, gentle, very fine young lady. When she was growing up, and in her school days, everybody liked her. The people in the store today like her. She is just a kind, gentle, girl and belongs to the Christian Science Church, but I can talk to her and she can't see a thing! I can talk to her as good and kind as she is and she can't see a thing. She has been here about twice and will say, "I enjoy it." But why don't she get it?

God has never opened her heart to receive it, and her ears to hear it. She told Pansy, "There is something to it, look what it did for Father and Brother.

**"Oh God, let me walk circumspectly."**

This body is so close to the Temple today we can feel the presence of God. God showed me in a dream the other night just how close to death I am. I lay in that position all night long and I worried about that dream for two days, but the second day God made me to know just what it was. Actually, just to move the dirt would have caused me to go to certain death. I made up my mind in the dream to remain in that position. And there was a man with his feet against my back, and I could not look around to see who it was for it would have moved the dirt, and I would have fell off the precipice. It was about 200 feet to the bottom of it. When God gave the interpretation of that dream, I said, "Oh God, let me walk circumspectly." We are getting closer, closer, closer, closer, coming into God as sure as you live.

**"I stood for Jesus and for God. They turned against me, and I had no place to lay my head."**

When I first started out... I at times had no place to lay my head and men rose up against me saying, "Jesus is God, and there is only one in heaven and that is Jesus." I stood for Jesus and for God. They turned against me and I had no place to lay my head.

And an unsaved man walked up to me and said,

"Brother Sowders, do you have any place to go tonight?" I said, "Not that I know of." So he said, "You come and go with me." So he kept that up for many nights. He wasn't satisfied unless he was giving me something. He would bring me out this and that and shirts and trousers. His wife was a large woman but she said, "Look here, Sister Bertha, are dresses of all kinds that cost fifty and sixty dollars and if there is anything in there that will fit you, put it on and wear it, it is yours." They were living in a mansion and they treated me better than I had ever been in my life.

One night he started to meeting, and he said he would not go if it would not be for the fact he was afraid I would not have a place to go. I said, "Lord how is it, here are your people with the Holy Ghost and they will give me no space in their home, and here is an unsaved man following after me, and is going to this church tonight especially to bring me home with him." God said, "Didn't I cause Jonathan to love David as his own soul? I'm the one that causes men to love you." So there is no use for me to worry or compromise because of hard times or difficult things confronting me, for He will make a way for me.

**"We won't put Saul's armor on."**

One of the big heads in Saint Louis came and sat by me. We were having a school in a Baptist Church in Saint Louis. He told me, while sitting in the congregation, "I feel to fellowship with you." Finally he came on the platform. He was one of the head men in an organization in Saint Louis. He sat on one side of the dinning room. This man came down and ate with us. He sat in the school and listened to us. In the dinning room he said, "Will it bother you if I eat by your side?" I said, "No." He asked, "Do you issue credentials?" I said, "No, indeed! We are going into the battle stripped. We won't put Saul's armor on. We are separated from everything pertaining to the world out here." He said, "What about clergy rates?" I said, "He clothes the lilies and takes care of the sparrows. If I want to make a trip on the train or airplane, God provides my fare. Why would we want to have clergy rates? To steal or cheat our way on the trains?" He jumped up high and said, "I am coming out of my ecclesiastical robe!"

He went back in the dark. He never showed his face again. Why? He went back and considered the price if he came in this. If he had come in this all of his following wouldn't have followed him into it.

**"God is able to take hold of a man's mind, and make him do exactly what He wants him to do."**

When Brother Shelton was dancing, here came two men with brass buttons and blue coats. They said,

"Say, you have got too many people standing here." He said, "Praise God" and kept shouting. These two policemen got hold of him and Brother Aubrey, one on one side, and the other on the other side. Here they went; the police had them. They said, "Why don't you fellows do the right thing and obey the law?" They answered, "We are preachers, what law are we to obey? We have the law of God, and we have to obey the law of God." The police said, "You are causing trouble. We are going to take you down."

Then they said, "Say fellow, we can't take you down, go on back, we can't take you." That is the truth. That is exactly the way that case turned out. It doesn't make any difference how big a man is, he is little in the sight of God, and God is able to take hold of a man's mind, and make him do exactly what He wants him to do.

**"Sister Berlie... the first one in church to put her dress down in the right way, an example to others."**

When I first came to Louisville to open up a work for the Lord, I came here by revelation. For a long time I didn't have any of the women to sit on the platform at all. I had no railing around the front of the platform, and they did not sit up there because the women were too outrageous looking to preach that Jesus was a Savior to the world, and then look at this up here.

You say, "Wasn't you too hard?" Maybe I wasn't hard enough. When we did put the women on the platform it was when I built a high railing around it. I'll never forget Sister Berlie... and she was the first one in the church to put her dress down in the right way, an example to the others.

**"it was the easiest thing I had to give up."**

My testimony on tobacco... God! I was afraid of tobacco; it was the biggest bugger that ever was before me. The devil would tell me, "You know you can't quit it, you have tried ever since you were a child of 13. You have been trying to quit and you never could."

I'll never forget trying to quit it for a couple of months for my sweetheart one time. She said, "Will, I wish you would quit it for it makes your breath smell bad." I said, "All right I will." At the expiration of three months I wanted it worse than when I first started to give it up and just as soon as I got her, and she was my wife, I went after my cud of tobacco.

When I came to the Lord that night I prayed to God to forgive me of my sins and God accepted me. The next morning as soon as I opened my eyes, I grabbed for my pipe and I heard a voice say, "ah-ah-ah-ah!" I looked

around for I thought it was my wife, but she was still asleep, so I went in the kitchen where nobody could see me and I lifted my hands and said, "Lord I'll give it all up for thee." The sweetness of glory went through my being. I thought then, "How can I give it up?" I was building two yachts and I loved to build boats and chew tobacco and smoke a pipe. I always kept my tobacco in a certain pocket which I kept clean, and for nothing else but tobacco. I would catch my hand, not me, but my hand, reaching in there for tobacco. I would say, "Get behind me Satan."

One day I kept feeling for it all day long, it wasn't bothering me but I kept feeling for it, and the next day it was all gone. It was the easiest thing I had to give up. God was good to me.

**"Oh God, don't let me ever get in a fight and go out like they did."**

I saw a fellow have a fight with another man and he was in this man's own house. This man was carrying chairs across the street to a meeting. He said, "If you are here when I come back I will throw you out." And he was there when he came back so he said, "Didn't I tell you what I was going to do if I found you here when I came back?" The other fellow rose up for a fight and the man of the house picked up a chair and made kindling wood out of it over that man.

When we got across the street this fellow who he told not to be in his house was coming out of the gate and here came this fellow after him. He threw a piece of the chair after him and when he saw us, condemnation seized him and he fell over the fence and screamed and cried, "Oh my God, what have I done, what have I done."

When that came into that very man and caused him to fight, it tore that man's nervous system to pieces until his stomach was all upset and he was vomiting. We told him what to do and we told him to go on and repent for it. He repented as humbly as he could. He came back and tried to repent to his wife but she turned her head from him, and it was no time until that fellow had something wrong with his thumb and blood poison set in and it killed him. The other man died too. I watched it and said, "Oh God, don't let me ever get in a fight and go out like they did."

**"I could have whipped him, but I did not want to go the ways of the world."**

I'll tell you when I came out of the world; it was with scars all over me where I had been in scraps. I could not get rid of it all at once.

My brother beat on the table and was telling me

what he was going to do with me because he was trying to take advantage of me. I would rise from the table, jumping, shaking, something was actually trembling and jerking. I cried out, "Oh God, hold me, don't turn me loose." I could have whipped him, but I did not want to go the ways of the world.

One day before a crowd (and I hated to take a bluff before a crowd), he came up and said he would do this and do that to me. I said, "Don't you touch me." What in the world was the matter? There was something in me that had to come out of me.

**"I have had men come to the Bible stand with their fists doubled up, and tell me what they were going to do."**

One day an Indian came up to me... just before that, I had ordered him out of my house because he was talking about the saints in a way he should not. The next day he met me and said, "I'm going to put it on you." I said, "You better not." Every time I would try to lift my arm it got limp then a spirit of laughter came on, and I walked away saying, "I wouldn't lose my salvation over a thing like that."

When He would stop the other fellow, He just stopped me. My arms just would fall limp and I knew it was God. I have had men come to the Bible stand with their fists doubled up, and tell me what they were going to do.

**"... the weak ones make the strong ones stronger, and so we all come up together."**

I started out before I got salvation being good to God's people. I had a yacht and I could not charge them a cent to go across the river. As soon as I got salvation I got an extra bed in the house and started right in doing things for God's people, doing things to help them.

Before I got salvation when I would go to their meetings, and some fellow was acting bad I would say, "Look out what's the matter with you!" Say, God never did forget that. If you fight for God out in the world, He never will forget it, but He will show mercy to you. So things that were in my life, He took them right away like tobacco, scrapping.

When you come to the altar and He doesn't take it out, don't lose courage for He may be holding you there so He can give mercy to someone else because of your weakness, the weak ones make the strong ones stronger and so we all come up together.

**"You can't talk about this people and be saved."**

The other night a blind man was standing here. Of course he was very talkative and there were just a few

here, just the ones who stay here. He said he had been to Saint Joe, and he knew Brother Kidwell. He said, "Brother Kidwell belongs to that School of the Prophets." I said, "What about that School of the Prophets, do you know much about it?" "I heard a lot about it," he said, "I hear all I want to."

I said, "What do you think about it?" He said, "Those people have the word of God upside down, and they will argue, and argue and come together and argue all day." I said, "You say you know Brother Kidwell?" He said, "Yes." So he kept on talking and I said, "Tell me some more about the School of the Prophets. I am interested in them and it seems like they are progressing and moving on." He said, "Oh no, they are all to pieces and they are breaking up." I said, "Are you sure of it?" And he said, "Oh yes, I know!"

He kept on talking and talking and finally I said, "Brother Kidwell is a fine Brother I have known him about 15 years." And I told him I was more acquainted with him than he was. I have been in his church at Saint Joe as you say you have been. I asked him many questions.

That fellow had the most terrible opinion of the School of the Prophets. He said, "the headquarters of the School of the Prophets, I think it is in Louisville", and then he said, "Oh no, its in Memphis."

Directly I came back at him and I said, "Listen here, you are a blind man at the mercy of the people, and I told him, the only thing that is progressing in the religious world is this movement that you are ridiculing and lambasting right now. Here you are, and you are going to be in need, and you better begin to pray and ask God to begin to stop you from something that will cause you to lose your soul. You can't talk about this people and go to heaven. You can't talk about this people and be saved." I said, "Would you believe you are standing on the floor of the 'headquarters' of what you call the School of the Prophets, and we are going to let you sleep right here tonight?"

The children made a nice bed for him and he said to Brother Bob in the wash room before going to bed, "I didn't know I was running right into it."

**"I couldn't lay the Bible down."**

**"He has everything that a human being has need of."**

When I first started out, I used to want my wife to get a job and get away from me. I found something when I found the Lord Jesus Christ. I did for a fact! God had to whip it out of me, I didn't care if wife would go to some saint's home and stay two weeks. I wanted to be by myself. I was SO in love with Jesus, and wanting the

things of Jesus Christ. I didn't want any woman to pester me. In other words I wanted to be by myself and didn't want anyone to bother me. Thank God I found something my soul had longed for all my life. Since I found Him, I didn't want anything to hinder me from feasting with Him. I didn't want anyone to draw me away from Him. I was feasting day and night. Many nights I couldn't sleep all night long, as much as two nights at a time. I thanked God that I couldn't sleep. I would have rather been feasting on the things of Jesus Christ than resting my body. I used to sit with my Bible in my lap all day long, unless there was something else compulsory that I had to do. I couldn't lay the Bible down. I would read, and it would be something on what I had just read, if someone came in I couldn't no more talk to you. My mind was on the things of God. If a person could live like that all the time it would be the greatest thing in the world. I went through my schooling in that way. I am looking some day to go back into that after I get through down here, and live forever in that. Won't that be wonderful!

**"That automobile took my mind off of the Lord"**

In those days I have been talking about, I didn't have very many letters to write, I didn't have a big assembly. I did have about two or three hundred, but in those days I am referring to, my mind was engrossed in these things. I didn't have a lot of things to take my mind off of the Lord. Would you believe when I got my automobile, I hated it. That automobile took my mind off of the Lord Jesus Christ and put it on earthly things.

**"Jesus Christ is everything."**

I was a handy man, I learned everything; but when I got my Ford, I couldn't learn to drive it to save my life. Brother Reva and another person tried to teach me. Do you know who taught me how? Jesus Christ... in my bed one night. I started out the next morning, knowing just what to do, just where to put my feet. It was so written in my heart and mind. I went to working that thing and it went right off.

Jesus Christ is everything. Oh yes, He is a mechanic. He can tell you how to fix a thing that you have never fixed before. One time coming down Highway 62 a spark plug blew out, I heard the thing give a "sp-ew." It lost all power. I got out and looked at it. I thought, "What will I do now, I don't have another spark plug to fix it." A voice said, "Take a piece of wire and attach it to the plug, put it down in the motor head and attach to another wire." I said, "Thank you Lord." Jesus Christ knows how to fix every motor that ever got out of shape. He is a master mechanic, the mechanic

of mechanics. There is not a thing that He does not know how to do. He can tell you how to do everything. And He will do it if you give Him a chance. The reason we don't get anymore assistance than we do is because we know how to do, and do it.

There is something about Him; He will help you if you depend on Him, if you acknowledge that you don't know how. It is hard for a man to belittle himself and tell Jesus Christ that he don't know how.

He will tell you how to conduct services. If you don't do this or that, He tells you, what will happen next. I have watched that too. He is everything we need. We all know more or less, that He is our physician. He is everything we need. It is all covered with the word comforter, He has everything that a human being has need of.

**"If it is not according to the word of God  
it is no good."**

One came to me for advice today. I gave that party advice, that party said the Lord sent them here. They said, "The Lord sent me here to talk to you. Now I have unloaded. I had better be going." I said, "The Lord sent you here to unload your heart and then for me not to tell you anything, what good would that do for you to come and unload your heart? Probably the Lord wants me to say something to you before you do." I began to talk, the party said, "I don't see how that could be, I feel the presence of the Lord at times." I said, "So did I when I was getting arrested and going to jail. I felt the presence of the Lord. Then I was fighting and in all kinds of trouble. I felt the presence of the Lord. I would go to church and the power of God would come on me and I would leave wiping tears. I stood on the street corners when men and women were holding street meetings and the power of God got on me and I had to leave."

The word of God is going to judge me. It is not the idea of the spirit of God. A person in the miry clay can say, "We have the spirit of God with us." If it is not according to the word of God it is no good. It is only a matter of time until we will have to give an account.

**"If we put shoes on the Jews feet,  
we have to know how."**

An old woman where we had meeting... I was talking about Jesus being the Savior of the world. She listened to me and came to me the next day and said, "Gentleman!" I said, "What is it?" She said, "Did you say Jesus was the only hope for the people to be saved?" I said, "That is right, you Jews don't believe." Lord Help Me! "You Jews don't believe in Jesus." She said, "That is not what I said to you. Did you say that?" I

kept dodging around and got her mind changed. When I got it changed, I talked on the Jewish people and what a great nation it was. The wisest man in the world was a Jew. Solomon was the wisest man in the world, and how God-made a promise to Abraham. I got her away from that.

By the way I dealt with her, it caused her to bring me bananas and things to eat. One time, my son and I were eating with them and were talking. They said, "I believe all of that." It wasn't long until we could preach Jesus Christ and they believed Jesus Christ was the son of the living God. If we put shoes on the Jews feet, we have to know how.

**"The Lord said.. What are you doing to Bertha?  
That is your wife."**

When I first started out. Wife wanted me to talk to her and I wanted to read. Wife wanted to talk and I would tell her that I wanted to read. She said, "I want you to talk to me, you are always reading the Bible, you are never willing to talk to me. Will, don't read the Bible all the time, talk to me sometimes." I said, "It is more essential for me to read the Bible than talk to you." I wanted a chance to read the Bible, to be by myself. She was going to get a job and I was willing for her to go.

I got down in my back and got to where I couldn't hardly get around. "Lord heal me. You know I am trusting you." The Lord looked right down upon me, as it were and said, "What are you doing to Bertha? That is your wife."

I went on and eased up a little bit. God gave me a dream and showed me the next morning what it meant. He said, "Bertha is your wife. You are to take care of her. You don't know what might happen to her if she goes to work. You take care of her." I said, "Lord I will." The Lord healed my back in a split second. I found out it wasn't for me to read all the time to my heart's content. You have to let her have some part in the home. Now isn't that giving the woman a chance? Isn't that all right? Give her a chance to have say. When she says, "Husband quit reading, I want you to talk to me," say, "God bless your heart, I am glad you want me too," and lay the Bible down. Directly your wife will be willing for you to read.

**"And I saw it just like I see you sitting before me.  
And I had it forever after that, just exactly how to set  
the church in order."**

A deacon is a pastor! Sure! And a bishop is not a pastor, but a teacher! Therefore Paul gives Timothy and Titus the qualifications for a deacon and a bishop. Paul refers to all those included in the five major gifts.

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, and the bishop and deacon is included in those. But that is not seen unless God gives you the understanding of it.

Would you believe that 30 years or more ago... yes, 32 years ago, while sitting in a home over in McClure, Illinois... (And the place I was at was called Lindsey Hollow, for there was a large family of people named Lindsey, and so the hollow they all lived in was called Lindsey Hollow.) While sitting at the stove, and that was 32 years ago, God opened that to me. And I saw it just like I see you sitting before me. And I had it forever after that, just exactly how to set the church in order, and how men should qualify themselves to be placed in their respective places. Of course I started from that. And from that on, I started teaching that, and it did away with the deacons and their firing of pastors. Yes, that is right, and you can find it out. You go where they still have deacons and they fire the pastor whenever they get ready, yet the deacon is put in by the pastor.

**" The Lord said, "School of the Prophets."**

Like a fellow said in Kansas City one day. He rose up and said, "I don't belong to the School of the Prophets!" I said, "You don't?" He said, "No, I don't." I said, "Why you are caught in a trap then, for you are a prophet and this is a School of the Prophets."

I asked the Lord when I was getting the first bills ready for a school, "Lord; what will I put on the bill. Everything has to have something to distinguish it from something else. What will I use?" The Lord said, "School of the Prophets." From then on to this, our gatherings are called the School of the Prophets. We are in school, but when school is dismissed there is no school, how can you belong to it when there is no school? You can't belong to something that isn't. Therefore when we come together, we come together in schools. And when school is in session it is a School of the Prophets and when it is dismissed, they are out and gone and there is no more school!

**"We have something to tell folks,  
and we ought to appreciate it.  
There is nothing in the world like this."**

There were two Federal men visited me at 2111 W. Broadway, and I know what God did then. I was sitting looking at them and one was doing the most talking... questioning, and I felt God all over me and they felt Him in such a way they said, "Say, you can't say nothing against that."

After we were through, one rose up and said, "Well, I never in my life got in a place where I felt like I



do right now." And the other fellow, he said, "I feel it too." I went out with them patting them on the shoulder. While I sat in the Federal Building talking to another on, I saw tears in his eyes, and when he was shaking hand with me he squeezed my hands and said, "Say, I want to talk to you again."

We have something to tell folks, and we ought to appreciate it. There is nothing in the world like this. You lay this out by the spirit's dictation and I'll tell you not a sane man could say it can be beat.

**"...and in 10 minutes she was shouting and talking in tongues..."**

One sister I saw in Columbus, Kentucky... she came up with her head down and knelt at the altar with it still down. And all at once she put her head up and began to beat the altar rail, and in 10 minutes she was shouting and talking in tongues and having a big time.

**"...put a little more pressure to it..."**

I saw my son Jim come to the altar in Evansville, and in a few minutes he went to hollering and kicking and going after it.

I'll tell you it takes more for a man to press his way through than it does a woman. For a man has a more stubborn disposition, even if the woman is stubborn. I'll tell you, I don't think a woman would be so stubborn if a man was not so stubborn.

One time I was tarrying with someone... the Lord said, "Tell him he is on the fence and if he will put just a little more pressure to it, he will go on over." I said to him, "The Lord said, to put a little more pressure to it, for you are on the fence, and if you will, you will go on over." In three or four minutes he had the baptism.

**"They are rooted and grounded in the truth, and you can not move them."**

It was a time of scattering... You would have a church and it would look like everything was going beautifully, and you would think everything was established. It would no more than be that way, and before two days and nights something would happen and scatter the whole house. And there would be a fellow opening a mission right across the street. That used to get me, until God told me what was happening. And told me, "This is a time to scatter, and though many people are going to suffer horrible things, but everyone that proves themselves in this scattering and will hold firm, some day they will know what it means." To know them who had the rule over them.

I understood, very definitely, from that day we

were going to have to liberate everyone, every soul. And give them a chance for life. I began to consider that, and one time there was four or five preachers and their wives sitting at my table eating, and a message in tongues came forth when we were thanking God for the food. The interpretation of it was, "He who scattered will also gather together." I began to watch it, and as the little book of Jude (the book written to us) said, "Clouds they are without water," Just exactly!

Today, many ministers, (and I am sorry to say it is among us, the Baptized people who number up in the millions), they are clouds without water, and a cloud without water is a very poor thing. Oh, it might on a hot day, hide the sun for a moment and make a little shade, but they are clouds without water.

In the beginning of my experience, spiritually speaking, certainly the clouds were dark over our head. All together, oh yes, they were full of water. It used to be the basis for our fellowship... was Acts 2:4. And when they were shaking hands with each other they would be waiting for a witness and when they felt it they would say, "He has got it."

Everybody who had the baptism of the Holy Ghost were in perfect fellowship with each other. There was not a doctrine among them. I remember one of the first general meetings that was to be held at Hot Springs, Arkansas. I wanted to go so badly and every time I prayed about going, a great dark cloud would be hanging over me. I could not understand it, for I thought it was to be a meeting of the very nature or the kind I was working for. But in a few years I understood why I could not go. Why? Because it was not God's meeting. Previous to that, no doctrines were found in the Bible.

I remember when God told me, and you will pardon me for saying God told me, but if He had not, I would have quit a long time ago. I knew I had a hard way to go and it made my spiritual muscles hard. I knew God's people who endure the scattering would be brought back again. While millions went out in that scattering, in that storm, they went out with envy and strife and hatred in their heart. But those that endured it... and they knew that great blessing they had at first was real, that which had shaken their body as an earth quake shakes the earth and it spoke through them in another language, they knew God was God.

After they were all scattered from each other and had done all they could to each other, God brought another movement in and that is this, which you look on here. This class of men and women, no matter what kind of doctrine you might bring in, you can't move them. They are rooted and grounded in the

truth, and you can not move them.

**"Keep your eye on me, I am on both sides."**

One time I was in a city, and there was a class I was standing before, breaking the bread of life to them, feeding their hungry souls, and a brother came in opened the door hollering, "Jesus is God, Jesus is God!" The power of God fell and it broke up the meeting for the biggest part of them went home after that.

Well, it was no haphazard affair with me. I questioned God about this time. We were in counsel together, I said, "What does all this mean Lord? You said I was to do so and so, and when I do it, here comes a brother in and the meeting is broken up. Now who is right? If I am wrong I want to quit doing wrong and do right." The Lord said, "Keep your eye on me, I am on both sides." I did not know how He could be on both sides.

My work and my words were together, and others words were tearing things to pieces. But God was getting ready to build.

**"They wore out more Bibles in that mighty wave of gaining knowledge for that doctrine than ever before or ever since.."**

I was in a longhaired preacher's home and that man was as radical as I ever saw. But God confirmed the fact we were to have a meeting in that house and there would be a great victory if I would. I said, "How can I have a meeting here? So and so is so radical they will tear up every meeting we have, and how can we have a meeting in his house?"

God wanted to give me a real lesson. I started in that meeting that night and Brother Tom Hatler came in and said, "I feel victory tonight." I did not know how, for that fellow would take his hat off and shake his hair down and tear everything to pieces. I said, "All right, but it is beyond my strength."

The first thing you know the power of God was falling and God pouring His mighty spirit in the place, and two received the baptism, and three or four were converted that night. In that meeting before it closed, 18 had received the Holy Ghost, and 30 or 40 were converted. A good, big assembly was brought out on the strength of that meeting.

Here is what happened all the time we were singing and having a glorious time. He was out in the other rooms keeping order. He was hard! The very last night... he knew it was the last night and he came in and took his cap off and shook his hair down, and had the Bible in his hand and was going to preach. I said to myself, "Oh, oh, all everything we have

done is going to be undone and going down."

Just then a fight started in the kitchen and he said, "Well you are the preacher and I am the policeman." And he took his cane and went to the kitchen to stop it. God showed me what it was all about. Different doctrines were coming and going. Especially the one called, "Jesus Name." But if it had not been for the New Issue movement... this book (Bible) yet would have been a dead book. But that New Issue people stirred the whole Pentecostal world from one end to the other. They wore out more Bibles in that mighty wave of gaining knowledge for that doctrine than ever before or ever since. Men were sitting up night after night and day after day and they got me to studying it! I kept studying and studying and every school we would have there would be another doctrine arise.

**"God told me He would have a church that would save the New Issue as well as the old."**

If I went to an Assembly that had been brought out by a doctrine that caused me to study... I remember two Jews that were together one time, and one was strong Trinity, and the other a strong New Issue preacher. One was tearing the work up in Southern Illinois.

One night I slept on the same pallet on the floor with the strong New Issue, the other one was sick in the bed. The one told the other the wrath of God was on him for the other had said he didn't think the other had the Holy Ghost. So the one was saying, "Spare his life, but let him repent." After we prayed for the sick brother we went to bed.

I was battling and holding firm that Jesus and God were separate and distinct persons. And he was holding firm that they were one and the same. While lying on the floor that night along side of my enemy, God took my mind and began to show me, "In the beginning was the word, and the word was God." Jesus was the word, and Jesus was with God. And the words Jesus spoke were not His words, for the words He spoke was God speaking through Him. "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." It was the words spoken into Mary's womb that became flesh and dwelt among us. I had a weapon then. God told me He would have a church that would save the New Issue as well as the old. Some said back there, "There is no such thing as changing them." But there is such a thing. It was God that did it.

**"If I could not be emphatic about it, I would quit saying it."**

Now listen, this is a strong assertion, like a preacher

said in Indianapolis, "Brother Sowders, you are so emphatic. " Well, I am, because I did not look on some fine preacher having a good time and desired to be in the ministry, but I was perfectly satisfied with what I was doing and wanted to fish and hunt the rest of my life. And when I found a place where I could do so I was satisfied.

So, from the day God called me to this, I have been preaching against my will. I didn't want to ever put on a white shirt or a necktie again. I was going to wear overalls the rest of my life and shave when I wanted and when I didn't. Let it alone... let my beard grow out and I was going to be reconciled. I am out here today because I have got to be. I can say what I mean, because I know what I am talking about. If I could not be emphatic about it, I would quit saying it.

**" You know that has been  
a hot bed to destroy homes."**

When I was a young man I used to be on the police force. I watched around picture shows, of course I could go in whenever I wanted to. After I resigned from the police force, I was fool enough to live in it all day. I had nothing else to pass away the time in. I saw what they were away back there 37 or 38 years ago. My Lord, what are they now. It is what you see out here on the streets and ten times worse.

I heard a fellow say... one time a man was walking up and down in front of a picture show just raging. He went to the door occasionally. Finally someone inquired what was the matter? He said, "My wife is in there with another man. I am going to kill the so and so." That fellow went in there and said, "If there is any man in here with another man's wife he had better leave out the back exit." And 17 couples hit the door. You know that has been a hot bed to destroy homes. To make dates, and meet another man's wife in the afternoon. Thousands of men make it a point to meet a woman, maybe a woman who has three or four beautiful children at home crying for Mother.

**"I and the Ford can't occupy your heart  
at the same time."**

When I bought my first automobile, it was fairly good looking, but the inside was worn out and I began to decorate it. I began to see there was something great in my heart, previous of buying that Ford, being transferred, and that Ford coming into my heart and the Lord going out. I could just feel that. I thought, "What in the world is that?" The Lord began to talk to me. He said, "I and the Ford can't occupy your heart at the same time." Well I began to think, "How do you mean that?" God

made me to understand what He meant.

**"I became so strong that it just seemed like I could turn that tabernacle over and send it down the road. I stood there 4 1/2 hours after that and kept it going until they could say, 'It is enough.'"**

In the Camp Meeting one time... I went to that meeting not physically able to officiate in that meeting, but of course I had to do it. I had talked up until breakfast bell began to ring. I was glad when the bell began to ring. I said, "Well, we will finish this." I was talking on the beast. That was when God was restoring the truth pertaining to the beast, it was just day and night, beast, beast, beast.

And about 25 people rose up and said, "We didn't come to this camp meeting to get what we are going to get down in the mess hall, we came down to get just what we are getting, and we want that." I said, "If you came here to get that, all right I will sacrifice my life. If I am carried out of this place, I will stand here until I drop, in order to feed you what you are in need of."

When I said that the power of God hit me, and people told me afterwards, "You turned as white as a sheet." When I said that, something hit me and jerked me that way. I became so strong that it just seemed like I could turn that tabernacle over and send it down the road. I stood there 4 1/2 hours after that and kept it going until they could say, "It is enough." The dinner bell rang.

**"He wasn't after the big jobs, he was always willing to take the low seat and now God is exalting him."**

There is Brother Tommy; he was faithful from the time God saved him. He was always wanting to do something, wanting to do something. And to give him a job and keep him interested, we would tell him to tell the people to "Watch the spirit." He would get back and be faithful in that thing too. Yes he would. Anything you would tell him to do he was faithful in it. He wasn't after the big jobs, he was always willing to take the low seat and now God is exalting him. He is abounding in the things of God.

**" This is not an organization, this is an organism, a body that is growing and producing life.."**

I have been along the highway and seen posts with a sprout... a fence post with a sprout on it. I was looking at that one day, and the Lord said to me, "That is an organization." It was a big limb on that tree. That tree, which was an organism... and that post, was receiving life or strength from that tree. But

some man comes along and decides to cut it down, and he converted that post into an organization and it was for the purpose of nailing wire to it and holding cattle in. It is for the purpose of keeping cattle in their place. I watched that post and that was the only year it had life, or produced life, the next year that green sprout was gone. It never receives anymore life, because just as soon as it was severed, it began to die and became an old fence post.

There are just lots of Pentecostal people that have become fence posts, or something like that, and all they will be used for is to hold cattle. Yes fence the beast in, hold the beast behind the walls of Babylon, and it just won't do.

This is not an organization, this is an organism, a body that is growing and producing life.

**"I'm intending, when God slips me out, for the work to go on just as if I was there."**

It means something for a man to spend all of his life, say 35 or 36 years of labor and then turn all that over to another man. If ever there was a time I proved myself to God, it was there. I'm intending, when God slips me out, for the work to go on just as if I was there.

Those Assemblies that I have, left have been through hell waist deep, but the three Assemblies that I pastored are Assemblies. That is what is happening to the body in general, as I am slipping one wedge out, I am slipping another in.

**"I say that a man can get so close to God and get so saturated with God, that his very presence will cause people to be healed."**

If spirits were being bought, I wouldn't take a hundred billion dollars for mine. It was put there through humiliation, crushing.

I have had people come up with a knife drawn and say, "I'll knife you to death," and you would think I was gone, but howbeit, God delivered me. I have had men come up with their sleeves rolled, up make a pass at me, but God never did let them hit me. God was with me every time. God crushed me, humiliated me, and put a spirit on me that I actually have sit in my chair and wished I was dead a thousand times. Never did a spirit of exaltation since I have been in this ministry touch this body.

The man that is getting my spirit is getting something worth while. You can feel it when you come in that door. You can feel it when you come into the house. Yes indeed. I have had sick people come in my room and go out well. They would say, "I

was sick when I came in here, but I am well now." I say that a man can get so close to God and get so saturated with God, that his very presence will cause people to be healed.

**"Having begun in the spirit are you now made perfect in the flesh?"**

In the beginning, I never did want to be a big shot; but I was willing to help someone if I saw they had a zeal and was trying to accomplish something. I paid for two big ads in two newspapers, not in this city. This particular man wanted to put on a big revival in that town. When he went out of the office. I was standing there studying about the amount of money that I paid for those two ads and whether it was going to be profitable and pay me back or not. When God said to me in plain words, "Having begun in the spirit are you now made perfect in the flesh?" I understood what that was.

I said, "From now on Lord, I will keep my hands off of revivals." The last preacher that held a revival for me, I had to carry him out to the car, took him to his home, and carried him out of the car into his room and put him to bed. I said, "No more revivals will I try to bring about, by having some man to come and hold a revival."

**"I suffered when I first went into the ministry."**

I suffered when I first went into the ministry. There were nights when I had no place to lay my head and there were nights when angels laid their hands on my shoulders, and nights when angels comforted me and I understood exactly what they were saying. What caused me to have those experiences? I had no bed. But if I had a big fine feather bed and a big fine pillow to lay on, and the people saying, "Come home with us, we have a warm fire and a good bed for you." Then I would have a little prayer about that long, and no angel would have put his hand on my shoulder, no angel would have talked to me audibly and told me he was with me and would stand by me.

**"He can't pull me away from this Bible stand unless you let him."**

One time I was leaning against the Bible stand, one night when 50 or 75 people were shouting. There was a bad actor in the house. No doubt about it, he was a bad actor. Everybody was afraid of him. In he came and I was leaning on the Bible stand. I felt someone come up and get hold of my wrists. He said, "Come on old sister." He wanted me to dance with him (making light of the shouting). I said, "Lord here I am. You are all power. He can't pull me away from this Bible stand unless you let him. You are all power.

Just behind him, right at that very time, the power of God fell on a 16-year-old girl and there she came, clapping her hands and shouting. Down the road he went and all of his gang left after him. God made that fellow believe that just about all of the devils in hell were turned loose on him.

**"If ever I was in the center of the will of God, it is here!"**

If ever I was in the center of the will of God, it is here! God forced us and made us come here. I would rather be made to do, than not to know God's will. I prayed, "Shut everything contrary to your will. Close everything up and I'll not try to get anything at all."

When we left that place on Broadway the last Sunday, what an experience I had. What I saw was a beautiful room, with a fluffy pile of paper that practically filled the room. I saw a big hand in that paper began to crunch it down and finally to nothing. Oh, how God spoke to my heart when that big hand brought that big fluffy pile of paper to practically nothing, squeezing it down and threw it away. He squeezed His life out of that place. That which was once glorious and profitable, there is no life in it. When we were getting ready to leave there, the glory that came in our midst, it was wonderful. If ever there has been a quiet restful attitude, it is right in this tabernacle. What did that? It is because I have entered into my rest saying, "Oh God, give us a place if you want it and if you don't want it, we don't." Now if we would have had a program, we could not have proved the will of God. But now we can say, "If it is your will, come on God and do something."

He met with us right on the beginning when some of our minds were crossed up in doubt and fear, but the God of heaven came in like a storm and proved it was His will for us to be here.

**"God is the judge, let Him make you what He wants you to be."**

God calls a man... He will call him for something else other than what he desires to be. Honestly, I wanted to be an Evangelist. The first meeting I ever held by myself in Western Kentucky, I had about 1800 every night at that service and 50 or more got the Holy Ghost. Sometimes four and six a night, getting the Holy Ghost. I have never saw the power and glory of God so great in a meeting in all my experience. I thought, "I'm going to evangelize the world." I wanted to do that.

But you know, one time, God took everything away and I was a dunce before the people. God made me to know I was going to do what He wanted me to do. You can't do and be what you want to be. God is the judge, let Him make you what He wants you to be.

**"God only hears that which comes from the heart."**

Mother lived in Pittsburgh, and I lived in Cairo and in that section. I hadn't seen Mother for about 10 years and she came to see me. She went to church and heard us all praying. She said, "Willie, why in the world don't you pray to yourself?"

"Why do you want us to do that, Mother?" "I want to hear you pray. I don't see how God could hear what they are all talking about, look like it would confuse God and He couldn't hear any of them." I said, "Mother if I fixed up a prayer for you to hear, it would be all in vain, God only hears that which comes from the heart."

**"For me to follow my wife meant to take her as my head, and severing myself as Adam did from his head."**

My wife and I were called together. I was called with a wife. Of course I was going to evangelize the world. We were in Paducah and had it good; my wife did not like the comforts we were having. She kept whining to go home.

I went home and God gave me a dream and made me to know exactly where I was at. God don't deal with everybody alike. I knew when I just could not let my wife be my head. I began to learn, in the beginning of my ministry, that Christ was my head. For me to follow my wife meant to take her as my head, and severing myself as Adam did from his head. Every time I would pray, my wife was right in my forehead, right there! I could not shake her away. God gave me this dream: I was walking along a field by the fence, I saw a pile of bones bleached from the sun and rain.

The bones began to move and a skeleton rose up and started coming toward me. There was not a speck of meat on the bones. I looked again and the bones were moving and another skeleton rose up, it was just a little taller and they both came toward me with their arms locked. The tallest one had a little strip of white meat around its knees. A voice said, "This means something." I woke up and prayed and asked the Lord, "What is this?" I could not get a thing. Only the first impression and I would not take it. Finally God was merciful to me and brought another brother and showed me that God wanted me to go to Columbus, Kentucky.

While down there my wife began to murmur and complain. We were having meetings every day in a house which was furnished nice, we had the grocery book and could get what we needed, everything. We were having morning services and were doing good, a wonderful accomplishment.

It was raining and had been raining every day. Some nights we could not have a meeting. My wife wanted to leave and said, "If you were in the Lord's will, it would quit raining. This particular morning she would not help me sing. She was rocking with all her might. I looked at her and saw the whole thing as a vision before me. The Lord said, "The big skeleton was you and the meat you had left was the desire you had to serve me." "The smaller skeleton is your wife, she has lost her desire." "When you followed her home from Paducah, all you had left was a desire."

I said to my wife, "You go home if you want to, but I'm here doing business for God." She stayed right on the job. When God called me to preach His Gospel with a mighty voice from heaven that almost burst my eardrums, He said, "MY GOSPEL!"

**"There are men in this movement who are outstanding, who have no wives."**

There are men in this movement who are outstanding who have no wives. Then there is my son, James Sowders, he is outstanding when it comes down to a man as a preacher, but there is Tommy Jolly, he is not what you would call a preacher, but a Teacher. Tommy Jolly has said to her, "Stand back." He has stayed out from all these natural things and God is making that boy successful; powerful in the work of the Lord.

**"It is a people not striving to do things within themselves, but just waiting on God."**

Louisville property was sold, and I couldn't see nothing out there and it went on for months. The first thing you know I was tried as a "forcible detainer."

I went before two courts and was about to go before another one. I got acquainted with several there. In the first court I was in, the judge dismissed court for five minutes and he rushed down to meet me and said, "He was for me and it didn't make no difference what the law said." He kept putting it off. Finally the party took the case before another judge, and we went before that judge. The judge looked at the woman all fixed up and said, "I am gone."

Finally, I was called to the stand and I opened my mouth, and the spirit broke me and it broke the judge, and before the trial was over he was for me. And the

last time it was my judge friend. And in the meantime one of our precious saints was a distant relative to the judge, and she goes to the judge and tells him of the good work I am doing. And when the judge saw me he said, "How are you Doctor? I have been hearing about you, you are doing a wonderful work in the city. I am for you, go to it."

I began to tell the judge what God could do and would do, and then when the trial came off, the woman came all decked up but it had no effect on the judge. This judge said, "Well, you know the law is the law and I want to keep myself clear, my conscience clear, because I have got to deal in this law." And I knew he meant according to the law, you have got to go. So we talked and talked until everything sort of changed. And shortly the judge backed up, and the two lawyers backed up, and the judge said, "Don't you think that you two ought to shake hands?"

I said then, "I don't want the people to think that I brought this to court. This lawyer here is one my friend employed, not I. I am here because I am forced to be here. I am not here trying to fight this woman. I am just up against it, and have no place to go and just waiting for a place to move. And it will be only a matter of days until I am out."

After the trial he came to me and said, "Doctor, I am sure proud of the work you are doing, keep it up. And the very thing that happened today will prove to be a blessing." The old judge prophesied that.

This has caused me to meet several lawyers, two judges and others, praise His dear name. I just said, "Lord I can't do it, I can't see that people out of that house, having no place to go, Lord it isn't my name, it is in your name, will you let your name go to the gutter?" He gave me the best I ever had. And Brother Bill Lewis, the altar you built, it was full Sunday night. The best outlook for a great reaping. Therefore, it is a people not striving to do things within themselves, but just waiting on God.

**I have been preaching for 25 years, and have read the Bible 25 times from lid to lid... Do you mean to tell me, that is in the Bible?"**

When I first started out, I wanted to associate with everybody. I went down to a little church in the neighborhood and began to talk to the preacher holding the meetings. He asked if I would help him out. I said, "I sure will." I went down there on nights we didn't have meetings and gave him as much assistance as I could. I knew I couldn't do very much, they wouldn't let me. A Holy Ghost preacher, a person with the Holy Ghost, doesn't have much of a



chance out there.

So the time came for me to go to my church, and I couldn't help the preacher out. He said, "Bring your people down here the next time." I said, "I would like to do that, but I can't do it because it would ruin your service. The people won't stand for my people to come." I said, "Brother, I have the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I am one of those people who speak in other tongues, and we are known as the tongues people. The people won't have them at all." He said, "Say, you are the person I have been wanting to meet. I want to talk to you. I have been anxious to meet a fellow like you."

I made a date with him and had old Mother Harold to fix up her parlor for him. We got right down into the subject. He said, "I believe holiness or hell. Give up your tobacco, treat your neighbor right, but there is one thing I don't believe and that is the tongues." I said, "I am glad you are honest enough to tell me you don't believe it. Nevertheless, I didn't believe it when I first saw them."

I said, "Paul said, he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God." The reason he said that is because you can hear it, but you don't understand what he is saying. I said, "In the spirit he speaketh mysteries. That is in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:2." He said, "Do you mean to tell me that is in the Bible?" I said, "Yes!" He said, "I have been preaching for 25 years, and have read the Bible 25 times from lid to lid... hundreds of times I have read it here and there. If you show me that in the Bible, I will give you my right hand of fellowship." I said, "Brother, here it is, turn to the first book of Corinthians 14:2." He said, "Brother Sowders, can you help me out? I have read that 25 times I am sure; and as many times as I have read it, how is it, I didn't see it?" I said, "The Lord hides it from the wise and prudent and reveals it unto babes. You are educated to preach the gospel and I never went through all of that; and got it from God." He gave me his right hand and said, "Go ahead and God bless you. That is in there."

**"There are clothes that might keep  
you from shouting..."**

There are clothes that might keep you from shouting because you might get them messed up. I remember I had a fine pair of blue serge trousers. I didn't want to get them dirty. I knew if I went across the river where it was all clay and dirt, I would get them dirty. I was watching my blue trousers, not to get them dirty. They spread straw around for the people to

shout and praise God on. I saw a fellow raise up from the straw; his nose running and dust all over him. Straw was all over his face and he was perspiring and talking in other tongues. He said, "If you only knew what I have." I thought, "You sure have a dirty face fellow."

I was standing there asking the Lord to give me the Holy Ghost. At once I saw a great big finger come in the bosom of my shirt and it picked me up. I don't say that I was picked up, but I say I saw a big finger pick me up and spin me around and flopped me into the straw on my face. That is exactly where I went. I had straw on my face. Would you believe when I came to my self I was crying and my nose was running too? I was ashamed to raise my head up. I slipped my handkerchief out of my pocket and wiped it off.

A dear sister whose name was Bell could certainly see things in the spirit. She rose to her feet and said, "I saw three stars resting over this people." A fellow rose up and said, "Those three stars are three people who will get the Holy Ghost today." I thought, maybe I would be one of them. I thought I was going to get it. But the Lord gave me a dirty face for laughing at that fellow. Three got the Holy Ghost. Many things like that were prophesied and they came to pass.

**"God put that spirit in that woman."**

If ever a thing that used to bother me, but it don't bother me anymore. That thing that tormented me day and night is gone. It took two years day and night. That is to have a woman boss me, tell me something.

There was something in a woman's voice that stirred me quicker than anything else. It was not in a man's voice, but when a woman bossed me... say; I had fights with women. One hit me on the elbow with a water bucket. I had a time with women. Have fought like tigers. The Lord knew that was in me. If they would tell me to do something, I could not stand it, a woman trying to boss me.

He called me to preach the gospel and He knew I would have to put up with more women than men. You know what the Lord did there for me? Called me, and kept me home for two years. I wasn't going until the Lord led me. There was a woman and she would jump on me. At first, she said I was her baby in the Lord. She would say she was the one that prayed me into the Lord. I knew she wasn't. Every time she would say it, it would warm my spirit to the popping off place. She said, "God showed me that Brother Sowders was another Moses, he is a big gun, and is going to shoot sin from one end of the world to the other."

For a long time I would humble myself by sitting on the floor with my back up against me, but always puffing me up. I knew she did not have the Holy Ghost, and just as soon as she would sit down, I would get up with the scripture, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

It was breaking up the meeting many times, for she said I was living in adultery all the time because I was living with my second wife. If we had a Sunday lesson, she always wanted the scriptures pertaining to living in adultery. We dismissed and I went home and said, "Lord show me something." I thought the Lord was going to show me something. I opened the Bible to, "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." (Romans 2:1) I said, "Oh, that is not for me."

I was judging her and doing the same thing. It was exactly to me. That continued on and on. Sometimes it got awful bad. One time we were going to dis-fellowship her, and the man in whose home we were having meetings in said that I would have to tell her. When she came, I met her at the door and said, "Sister we are going to dis-fellowship you tonight for you are a reproach and keeping the sinners from getting saved." She said, "The Lord did not say so." She did not show near as bad a spirit as I did. She was just giving me the laugh. I have saw two or three women jump on her, and she would just stand and laugh at them. She had more victory than I did.

The time came near for me to go out in the ministry. One night she got up telling this and that, what I was going to do. I was sitting on the floor humbling myself. (When I started to get right up after her.) The Lord said, "Son, can't you bear with this woman?" I said, "Bear with her, bear with her. I had to study it out." He said, "Yes, you have put a lot of wood in, and where no wood is the fire goes out, but you have put so much wood in, it will take a long time for the fire to go out." I understood it and did that very thing. She is contentious, and yet was right in some things, and it has turned out like she said it would. If the Lord sicked a woman on me for two years when I could have spit in her face or chewed her nose off... God put that spirit in that woman. She would jump on me and nag at me and I would jump back, and that had to come out for I was supposed to be a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**"One man lost his voice  
and never made a sound anymore."**

I saw a preacher, who was real active. He came to a meeting and saw people receive the Holy Ghost before his very eyes. The one I have in mind lived up in Illinois. He saw a woman receive the Holy Ghost and he went back and made light and tried to act like she did and tried to sound like she sounded. When that fellow got up to talk he couldn't do anything but sound like that woman sounded when she got the Holy Ghost. It was God's judgment on that man.

I have seen other men who saw people receive the Holy Ghost and make light of it, one man lost his voice and never made a sound anymore.

**"If you haven't got the Holy Ghost, and if you  
haven't got a good measure of God in your  
heart, you are apt to get mad when you hear  
someone speaking in tongues."**

If you haven't got the Holy Ghost, and if you haven't got a good measure of God in your heart, you are apt to get mad when you hear someone speaking in tongues. I can sympathize with you who don't understand and get mad. I experienced the same thing. I was standing and watching a baptizing service by a Holy Ghost preacher. I was talking to a very prominent farmer, admiring their way of worship, and what they were doing. Finally he prayed and began to speak in other tongues. I thought, "Listen at that, I could shove my fist down his throat." It made me mad.

**"God told me many a time to go  
home and read my Bible."**

I am a servant of God. I have no mind of my own. And having His mind, I do say many things. I don't say it boastfully. I know where I am going; I know where my end will be. I am not in it because it was a choice of my choosing. He called me. I couldn't fish anymore. I couldn't go down to the river and talk to the fishermen and river men. It was my delight to do that. A voice would say, "You had better go home and read your Bible, you had better go home and read your Bible." I loved hunting so well; I hated to give it up. I lived in this City most of my life, and I wanted to go somewhere to hunt and fish, and live like a hermit. Just as soon as I got to that place, God called me to preach the gospel, and started me out. The very thing I wanted to do I couldn't do. He turned me around and I had to face the public. The first two years I was studying. God told me things that caused the men who brought me into this to say I was a heretic.

I thought one day... I would go hunting. God told me many a time to go home and read my Bible. My

knees locked on me and wouldn't work. I'll tell you, I had a time going home. When I got home my knees unlocked. I sold my gun as soon as I got a buyer. I have got to be here, God called me. Sure, I am here because I have to be here. I have to stay on the job, as a nail drove down. I can't get my mind this way or that way... He will smite me. I have to ask Him to forgive me for letting my mind go wrong. It is no plaything. You are sitting before a hireling. Whatever God gives me, I have to say it. That is why I act and do as I do.

**"It has grown in knowledge and wisdom to where a man without wisdom is easily seen."**

Brother Aubrey was a prophet in Israel. He could tell the thoughts of your mind and what was in your heart. And lots of time you didn't know it yourself. He said to me, "God wants you and Brother Bob to go to Assemblies that have been planted, and ordain elders." I said, "God showed you?" All right, we got ready to go, and crossed over into Illinois, and back into Kentucky.

Then I was praying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" The Lord showed my wife what to do. I didn't believe it. My wife said, "The Lord showed me where to go." I said, "NO." She said, "Do you want to know what the Lord wants you to do?" I said, "Sure." She said, "Go back to Paducah." I said, "Oh no! Brother Aubrey sent us out." And how would the Lord show a woman when here are two men Brother Shelton and I? I said, "NO, NO, the Lord didn't show you." I went into the yard, and my wife came out, "Do you want me to pack the suitcase?" I said, "Oh no, go back into the house, what would Brother Bob say?" She said, "Are you serving Brother Bob or the Lord?" The power of God came to her and I said, "Lord, the spirit witnesses to that." A fellow will believe anyone before he will his wife. A man hates for his wife to tell him what to do. Lot of times God wants to let her know she has a part as well as the preacher. I said, "Lord, it must be you."

Brother Shelton wouldn't go back. We went on to Paducah and I said, "Lord, why should we come back here, there is nothing to do?" I was worrying about being out of the Lord's will.

I saw a great big mountain right there and I saw men going up to that mountain tearing it to pieces. Right down there, I saw a little molehill. "What does that mean?" The Lord told me "Son, the mountain represents the work of man. Man desires to get everything into it to make it big." Let us start with the molehill, work on it until it becomes a mountain, and it will be established in faith, wisdom and knowledge, and it will not be torn down.

I have lived to see a little molehill grow into a mountain. It has grown in knowledge and wisdom to where a man without wisdom is easily seen.

**"God caught me off my guard, and the spirit got hold of me and I spoke a wonderful message in tongues."**

Pardon me for using myself, I have to use myself sometimes. And saying, "Pardon me," is just a habit. All who were around me when I received the Holy Ghost said I received the Holy Ghost. I didn't believe it because I heard testimonies of honey dripping out of their mouth, and they felt like they were dipped in honey. All kinds of testimonies... one fellow shook the tobacco out of his pocket. I thought if I get the Holy Ghost, I would get a wonderful blessing. I didn't have any more blessing on my body than I have right now, not as much. I tried for the third time and a brother said, "What do you want anyhow?" I thought, "I don't believe it." I saw they were through tarrying with me and I quit.

I got in my yacht and motored down the Ohio River. I thought, if this is the Holy Ghost it has weakened me. I haven't got the strength I did have. I doubted for three months. I hope no one has that experience. I can sympathize with you if they told you, you have the Holy Ghost and you don't believe it. It is the most miserable thing.

One night in a meeting, a sister by the name of Bell came to me while she was in the spirit and said, "Doubts, doubts, doubts." I thought, that is exactly what I am doing. That went on until Christmas week. We had a meeting at Ragland, Kentucky. We had a big room selected for the meeting. I saw one brother stick his hand in his pocket (shuffling in his pocket) I thought, oh my, he's throwing bills in the fire. Directly, I saw it was tobacco. The spirit witnessed to me and I began to speak in other tongues, "My Lord, I have it, I forgot myself." God caught me off my guard, and the spirit got hold of me, and I spoke a wonderful message in tongues.

**"The Holy Ghost is a wonder."**

I have seen a Brother walk up to a fellow and tell exactly what he did before he left home. And walk up to that fellow, (going through an illustration of drinking) what does that mean? He slipped out of the mission and went down the alley to the saloon.

In a meeting a woman came in, nicely dressed, tarrying for the Holy Ghost. A preacher was praying with her, and the Lord revealed that she was a shoplifter and had stolen goods in a neighbor's trunk. When he told her, she got up and made a big holler. A big blacksmith said he would ship that fellow for saying such a thing.

They had the preacher arrested, the case was tried and the preacher got the worst end of it.

The trunk was in Brother Barnhill's home, and it turned out that she had to admit to it. The Holy Ghost is a wonder. It can tell you where a hairpin is. Can tell you where your lost shoe is. It sees everything, knows everything, that is exactly what we are coming up to.

**"A perfect dream."**

I made mistakes, and still making them. When I started out I didn't know what to do. The brethren before me didn't know there was any classification. Paul said, "Men ought not to think more highly of themselves." What did you mean Paul? Why, men ought not to think they are the whole cheese. Well that is the way we did it all back there in the beginning. And there would be as many as four get the Holy Ghost at night. But I heard a voice say, "I didn't call you for this." "What did you call me for?" And then He would tell me, and I would say, "Isn't that what I am doing?"

I went out in the woods one night to pray to see if God wanted me to close the meeting and there I saw a vision. I was up in the pulpit there preaching to the people, and a great light shone on the people. The first thing you know the Lord said, "I didn't call you for this." "What did you call me to do?" I asked the Lord... I thought, "Lord you are a funny God, blessing me and then saying, that you didn't call me for this. Well it just shows God blesses a man when he is working wrong sometimes.

Well, one morning while in a home, while eating breakfast I told a dream. I dreamed we were closing the meeting and I saw a woman wearing a blue calico dress. Behold that very night, the woman who cooked my breakfast was at the altar and had the blue colored calico dress on, and was there at the altar tarrying for the Holy Ghost. And God said, "Close the meeting." A perfect dream.

**"And saw that a man can do a thing, get blessed in the doing of it, and yet be wrong."**

God began to show me one time, that what I was preaching was wrong. I was wanting a message. The rest of the preachers had a message, and I said, "Lord give me a message." I got one... in the 11th Chapter of Romans, in regards to the fullness of the Gentiles being come in. (Romans 11:25) "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." And I had Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians shouting and crying.

And so I came over to Karnak and said, "Lord, give me a message." So naturally, Romans 11:25 came to me again. I came to that part, saying that, "Blindness in part is happened to Israel." and my tongue stuck to my mouth. I asked God, "What did you stop me for?" He said, "Son you have got it wrong." And He said, "Son, if I didn't bless people in wrong things, they would get no blessings." I thought the Holy Ghost didn't make no mistakes. There I saw, that by our mistakes we learned and found out that there wasn't three in the Godhead, and so forth. And saw that a man can do a thing, get blessed in the doing of it, and yet be wrong.

**"Where will you spend eternity?"**

In naming my boat, I ask the Lord, "What shall I name my boat?" The Lord spoke through me and said, "Where will you spend eternity?" That was it. I then set out to paint it on it, and I couldn't print good enough to put it on there and the Lord said He would send me a printer, and in a few days he was there. He couldn't do the work, but sent me the stencils to do it. They would move... and blurred, and I said, "Lord, send me somebody." And here came Brother Aubrey up the road and asked me what I was doing and I told him. I had just asked God to send me somebody, and He said, "Well here I am." He held them and I daubed them. I put the N's upside down and the S's backward and the J's backward. That was when dear Brother Weaver was there, and the spirit of God came upon him and he said, "Letters, letters, letters," And I went down there and sure enough, they were on wrong. God doesn't want us to be or have nothing upside down.

On another part of the boat He said, "But look to Jesus." I said, "Lord if you witness to me, I will put that on." I didn't all together understand why He wanted that on there and then after it was on; I looked at my boat, it said, "Where will you spend eternity?" on the front. People say, "What kind of a boat is that?" then, "Why, look to Jesus!"

**"He said, 'Son, yes, I led you perfectly.'"**

God told me in Olmsted one time, "I want you to preach to the colored people here." I didn't know where there was any church house for the people, and I was going to have a meeting under a tree or brush harbor there for the people. God told me not to be hasty and I was down at Mound City and on the river, my boat surged in the water and I couldn't go an inch. Before I left Mound City, God spoke and said, "I want a meeting there, and I didn't think that was God and I wanted to get back home. And as I saw that something had happened to my boat, there was a man came... Mr. Ester and his boys and helped me. And

as soon as I started that motor, the propeller hit the boat, and God said, "Will you stop." I turned weak, and I said, "Yes Lord, I will." I came ashore and got to talking to them and asked, "Does anybody have a Bible down here?" Mr. Ester said, "Bible? We don't believe in such a thing as a Bible down here." And I said to myself, "Lord what did you send me here for, these people don't believe in no Bible." The little girl was going after butter, and I asked her to see if they had a Bible up there, and she got it. I felt like I had a Lion in my hand, and after supper, I had the meeting and talked from the first chapter of Genesis. God said "Feed them milk, feed them milk." And... well, it wasn't much milk, but the way I had it then, it was milk. After supper we went to bed, after the meeting. And we got up the next morning and went down to fix my boat. And as I started to, a voice said to me, "Walk home." Six miles from home! You say, God wouldn't tell you to walk home? He told me!

I remembered God had told me to preach to the colored people. And so I walked and I heard a boat coming, and it was a friend of mine and all I would have had to do was call him... and I tried and couldn't. God said, "Walk home." I started walking and I could smell coffee from a house and God said, "Eat your breakfast."

I will be honest with you, I didn't want to eat there... it was too dirty. I hadn't been broke in yet. I went in, and the man was an ungodly man, an infidel. And his wife said, "Thank the Lord." I opened my mouth and I just bawled and bawled, I just hollered and cried and she looked at the old man and said, "Daddy, I always told you we ought to live better." That breakfast tasted good to me then.

I went on and met a man and said, "Good morning." He said, "Good morning." I said "Fine morning," and he said, "Yes" and he was digging a post hole. I couldn't get a thing out of him, so I knew God didn't mean him, so I went on.

And as I was walking down the railroad track I got tired of walking on the ties and walked on the gravel. A voice said, "Get back on the track." I found a Sunday quarterly, and I couldn't throw it away, and walked on and my head was turned, and right over in the woods was a building and a voice said, "Colored Church House." I will be honest here, I was so close to an angel that I could just feel the spirit. And went on... and the devil said, "That was a school house." But I went on over, and found a lot of quarterlies that were swept out, just like the one that I had in my hand.

I looked inside and I was so tired, and I said, "Lord, you led me so perfectly up to here. I am going to sit

right here till you send me the man to show me further." The Lord said, "Get up and walk towards the railroad tracks and you will meet a colored man," and I did that and here he came. I said, "Good morning." And he said, "Good morning." And I said, "The Lord led me to this church house." And I told him that the Lord told me I would meet a colored man. And he said, "What denomination are you?" I said, "Denomination is ruination." And I ask how I could get in there, and he said he was a trustee. And the other two trustees then I met and they said I could have it. And the town people came out, and I preached on the 18th Chapter of Revelations. On the "Fall of Babylon." I told the preacher he needed the Holy Ghost, and he went back at me again and again. And I said, "If you were the right kind of a preacher, you wouldn't put a charge upon the gospel." He said, "Uh-huh," and all the time I was preaching "Babylon is falling" and "come out of her my people." That old fellow was just studying what he was going to say to me. And when I got through, he got up and said, "And this brother, when he goes out, isn't going to take two coats and neither purse, nor script... and Jesus fasted 40 days and nights... but he didn't tell me to do it. And he said, "Babylon, that the brother spoke about fell in Jeremiah's day and we don't have to worry about that." Dismissed and went home.

I felt so bad. "Oh Lord, what is the matter with me any how?" He said, "Son, yes, I led you perfectly. And you missed it when you got there, but I would rather you make a mess in the woods in a colored church than in some other church. You will know how to conduct yourself when you go in them."

**"I have learned a secret. The Lord let me in on it."**

The first camp meeting we had, I ordered tents from Mr. Beverly. I ordered 300 tents, nothing to compare with what we have now. He said, "Rev., what do you charge the people?" I said, "Nothing." He said, "Say, you are bound to go down, that way. You can't make it. You have to charge the people, or you will go broke if you keep that up." I said, "Mr. Beverly, I am renting tents from you, giving you \$4.50 a piece for the rental of the tents, and I am going to let people come and not charge them a cent. I guarantee you that after the meeting, I will be over to pay you for the rental of all the tents." He said, "That is a mystery. I am going to tell the people in Louisville about that." I said, "All right, tell them."

After the meeting I was there to pay for the tents. Mr. Beverly said, "Say, I have been telling some of the preachers about you, and they don't see how you do it." Everything that pertains to God is a mystery. I

said, "I have learned a secret. The Lord let me in on it." "Freely you have received, freely give. By giving that way, God gives to me, and I don't charge anything for it.

**"Everything was withered, until we got about 6 miles from Elco."**

One time, my son and I were going to Elco for the Camp Meeting. There was a drought and we saw how things were dried up. About 6 miles from Elco, we saw corn as green as could be. Everything was withered, until we got about 6 miles from Elco. My son said, "Pop, look at the green corn." I said, "Thank the Lord." I saw that the Lord had been pouring the rain down for the Camp Meeting. When we got there, the storehouse was full of vegetables, tomatoes, cabbage, etc.

A man rose up and testified, saying, he promised God, if He would let his crop grow and not perish like the rest were doing, he would give one wagon load of roasting ears (corn). And the next day, here came the wagon load. We had an abundance of vegetables. The Bible says to feed our enemies, and we fed them.

**Man healed from a paralytic stroke.**

It wasn't long ago a man near Broadway had a paralytic stroke. A clot of blood on his brain... no hopes for him. His mother came to me, I had never seen her before, and she said, "Please go to the hospital and pray for my son." I said, "Sure, Mother." I got ready and went to the hospital. The wife was standing at the bed weeping; and there he lay like a dead man. I prayed for him, and he came to himself and looked around and asked, "Where are my clothes?" She said, "I took your clothes home, do you want them?" He said, "Sure." I said, "Do you want us to go get your clothes?" He said, "Yes, I am feeling All right."

I drove the woman down to get his clothes, and back to the hospital and came on out. I never saw the Mother any more. They never said thank you or anything.

**"That was when Jesus talked to me, and gave me a chance to talk to Him."**

The next time I was caught away... I was against a beautiful ceiling. I was pressed against a beautiful ceiling. It was just marble. I was pressed against it so hard, my head was to one side, laying over against it. That was when Jesus talked to me, and gave me a chance to talk to Him. He told me the time had come for me to go into the ministry. He wanted me to sell out and go. I had been studying for two years, lying on my back

and studying day and night, praying and reading my Bible. The Holy Ghost had me in school day and night. If I would stay awake and not be able to sleep, I would thank God that I couldn't sleep. I was so hungry to study the things of God.

When He said it was time for me to get ready and go, I said, "What about Bertha?" That was my wife. He said, "I will have Bertha ready when I get you ready." His voice wasn't tender; He just spoke so positive. I said, "What about my nets?" See, I was a big fisherman. He said, "Time is too short to bother about nets." Every time He spoke to me, He cut me off.

"Where shall I go? Lord, I want to be led of you. I don't want to go around blind folded, but know what I am doing. If I go into the work, I want to be led of you, going where you want me to go."

Some of the things He told me, I said, "Shall I tell others this, Lord?" "NO."

"Lord, what about Your coming? Shall I tell the people?" And He told me, "TELL NOBODY."

And let me tell you one thing, that is one thing I never did tell. I tell you, the Lord pinned that in me so tight, so perfect and I won't tell anyone. He made me to forget it for a while, and recently it has come back to me.

**"God can't do anything until they come to their end of their strength."**

When I went to Evansville, Indiana, there was a large Assembly. They had worked and labored, dug, pulled, had knock downs and drag outs, trying to accomplish something. When I look at the situation, I thought it is just too bad for me to do the job, yet God had led me and said in plain words, "Go to Evansville." Before I would go there, I got down in my back, and the last time I was in service, I had to sit in a chair to talk to the people. I said, "Lord, why is this, why can't I speak to this people?" The next morning, I was out in the woods praying, and the Lord said, "Go to my people." See, I was out with the unsaved element. I said, "Lord, where will I go?" He said, "To Evansville."

That evening I was taking the packet out of town, going down the river to Evansville. I saw the condition, and that their energy, their activity was all gone. They were flat as a flitter.

I had a dream and this was that dream: I saw 7 women, 6 of them had nice clean calico dresses on, but the other one was slovenly dressed. Horrible looking, and her hair was dirty and her dress. She was just sitting in a chair, given up. The other women were

busy as bees. I said, when I woke up, "What is this?" The Lord said, "Son, you have come to Evansville and you viewed the situation, and you say there is no prospect." That was one of my first experiences when I did not know how God worked.

But the seven women are the churches in Evansville. Yes. And in my dream, I had examined the woman and seen that she was going to become a Mother. "The woman you examined is Pentecostal. The other women are the churches that are full of activity, but this one has sat down, and now is your chance to do something." I had said in my dream, "She will bring forth a child.

That is exactly what happened. God can't do any thing for people until they quit... give up. As long as any church is full of activity and there is a prospect of building up a people, God can't do anything, until they come to their end of their strength.

**"Oh Brother Will, the Ohio is full of pumpkins."**

God said to me, "As I did that for Nehemiah, couldn't I do that for you?" I said "Yes, but you are not doing it for me." He talked to my heart. The reason He wasn't doing it for me... and listen you young Brethren that haven't gone out yet. I was trying to do something myself and had not made a complete surrender. But after that, I never lacked again. Pumpkins began floating down the river. The high water came up and there were pumpkins bouncing up, and I had no skiff and a brother hollered at me and said, "Oh, Brother Will, the Ohio is full of pumpkins." I asked him if he would let ' me have his skiff, and I went out and got 14 big ones. I know they seemed like rubies and diamonds to me. I did not have even a nickel to buy a slice of a pumpkin. There I got 14 of them, and got busy and dressed those pumpkins and cut them in slices, and hung them on strings, and hung them up, and had pots on the stove stewing pumpkin, frying pumpkin and drying them.

**"I am not going to heal her."**

I forget the woman's name now, but they thought sure she was going to get healed. We made up that night to go tomorrow to pray for her, and of course we believed she would get healed. We prayed before we left. While in prayer, the Lord said, "Don't pray for her healing, she won't be healed; but pray; go over and sing, and let her be refreshed." I told the saints the Lord wasn't going to heal her, He doesn't want us to pray for her healing. They thought that was awful, and of course, they went over and prayed for her healing. They wouldn't have it any other way. We were preparing for a revival meeting in September. The men both saved and unsaved were helping get things ready. It was a wonderful

layout for a meeting. They brought in chickens, watermelons... gave me a book to go to the grocery and get what I wanted. We didn't have to worry about a thing. We had everything finished, and started the meeting, and that dear soul was able to come to the meeting.

That was a few months since the time God said He wasn't going to heal her. People were being baptized, falling under the power of God. One night we made an altar call. I heard someone speaking in tongues. I looked around and saw that sister speaking in tongues. Well, they thought she would be healed sure. There was a good spirit like she would be healed. I knew God said to me, "I am not going to heal her." That dear soul got the Holy Ghost and lived 6 months and died.

**"When he did, that paralyzed side was healed in a second. He got saved right there and I left them both shouting and praising God."**

I saw a woman who was paralyzed and couldn't move half of her body at all, because she treated her husband wrong. He was unsaved, and a man that no one could get along with. But he was her husband, and she couldn't do as she wanted to. That woman was lying in bed with one half of her paralyzed. When telling her what to do; I hated the job of telling her what was the matter. She looked toward me and said, "I will not live with my husband." I said, "I can't do any more, the job is yours." That man was standing against the door post, he was delighted with what I said, he loved her. He thought too many men were talking to her, she was active in the church. And he slapped her... that was why she ordered him out of the house saying; "I won't live with him any more." That poor fellow didn't want to go.

With that arm that wasn't paralyzed, she gave him this motion to him (to come). That fellow fell in her arms. When he did, that paralyzed side was healed in a second. He got saved right there and I left them both shouting and praising God.

**"Nothing did that... only being cruel to that man."**

I remember a woman who married; she married a man she should not have married. She was a regular bulldozer. I was passing through and they called me over there. That woman had cancers eating her fingers off. They were waiting for me to pray for her. I said, "I can't pray for you, but I can tell you something that will do you good: if you had treated that man as you should have, you would not be suffering as you are. You married that man; you gave yourself to that man. You have no right to take possession of the house. You have hounded that man to death.



That woman... cancers from the top of her head to the soles of her feet. It had her body drawn out of shape before she died. Nothing did that... only being cruel to that man.

**"That little skinny woman took the word of God and caused that man to be saved."**

A woman did as I told her to do. The man would see his wife praying and walk by and kick her, walk by as though he stumbled over her. He sold their fat hogs so they couldn't have meat, sold their cows, so they couldn't have milk and butter. He said, "If I see Sowders in this house, I will run them out." Every time I would go through town, she had lots to tell me about what he was doing. I gave her instructions, and she turned around and did it. It will work as sure as you do it.

The first thing you know, he built a big table in his dining room for the Pentecostal people. I was his friend in the world and when I got the Holy Ghost we were very intimate friends, and then he turned against me.

After that woman did as I instructed, the first thing he did was build a table. He went to the river and bought a fish that weighed 60 lbs. A cat fish. He called the people in to eat. It wasn't long until that man took a paper around getting signers to build a church house for the Pentecostal people. I left my Assembly to help them build the platform. While there, he and a man were under a window making something. And I heard him say, "Fellow, if I ever get this salvation, I'm going to live it, I won't be like so and so," He was picking out the weaklings. I threw my hands up and said, "Thank you Lord." Finally they had meeting. That man was a good guitar player and he took his guitar and played it in church. Was it all right for him to play? Yes, indeed. That was winning a soul to God. It was not corrupting the church to let him play. Some people, it won't do to have them around at all, because they would get flirty with the women.

It wasn't long they got into an argument as to who would be the pastor, and that went wrong with him. He began to back off. All at once, he got sick and began to call for the Pentecost people to pray for him. I happened to be there. We prayed for him. The Lord saved him but never healed his body. It wasn't but a few weeks until he died. That little skinny woman took the word of God and caused that man to be saved.

**"Lord, this child has confidence in You."**

I preached one time in what is called Spencer's Ridge. A woman had a lump or a goiter, and I was preaching on faith, trying to encourage the woman to

be prayed for. I was talking about warts; even God is so concerned He has healed warts. I didn't think God healed warts, just big things. I had a wart and I would get it off by burning it, but it kept coming back. I thought, there was no way to get it off. The Lord said, "You haven't tried me yet." I thought, "Would You heal warts Lord?" And it left. A little girl came to me and said, "Will you pray for my warts?" I said, "Lord, this child has confidence in You." The next time I saw her she didn't have a wart on her hands.

**"I couldn't forget it..."**

I'll never forget when I was a child, I snuck away with some men and they gave me some beer, and dear old Mother had to carry me water all night, I was so sick. Mother said, "Your breath smells like beer." I said, "I ate some cakes that tasted like beer." Mother whispered to Father the next morning that she thought I had been drinking beer. Father said, "Willy, I can't whip you now, but the first time that you cross my path, I'll whip you for drinking that beer." I got up, washed, ate a little breakfast, and he never whipped me. I couldn't forget it though.

One day I crossed my brother, and "Wow," up against the wall I went. And he (my father) said to me, "Now I'm whipping you for drinking that beer."

**"Don't withhold the good because of the people who don't care. Give abundantly, so the sheep will have something to eat."**

I left Louisville and was going to Lola, Kentucky. I had a new suitcase... didn't cost much. I put it on top of the mail pouches, as I was riding with the mailman. It was rough and we were going through chuck holes, I said, "Lord, why are you taking me through these mud holes?" The sweetest voice said, "Because I have sheep over here." Praise His sweet name! Say, God loves His sheep insomuch that He will take a man through a hard way, make him fare hard things because he has some sheep cares. If the eight goats eat it all up, God will say, "Put out a double portion! Feed them until the goats get enough and feed my sheep! Don't withhold the good because of the people who don't care. Give abundantly, so the sheep will have something to eat."

**"It won't do to trifle with God!"**

Two men... both had the Holy Ghost, but backsliden. One was at a baseball game, got hit in the head with bat and died in a few hours. This other man was with him in the hospital, and heard his groans and made the remark, "I hope I never have to die like he did." Would you believe... that fellow, only about a year after that was on a roof... and that was his business... he was

upon it and stumbled and took a header over the edge. And tried to catch himself, and went right on head long and died in the same room, in the same way, that the other fellow died.

He had rose up one night like he was going to hit me, because I didn't yield to what he was saying. It won't do to trifle with God!

**"I have lots of men to bring them in, I need someone to work on them when they come in."**

One time I was waiting on God, I knew I was out of the will of God. I said, "Lord show me your will, I am losing time." A large ship, an ark, came before me. While I was suffering untold agony, that ship came before me, resting on the water. As I watched it, I saw men going out and bringing people into the ship. I was watching for myself to bring someone in. I thought, "Where am I?" Don't I have a job around here? That part of the ship vanished and I saw the interior of the ship. I saw myself, straightening up their heads, getting them fixed up. The Lord said, "I have lots of men to bring them in, I need someone to work on them when they come in." That is my job. I went to work on it with all my might.

**"She was loaded down with dust when she got there."**

I remember when a camp meeting was being conducted, a woman came with Brother Tom Haller, her tongue was paralyzed... she couldn't say a word. She heard about this people having a camp meeting, she had confidence that she would be healed if she came to that meeting. Brother Tom Haller had a roadster, and this woman couldn't ride in the seat with Brother Tom and his wife, as they were big people. This woman rode on the running board. She was loaded down with dust when she got there.

She wrote out what she wanted, "I want so and so, and so and so to go to a tent with me and pray with me." "I only want so many." She included Sister Aubrey. We went to the tent... there she sat waiting for us. We got down to pray; it wasn't but a few minutes until she was praising God with her tongue.

**"I had spent Brother Bob's money, what a dear lesson."**

I'll never forget, and that was a wonderful lesson to me... I had had a Red Sedan, it was the finest I ever owned up to that time. I went to Cairo, and a brother on Monday morning came out and said, "I want to give you \$5.00. He had it for Brother Bob, but said he wanted to give it to me. Well, I never thought anything about it... just thought it was all right. I took the \$5.00 on that trip home from Cairo to Evansville; it cost me practically

my nice car. Somehow or other one of the valves slipped and all the oil went out of the valve, and run out. And all at once my son, who was driving, felt something that went - bump - we stopped and the back end of the car was full of oil and all the oil was gone. I had burnt the bearings in the car. I took it and had it repaired and the bearings were too tight and developed other things and I finally had to trade it on another car.

My God... I had spent Brother Bob's money, what a dear lesson.

**"Obedience is better than sacrifice."**

A fellow, who was a precious saint of God, he had a seine (*a large net*). And he would occasionally go fishing with his seine, and he got it all torn up and he told me about it. I thought, "I will just go down there and mend that seine up for him and get it in shape again." I was down there mending that seine, with the web over my knees, thinking I was doing something for the Lord. The Lord knew my mind and said, "Obedience is better than sacrifice." I soon got through with my job and got away from there, and got up in Paducah where the Lord wanted me.

I have found that out... folks, you can labor for a lifetime and never work with God. It is a wonderful thing to work with God. It is a precious thing to work with God. I would sit for weeks; I would sit for months, in fact... I would sit for a lifetime, knowing what I know before I would go out and try to get God to work with me, because I have seen what it accomplished by doing so, yes indeed! I have had many experiences like that.

**"Willie, I saw Jesus."**

My sister came down to my church at Anna Illinois, and Mother came from Pittsburgh to meet her there. And we had sort of a family reunion. I went right on with the meeting just the same, and a young woman was standing over to the side of the building. The power of God was falling and this young woman began to speak in other tongues. And Pansy's husband was Greek, and she learned quite a bit of Greek. Every time they would speak around there in other tongues they would speak in Greek. Why? Because my mother and Pansy both knew some Greek. They knew every word that woman would say, or anyone said, when they talked in tongues. This woman got up and began to speak in other tongues, Pansy said, "Oh Willie, I know why that Bible was written in Greek, everybody that speaks around here in another tongue speaks in Greek.

Another one rose up and began to speak. See... both of them, my mother and sister were unsaved.

There they were visiting me, and God was honoring me, rewarding me, I knew that. Another one rose up and began to speak, and another, and Pansy knew what that was.

This party in Greek said, "You are going to hell, you are going to hell." The power of God began to fall, and it hit me and I fell over in the floor prostrate under the power of God. When I came to myself mother was kissing me on the top of my head and Pansy was kissing me on the cheek, both of them crying, all broken up. God did a work that day. They never did get away from that.

Mother went back to Pittsburgh and she began to inquire for Pentecostal people. She doubted this... she made light of it. She said, "Why does God want to shake his people like you people shake around here? But Mother went back and wrote me a letter and said, "Willie, these churches here will have no charm for me from this time to the end of my days... because I want to go to a place where they are alive... where they believe in God... where they love God." She came to my place in a camp meeting, and thank God, she got the Holy Ghost. She was lying flat on her back with her head in Sister Taylor's lap in the straw before the altar. And I watched her, and she began to say, "Oh Jesus, oh Jesus, oh Jesus, oh - oh Jesus, oh Jesus, oh Jesus, I see you. Then spoke in tongues. My Lord, talk about shouting and praising God... when I saw mother change right there... when I saw the spirit of God come into her life, it gave me a zeal. I looked right into her face when she saw Jesus. After it was all over she said, "Willie, I saw Jesus. He came closer, and closer, and closer, and went in me."

**"I wonder in all this crowd, how many people are thinking about God?"**

I remember one time I was coming down Market Street... off of Market, and there was a big parade coming. I was standing on my seat and looking up east on Market street, and the throngs of people on both sides of the street as far as you could see... and somehow or other I just thought, "In all this crowd, I wonder how many people are thinking about God." WHEW! Something hit me, and began to break me up and I began to cry so much I had to get down, and take my horse, and back out of there, getting out of the crowd. I certainly did! Who would have thought that God has his mind on me right there? Who would have thought that God was paying attention to me right there?

I just thought, "I wonder in all this crowd, how many

people are thinking about God?" And right there God's spirit hit me, and witnessed to that. And actually, I couldn't stay there any longer.

**"Thank God, I was connected with the God of heaven, and revelations were just flowing into my soul like rivers."**

And every man praying or prophesying having his head covered... "What with? With a board? Having to cater to some man before I can go into the ministry, before I can get up and preach what God gives me?"

Men tried to hold me like that for a while, but I kicked out of the harness, for I found out that men that I was supposed to cater to didn't know A B C when it came down to the understanding of the things of God. God told me in plain words, "You are trying to be like men, but be like I want you to be! You want to preach it like men have been preaching it. But you preach it like I want you to preach it."

When a black covering was hanging over my head and I couldn't get a prayer through anywhere, I was out in my back yard asking God what was the matter with me, "Why is this darkness? Why can't I pray?"

God withdrew from me because I was trying my best to stay in fellowship with the men who brought me through to the Lord. I said, "Amen Lord. From this night on I will take it as you give it to me." When I said that, it seemed that heaven fell upon me, and a light burst all around me. And from that, on, thank God, I was connected with the God of heaven, and revelations were just flowing into my soul like rivers.

I just continued on with that covering that God gave me. And I recognized that covering that fell on me that night, and I discarded the covering that I was trying to put over me, and went on in God.

**"For my people are starting out like little children.. . and if they didn't get blessed in their wrong ways of doing things, then there never would be anything accomplished. Let them grow in grace and knowledge until they get to where they know how to do it."**

My first message that God ever gave me by revelation was at a little general gathering we had. I was in that (general gathering) before; ever I had the Holy Ghost. But they were small, and I talked from the 25th verse of the 11th chapter of Romans. I just had a big time. There were several preachers there, and I began saying, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; That blindness in part is

happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." I applied Israel there to the religious world. I heard a preacher use that one time. I thought he was right. I thought he knew, and I applied it that way. And I put "Blindness in part," as happening to the people of the Lord and then I took a scripture in Zechariah. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall be known to the Lord, not day nor night; But it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light." (Zechariah 14:6-7) I showed where the people were blinded in part and they only had conversion. But now God was giving them the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the fullness of the Gentiles was coming in and, oh... I just preached and had a big time. There were Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterian people there also, and they cried and shouted and said they never heard such a sermon in their life, and now they saw that the Holy Ghost was for them.

I never saw any more accomplished in a little sermon as I saw there, and it all being wrong. All being wrong. Well, I thought I was right, and everything was going along fine. I came over to Illinois and I thought, "I'll try my sermon again over here." I started, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits:" And I had quite a bit to say on that. Commenting on those few words. When I got to blindness in part has happened to Israel. My tongue got stiff and it would not operate. It wouldn't speak, and I got mad at the Lord and sat down. I said, "Now Lord, why didn't you bless me like you did over in Kentucky?" The Lord said, "Son, you have got that scripture wrong." "You've got that wrong, and if I bless you, you will never get it right, you will always have it wrong. I want to give it to you in the right way." I said, "What in the world... how is it that you blessed me like you did? How could you bless me when I was wrong?" He said, "If I hadn't blessed you, you would have gone home with your head down. For the rest of them were getting a blessing, and since you were a preacher and the rest of them were preachers, you wanted to preach."

He knew my heart, and... "I just let you preach, and inspired you while you did it." I said, "My God, do you do things like that?" He said, "If I didn't do things like that there, would never be anything done. For my people are starting out like little children, this is all a new thing to them, and if they didn't get blessed in their wrong ways of doing things, then there never would be anything accomplished. But I will give them of my free spirit, and bless them, and let them grow in

grace and knowledge until they get to where they know how to do it"

### The Seven Vials.

I had the most wonderful experience when I received that from the Lord, about the seven vials. I had been studying the vials and the trumpets all day and went to bed that night. I was on the gospel boat. We didn't have innerspring mattresses, neither did we have springs; but I loved that boat, I got lots of good on that boat... Oh, that was my seminary. I'll tell you... I went to bed, I closed my eyes and a great big seven just like a neon sign came up before me. I said, "What in the world does that mean?" The sevens were that long, then I saw a lot of little sevens running into the big seven. I said, "What in the world does that mean?" Thank God, before it was all over, I had it. That seven, the big seven, was the seven thousandth year. And all these little sevens were the trumpets and the vials. I had it then. "Every scribe which is instructed into the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." (Matthew 13:52) I had the new, now where is the old?

I was standing on the forecastle of the gospel boat, down above Cairo wharf and looking at the sun, or the sky. And while I was looking there, something hit me like that. And Joshua with his army went into Canaan, and Joshua set his army in order. Put all the Priests in the forefront and gave them orders as to what to do. And I saw them marching around six days, and the seventh day, seven times, and the walls fell down.

**"Amen Lord, if that be the case... surely then, women have a place in the Church."**

When I first started out back there, Sister McPherson was an outstanding feature among the women preachers. She was holding meetings that stirred the entire United States. I had her to hold me a meeting one time. I was wondering if God did not call women to preach. Why, that woman was having such success.

Then here comes another woman along, and I watched her work. I read after her; read some of her writings. Again I thought, "Lord, you have called women to preach." I have heard women say, "God has called me to preach," but I was in doubt about it. God all the time was telling me that the women would find their place. There was another one. I had her to hold me a meeting. I have seen her walk right up to people with large goiters on their neck, and that goiter, vanish. Big goiters vanished right under her hand. I have seen people all crippled up with rheumatism. And

this one particular man lived right across the street from me. He was helpless. That man got on the platform and let this woman pray for him and his hands flew open and his legs limbered, and he ran and shouted and had a big time.

There was a woman all twisted up with rheumatism. This woman laid her hands on that afflicted woman, and she ran up and down the aisles and had a big time.

I said, "Lord, you are in that. Men are not doing these things, why do you let women do it?" And the Lord said, "I am giving it to the women because men have put them under their feet. I am letting the women have it to prove to the men that I honor the women as well as I honor the men." That is very reasonable isn't it? I thought, "Amen Lord, if that be the case... surely then, women have a place in the Church."

I began to lighten up and submit to the will of God. I was willing all the time for it to happen but I wanted to be right about the thing.

And I saw women put on white dresses, and tried to do like these other women did. But they didn't do it. It wasn't the idea that any woman could do it, but just the women that God ordained to do that.

Well I began to watch then, praying much and reading the word of God, and I saw very plainly that God actually calls women to the ministry and 'preachers' them. In all my ministry, women have been used to a better advantage as a general thing than men. Don't any of you brethren take offence at me.

But you can put a woman up to do things in the church, such as dealing with the unsaved, and have a better effect upon them than a man. A woman can woo them, not from a natural standpoint, God forbid! I don't mean that at all, I mean in making an appeal to the unsaved. Some how or other they just melt under them, more so than they do a man.

All right we are going to make an altar call, come right on down here, come right on down here now. But the woman will say, "Won't you please come. God bless your hearts. It is time to make an altar call. The Lord Jesus Christ died for you.

I have seen too much. I have to believe my own message, if no one else believes it, because I watched the thing.

**"...but that dear Mother has told me many things that came to pass."**

When God called me I had corking tools, and carpenter tools, and a very large fishing rig. I was fixed very well to make money. I knew that God called

me to preach the gospel. But Mother Aubrey said, "God showed me Brother Will, that you are not to go out yet." Well, I was willing for that. I was making money.

Finally I went to Paducah. Wife and I were stranded. Things were not so good in the beginning of my ministry. People didn't believe what I was saying. I thought I would try to get a job. I could always get a job making three and one half or four dollars a day. Of course, at that time it was equal to ten or fifteen now. I said to Brother Aubrey, "What do you think about me going to work? Do you feel like it would be all right with God for me to go to work?" He said, "Oh yes, yes it is All right." I thought it was all right because he said it was.

The next time Mother Aubrey passed me, the power of God came on her and she was hollering "NO, NO." Well now, there was Brother Aubrey who was a preacher. He came out of a big holiness movement, and there he was telling me it would be all right for me to go to work, and God was speaking to Mother Aubrey telling me not to go to work.

Finally I sold my tools, God told me to sell them, and he would send me out on the field, and I wouldn't have to consider going to work again. He did, and I never did consider working again, but that dear Mother has told me many things that came to pass.

**"God loves to see meetings close in the bloom."**

I like to see meetings close in the bloom. And I was the one that introduced that, close the meeting in a bloom. I was in a school in Kansas City; Brother Mears was pastor there at that time. I prayed in that school for God to close the meeting in the bloom. What I meant by that was; as the meeting was closing, let it close in the bloom. Let it be rich, fresh, and alive and leave a good odor throughout the house, and everybody leave with that odor and feel full of life because the very last manifestation of God in that meeting was life.

On the last day, I was sitting there and actually forgot, at that time, about how I prayed for God to close the meeting in the bloom. The power of God began to come in our midst and the people began to shout and praise the Lord. I said to myself, "I wonder what is the matter?" The Lord said to me, the same as you hear me saying it to you, "I am closing it in the bloom." Well if God said He was closing it in the bloom, then God loves to see meetings close in the bloom.

**"And the company that comes from heaven, sent by Jesus Christ, is the best company you ever had in your life. YES INDEED!"**

Brother Johnson and I have traveled this country over. And many nights, when it was dark and we were tired, I had been on my feet all day long... get in the car after supper, and start out on a 600 or 700 mile trip. Put up somewhere, and be so tired that we couldn't hardly stand it. Say, we felt an angel in our car just as sure as we were in the car. We felt an angel in there. And thank God, in those experiences, it would be just as fresh and as restful as any time I have experienced, because we had company in the car. And the company that comes from heaven, sent by Jesus Christ, is the best company you ever had in your life. YES INDEED!

And the more lonesome you get, the more sad you get, the more sorrowful you get, the more in need you get, the more the Lord is paying attention to you crying out to Him.

Like the song we used to sing, "He Listens All The Day To Hear His Children Pray." HE DOES TOO!!!

**"The gift of the Holy Ghost, and then the Garden of Eden."**

I remember when I first started out and I would be sitting, studying, and it would come to me so often. "The gift of the Holy Ghost, the Garden of Eden." I would question the Lord, "What is that? The gift of the Holy Ghost and then the Garden of Eden?" All the preachers that I ever met were preaching the gift of the Holy Ghost and then the rapture. He may come tonight. Had the people looking for Jesus to come. Had me looking for Him, I'll declare it did. I wasn't preparing for anything other than just the rapture, and before I would go to bed at night, I would go out and look at the stars. They told me that just prior to His coming, the stars were going to fall. The moon was going to turn to blood, and the sun was going to be black as sackcloth and hair, but I wasn't looking for myself in preparation for that.

But when I begin to get that from the Lord... the gift of the Holy Ghost, then the Garden of Eden, it meant: the gift of the Holy Ghost, then go back through the flaming sword into the Garden of Eden. There is where He is going to catch his Bride away, out of the Garden of Eden, the garden of God, the Garden of life.

Therefore, if we are going to do anything at all, it means to get ready. Not for the rapture, but it means to get ready to go to work. Rolling up our sleeves spiritually speaking. Getting our shoes on,

those big old hobnailed shoes, and getting ready to rough it, for the Lord Jesus Christ.

**"God immediately began to show me there was another dispensation coming."**

When I first started out, God immediately began to show me there was another dispensation coming. And while He was talking to me, I saw a vision. I was standing upon a mountain here, and there was a large cable going from this mountain to the top of that mountain over there, and there was quite a number of us had hold of that cable. And down below us, it was dark and deep and it would have been too bad if we had lost our hold. We were going... and I could see the hands of several of the people whose hands had hold of that cable, and when we reached the mountain on the other side, thank God the glory of God came from heaven and filled the earth. All that had hold of that cable were the means of bringing that glory when they reached the top of that mountain on the other side.

I kept studying about that, and praying about it. And it kept feeding me, and, giving me thought for another dispensation. And made me to understand that dispensation I was living in at that time, was not the dispensation that was going to do the work in bringing about the last message to the people, but this people, they are doing it.

**"But stay under the barn because it will soon be over."**

I had just taken over an Assembly one time, and had not much more than got there until here came some bills. Here was a woman all dressed up, and she was going to do some stunts there in the city. She was inviting everyone to come. Anyone that wants to be healed, come. They were distributing them around in the church. I had just about as much opposition as I needed. I said, "Lord, I am sure you led me here; but if you are going to let that come here, I am just about ready to leave because I am tired of all of this kind of stuff."

I had a dream that night. I dreamed that I was standing under the eave of a big barn, and I looked out towards the east, and I saw a storm coming. Limbs began to leave the tree, big clap boards began to leave sheds and barns, and I thought, "My Lord, there is going to be a terrible rain directly, and maybe a cyclone, and this barn here that I am under will blow down." I saw a big tree out in the middle of the field, and I said, "I am going to make it to that tree and get under it." There was shingles going through the air in every direction. All at once I ran with all my

might to that tree, and everything just calmed down and there was nothing doing. And I came back to the barn. I thought, "That was funny. It was over awfully quick!"

I woke up the next morning and I thought, "Lord, what was that dream?" The Lord said, "Don't worry son. These big campaigns that the bills are advertising are nothing but a storm. But stay under the barn because it will soon be over." And there was one after another, one after another, one after another.

I'll tell you, if I didn't have some discernment in what I am doing, I would tell you to get a man that does know. Because this is a time when we are going to have to know, or we will be in a predicament. You will be scattered, and sifted around all over the country, by someone that doesn't know what they are doing.

**"Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."**

People outside of the church can use the power of God in healing; this shouldn't cause anyone to stumble. In a certain church there was real healings, cancers etc. My grandson was about four months old and he was smaller then, than he was when he was born. I forget what kind of disease that was. And people of that faith came and gave her instructions, and my daughter threw all of the medicine away and laid that child on the bed and said, "Lord, I will never give it another drop. I am looking to you to heal that child." And God healed it. Now that, was that certain faith that gave those instructions that caused that child to be healed. Was that God that healed it? What was that anyhow?

The Bible says, "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." (Proverbs 9:17) See, if we did not work under the name of Jesus, but we were working in some other name, it is no telling what might happen among us; but we could go on and use the power of God to shout and have a big time.

I believe that God healed that child. She gave that child to the Lord. That was all done in her home, away from those instructors, and she, by faith in God, healed that child. From a child she has been sensitive to the touch of the spirit and you can talk to her about the Lord and she believes.

**"People can't come around here and put on that stuff and get by with it."**

I wasn't in the ministry very long until I saw that fellow on that side of the street, warred against that preacher on the other side of the street. That fellow would preach against these people, and these people

would preach against that people.

They would talk in tongues and interpret it, "My children, my children, beware, beware, walk ye not across the street." And these over here would talk in tongues and interpret it about the people over there.

I said, "That won't do. There is something wrong." I began to see that the gift of the Holy Ghost in the lives of the people... they were using the thing that God gave them, stealing the power of God to defeat their own brothers and sisters.

All of them have faith in a measure, and no knowledge. The less knowledge you have, the more you can use the faith that you have, in accomplishing things that you could not accomplish if you had knowledge with your faith; because we see that is wrong. That is the wrong way to do it.

For me to get up here and pretend that I have the power of God in my life... and I am a wonder... and knock a chair over, or jump over the bible stand... and use that psychology... knowing all the time, I am doing that for the purpose of getting you stirred and enthused, to believe that I am a great man in God... That would send me to hell. I could not do a thing like that. I would rather steal an automobile, because when you have knowledge of these things, you just can't use that... what they call psychology... to deceive the people.

And men can't come around here and use it either. We are less molested along that line than any other church in the United States. We are for a fact. People can't come around here and put on that stuff and get by with it. They can't come around here and say we ought to have seven Deacons. They can't come around here and say we have all of the nine gifts. I have the gift of an Evangelist... they can't do that. This is a horrible place for people to come in and put on anything like that.

**"I had always rather been a janitor, than to have been a preacher."**

I was janitor for about 15 or 16 years in my first experience in the ministry. I was janitor... I cut my own wood, I built my own fires, I carried out my own ashes, I swept my own floors, and I picked the bed bugs off the benches; for many people have come in with bed bugs on them. I have picked many bed bugs off the benches and cut many cuds of wax off of them. I didn't complain about that. I was a little proud that I could do something like that for the Kingdom of God.

Many a time when I would be working on the benches, I would be praying, "Oh God, the one that sits right here on this bench, bless her, bless him, make them a blessing, make them a blessing Lord. Sanctify



these benches Lord, and everybody that sits on them, let them feel the power of God. Let them feel the presence of God. Why sure, that is a good job. When you work on these benches, always ask God to sanctify those benches and make them an altar. Have the effect of an altar to everybody that sits on them. Oh..., that's right, you can do that and it is a wonderful job. But "no," most people say, "I want to be a preacher." I never did want to be one. I had always rather been a janitor, than to have been a preacher.

**"You pray for me and I'll pray for you,  
that we will polish up."**

If my conscience can't be resurrected... and it is resurrected in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I tell you... when I received the Holy Ghost... I was plenty keen. My conscience was plenty keen. I have actually run... jumped out of wagons and ran. Been talking to people, and turned my back on them and ran, and a person wouldn't know what in the world I was running about. But thank God, there was something in me warning me, and I would run down the road at a break neck speed.

You know there is some people that just sing the power is falling... don't know why it is falling. Say... study the thing, see what is happening, feel out the thing and you can feel God moving and changing things.

God sends an angel down here and he throws a throttle, throws a lever, and holds it in neutral. Throws it in forward and backward. Some meetings are rich and some are not so rich. Some are plenty good and some are no good hardly. But it is all God, and you can feel and tell why all these things are happening.

See if we can't resurrect some of those precious things of a live conscience. Did you ever see Jell-O? That stuff just shakes like that. That is our conscience, just so tender it is just registering like that. You take a compass, and any little movement and that compass will just keep working like that. We can have the same thing in our lives and we have it there. We just haven't got it rightly installed yet. And I hope from now on we will be studying, and get a compass installed in our little motor, or body, thank God, that will cause us to be able to tell you when it is going to rain and when it isn't going to rain.

You pray for me and I'll pray for you that we will polish up. There is a reason for this, and I know the Lord has talked to me about it. It used to be when we would go to a meeting; the first thing we thought of was searching out. Searching somebody out. If a fellow

would come in that was a rascal, he was told about it. If he had a perverse doctrine, he was told about it. No unclean person could sit in the congregation, and of course, it didn't consist of nearly so many as it does now, but just about what is up on the platform.

We went to an all day meeting one time. Some went here and there to eat in the homes, and many discernments were made at that time.

My wife used to wear rats in her hair, and I didn't say anything scarcely to her about it to keep from having an argument. One time a sister came to her and began to go like that (illustrating ruffling the hair all up with her hands). Directly, my wife's hands began going the same way, and away went those rats. She never wore those rats again.

Say; don't worry about the toeless and heel-less shoes. Don't worry about your red dresses. We are going to have a re- - - my, my, my, we are going to have a remodeling, and a building up of that thing we call the conscience. And when we do, I'll tell you... we used to come to the meetings so scared, if you had a quarrel with your wife or with your husband, someone would rise up and say, "Brother you have to repent," or "Sister, you have to repent." "You had a quarrel with your husband, you talked back to him in a shameful way, and you never did repent and here you are in the service, you are going to have to repent." If you didn't repent it was just too bad for you.

Oh my, I'll tell you... meetings like that were worth while. They turned out all right. God would get hold of a fellow that had tobacco in his pocket, and just shake him, and shake him, until the tobacco would all fall out on the floor. That's right! You know that has to be God, because he isn't going to shake it out himself.

**"Oh, no. I will never go to Palestine."**

I prophesied... I suppose, 25 years ago... that time would come that people who wear jewelry would hide it, they wouldn't wear it. It wouldn't be worn out publicly. And people who have vast sums of money wouldn't be able to sleep of a nighttime. They would be continually watching that money and worrying about it. I said, before the end of the Gentile world... which is coming to a close as we Bible students know... that God would bow the heads of humanity before the wheat would ever be ripened to where He could reap this world; reap this great harvest that is pending.

People don't pay a great deal of attending to things like that; but such warnings should come from the ministry.

A Jew said to me one time, "Preacher, that is the

future?" I said, "You are looking to the right source to give you an understanding of the future, if that source understands and can give it to you." I began to tell him what was coming. That man had to admit to it. His wife said, "Oh, no. I will never go to Palestine. This country will always be good enough for me. These things won't happen."

But before that woman died, she admitted that I was right. I have talked to other Jews in regards to the future and they said, "No, that won't happen." Today they are telling me what I said was exactly right.

**"They came to see that preacher  
that was all beat up."**

Dear Brother Bob Shelton and a brother were holding a meeting over in Missouri and they were begging God to send a revival. They had the place rented and equipped for the meeting. Nobody would come out. The devil had sent rumors ahead of it that they were this and that, stealing your wife, etc. Of course Brother Bob was as honest as the days are long. He prayed for God to send a revival and send a crowd.

Here came some hoodlums and met him at the door one night. Jumped on Brother Bob and beat the very life out of him almost. And poor Sister Lizzie, his wife, was on her knees, crying out to God to help Brother Bob, strengthen Bob, don't let Bob fail Lord. Don't let Bob get mad. Don't let Bob do this, and don't let Bob do that.

This other fellow didn't have a scratch. It wouldn't have done if he had. Brother Bob could stand it. It was told around all over town. Brother Bob was a man that could stand it.

A man in western Kentucky beat his face into a jelly with brass knuckles and Sister Lizzie was right at the side of him. And I saw Brother Bob; right in my house, kneeling down over this man that beat him, asking God to save him. And it came from his heart. He had love, real love for that man. He was the Apostle, thank God, that started this thing away back there. He was a true blue as sure as you live. And in this town where he was praying for a revival, God let these hoodlums jump on him and beat him up. It was told all over town that the so and so preacher got beat up.

Here the people were out the next night, and they just filled the house to an overflowing. They were standing outside. They came to see that preacher that was all beat up. Brother Bob came back and got in that pulpit that night with his face all swelled up and blue. He couldn't hardly see out of his eyes. He threw his head back, and the power of God struck

him and he began to preach. People fell all over the house with conviction and got saved and baptized with the Holy Ghost.

**"There was no such thing as sitting down  
resting... that put everybody under the load.  
Everybody got into the spirit  
in the service and shouted the victory."**

In brush arbors, where the mosquitoes would almost eat us up, and where the rain would rain through, and run that green water off of the leaves... But say, when we began to sing those good old songs of Zion, the power of God began to move in and God would baptize people with the Holy Ghost by the hundreds. SURE!

But say, when I first started out, there was no place to sit down. Stand up and beat the books to pieces on your hands, shouting and praising God. MY LORD! There was no such thing as sitting down resting... that put everybody under the load. Everybody got into the spirit in the service and shouted the victory. The power of God began to come down and what glorious times we had.

**"The first thing you know, they were as dead  
as any formal church in the world."**

I was reared in that little Assembly in Illinois. For two years I remained there, after I was called to preach the gospel and received the Holy Ghost. But in a short time after I left there, an unsaved man promised to build a church house for them. He went around soliciting money and helped build the church. I went down there and did some work on the platform and built a Bible stand. I told them myself, "God has always been in this little assembly; and there is no richer little assembly." And I was right about that. But I said, "From now on you are going to see a vast change in the worship in this place. This little assembly isn't going to be blessed any more like it was."

The first thing they had to do was have a pastor. They got a church, and a platform, and a Bible stand, and a chair for the preacher, but they didn't have a preacher. They said, "We have to have a preacher, and they got a preacher." The first thing you know, they were as dead as any formal church in the world.

**"The voice was so loud that it actually took the life  
out of my body, and almost burst my eardrums."**

When I was in my yacht on the river, God called me to preach the gospel. The voice was so loud that it actually took the life out of my body, and almost burst my eardrums. When I came to myself,

and felt the strength come into my body, I arose to my feet. I was going to keep it all to myself. I wasn't going to let anyone hear me holler. They had said I was losing my mind already. I was having some wonderful times with the Lord. And it came to here (pointing to his throat), and it wouldn't come out. I couldn't get it out. I had my handkerchief to my mouth to muffle it when it did come out, so no one could hear it. The Lord just actually made me to know that I had to take my handkerchief down and turn around where the men were looking at me and holler.

My brother was there, and one of the men said to him, "Poor Will, he is a goner. Look at him down there all to himself." No wonder I tried to muffle it, so no one could hear me. This man said, "He had a good reputation. Everybody was liking him, but since these people have got a hold of him they have ruined him. Poor fellow's mind is gone. Look at him down there." I was hollering out in the river... trying to holler out in the river.

Now that was the way God called me. No one had a thing to do with telling me that I ought to be a preacher, or that; I desired, or thought of being a preacher.

**"You won't take the word of God as I give it to you! You want to be like men."**

I would go down to our little place of worship, and maybe one, or two, or three preachers would be down there; because they were praying every day. Every morning at nine o'clock, we went into that place for prayer.

I would always have a revelation that I would spring when I got down there. "Brethren do you know you are flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone?" They would think, "He is going into heresy as sure as you live."

I would get another revelation... "Say, do you know when the blood is applied?" And I would tell them when the blood was applied and get a rebuking. It got to where I quit reading the Bible. I said, "Lord, I can't see anything else and what is the use of me reading the Bible when all of these preachers are against me?"

I was walking in the spirit, and living in the spirit day and night. "Lord, I am not going to read the Bible anymore because I am so different from these other preachers, and they are falling out with me. They are turning against me." And the spirit left me. See, I used that to show you how I was walking in the spirit. And I knew when that spirit left me, I knew when that covering was pulled off of me.

I went home and went down before God saying, "Oh God, why have you left me? Why have you

forsaken me?" I couldn't pray anymore in the spirit. "What is the matter Lord?"

One night I was out in the dark in the backyard praying, and I said, "Lord tell me, so that I can get this thing right and get back into the spirit." Right out of a dark, dark sky the Lord said, "You won't take the word of God as I give it to you! You want to be like men." When He said that, I said, "From now on Lord, I will be just exactly what you want me to be." When I said that, I jumped up in the air, and the power of God came as mighty lightning from heaven.

From that night on, I never asked one of those precious men one thing about it. I just held my head up and went on, and took what God gave me and gave it out. Praise his dear name.

**"There was something in me that was crying over these men,, like a child when its mother had died."**

I tried, and I wanted to associate myself with men, and when I would go to a camp meeting, I could not find any place there for my feet. God kept me isolated from everything like that.

I remember a dear Brother; he was chairman at that time in a certain camp meeting. He insisted on my preaching that afternoon, because I had something. I could tell them something. I have had men from organizations come and put their arms around me and say, "There is something about you that I don't see in other men. Don't you think it is about time you were joining up with us?" I would say, "I have my eyes open and I am watching things." I was watching all right.

In this certain camp meeting, Brother George Lawson insisted on me preaching. And I took the pulpit that afternoon at two o'clock, and I started to speaking about David and his five stones in his shepherd's bag. I was going to bring that out as a type. There were a lot of preachers around there, and actually, I could not keep from crying. I would look at them... I would just weep and weep until I actually had to back up and sit down. There was something in me that was crying over these men, like a child when its mother had died. I didn't know what that was then; but I finally found out what it was. If God could tell people what their condition was, and where they were headed for, and they would listen... See; they won't listen, they wouldn't have it.

**"Son, when you were young, you girded yourself and went where so ever you would; but when you get old you will stretch forth your hands and another will gird you, and send you were you would not go."**

**"I never did see that scripture before."**

Therefore, I started out, and I stayed like a wandering Jew throughout the country. I was by myself, wife and I, and I suffered untold agony. I had a big revival meeting one time in Columbus, Kentucky. And another place had heard about me and wanted me to come up there. I went, and got out of God's will by going, and God made a regular dunce out of me. I couldn't even testify. God wouldn't let my tongue move, it would be so dry and thick I couldn't pull apart from my mouth. He made me so humiliated that I said, "I believe I will quit." Wife said, "Will, I guess it would be All right: because you are getting worse all the time."

That was on a Sunday morning, and I had given out a meeting for that afternoon and was expecting about 80 people there. And here was a fellow going to Paducah in his car. There was no train going out of there, or I would have already gone. That was my first opportunity to get out of there, and I ask him what he would charge me. He said, "Two dollars." That was all I had to my name, two dollars in my pocket. Well, I gave him my two dollars, and we got in that car and started for Paducah. Say, I'll tell you, that was the happiest ride I ever had in my life. It seemed like fire had been lapping at my feet, and I was going away from it.

When I got to Paducah there was Brother Aubrey and Sister Aubrey... was beginning the meeting, and the gospel boat was just packed with people. I forgot myself and opened my mouth, and actually had so many words and blessed that people in a way that I didn't know what in the world was happening. After it was over, I said to the Lord, "What is this all about? What is the matter?" I couldn't talk, and then it was just about two hours afterwards that I couldn't handle the words that came into my mouth. The Lord said, "Son, when you were young, you girded yourself and went where so ever you would; but when you get old you will stretch forth your hands and another will gird you, and send you were you would not go." (John 21:18) I said, "I never did see that scripture before."

Therefore from there on, we have been traveling, and traveling, and traveling, down to the present time.

**"You can sanctify a dog or a cat."**

You can sanctify a dog or a cat. Just be so good, it will take the meanness out of them and

make them pliable.

I have a dog that has been reared up right among us, and he knows the difference between Saints or God and an unsaved man. Such a sense of feeling. Right there is Brother George, and he will verify my statement. There was an old man and a young boy standing at the back window. Ching was so restless, and one of the sisters went to the basement to shut the window, not knowing anything about someone being back there, and found them there.

Ching knows when it is time for the bus to come in from the campground. That is a fact! When we lived on Broadway, he would know when the truck would enter the alley on 22nd street and would jump on the table watching for them. Sure. I believe you can treat a dog and a cat in such a way they can actually feel your life; you can impart it to them.

**"...referring to scriptures in the law."**

When I was tarrying for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I realized I was converted. The power of God rolled over my soul. I went to sleep with tears pouring out of my eyes on the pillow. When tarrying for the Holy Ghost I had to do some straightening up. When tarrying, the Lord told me to straighten up some things I had done. Confess, and pay back. I thought, "Will I preach to the people to do that. Will I preach to all the people to do that, or why is this?" God said, "No, don't preach to the people. You knew me; I talked to your heart one time. In the mean time you did things you shouldn't have done. Now you have to straighten up things you did."

I thought, "Oh, I see. I had to restore what I did back there. That is not for the unsaved, but just for those who knew God." I began to understand. Lots of people take the word of God and preach it to the unsaved out there, "Pay back... take the horse back that you stole. Pay for the calf you stole, go back and confess you stole a water melon, and have the people afraid, referring to scriptures in the law.

**...and I told them about one asking me to build a hospital on the Camp Ground."**

Yesterday, as I was buying groceries for today, I went in my daughter's store. I walked in and her mother-in-law said something. One word brought on another, and I was preaching in a few minutes. They asked me a question... and I told them about one asking me to build a hospital on the Camp Ground and told me I would make a fortune. He said he knew several who were ready to turn their wealth over for somebody to keep them for the rest of their life. I told them I purposed to build one. Not for medical aid...

but say you would get sick, and you haven't the proper assistance at home... bring you to this hospital, and have nurses for the men, and women nurses for the women. Here you are in a critical condition, and you go to the hospital on the Camp Ground. All right, have so many people in prayer for the people in the hospital on the Camp Ground, bombarding heaven in their behalf. I was explaining it to them, how I had it in mind at one time to do.

So my daughter's mother-in-law asked me, "Why don't you do it?" I said, "Well the time is too short!" If it was not for that, and the short time, I would build it. She said, "What do you mean, time is too short?" I said, "The Gentile world is coming to an end." Her spirit fell just like that. I saw her sitting on a perch, and when I started, I saw her fall and she kept falling, falling, she said, "Well, well, I never heard of anything like that." She looked at my daughter and said, "I never heard anything like that, I wonder why?" I said, "No, you never have heard anything like that, because the preachers don't know nothing about it." They are trying to save it.

**"Go ahead and do it! That is your duty."**

When I first started out, I started out thinking I was going to be ordered by the spirit in everything I did. And I said, "Lord, do you want me to talk today? Do you want me to preach tonight?" Who--ee, the spirit would witness to it. Amen. And I would do it. Finally, I asked the Lord for about three months if He wanted me to do this or that, and got no witness to do anything.

I was on the gospel boat, Brother Aubrey's gospel boat. We all went to the jail on Sunday mornings. This particular Sunday morning I said, "I don't believe I will go." Brother Aubrey said, "If you don't go, remember you have to preach this afternoon. We are not going to jail and be in services, and you stay here and rest up and have us to preach this afternoon. If you don't go, you have to preach this afternoon." I had already gotten all broken up; got to where you could tell me anything I had to do. That is a pretty good place to get.

They went on to jail and I began to pray, "Lord help me." I didn't say, "Lord, what do you say about it?" I said, "Lord, help me. Amen, amen, amen." I got to praying and Gideon came before me. God had me loaded up. When they came back and the service started I rose to my feet... and if the Lord didn't give me a message.

I said to the Lord, "Did I do that in the flesh?" I didn't get any answer. "Lord, I was blessed. I was

blessed beside myself." The Lord began to talk to my heart. The Lord said, "You can't be a baby forever. Learn how to do, when it is time to do. You have to consider your responsibility that rests upon you in the ministry. Don't look to me every time. Go ahead and do it! That is your duty."

**"...the water was so high,  
it covered the entire earth."**

The high water... I had two or three dreams about that. Wife and I were on a high sea. A storm came up, and the boat began to sink. Wife and I were paddling in the water. Here is what I paid more attention to; the water was so high, it covered the entire earth. She and I was on high water, that is right now. The storm is on the high sea. Wife is gone. I am on the sea, paddling, trying to keep above the waves.

**"Here Bill Needy, I am going to pour it out  
on your grandson, Bill Sowders."**

I know that my dear old grandfather laid up mercy for me when he would feed as much as 6 - 8 - 10 preachers at a time. When his sons would get mad, because they would eat up all the fish or the chicken... one time, one of them hollered in the door, "Don't eat all the fish." My grandfather took him out and liked to killed him. I believe all the mercy he stored up... God said, "Here Bill Needy, I am going to pour it out on your grandson, Bill Sowders." What would I have done without it? "Lord, it is only your great mercy that caused this salvation to see, and ears to hear.

**"I had more concern about the home than  
my father had, -at the age of 12 years old."**

There were two of us boys; I was a faithful boy. I had more concern about the home than my father had, at the age of 12 years old. At the age of 12, I had a route in the city... sold fish on a route. I was proud to bring in every cent I could get back home. I would stop at the grocery store and buy some groceries. How proud I was to bring it home to mother. When I was to be gone for a week at a time, I would say to mother, how are you supplied? Do you have something, to go on for a week or more?" Mother said, "Willie, your father don't ask me what you do."

Here was a lad drinking, gambling, in trouble all the time. He was thought of, a thousand times more than me. Yes he was. Oh, the love parents have for their children: You say, "My goodness, didn't they love you?" Oh yes they loved me, but they didn't show it like they did to him. What a love parents have for their children! I used to sing a song about the jailer jingling his keys, and the mother came pleading for her son. Oh, what a mother will do for her child.

**"I have went to places to take charge of the work... the first thing, when I took the work was to put on overalls and go to work."**

I have went to places to take charge of the work, and they had nothing but old boards, rough sawed, laying across blocks for the people to sit on. The Bible stand was made out of an icebox, with four sticks nailed on it. The platform was rain doors out of box cars laid on top of bricks, and the women would stick their babies under there when they would go to sleep.

You think I would stay there and not remodel things? The first thing, when I took the work was to put on overalls and go to work. I went to laboring hard, making benches, and made a platform, and a Bible stand, and had things rather respectable looking.

**"But I had to stay two nights until daylight to get the Baptism myself."**

I remember 35 years or more ago, that is referring to men like this, for I saw Pentecostal people before I was converted. I saw manifestations in their midst, and I saw them do what nobody else did. I told my wife, that people are more precious to each other than anybody I ever saw. They carry flour, milk, and potatoes to each other. In their houses every day and night, and stayed almost all night.

Of course, I had bad thoughts about that. But I had to stay two nights until daylight to get the Baptism myself. But it was precious. Then, when I got it, I saw meetings in that little assembly of 25, and those meetings were rich, and glorious, and grand. It was nothing for me to be on the floor and not able to stand up. If I did not fall under the power of God, I wasn't getting nowhere. Yes, indeed, I would fall under the power of God. Women and men were falling, and those who had presence of mind were grabbing people out of the way to keep them from others falling on them.

**"God gave me a voice like a trumpet."**

When I first started out, God gave me a voice like a trumpet. And all I had to hear a .song was twice and I would never forget it. I received songs then, and I have never forgot them. Then, I would sit down to read the Bible, and get up and not think of a verse I had read after reading all day long. I said, "There was always something wrong with me, I could never testify in church. I could never pray in church, just pray, "Oh God, teach me to pray, oh God, teach me how to pray," and back slid because every time I went to church I would pray, "Lord don't let them call on me to pray." I ought to have had sense enough to know they would not call on me.

**"People try to do a great big something to get something done."**

I dealt with that thing for about four years one time. That used to be a common thing for men to go about and preach against the manifestation of the spirit. But God showed me what the manifestation of the spirit was for, and I would preach it and bring it back into existence. And I was standing submissive, and prayed, asking God to sever the people from the ties that were binding them and just praise the Lord. And the Lord said, "Go out and walk among them." How simple that was. That was all He told me to do. People try to do a great big something to get something done. God's way of doing was a simple way.

This preacher who had taught them against manifestation had just left, and he was their pastor. He was a lawyer, and had taught them that any time there was a trembling in their body, it was the spirit contacting carnality. One sister got up and testified all the carnality was gone but in her chin, for when the power of God came on her, her chin would still shake. That is the kind of an assembly it was. They said I was a heretic. The Lord led me right to that assembly, and I pastored it for a while. I loosened it, and the people got the Holy Ghost, who had been tarrying for six and seven years. I prayed, "Oh God, turn them loose, give me something to turn them loose."

They watched me when I got down to pray and they would look out from under their hands like they were afraid of me. The Lord said, "Walk among them." So I walked up and down the aisle among them, and one dear sister looked at me, and I looked at her and the spirit saturated her. And she jumped up and began to walk behind me... and shouting... and the first thing you know they were all walking around the church. It was so simple, such an easy job.

**"I recommend Jesus Christ; he is a better doctor than I am."**

A doctor got the Holy Ghost in our meeting. He was a very prominent doctor.. I remember he had two automobiles and one horse. He had such a business he was out day and night. When he wore out one automobile he would put it in the shop and use the other one. If the weather was too bad he would ride his horse.

He got salvation and found out God could heal. He found out it was the most wonderful thing there ever was; that God could heal without medical aid.

He would go in a home and set his pill bag down and preach to them, "I have medicine here, I have a remedy, but I want to recommend to you the

best remedy, and that is Jesus Christ, and faith. If you say so, I will pray for you. If you say so, I will give you medicine. I recommend Jesus Christ; he is a better doctor than I am. The doctor found people who accepted his instructions and sought the Lord Jesus Christ, and was healed.

**"If there ever was a Protestant preacher that has got salvation... that preacher has."**

I know an undertaker in Evansville, and that man would stand at the door. And I'm not proud, it was at a funeral, but I preached under the power of God. And that man made the remark, "If there ever was a Protestant preacher that has got salvation... that preacher has."

There was another undertaker, who conducted several services in our mission there, and I met him one day after that, and he said, "Brother Sowders, I'll tell you what happened to me the other day... I got saved."

**"But grandmother was hardened.  
Her fingers were seared and mine were tender."**

My grandmother smoked a pipe. She used to have me to reach in the fireplace and get red coals for her to put on her pipe. She would hand me her pipe, for she was sickly and sitting in a chair all the time. I would get down there and be fumbling around trying to get a coal to lay on her pipe. Directly she would say, "Look out, get out of the way and let me get it." She would reach out and get a coal and I would say, "My goodness, how can grandmother do that, it looks like she would burn her fingers off, when I had to get a stick to do that." But grandmother was hardened. Her fingers were seared and mine were tender.

**"There is going to be a famine world wide in this latter rain."**

In Cairo Illinois... 32 or 33... maybe it was 34 years ago, I was standing teaching a class on Sunday afternoon like we are here today. The spirit of God took hold of me, and I had no control of my tongue, and no control of my lips, but it took possession of me. And spoke out through me and said, "There is going to be a famine world wide in this latter rain, or during this latter rain." The spirit was on me again on Broadway and I prophesied it again.

**"I got down, and I washed that fellow's feet. I used the scripture: 'For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.' (Ephesians 5:29-30)."**

Then finally, we, including myself with the Pentecostal people back there; we started to having

the sacrament service once every month, the first Sunday in every month. And I was traveling around. I would be over here one Sunday, and they would be having the sacrament service there, and I would be over here the next Sunday and they would be having the sacrament over there. And so I was getting my feet washed every week anyhow. I would give out the lesson, and I would give it out in a way that every fellow that was washing the other fellow's feet; he would have to wash them plenty good and clean.

I would go over here and, some would have grape juice to drink, and over there some would have sweetened water to drink. Over here, some would have this and some would have that. There was some who wouldn't even eat a pie that was made out of any fruit that intoxicating drinks were made out of. If you would try to give them a piece of pie or say it was all right, they would certainly rail on you.

And the sacrament service was something we held up above everything else. The way I would give it out, you just couldn't do the thing wrong. I don't believe anybody could have partaken of it without repenting of anything they had in their hearts against anybody. Several times, I have seen them get up and repent to someone, and the foot washing followed the Sacrament. You couldn't wash somebody's feet that you were so well acquainted with, or sat with all the time. You would have to wash somebody's feet that you never had sat with before.

And here was a brother whose feet were all crippled. I had given out the lesson at this particular time. I said to myself, "Come on old fellow, you gave the lesson out, and you have to do the same." I washed the Brother's feet because there wasn't anyone else who wanted to, they were all shying around him. He was an old wayfaring man, traveling all over the country and of course it might have been that he couldn't wash his own feet for a month. I got down, and I washed that fellow's feet. I used the scripture; "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church. (Ephesians 5:29-30) And I said, "When I wash my brother's feet, that is my flesh, and how particular I would be washing my own feet. And that is the way you are going to wash your brother's and sister's feet, they are flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone. And wash them just exactly like you would your own feet. Go right down between the toes and wash them out good. Dry them good, just the same as you would your own."



**"God raised the tabernacle before me in a vision."**

I remember in the starting of this movement, a camp meeting would be started with about \$1.50 in my pocket. I would be starting in a camp meeting to feed a lot of people with \$1.50 in my pocket. I got the first bill on credit. But for every camp meeting, God provided. Every year God provided. We came through the depression with nothing scarcely to be had. God provided more finances during the depression than previously.

When we began to build this Camp Ground, I had \$600.00, a meager savings. And the brethren collected about \$300.00 at a Christmas School. And in February I made a down payment of \$300.00 for the Camp Ground. I did not know where we would get lumber to build out there.

God raised the tabernacle before me in a vision. I saw it. But I didn't know how we would get material. Brother Moore was a lumber man and he said, "You have lots of timber here." I wasn't a lumber man, he was, and he said, you have lots of timber here. I didn't say anything about what I would like to do, or what I would like for him to do. He said, "Begin to get men to cut the timber... and get 300 or 400 logs, and I will bring my mill down and saw them for you." My God, day after day he supplied the needs according to his riches in glory.

**"He wants us to drive carefully."**

I was going to Chicago, and a fellow was coming around me. I thought I would step on it, and God said, "Don't be a fool." I said, "Amen." I cut the gas off, slowed up and let the fellow go ahead. God said, "Don't be a fool!" I learned there, that God don't want me to run a race on the highway. He wants us to drive carefully. 50 miles an hour is fast, 45 miles an hour is a better speed. If you have a blowout going 50 or 55 miles an hour, you can hardly manage a car.

I came from Pittsburgh. There are many railroads that you have to cross coming from Pittsburgh to Evansville. I had a fear coming back. "Oh God, protect me while going to Evansville." A hand came over me like that. When I saw that big hand, I could almost shut my eyes. I was safe.

**"If you take the ways of God,  
it is the best this side of heaven."**

Everywhere I lived I prayed, "Oh God, give me favor with my neighbors. One place I moved to there were Catholic on both sides. My ministry was generally like this. I followed a ministry who had brought reproach and shame, and had brought such reproach, the people hated the people called by the name we were called by. They hated them because

they did as I said. I have generally been led into an assembly that was tore to the ground, and I had to build it up. When I moved into this place in Evansville, the neighbors would just run from me. I knew why it was. Because those before me had gotten into scraps etc. And ruined everything. I said, "Lord, let me find favor with them."

Well, here came a saint with a bag of red plums. She said, "I thought these would be nice for you." I said, "Thank you." The very next day I sent those plums to the children over there. They were in the back yard dividing out those plums.

The next time I met the father of those children, he said, "Howdy do." I said to myself, "Thank God, it is working."

The next time, that very same party brought us a bag of shell bark hickory nuts, and I sent them right over to those children. Those kids were in the back yard cracking nuts all day. The next time I met the father he said, "Good morning Reverend."

Oh, I could have got mad at the way we were treated when we first moved there, but if you take the ways of God, it is the best this side of heaven. Finally, their table and their home became my home and my table. They respected us, and visited us, and we talked to them. They were strict Catholics, as Evansville is a Catholic town.

One day the daughter came to our door and said, "I have to get 14 subscribers for the paper and if I do, I can get a doll." She said, "I thought maybe you could help me." I said, "How many have you got?" She said, I need 12 more. I said, "Give it to me and I'll get them for you." I put it before the saints and I said, "We are praying for God to give us favor in this neighbor hood. Here is an opening. If we get 12 more subscribers for this child, this child will get this doll. I said, "We can be the instigation of that child getting the doll." I said, "How many are going to take the paper." Well, I got the 12 subscribers in just a few minutes and got it all fixed up. The next day I said, "Here are your subscribers child." She got that doll, and came in the church and stood on the platform with the doll, and showed it to the people. Say, I was the "IT" sure as you live. God can give you such favor with your neighbors until you are set on a pinnacle, and they will worship you. God did that.

**It pays to love your enemies.**

When I first started out in the ministry, I bought a suit of clothes and I'll tell you the truth... I thought I never would have another one. The first meeting I got in, I went to climb a wire fence and tore a big plug out of the back of them. I said, My God, I'm ruined."

I could not patch them; it just made them worse. So I never could use those trousers with any satisfaction.

There was a man going around trying to get men to sign a petition... to petition me out of the city, because I held to what you would do when the power of God was in a meeting. Well, it went on, and I did just what I said I did in the other case. And that fellow threw that book away and got another book. And he was not trying to get me out, but was trying to get a dollar here and there to get me a suit of clothes.

You can't beat it. Take God, and you will win the day.

**"I was walking on my hands  
when the power of God was on me."**

When I first started teaching at Elco, I was walking on my hands when the power of God was on me, turning somersaults in the straw, making illustrations of burning up straw piles, showing assemblies being burnt up.

Say, I came in a meeting one time, and I kept working for a week or two until I had the whole Church of God. And I'll never forget the subject God gave me, "The Sweet Tree."

**"If thine enemy hunger feed him, if he thirsts,  
give him drink... I have found out many times,  
they make the finest friends you ever had."**

One time, I was sitting at the table with some organized preachers. I felt like a poodle dog, and they looked at me that way. One preacher said, "Let's draw a promise out of the promise box." All drew a promise. The first one who drew a promise read his, and they read theirs as it went around. I got mine, and I was afraid to read it, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper." (Isaiah 54:17) They all had swords lifted against me there... and everyone went down.

Oh my God, if God cares for us that way, if God watches us that way... and as He watches me, He watches after you. That is why I say, if someone does me wrong, the Lord said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay. If thine enemy hunger feed him, if he thirsts, give him drink. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." I have found out many times, they make the finest friends you ever had.

**"By overcoming evil with good..."**

**It has subdued some of the worst fellows in the world. It is just the idea of giving up your old will."**

A fellow who was an ex-convict... and every body in town was afraid of him. That fellow came in my meeting every night, and sat on the right side of the house as I came in. That fellow... every time I got up to talk, he would start out of the house like a big old

male hog... "Whoof." Away he would go! I was always glad when he was out. I came to the conclusion that it was up to me to handle that fellow, in God's way of handling a man. As I came into the church, I hit him on the shoulder and said, "Hello there, boy!" And I would go on to the platform. I wouldn't stop, and let him talk, just pat him on the shoulder and rush on by. Finally I felt sort of a response. I felt a good spirit coming from him.

The house was always crowded, and you know... directly, he came up and sat on the platform with the other men, to give the people back there a place to sit down. He went out and told the people, "The best preacher I ever heard is Brother Sowders." Do you know what did that? By overcoming evil with good. He was an ex-convict and everyone was afraid of him.

One night he said, "Wait a minute." I said, "What is it?" He said, "I want you to meet my daughter." I said, "I am glad to meet you." And I was glad, too. "I am sure you are proud of her." I was the best fellow in town. If I would pass through town after I had given up pastoring there, he would wave at me.

It has subdued some of the worst fellows in the world. Overcoming evil with good. I have to use that scripture because of the fact I never had the law to protect me. I have been where the police were supposed to watch after the order, and the police would get afraid and run. And I have brought it out victoriously in God's way. I don't care how bad they are, you can actually treat them so good they will turn around and love you. It is just the idea of giving up your old will.

**"Of course, God took that out."**

I hate to have the other fellow get the best of me. Over on 28th and Virginia, there are two stop signs, for the four ways. I was in a hurry to get to Market. Another fellow was driving a truck, and I was going to start across the intersection, and this fellow got the best of me. I said, to myself, "Never mind, come on Sowders." I had a spirit about me, when I was in the world, if somebody got the best of me, I couldn't sleep for a long time. I would wake up in the night and plan how I could get the best of them. Of course, God took that out.

**"Oh Lord, I feel so good, why do I feel so good?"**

**He said, "You treated me good tonight."**

There was a precious oneness Brother from Arkansas. He came to my door and knocked at it, and when I opened the door he said, "Thank God, I have looked all over town for a Pentecostal church like this. I said, "Come in, we are going to have service tonight."

When we got in service that night, I said, "Make yourself at home and if you have a message, go to it." It wasn't long until he rose to his feet and said, "Preacher, get your Bible. Turn to Acts 2:38. Amen." I turned to Acts 2:38 and I read it while he preached. I said, "Lord, that's your child and you know all about it. You have power over man's mind." See... I knew what he was going to preach and drive at in his doctrine. "Lord, he can't preach a thing you don't want him to preach, so now Lord I turn him over to you. He is your child."

He started on Acts 2:38 but he did not touch side, edge, or bottom of that scripture, but he testified and blessed the house. He was so thankful to be there, and so he remained over for Thursday night's service. So I said, "all right Brother, help yourself." Directly he said, "Amen, preacher get your Bible." I got my Bible; I was obeying those that had the rule over me. He said, "Give me Isaiah 9:6." I said, "Lord, you are the same God tonight as you was the other night." He started on Isaiah 9:6, but he never touched side, edge, or bottom of it, but certainly brought a blessing. I told him to go ahead and make an altar call, and he did, and one woman got saved. My, that fellow was feeling so good. He said, "Will I take her down and baptize her?" I said, "Oh, I'll get her in the water as soon as I can." I took that Brother an offering and it was \$9.00. I'll never forget how big it looked. He went out of there whistling; I wish you could have seen him.

I went to bed that night, and I rolled over... I said, "Oh Lord, I feel so good, why do I feel so good?" He said, "You treated me good tonight."

**"I became converted under the preaching of Brother Knight." "Bertha, you are not my wife, I can't live with you anymore."**

Well, when I became converted under the preaching of Brother Knight, my present wife at that time was my second wife. I remember when I was getting married in Metropolis, Illinois, by a magistrate there. He asked me if I would take her as my lawful, wedded wife, and I said under my breath, "Yes Lord, I will by your help." I said, "Yes," to him. She went hunting and fishing for the winter with me. That was what I had wanted all my life. Some woman to go with me everywhere I would go. I had found out there was nothing in the world, and I was leaving this world, and was going to live the life of a hermit all the rest of my days.

This man, Brother Knight... I landed my boat right on the Ohio River where he lived. If that wasn't God, there never was a God! Here came some of those

saints from Brother Knight's place. Well, I thought I might get saved, but he said, "God was giving his people a second blessing." Then they persuaded me to come over, and here came one of the women down and just covered my wife. I always liked God's people.

But I would think of it... something would say, "You have been married the second time, you are living in adultery." I said, "That is right I can't get saved, I am living in adultery." And I spoke to you Brother Knight and Brother Bob, about what I could do to be saved, since I was living with my second wife. Brother Bob said, "What do you know that God didn't join you together?"

I got converted, but I separated myself from my wife. I said, "Bertha, you are not my wife, I can't live with you anymore." Of course, she began to cry. I just contended for it, and every time I would open the Bible, it would be in adultery and marriage. I kept it up for several weeks, probably eight or nine weeks, and tried to get the baptism, and of course my wife... the poor thing, went down to skin and bones. I had a zeal for God, and I knew I would have laid my head down and said, "Chop it off for Jesus."

I got my boat ready, and it was a new yacht, and was going to go. That poor woman would come down there, and she would say, "Will, what are you going to do?" I said, "I am going to preach the gospel." She would stand there and look at me, and would cry and would say, "Will, what in the world are you going to do with me?" I said, "I am going to leave you right here." I am living in adultery. I was going to separate everybody living in adultery, or with their second companion. I am glad I went through all that.

While I was contending she was not my wife... here comes Brother Webb. I wanted to keep all the preachers, and I took him home that night. I slept on a pallet on the floor and Bertha slept on the bed. Bertha kept asking me to get off of the floor and said, "What would Brother Webb think?" I said, "Go on Bertha, go to bed. Don't bother me." Sometimes I would say, "Don't get around me, go on." Brother Webb heard it. Of course, forgetting somebody was in the house, being the head of the house, I would talk loud. He came to the door, and Brother Webb said, "What is the matter?" I said, "This woman is actually trying to damn my soul."

See... she already had the Holy Ghost. She got it before I did. I didn't have the Holy Ghost yet; but she got it when she and I weren't living as man and wife. And I had noticed that, and thought she wouldn't have gotten it if we had been living together. He said

Brother Will; "Sister Bertha is your wife." I said, "No she isn't." I said, "I have had another one previous to her." He said, "Why, let's go out here and pray over it."

We went out on the back porch and we were praying. Bertha could get things from God. And she was down on the floor, and the power got on her, and her knuckles were bleeding from where she had pounded the floor praying for God to reveal the thing. All at once, Brother Webb got up and talked in tongues, and said, "Shoo... shoo... shoo... I said, "God, what is he doing talking in tongues?" I believed every manifestation was of God. And that in his prayer he was shooing the devils out of me. I said, "Here Lord, have I got that many devils in me?"

We had another round of prayer, and I said after he went through the same manifestation again, "Oh God, if I am that full of devils, Lord I will never get right."

So she went to bed, and there was my palate down there on the floor that I was laying on. I sat up on it, and it was on one side of the room, and my wife was in bed. She might have already dosed off to sleep. I got up, and was leaning with my elbow on the dresser and looked over at her and said, "Lord, if she is my wife," and I didn't say it out loud, "you let the power of God shake her." And that bed shook right new. God was helping me out.

I was honest about the thing. If it meant to kill all the cows in the country, I meant to do the thing right. I got to studying and thought, "She may have been praying. She may have had her mind on the Lord and He witnessed to her about something." So I waited about ten or fifteen minutes and tried the Lord again. I said, "Lord you know my heart, and I aim to do the right thing, if Bertha is my wife, let you shake her again." And boom... she shook. She woke up and said, "What in the world is the matter anyhow?"

I said, "Move over Bertha." I laid down in that bed and got away over on the railing and said, "Lord, I may be wrong yet," I was going to be sure of it. I said, "Lord, I may be wrong yet, but if I am out of your will in sleeping in this bed with Bertha, don't let me sleep." Zoom... I fell asleep. I never woke up all night. I got up the next morning satisfied and I said, "Bertha, forgive me for what I have done, you are my wife."

#### **"I didn't watch my spirit."**

A fellow got up one time and said, "I will tell you what is wrong with Pentecost." And when he got done, I told him plenty. I didn't watch my spirit. It got up to the popping off place. Can you discern that spirit? Well, the Lord didn't judge me until I got home. I kept getting

sicker, sicker, and sicker. And I couldn't sleep; the Lord began to talk to me. The Lord began to show me that I wasn't getting a whipping for talking to the man wrong, but it was the way I said it. I said, "Lord what will I do?" I promised Him if He would heal me, I would write him a letter and ask him to forgive me. The next morning I was sound and well, and I wasn't long getting that letter over to him.

#### **"Here in Olmsted was where God talked to my heart."**

**Here was where I was led. Right here is where God began to restore the word of God."**

Here in Olmsted was where God talked to my heart. Here was where I was led. I came all the way from Louisville and landed right out here. Of course, I stopped at Paducah before coming here for a year or more. Then I went back to Louisville, blowed my money, got in trouble. And came on back to Paducah, and fitted out a boat with guns, ammunition, food stuffs, furnished it, and thought I would go maybe to New Orleans. And I started out from Paducah, landed across from Metropolis, and hunted and fished a few days, viewing out those lakes for fishing: Wasn't satisfied, and got in the boat and cut loose. And would you believe that I landed right straight across from Olmsted on the Ohio River right out here.

About 14 years before that, I suppose it was, I looked up here as I was coming from New Orleans, and I saw a little white shanty right up there in the willows and cotton woods. And I made this remark, "How in the world could a man live in such a God forsaken place as that? That fellow said, 'Where at?'" I said, "Look up there." There was somebody living up there in those bushes, and I said, "How in the world could a man live in such a God forsaken place as that?" That was all there was to it. I went on up the river, and in the course of time, I landed right there across from that "God forsaken place." But I had made a mistake... it wasn't God forsaken.

It wasn't but just about two days from the time I landed, until some people came over there and landed their boats, and talked to me about the Lord. Said, God was doing things... telling me about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the second blessing.

Finally, in a short time, they persuaded me to move over on the other side. We didn't much more then land, until all the women with the Holy Ghost were on the boat. It was God, sure it was! My mother said, "Will, what kind of people are they? They are the most talkative people I have ever met." They just keep coming back and forth... and finally got us to go up to

the meeting.

The first night in the meeting, Brother Bye was talking of a song and said, "There is no spirit to that, lets sing so and so." I thought, "No spirit to that? I wonder what he means?" I noticed the next song they sang they certainly did go to it.

The devil tried to get me to leave. And then, after I had bargained to buy some lumber to build a fish dock, something fell over me and I said, "I am not going to buy that lumber today." It just took it out of me. I tried to do many other things, of course, it was devilish, but I couldn't.

Finally, they captured me... God through them. I lay upon my pillow and God talked to me, and I begged God to save my soul. God would ask me questions, and I would say, "Lord, if you will, I will."

One time the Lord said, "Will you do that?" I said, "Lord, if you will do that, I will do that." God saved me that night, and it was no time... until one day while down in my boat, God kept telling me He wanted me to do something. It aggravated me. That voice haunted me all the morning. Along in the afternoon, I came down again and that voice continued until I said, "My Lord, what do you want me to do?" That voice came down from the skies and took my strength out of me when it said, "I want you to preach MY GOSPEL." I got up from there hollering, and when I hollered, I had to holler up towards those men on the bank. One man said, "Poor Will is gone." The other said, "He is acting awful funny, them Holly Rollers sure ruined that man. He will never be no more good."

After God had so miraculously called me to the ministry and baptized me with the Holy Ghost, I was out on the river on the John A. Woods boat. I looked up and saw the red buds where I had noticed them about 14 years prior to that. And still remembering those red buds... but you see... I never ever remembered that was the place I had seen them. But I looked up and saw those red buds, and the Lord said, "Did you ever see them before?" My God, I hollered, that is where I said, "Who could live in that God forsaken place?" I hollered and said, "I found eternal life there." You can't blame me for having a little spell around here.

I then began to seek God with all my heart. I lay on my stomach many, and many a day, Put a quilt out in the yard under a tree, and there lay on my stomach, and put my Bible out before me. The Lord told me one day, "Go tell the people of Olmsted, that it is good for Olmsted." I came down here and begin to prophesy... began to say "Good for Olmsted, Olmsted will be built up." Business is coming

this way." They began to laugh at me and said, "How can that happen?"

Right here is where God began to restore the word of God.

**"What is the matter then,  
that you get so red in the face?"**

I have had some zealous old sisters jump up and down in the aisle and stomp their feet and get red in the face and say, "Bless God, I knew when the work of sanctification was done, and you can't take it away from me for I have got it." I said, "It did not do the work did it?" She said, "Yes" I said, "What is the matter then, that you get so red in the face?" I can look back and see many of those old souls that are done laid beneath the sod.

**"I learned there was nothing in this world  
for nobody."**

When I got in my mind to leave Louisville, and find a place to hunt and fish the rest of my life... and live on a house boat... would you believe... that was about the 28th of August... and on the 13th of September I was walking behind a dray taking my trunk to the depot, going to Paducah, Kentucky.

Finally, I got away from there in about two years, and when I got away from there, I went to Olmsted and there met Brother Johnson who we called, "The Band Boy." He sat on the bandstand playing music when I, and other men and women were still hunting a good time.

I remember when he would be going across the river to play for dances in Kentucky, I would come down and get him to play a piece before going across. It wasn't long until God got hold of me and I surrendered. From that day to this, I have been battling for God in a new life. From that time to this, I have known nothing in this world. Knew nothing out there, and if I fail to make heaven my home I have missed it all, because I found out years ago there was nothing out there. I learned there was nothing in this world for nobody.

**"A preacher can only give out what he  
has got, he can't give more."**

One time a neighbor of ours, who lived across the street and was a good church member, said to me, "I would like to ask you something. When you come to my home and get to talking, you can tell me more about the Bible than our preacher ever did tell us." I said, "Is that so?" She said, "It certainly is; can you account for that?" I said, "I certainly can."

I said, "If you had a basket, and I had a basket, and your basket contained bananas, and my basket contained oranges, and you and I would go out and sell

our fruit, what kind of fruit would you sell?" She said, "Bananas." I said, "I would sell, oranges. Why would you sell bananas? Because bananas was in your basket." I said, "A preacher can only give out what he has got, he can't give more."

**"Weighed in the balance and found wanting."**

I was going to Chicago one time to help out in a meeting. I was leaving the next day and that night I had a dream. I caught a big bass. I judged that it weighed five pounds. I said, "Isn't he a dandy?" I was looking at it and put it on the scales, 5 lbs. - 4 lbs. - 3 lbs. - 2 lbs. - 1 lb. - zero. It was nothing but skin.

Weighed in the balance and found wanting. I knew what I was doing then.

**"Son this is going to the bottom."**

Another place where I was toiling, laboring; God gave me a dream. And I woke up the next morning and I asked the Lord what the dream meant. "He said, Son this is going to the bottom." I packed my duds and left.

**"Son I am your pilot. You don't know what is ahead. If you want to keep out of trouble, depend on me."**

Another time I had a dream... I was on a boat and a man came to me and said, "Do you know what is ahead?" A fear came on me. I went out on the forecandle, and there I beheld all kinds of snags and false work. I looked back and said, "Stop Captain!" He rang two bells and threw it in reverse and the boat began to swerve around. I woke up. I had been praying on the strength of a letter I had received from a brother who said the Lord wanted me to come. And he would pay my fare. And he wanted me to come as quick as I could. I didn't want to hurt him. God gave me this dream and when I woke up he said, "Son I am your pilot. You don't know what is ahead. If you want to keep out of trouble, depend on me." I had to tell the brother I couldn't come. I got a letter from another dear brother saying, "Stand true to your trust; don't come. A church is here tearing things to pieces, it wouldn't do for you to come now, you would get in trouble." I said, "Thank you Lord."

**"He made me to know I wasn't going through short cuts. I had to do like He wanted me to do."**

When I was out in the world, I used to study how to do this or that. I did a lot of things by myself. I never did like to have anybody to boss me. That was a bad disposition to have. I have worked on jobs where men had been working for 2 1/2 years as journeymen, and I hadn't worked six months yet,

and was working beside them drawing big wages. I never saw anything so complicated, or mystical that I couldn't do in a little while anyhow. I never wanted a boss, which was a very bad disposition. And when I received the Holy Ghost, I was going to be the same way. The Lord soon made me to know it wasn't rushed up, it wasn't a hop, skip, and a jump. He made me to know I wasn't going through short cuts. I had to do like He wanted me to do.

I began to get quiet before God. I wanted to know sometimes, the definition of a word. I would get my mind on the Lord, and the definition of the word would fall in my breast, right into my being. What did that? That was the Holy Spirit, see my natural spirit did many things and showed me how to do things, then when I got the Holy Spirit, it began to show me how to do things.

**"But I went right on eating, and eating with a relish."**

Before I went in the ministry, I would not sit down anywhere and eat unless it looked just right. But when I started out in the ministry, if I sat down at a table and it was a clean home, and a clean table, and I saw a hair on my plate, or on the table, my stomach would turn over.

But I sat down here, and felt something twisting around my tongue, and found it to be a great long hair twisted up. I knew it would offend if I got it out, so I rolled it all up and swallowed... hair and all. You would have thought a person like I was, it would have ruined my meal and I would have lost my appetite, and I would have not eaten another bite. But I went right on eating, and eating with a relish.

**"I sat down and ate, asking no questions for conscience sake."**

I have sat at tables where children have washed the knives and forks. And on the end of the knife would still be... where people were eating potatoes or something... and it would have dried on it... and the children washing the dishes... and it had gone through all that greasy dish water... and they never rinsed a dish... and then wipe it with a greasy dish rag... and then sit down at a table and eat with those knives and forks. Many times I sat down to a table to eat, and the plate was cleaner when I finished than when I started. I sat down and ate, asking no questions for conscience sake. I ate out of the same dishes they ate out of. And for fear I would hurt them, I would not say anything.

**"But I was laboring day and night; restoring the truth as it was in Christ Jesus."**

Then... I have had people come to my table and

say, "Have you any butter?" You think I would ask anybody for butter? I went for two or three years and hardly tasted any. Sometimes my tongue would actually wiggle for some things. I wasn't on the bum either. God was giving me a chance to prove what I was. I was called a "buzzard" by many people. But I was laboring day and night; restoring the truth as it was in Christ Jesus, in the church.

I have been... where my clothes would wear out. In those days we did a lot of tarrying with people in getting the Holy Ghost. My sleeves wore out, and the knees of my trousers where I would kneel down. The first pair of shoes I had when I was in the ministry, I wore three years. I would put a half sole on them each year. They had a wooden innersole and scalded my feet, and caused my feet to be blistered. I kept those shoes, and toughed it out just the same. You have no idea... I was a baby, from a bull I dropped down like a lamb.

**"And stand there and thank God for the  
homemade hominy, and the power of God  
would fall until we could not get to the table."**

We have sat on the gospel boat, and had nothing but homemade hominy... and stand there and thank God for the homemade hominy, and the power of God would fall until we could not get to the table. More than once we have sat down to thank God for the food, and the beans would burn up almost, but we would eat them.

That homemade hominy tasted better than any thing now. God is able to make it taste better than a T-bone steak, hot biscuits and gravy. God can do something with a human being and make him enjoy anything, just so he will take it with a smile.

**"God knew exactly what to do!  
I would have had a lot of song birds following me."**

I remember when I started out... I would sit in the car, or room, or wherever I was and had the opportunity to do it, and I would get my mind on God. First thing you know I had a song. The tune, and the words.

I was standing at a Grafanola, and my wife's sister was playing a record, *"Sweet Kisses That Come In The Night."* The next day, I was sitting meditating on the things of God, and that tune came to my mind.

"Sweet Jesus, He is coming some night, sweet Jesus, let me walk in your light, for I know He's a pearl of a wonderful price, I found Him on my knees at the altar one night. Help me to keep my

lamp all trimmed and burning bright." God gave me the whole song. "There's no joy in the theatres, there's no joy in the ball, there's no joy at all. This world is all vexation and you will find it so, just give your heart to Jesus and eternal joy will flow."

But I could not keep it, because I used it too much. I used to carry a guitar, and every time I came in the church they would say, "Oh Brother Will, play and sing." I would have them shouting and singing all over the house. What did I want to preach for, suffer, suffer, suffer... when we could get together and sing, "Sweet Jesus, He is coming some night, etc." and the whole house would be shouting. But God would not let me have too much of it.

I started from Evansville, Indiana and was going to Indianapolis or some other town in that direction. He gave me one word, and I could sing from Evansville to Indianapolis. Suppose I could have retained that talent? God knew exactly what to do! I would have had a lot of song birds following me. Every fellow would be wanting to compose songs, and we would have so many songs we could not have gotten through the meeting because there would be so many songs to sing.

Say if I could have kept that talent, what a wonderful thing it would have been. If I could have kept that talent separate from my ministry, and only used it at certain times, what a wonderful thing for the church. But I wanted to use it all the time and the Lord said, "I will take it away from you.

**"Some people have laughed at God's people, and  
made remarks, and caused their family  
to practically be destroyed."**

Some people have laughed at God's people, and made remarks, and caused their family to practically be destroyed. Child after child died with horrible diseases.

And I know a certain party, when I went to this church, this woman said, "We starve all the preachers that come around here." I said, "If God sent me here to starve, I will starve." When she saw she didn't get anywhere with that, she said, "We run all the preachers away." I said, "Is that right?" She said, "Yes." I said, "Did you know God is raising up people who are going to run the people who have been running people." That woman actually turned white.

I watched that woman. It wasn't long until the pride of their home started to jump on a train, and his legs were cut off and his arms were cut off. And his head rolled under the train. They came over and were crying. The Lord said in my hearing as plain, "Kill my boy, and I will kill yours."



**"She had been unmerciful."**

There was a mother I had been watching after, and she was brought out to the Camp Meeting. Mother came out and said, "What are you going to do with her?" As much as to say, "Are we going to be bothered with her all during the camp meeting?" The next morning mother was paralyzed, and she was like that during the whole Camp Meeting... in the manner of dying. It was awful to know my mother was almost dying. She had talked about someone; she didn't want to be bothered with this person in the house during the camp meeting. She laid there for two weeks or more before she realized what had happened to her. She had been unmerciful.

Another time she stopped two young women, she thought the two women had been dancing long enough and she said, "You two sit down!" Mother was very prominent in the church work, and mother went back home. She fell down the back stairs and suffered for months after that. If mother had been merciful, she would have never suffered that.

I have seen mothers warring against everything around them, but caring for their own children. God let the family be torn to pieces because she was unmerciful.

**"I'm glad I landed among a people that had some of the grace of God among them."**

I was raised in this city by a religious mother, a sanctified grandfather, and two religious grandmothers. My grandfather certainly lived the life in his day. Of course, he died when I was quite young. After that, I went to this church and to that church, but I did not see anything that enticed me and caused me to be concerned or attracted by their lives. I worked in their midst and saw them pull off tricks I would not dare to do, and they did it and professed salvation. I heard them speak smutty things. Well, whenever I saw that, though I was a devil, I could not believe in it. I was staying in a hotel where two or three hundred preachers, when there was a conference in town, would stay also. And I heard them crack jokes and I said, "Say, are you fellows preachers?" They said, "Yes." I said, "You don't sound like preachers to me." They said, "What do you mean?" And I said, "Your conversation don't sound like a preacher's conversation ought to sound to me."

I went on down to Southern Illinois, for I was in Paducah Kentucky at the time. I went to Southern Illinois and heard one of the brothers singing early one morning, "I wish that his hands had been placed on my head, and his arms had been thrown around me, that I might have heard the kind words when he

said, let the little ones come unto me."

I said, "Listen, listen wife. "After that, I heard them up in the Bayou praying, "Oh God, send Holy Ghost conviction on Mr. Sowders, and save him." Everywhere I looked, everything I heard was, "Hallelujah, praise the Lord." Then down the road one morning came a fellow with a sack of flour on his back, and unloaded it at a poor saint's house where they had no flour. Then here came a woman driving an old gray mare and a buggy with a gallon of milk and a pound of butter. Here came another fellow with a sack of potatoes on his back. I said, "Say, this beats all I ever saw." They show more love than any other people I ever saw that professed salvation. Say, the grace of God was appearing to me. I'm glad I landed where I did. I'm glad I landed among a people that had some of the grace of God among them.

**"When you try to be like somebody else, you become a dunce before the people."**

I remember one time I saw a preacher, and I liked the way he did. He would go way down like that, (bending way over). I had a meeting in Western Kentucky and I would get way out on the altar bench when I was making an altar call, and people were falling head long by the dozens at the altar when the power of God was falling. I thought, I'm going to put on some of those gestures. And something hit me and it liked to have burnt me up. I said, "What is the matter?" The Lord said, "You be just exactly what I want you to be. When you try to be like somebody else, you become a dunce before the people."

**"Could not handle Spunky like you could Johnny Wise."**

One time a cat came to our house. It was raining and cold and I felt sorry for the cat, and gave him shelter, and gave him scraps off of the table. We called this cat, Johnny Wise. Johnny was a tame little fellow. You know why he was tame? He was cold and hungry and wet. So Johnny got to feeling better, and began to manifest his original spirit.

Johnny Wise became strong. I would rub Johnny Wise and, "Sissss---tt. Didn't he show his appreciation? Then I took Johnny Wise by the hind feet and began to play with Johnny, like playing an accordion. I kept on playing a tune like that and the first thing you know Johnny Wise ceased to make a growling sound. The first thing you know, I could pick him up by the feet or any way, and Johnny Wise was all right. You know, he grew up to be a fine black cat. You could pick him up by the tail, spin him around, and pick him up by the ears. I broke him.

I had another cat... called her Spunky. You could not pet her. I grabbed hold of it, for I was going to give her a Johnny Wise treatment. I took her through it several times it hissed, hissed, every time I would put her down she got meaner. I thought what in the world, and then it came to me. "That is a girl." Could not handle Spunky like you could Johnny Wise. You had to go around the other way.

Now, she will set down by me and let me pet her. If I had not been willing to surrender, and I had hate to give in, and let Spunky have her way... but she would have still hated me, if I had not went at it another way.

**"She had an understanding of how to subdue a child's nature."**

I have told you about an old German lady who lived on Second Street. I was an awful boy from what my mother said. I would fall on the floor and beat the back of my head on the floor with anger. This old lady said, "Mrs. Sowders, if you will let me have Willie, I will take it out of him."

So when she came to get me she said, "I want to have this agreement, that you won't come in the room when I'm whipping him." So I can just imagine about what she had in mind to do and she did it all right. She laid it on me unmercifully. I must have had seven devils in me, but she sure subdued it, she sure put it on me. She had an understanding of how to subdue a child's nature.

**"If that man had understood how to raise me, he would have made something out of me, but I'm glad I came through the way I did."**

I was whipped by a schoolteacher... the same as by my father and mother. My father's way of correcting me turned me against him, and I had it in my heart many a time to get revenge. My father died while I was yet in sin, and I did not go to see him. He lay sick for months and I would not go, and they put him away, and I didn't go to his funeral. That man didn't treat me right.

My schoolteacher... you talk about whipping until your will is broke... he almost broke my bones, and yet I would not submit. I still held on, "I won't." I had it in my mind when I get old enough; I'm going to kill him. But he died before I got old enough. If that man had understood how to raise me, he would have made something out of me, but I'm glad I came through the way I did. He never had no mercy on me. He whipped me until the blood came through my flesh and my skin. There are children today who hate their parents, just because they beat on them too hard.

**"Before I received the Holy Ghost, I had enough confidence after reading the Bible, that He would do anything you would ask Him to do."**

Before I received the Holy Ghost... Dear Brother Knight... I was looking for him over the weekend, and he at that time was a very active man in the Gospel work. He had been holding a meeting over in Kentucky, and He and his family took small pox. They all came home with it. Five of them... three children, and the mother and father. Well, when the doctor came down, he walked way out around the house, and asked how they were.

You know one thing, before I received the Holy Ghost, I had enough confidence after reading the Bible, that He would do anything you would ask Him to do. I went down there, and they had nothing in the house to eat. I went right down there and got them some food to eat, and fixed it, and prayed for them, and God healed all but the father.

**"What caused that? I denied myself."**

When I made that trip to Oakland, why of course I had already made up my mind I wasn't going to make any more long trips anymore. I was trying to retire... that is right. And here I jumped on a train. Naturally I didn't want to make that trip, November 1947. Naturally I didn't, but the inner man began to gird up himself and move me right on that train. And I went and had the best health, and the best appetite, and slept. It didn't make any difference if the old bed was going flopity-flop-flop. I rested good, and I just felt fine. And the anointing of God was on me from the time I started, until we came back. We sat in the room on the train, and the spirit of God was blessing us. We were talking in tongues, and shouting, receiving revelations, and talking about the blue dome over our heads, and other things that were precious for this very hour. What caused that? I denied myself.

**"Brother Bob Shelton... he would go to an assembly as dry as a chip, and it wouldn't be any time until they were shouting and praising God and having a big time."**

Brother Bob Shelton... I watched that man's life. However, I didn't do things because Brother Bob did them, but I watched that man's life. Why, he would be dancing upon the bible stand before you knew it. Yes he would! Just dancing, cutting it off. He would jump up and give a great big Indian war whoop, he is half Indian, and run out in the aisle and on out into the street, and shout and whoop and holler. People would run out. Then he would come on back just as fast as

he could go, and jump back on the platform and get behind the bible stand. His hair would stand out like that... and he would just be pouring words right out there.

Say, I have watched him, he would go to an assembly as dry as a chip, and it wouldn't be any time until they were shouting and praising God and having a big time. It was just because Brother Bob was used that way of the Lord. He became a fool that he may be wise.

**"My conscience was killing me."**

I began to steal my grandfather's chewing tobacco; he cut it up in little chews and put it up on the mantle. That was before he gave up his tobacco. That is the one that I have often talked about, being such a holy old man. But when he came to the realization that tobacco was displeasing to God, he quit it. Up until he quit it, Willy would steal his chews. If I stole one chew, I couldn't look him straight in the face, because I felt like he could just see me taking that tobacco. I kept taking a chew, and two chews, until directly, I could have taken a whole plug if he had it laying around loose. I went to the grocery, and maybe mother would give me 35 or 40 cents, a dollar or two dollars, and I would always slip out a little bit, a nickel, anyhow. If it was only 35 or 40 cents, I would try to get so many pennies worth and save a penny for myself.

When I first began that, I was afraid to come home. I would say, "Mother, here is the change," but I couldn't look my mother in the face. If she had been wise she would have said, "You little scamp, you took some of it." My conscience was killing me.

After while I would say, "Here mother is the change, let's see, yes, here it is." Look right square in her face.

**"I'll tell you, nobody felt like going out...  
it became so interesting....and God restored  
hell right in the middle of HELL!"**

If you would have been around the schools... close to 30 years ago, you would have thought we were accomplishing great things. It wasn't long until the schools kept getting larger and larger. Then, I was led to Evansville to take the work there, and there is where I met Brother Reva Mears. Reva and I... just the two of us.

All the people that prayed me into the baptism of the Holy Ghost, they were against me. None of them would hold my hands up. Others that ought to have been helping me, turned against me. Well, we kept going. We had schools, in first one assembly, and

then another. The New Issue Brethren began to understand that they could come and get up and talk on their doctrine. I'll tell you, nobody felt like going out... it became so interesting. I would go in at 9:00 in the morning and stand or sit and talk until 5:00 in the evening.

Then after the oneness doctrine was solved, we got the understanding of the Godhead bodily, and how to baptize in the name of Jesus Christ scripturally.

Wasn't long until here came another doctrine, the Devil. There would be as much as fifty people against me. Asking questions and some going out the door, calling me "POPE," "PRIEST," "KING," "ANTI-CHRIST," and all such stuff as that.

Then came the doctrine of HELL. And it kept stirring hell all the time, and God restored hell right in the middle of HELL! Then we started Camp Meetings.

**"God took it away when I was saved."**

I remember when I was going with Jim's mother. We were just kids you might say when we got married. I quit using tobacco for three months, because she asked me not to use it. She said, "Your breath smells like you have been eating butter when you don't smoke." So I quit using tobacco for my sweetheart. When she became my wife, I went right back after it again. And all the time I was working in a tobacco shop. If ever tobacco looked good and would have tasted good, it was those three months that I wasn't using it. I never got rid of the desire one bit, it only made it ranker in my flesh. Just as soon as the magistrate or the preacher, whatever you call him, said, "Do you take this woman, I said, "Yes." Away went the tobacco back in my mouth. Some people can get rid of it, but I couldn't. I didn't have enough self-will to get rid of the thing. God took it away when I was saved.

**"But thank God... in the battle, and after it was all over, we came out with a remnant that was willing to stand firm and take the Word of God."**

Say, I have been in this thing too long. I know humanity; I know the spirit of man. I have learned the spirit of man. I haven't been in this as long as I have for nothing. I have been in too many battles. I have had to stand and cry out by myself. When the whole Southern Illinois went into oneness, I stood there in Cairo and stood by myself and cried out, against naturally wise men, men who were well versed in the Bible to the extent that they could quote scripture on that one doctrine. But if God hadn't put a spirit on me to rise up against those things, they certainly would have smeared up the whole thing. But thank God... in the

battle, and after it was all over, we came out with a remnant that was willing to stand firm and take the Word of God.

**"That fellow Sowders over there,  
is preaching he is going to live forever."**

Like one who started to Elco, got off of train at Ullen, Illinois, and he began to inquire for Elco. It was only 6 miles across the country there. A man said, "What are you going to Elco for?" He said, "I am going to Camp Meeting." Why, he said, "That fellow Sowders over there, is preaching he is going to live forever. Are you going around there fooling around with him?" He said, "When is the next train out from here?"

And a voice said to him, "What! Are you going to leave? Why don't you go over and see for yourself or are you going to listen to this man?"

He came, and sat in back of the tabernacle. I remember seeing him. And when he got in that tabernacle I was already teaching and preaching the word of God on living forever. Right when he came in. And that man understood what I was talking about. Sure, I am going to live forever, I am not preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, if I don't preach live forever.

**"My God! What did that?  
That woman that threw her arms around  
that man in the dark."**

I know another man, he was nothing but a babe in Christ, the woman had the Holy Ghost years longer than he did. And he was going... as he went home from church he had to go through a commons. This woman lived close to where he did. However, she was a very homely looking woman, one eye was crossed and she was an elderly woman, much older than he was. He was a nice looking young man. But out in the middle of that commons, as they were walking through that dark commons together, they walked up to a cow and before they knew it that cow jumped up in front of them. And when that cow jumped up in front of them, she appeared to be scared, and threw her arms around that man, and hung on to that man. And she didn't let him go until she had slayed him! He submitted. It would have been better for him to break her jaw. Tore her jaw off. It would've been better. It wouldn't have been near as bad for him, and it would have helped her a lot.

It wasn't no time after that, until that woman's son, who was as fine a piano player as you ever heard, he was coming home with a boss in the mine down here in Western Kentucky. And when he (the son) came to the garage, he saw a hammer laying up on a rafter there,

and he took that hammer and hit that man. A fine man, a man that was loved and cared for in the town he lived in. He did that to get that man's wife. Hit him twice in the head and killed him dead! That was in Henderson, Kentucky. They got up a mob in Henderson... and they put him on the train and shot him here to Louisville in a hurry. They had him in jail here, in the Jefferson County jail, on Sixth Street. And held him there a few days until the wrath of the mob subsided and then brought him back.

When they brought him back the lawyer said to the woman, the mother, "If there is any chance for you to get a minister to speak to this boy, you better do it, and do it in a hurry. For they may take him out and hang him most any time, and he is bound to die." The court would never decide on anything else but death for that boy."

She came to me. I went over and took two or three workers with me, and we had a meeting in the jail. That boy came to the jail door, the inner cell and held his hands up like that on the bars and leaned over like that. And he actually, as I was talking to him about his condition, and that there was no hope for him according to his lawyer, he just shook like that, said, "Well, I done it, I can't do anything about it. I've done it, and it is already done." He just kept talking that way. There she sat and would look at that boy, a fine looking young man. The jailer, was hollering, "Give up, surrender." The power of God was on me, and I was talking to him. My God, there was people all back there in those cells crying out to him. Oh, I never felt a greater spirit in all my life, and I saw there what Jesus Christ thinks of a poor down and out, when there is no hope for him.

I could see Jesus' arms, as it were, reaching out through me to that boy. Pleading with him, pleading with him, and him shaking the bars as it were with his hands. He almost went down, and he did bow when I went to prayer. It wasn't no time until that mother went blind. The boy went to Eddyville, and he went to the electric chair. My God! What did that? That woman that threw her arms around that man in the dark.

**"What did you do that you repented so?"**

One time I was talking in Columbus, Kentucky. And the room that we were having meeting in held quite a number of people. It was full. I was just going down the road and I said, "I'll bet." I said, "Oh my God, forgive me, my God, forgive me!" I almost burned up. See where I did wrong? Did you see why I almost burned up? Why, I might as well use the name of the Lord in an oath as to say, "I'll bet."

A man said to me after service was dismissed as we were going out, "Say preacher, what was the matter with you tonight?" What did you do that you repented so?" I said, "My goodness, didn't you hear what I said?" No there is nothing to that.

**"Severing myself gradually from the tree of life."**

I was sitting one time, when I first started out in the ministry, and a peach tree came up before me. And the limbs were just as plain as these fingers before me, and right here, I saw this limb became overburdened and it split a little tiny split there where it was connected to the trunk of the tree. I saw directly, the rain come down and the water trickling down and ran into that little split, and then I saw the little... like saw dust, and I understood that was a worm that had entered into that. And the more the life of that tree was exposed to the weather, the more it decayed, until eventually it went way down below where it was connected into the tree. And actually, that decay continued until that limb broke down off of the tree.

The Lord showed me, right now, that any time we say something, or any time we do a little something, and it doesn't seem like anything; that is a little split. A little crevice, that, you couldn't detect it with your eye at first, but eventually became open far enough for worms to make their nest in it, and it eventually severed the limb from the tree. My Lord... any time that I open up an avenue with a word that I ought not to say, with a thought that I ought not to think, I'm causing a little split. Severing myself gradually from the tree of life.

**"He came out of there with his hair standing on ends."**

We were in this backslider preacher's home in Columbus, Kentucky, at close of a meeting we was holding. His wife did not have the Holy Ghost.

When I made the altar call, she fell at the altar and my wife fell at her side and began to ask God to save her and she said, "Sister Bertha, don't ask God to save me, I'm done saved, ask God to baptize me with the Holy Ghost." And inside of 10 minutes, that woman was up shaking like a leaf in the wind, and speaking words in the spirit. Actually caused old gray-heads to fall down and cry out to God, and we closed the meeting.

That man, in going back home that night, and in going up in the neighborhood where he lived... there was a cemetery there, and you could either take a short cut through it, or go out on the road. We always went out on the road, but he took his short cut through the cemetery, and sat down on a seat waiting for us to come up to where he was soon going to

come out on the road. He had a vision while sitting there. There was a baby came up to him, dressed in white and that baby disappeared in his bosom. He came out of there with his hair standing on ends. He was in a graveyard, and then had a vision like that. He said, "My God, Brother Will I had a vision." I said what's your vision. He told me.

I said, "Don't you see what God is trying to show you?" He said, "What is that?" I said, "Brother Herman, from here back to the time you married your wife, you severed yourself from God, and you were backslidden." He said, "That's right, I was!" But I said, "Tonight, God saved her and baptized her with the Holy Ghost and now she is baptized into you, and you in her, and you and her are one in Jesus Christ! You and her are one now in Jesus Christ! She is in you, and you in him, and you are both bone of His bone, and members of His body." But, He never did want to take it that he did wrong in marrying that woman back there when she was of the world.

**"Remember me, how I used to be."**

**I have something that took all of that out of me."**

Like the fellow I met yesterday, he is a little older than I am. We were both raised together... happened to meet him on the market. I got to talking to him. He said, "Will, I am a Presbyterian, and I will never change. I'll die a Presbyterian. I'm willing to stand on my faith. I have a good pastor; he sure speaks well. He tells us not to consider him someone different from any other man; tried to make himself on the same level."

He was telling of his church, and I kept on giving it to him, tearing into him, I said, "Yes that is all right. I'm burning some fish today, and I am very particular how it is dressed. I want fish, not muskrats, or rabbits. I came for fish and nothing else." I said, "That soul is the most important thing. If I am not ready for heaven, I want to find out right there."

He said, "I met a woman who is highly educated and has a following." I said, "What faith?" He said, "Bahai." I asked him what she had to offer you for that you would give up?" And he said, "I don't know."

I told him, "Remember me, how I used to be. I have something that took all of that out of me. Have you got anything better than that?" I said, "There is a big difference in salvation and religion. You are talking about religion. What I am talking about is salvation." I could see I was getting the best of him. Soon he said, "Will, where is your church?" I was showing him the meekness, the gentleness of Jesus

who was born in a manger, and why it was. "I'm coming down to hear you preach sometime." I left, like I was walking in air.

**"I turned around and pressed forward, and found out it was not a rest to the old man, but a rest to my soul... feasting on the things of God."**

But when I received the Holy Ghost, there was something greater that undivided, made me stronger, made me to know something miraculous had taken place. A peace... a rest in my soul. I went to the extreme in that rest, resting longer than the Lord wanted me to. But finally, the Lord stirred me up. Said, "Which way are you going?" And from that moment... stirred me up. I turned around and pressed forward, and found out it was not a rest to the old man, but a rest to my soul... feasting on the things of God.

**"The Lord said, 'Take this good net, and give it to the man.'"**

I was praying for salvation. I got a net, tail rope, anchor, and all. I was praying for salvation. This net came up before me. I drug it up, and knew who it belonged to. That net was gone a long time ago. I didn't steal it, just took it. I had nets. One of my good nets was worth fifty of those kinds of nets. The Lord said, "Take this good net, and give it to the man." He was an infidel.

He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Remember when you lost your net? Here is one in its place, I drug yours up." I told him, "God wouldn't give me the Holy Ghost until I gave it back." He said that made him believe, more than anything else. After that we had held a meeting on his boat.

**"People, you can't trifle with God."**

One woman called herself a preacher... got a saint to marry an unsaved man; she died with a horrible cancer. The husband of the woman preacher died screaming, "I'll bust, I'll bust." Because he refused to confess a wrong he had done. Then, the poor woman who had been trapped into marrying this unsaved man, poverty stricken, died... just gradually forgetting everything. Oh my God... people, you can't trifle with God.

**"Then later, God gave him space for repentance and healed him."**

There was a man who said he had no confidence in me at all, because of me coming to his place and preaching the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And some of his people did not like it, and he knew it, and he got mad at me and said some hurtful things.

God smote him with consumption, and bleeding at the lungs like a stuck pig. He came all the way from the west, to Louisville when we were on Broadway, to ask me to forgive him so he could be healed. He went away and never got healed. Then later, God gave him space for repentance and healed him. It is often so, that these things happen. The reason is because judgment begins in the house of God.

**"When you cry, you weep.  
Weeping comes from the heart.."**

I was one of those whiners... Not only cry, but I would scream. One night I opened my mouth and shut my eyes, the whole tent was crying, prominent ministers were crying. One man said, "You won't have to work for a living, you are a second Moody." The devil said to me, "It was always in you, get up and turn yourself loose." I said, "I certainly will." When that man said that, I could almost feel my suspenders pop. That was the first time God had ever spoke through me. I never had spoke over ten words.

I came back the next meeting night, "Praise the Lord, Hallelujah." And could not get my words out. That was the worse whipping I had ever gotten in my life. The most shameful whipping I had ever got. It would be bad enough in a room to yourself, but in front of a crowd in a tent, that was awful. I was going home growling and fussing to myself. The Lord said, "You could never find words you couldn't even speak in a union meeting, remember you never could do that. If ever you do anything, it will be me that does it. It was me, not you." I said, "Lord it's you."

No one else has cried anymore than I have. My wife would say, "Will, don't cry so much. If you only knew how you look." I couldn't get through a meeting without crying. God forbid that I say anything to try to cause a person to get rid of a broken spirit. When you cry, you weep. Weeping comes from the heart. I have cried until I have had to fall in my chair.

**"You'll never do it any other way but  
through a meek spirit."**

When I first started out, I just let my wife know I was boss. I thought for the man to be head, he was boss. There is a difference in being head and boss. I told my wife exactly where to get off at. "I was the boss." It brought condemnation on me. The Lord said, "It's not to be done that way." You'll never do it any other way but through a meek spirit. I am glad I had a wife who wouldn't be bull dozed except, to knock her down.

When you begin to buck up against your wife

and your wife bucks up against you, you had... better get a bucket of water instead of a bucket of coal, or you will, or are going to build up a fire in the home.

**"Therefore, if I didn't have anything scarcely to live in, and still, I would thank Him."**

I decided I just wasn't going to spend another winter up in that coop of mine. I said, "I'll sure die, if I stay up here another winter." I figured... I tried... I was going to fix up the study room. Then if I do... what will the boys do that come in from the Camp Ground? Well, I'll take a room over in the big house. No, that won't do. Well... I will just go to a hotel. Well if I would... here comes people in for over the weekend, and I just can't go away. I just kept figuring... then it came to me, "Can't I keep you well in a place like that?"

All right there where I thought I would die... I was kept well right there... better this winter than ever before. Not saying I couldn't have it if I could get it, but after I saw God touched my body and I never had a cold all winter. That was out of the ordinary, because I had always had colds through the wintertime. Because I didn't regard myself and had always labored hard... come out in all kinds of weather. Therefore, if I didn't have anything scarcely to live in, and still, I would thank Him. God has provided me with means that I could buy a home. I had the means to buy one.

**"God showed me what would happen, and it came to pass."**

There are assemblies and towns that have shook to the ground. I have went to assemblies where they rejected the law and it went to pieces. One town, the whole town, was washed into the Mississippi River. One town, then I went to another town, the whole town, why, I labored like a mule... God gave me a large assembly there. I went back there and told exactly how God would bless if they continued in the word of God. They rejected... and went down to the bottom, and never rose above reproach. I went to another place, the poor saints never rose... suffered... more suffered in disgrace. God showed me what would happen, and it came to pass. They let another minister in, because they didn't want me in the town.

Went from town to town... as I left... when I prophesied what would happen, and it did. I went to an assembly, and after I left the work... it went down and they never have been able to move a peg. They had the word of God, and God charged them for what they had.

**"Jesus was so concerned about his father's business...and his parents ought to have known."**

In Ragland, Kentucky, we were going to have an all day meeting on Christmas. And the meeting started, and then we prayed for the lesson. And a dear Sister Ida said, "The Lord showed me we should read so and so." I said, "Lord, that isn't right, because the Lord gave me a verse... and let the power of God... the Lord gave me the lesson."

And they began to pass the Bible around, everyone reading a verse. And the power of God would come over one preacher and he would come over and preach like a house on fire. And then another preacher would preach, message after message.

All at once after they began to read, a sister rose up and said, "The Lord showed me Brother Sowders has the lesson." I thought, "There's nothing to that." Because it wasn't the scripture I had. Then we came to the verse where Jesus lost His parents. I began to cry... bellow out loud. A Baptist preacher was sitting off to the left side of me. And I just couldn't stop to save my life. The Lord kept telling me to get up and I said, "Lord let me stop crying first." "GET UP" "Lord let me stop crying because Jesus was lost." All at once I said, "Little Jesus... Bah..." (crying) I wasn't crying because Jesus was lost... all at once a message came out of the sky. I could see the words coming. The thought was... Jesus was so concerned about his father's business... and his parents ought to have known, "And why were you looking for me?"

**"I know this... that my salvation depends on my zeal, my activity."**

One time I went to a meeting... previous of that, I didn't wear a tie. But I thought I wanted to be respectful, and look respectful, and I put a black bow tie on. There was a fellow sitting in the back, and I discerned him. I thought, "Let him talk, I don't care."

I had a dream, and that man was a real fisherman... had caught more fish than anyone else. I had the same disposition, and always watched his string of fish... always wanted to have as much, or more than he had.

This time I dreamed he came along with a big string of fish and I just had a little pile, and said, "I don't care." The Lord said to me, "Don't you let a 'don't care' spirit get a hold of you." The Lord wants us to say: "If you go, I want to go too."

You don't want anyone to get ahead of you, do you? I know this... that my salvation depends on my zeal, my activity.



**"It was pictured there exactly.**

When I started out, of course I read a whole lot. Daniel was the best book in the Bible. Daniel, and Revelations. After I got the baptism, the Lord took that out of my heart of reading just Daniel and Revelations. And I became so interested in the New Testament; I couldn't read the Old. I said, "Lord, why is it I can't read the Old?"

I read for about three years without reading the Old Testament. One day, I made up my mind, "I have read the New Testament long enough, I am going to read the Old." A voice said to me, "You can do that, but it will bring leanness to your soul."

I was studying... and all at once Joshua and Israel came before me walking around the walls of Jericho. Seven days, they marched around the walls. One time every day for six days. On the seventh, they marched seven times, and blew their trumpets seven times. A finger seemed to point to Revelations, to the seven trumpets, and seven vials. It was pictured there exactly. If I hadn't studied in the New Testament, what would Joshua and the trumpets mean to me?

**"...and that which occupied their minds,  
was that which was most essential."**

I was thinking, while we were singing, about when I was a boy. They worshiped God in simplicity in a message. They had no modern inventions as now. Mother had her long dress on, and father with his suit made of jean cloth... what a time they had. I sat back and watched them. The preachers were of course rough, and illiterate kind of fellows. He stomped his foot and hollered, "Glory to God." Everybody else shouted, the sisters clapped their hands and shouted, sometimes they would fall on the floor. First thing you know, the old preacher would get up and holler, "Glory to God." And an altar call was made. The altar would fill up, and their conversations going home were like this: "If I feel like I did tonight, tomorrow night I will go to the altar." Mother and father's conversations were about mother Jines and daddy Blunk... how they shouted and were blessed. The little children were saturated with that talk about the meeting. Then we thought of how the spirit of God ran through, all through us when they shouted, and we would go to the altar if that kept up. We would go to sleep with that saturation.

The next day at work the men all talked about it. The women talked to one another. The next day at school, the children were talking about it. In fact everybody was talking about the meeting last night.

There were not so many things in the world to

occupy the minds of the little ones ... and the old ones... and that which occupied their minds, was that which was most essential.

**"She will stay out until the light is lit."**

Let me tell you of a dream I had. I was battling against all kinds of spirits. We could not have a camp meeting, a school, or a local gathering, unless something would rise up and tear it to pieces. I was questioning God about it.

I had a dream that I was walking along a road, and there was a bank caved off and left an opening. It was full of snakes, their heads were high, and I was looking and saw one coiled up, so beautiful. I said to Brother Bob, who was walking with me, "Isn't that a beautiful thing?" The Lord showed me, and I said, "Lord what was that beautiful one?" He said that is Sister so and so. She will be killed."

I had another dream. I dreamed I was in a room, and I had a light in one hand and the chimney in the other hand. I was trying to put a light on the wick. A nanny goat kept running against me, and I slapped her and said, "Stay out until I get this light lit." I woke up and said, "Lord, what does this mean?" He said, "You are trying to light a light in this city, and she is bothering you, spoiling the light... the saints minds... confusing them with her influence. She will stay out until the light is lit." That was the same sister that was the snake. Thank God she is now in, and the light is lit.

**"Thank God I trusted... I trusted Him."**

When I first started out, I could get victory over headaches and chills, then after I went on, I had to pray more. He isn't a God to fail us. He will always come. I have had people tell me, "Brother Sowders, you ought to do this or that, but I just trusted in God.

I had a horrible affliction one time and it was either the hospital or death, for I was getting so weak, I couldn't walk three blocks. It was horrible. I was trusting God. I had lost so much blood I was white as a sheet. I was going to die and I knew it. I said, "Lord, I love the ministry, and I thank you for calling me. If you are done with me I'm coming home. I'll meet you with faith to the last second, but if you are not going to take me, heal me."

I started over to Henderson, and I could not get to the streetcar line, I was so weak. The next morning I started again, and went down to the train, and went on to Brother Aubrey's. I had to carry things with me to care for my condition... that is what a horrible place I was in. When I got ready to

leave Brother Aubrey's, Sister Irma Williams, a precious child of God was there. I carried quite a lot of song books and did a lot of singing, and she said, won't you sing a song before you go? I did. Then I said, "You sing one." And the power of God began to fall. Brother Aubrey's hand begin to shake, and he came toward me. Say... he put his hand on me, and I was healed right there:

Brother Aubrey had contacted T.B. and I turned around and laid my hands on him, and God healed him sound and well. Thank God I trusted... I trusted Him.

**"Isn't it wonderful to be under a ministry like that?"**

I have refused offers of money. Since last year, a sister died who wanted to turn a farm over to me. I said, "Come around for a while." She came for a while and didn't like it.

A sister came to me and said, "I have a swell farm in Indiana I want to turn it over to you." I advised her in the same way. So she didn't turn her farm over.

I have had people to come to me with their bank books. I said, "Oh no brother, keep your bank book.

I have had ministers in this body come to me and say their money is piling up. I said, "You keep it." It isn't time yet. Isn't it wonderful to be under a ministry like that?

**"Was it faith? NO. It was obedience."**

I know Sister Mills was in a bad condition physically for years, and her husband used to call wife and I to come up and pray for her every week. I knew that something was very wrong with her. When she first came to our place over on Market Street, she was staying over after the day service and not able to do anything for you, and look at the zeal she has. Heal her, I would I would pray. He said to me, "When I get her separated from that spirit." I knew her healing was coming from that day. She was just a bunch of bones. Did it take faith then to pray for her? NO, because God had taken hold of her. God had said, "I want to use you." But God could not use her with the spirit she had. She was exalted, righteous in her own eyes. It was put in her by ones who thought they know how to raise spiritual children, but they raised her too high, too quick.

She jumped on me when I came to the city; she was in the habit of telling preachers what to do. She said, "Don't the Bible say, preach the word?" I was doing it all the time, giving an explanation instead of reciting it. When I get separated from that spirit... some of you remember the last time Sister Mills gave out a cry at the altar and knelt down... she

thought she was dying. God healed her, and ever since she has been gaining weight. She can work as much as any other woman. Now she can work in the meetings. Then say, it is God that does a thing like that: Was it faith? NO. It was obedience. When I got her separated from that spirit.

**"Thank God I wasn't a hireling."**

When I came to this town, I came by revelation. The Lord said, "Don't let anyone put their hands on you. Claim the house you go to." People worked in every way trying to hinder. Thank God I wasn't a hireling. I paid my own gas and lights. Dear Brother Cissel had a mule and a little wagon. And God showed... or another made Cissel and I acquainted. And I began to talk about getting coal and how to haul it. He said, "I have a wagon." He brought the coal, and saw that I had kindling. And that boy kept me in coal, and kindling, and would not charge for it. Say... old Russell is not hauling coal in a wagon today. He has a couple of trucks going over the city, making good money.

One person who tried to be influential in the city, said, "If you get rid of Sister so and so, you will have the whole Pentecostal people in town working with you." I said, Sister so and so is a child of God, and God forbid that I put her out."

I knew I couldn't cater to the church. You know I am not hard. You don't have a hard time getting along with me. Jesus must be my counselor, I can't counsel with the church, I counsel with Jesus Christ. He is my head. There has been many a time, it looked like, if I did this or that, things would go better.

I was having a hard time at 912. And one time, I was opening my mail and a card fell out, saying, "This is to certify that Brother Sowders is a member of a certain Jewish program." It was a group of some kind. I knew what had been said to me before this, "I will make a real field man out of you, if you come with us." I said, "Lord, this will cause me to stand on the street corners and preach and not be molested." I could get anything I want. The Lord let the devil show me that. I threw that paper down and said, "God forbid."

**"God is increasing our talents."**

Here is a dream... I dreamed of a woman, when she opened her mouth all her teeth were gold. Does that have any meaning? I believe it does. I mentioned the other night how God was increasing our talents. I believe there is a woman right in Louisville, whose mouth is filled with gold.

Teeth, spiritually, are talents. And as I was in the spirit last Thursday night to talk on this... more than I

have been for a long time. My mind just actually spoke the things the Lord was telling to me, all through the meeting. I don't know if you noticed, or paid any attention to it, but we have children who God is giving the sweetest songs to. That shows God is increasing our talents.

**"I wore out one set of eyes studying the Bible.  
And God healed me in a second."**

I wore out one set of eyes studying the Bible. And God healed me in a second. Then, I wore out that set of eyes. I had perfect eyesight, and I wore that out. I knew just when my eyes failed... something popped. I could feel it. It hurt... and pained. And from that, I thought I would try God again. Then I thought... what is the use, God can heal my eyes, but they will go bad again. So I got glasses. I began to wear glasses, and I never thought any more about it. But if I was young, I would trust God, because He can do it. When he healed my eyes, something like cool water went over my eyes.

**"They were not married by God."**

Two preachers came in an assembly, and one told a brother he was to marry a certain one, and performed the marriage in the spirit, and then latter they was married by law. It is mockery in the first place. Then, I remember this manifestation got in a place... and this woman got a young man and put him before a young woman, and pronounced the marriage; and they were married by law. They didn't live together long. They were not married by God. It was nothing, only people wanting to do something big.

**"What is the use of telling you?"**

I was going along one day in Southern Illinois, and was having a hard time all by myself, getting in the mud with my car. I didn't know if I would make it or not. I stopped the car and said, "Lord, do you want me to have a car?" He said, "What is the use of telling you?"

God will let you go along, skin your head, stump your toe, stumble and fall, pick yourself up, and get started again, and then you say, "Lord, show me why I did that." You think the Lord must have left you. No, His eyes are on you. If the Lord had said, "No, I don't want you to have a car." I would have always wondered why. If He said He wanted me to have one, I would have wondered why He let me have such a time with it.

**"Some men can't be trusted."**

When a preacher comes in telling how many people he had, and had two women following after him. It wasn't no time until this fellow got these two women to take the benches from me. They had given

them to me. I got some chairs and fixed them up. He had my benches. These women were good financiers. They got this fellow a fifty dollar watch, and a car. Then, he skipped town with the watch and car. Then they slipped back into the church. That was a lesson I learned. Some men can't be trusted. If you had come along these things, you would look over a man twice before accepting him. And yet, I have done many things for men like that kind, that I wouldn't have to had done.

**"You go to Louisville, and I will give you the  
greatest seine you ever saw."**

I know what God showed me in Evansville, before coming to Louisville. I saw a large seine (*a large net*). And I unwound the knots to see it was made of good twine, it was blood red. I laid it down and said, "This is of the very best material. I believe I'll try it." I threw it into the water and saw two large white fish. I said, "Look what it caught." And it was just carelessly thrown out. I threw it out again, and it went around and around, and encircled the whole city. I woke up and said, "Lord, what is that?" He said, "You go to Louisville, and I will give you the greatest seine you ever saw."

I understood then... Brother Dudley and Brother Jim came in. The seine keeps going farther and farther out, and is beginning to circle out. Just that far out... you can hardly get to the outer circle of this seine. Brother Clyde (Dixon) is begging me to come to California.

**"You will never go back to Jerusalem, until  
you unite with the Body of Christ."**

God ordained a meeting one time when Brother Johnson and I went to Olmsted. There were just a few there, and Brother Johnson began to cry and holler. You never see him go through any kind of a manifestation, and he began there to cry, "What do I see, what do I see?" The Lord made him to know what he saw. From that, I began to talk, and I pointed my finger at Brother Bob and said, "You will never go back to Jerusalem, until you unite with the Body of Christ." That has been almost 8 years ago and he has never went.

Men and women who God sends across the water are men and women taught, equipped by God to go forward and to bring judgment upon all these countries, or people, who have the baptism of Holy Ghost.

**"I'm positive... no man can buy you."**

When Brother Moore was in business, he wouldn't let me spend the price of a gallon of gasoline. I couldn't

hardly pay a bridge toll, unless I shoved it out of the window. He gave largely in the schools and camp meetings. He looked me in the face one day and said, "You know one thing? I have tried you out in every respect in finances, and I'm positive... no man can buy you, you don't consider me any more than one who doesn't give a cent."

God made me that way... was always liberal when I was growing up in the world.

**"Well, God was glorified. I was humiliated... but thank God."**

I'll never forget what happened one time; to show what it means for God to be glorified in your life. I was holding a meeting one time for a General Council preacher. The Lord was blessing me, and the house was full every night. I did not want for words to speak. He began to narrate it around down town what was happening.

One especially prominent fellow came up to see what was happening. I stood up to talk that night, and could not find ten words and had to sit down. I was a little hurt... a little humiliated. When I sat down, the spirit of God came over me and I knew God was going to do something about that. Finally, the prominent man went out and he met the Brother on the street the next day and said, "You had a Quaker meeting last night, didn't you?" The Brother answered, "Oh yes, but come up tonight, maybe something will happen."

So before that night, I was getting ready to leave and I drew a promise. I said to the Lord, "Lord, if you give me something encouraging, I'll stay." The promise was: "Behold, I'll do a new thing, open your mouth wide and I will fill it." We went to church that night and the house was crowded... I'll tell you the truth, the words never slipped through my lips so precious for about two hours.

The preacher met the man again the next day. He said, "Hello, and say... I'm convinced!" The preacher said, "How's that?" He continued, "Because one night that man could not talk, and then last night, words came forth that had to be from God. I am certainly convinced that God speaks through man still." Well... God was glorified. I was humiliated... but thank God!

Another thing He gave me the first night when I sat down after not being able to speak... Jacob, laying on a stone for a pillow said, "It was a dreadful place, nevertheless, it is the gateway to heaven." It is dreadful, when you get out of the way and let God have His way in your life.

**"You can't get around it."**

A certain Sister said that a certain Brother would never pray for her because of the way he shook his hand and manifested. She got sick... and very sick. And day after day she sent for the nice pretty folks... all but that dear Brother. Finally, she could not talk anymore, her husband said, "Wife, it comes to me, you had better send for that Brother."

Here he came... as soon as he hit the door he began shaking his hands. She was so submissive, and let him lay his hands on her head, and immediately she was healed. You can't get around it.

**"But just relax, and let His will be done in your life."**

There were five sisters one time who were always gathering together every morning and asking the Lord, "What do you want me to do. What do you want me to do today?" Finally one morning, they got a revelation, and said for all the people to move out of Mounds City, for a flood was coming. Well, several families moved, and there was no flood. One of them asked me, "What do you reckon that was?" I said, "It was just the devil, so you would stop bothering God." We can come so important, and think we need to do so much. But just relax, and let His will be done in your life.

**"A storm can take off five rooms, and leave the room you are standing in."**

There was a Brother Snethen from Southern Illinois... Several severe cyclones passed through 'Southern Illinois... This brother had a large family, a cow, and a little team of gray mules. He had brought that little team down and helped haul lumber and other things, in building up Elco Camp Ground. He brought the first plates we ever had, at Elco. They were tin, pie plates, and several cups he brought also.

Just a few years after that, a terrible cyclone passed through where he was living. It cleaned everything in its path. He ran out and could see nothing but dust and black clouds. He gathered his family all into one room, and they, on their knees there, began to pray. Every room was taken off of the house but the room where they were in. Their cow was left standing in the yard hunting for something to eat. Say... a storm can take off five rooms, and leave the room you are standing in. The brother came and testified to that, and you could see it at the time too... go to his farm, and there was the one lonely room they were in at the time. To show the saints, God has spared, and will spare, ones who are due a reward in that way. He will reward them.

**"I thought I was perfect for two or three years, when I started out."**

I thought I was perfect for two or three years, when I started out. And I prayed, "Oh, Lord, I wish everyone was like me." It wasn't long until Brother Aubrey rebuked me. I got so mad, and the Lord said, "Do you still wish everyone was just like you?" I said, "Lord, I thought that was gone!" I learned it didn't make any difference what was said, I must keep sweet. Don't try to get revenge, keep sweet.

Brother Aubrey rebuked me in other tongues. The Lord said, "How far have you gotten?" It was three weeks before I got sweet. God let the cover come off of me, and I was saturated for three weeks. Every time I looked at him, I hated him. Just because I thought, "I've got it made." I found out I was just on the first round, and had slipped off of that.

**"Working out his salvation."**

I will never forget the first woman I saw with her dress above her ankle. And I said, "Lord, you said every thing works together for good. How will that work for good? It will cause your people to backslide."

The Lord said, "Son, my people can never be able to bring forth the seven-fold salvation until the world brings forth its seven-fold wickedness."

"God, you let it come gradually. It was a temptation when they lifted their dress above the shoe tops, and now it's above their knees, and now with shorts. What is the matter?" Working out his salvation.

**"It is no good if you are not wise as a serpent, and whip him on his own ground."**

God gave me the greatest lesson I have ever learned. There was a bully in a certain town, and he even bullied the officer we had hired to protect our revival. Many would come to the meetings... come to the Bible stand with knives opened. Take the poker after each other in the packed house. Men would cut each other to pieces at the door... the mob on the outside to finish me when I came out.

I had to learn how to handle the serpent, and get wisdom on how to do it. Men would rise up taking a punch in the wall, drive through the lathes and plaster.

One night, the mission was crowded... this fellow we had hired to keep order had a 38 on him. He was fixed. Say... a 38 is not good when God wants to learn you a lesson. Then came that big bully, that was known as the bully of the town, and stuck his head in the door and went like a wild boar hog, "Whoo-whoo-whoo." He stirred up everything, and the officer, of course, went back to stop him and said, "What do I care for your

gun or anything? Come on down, I dare you to come down stairs. I'll play the game with you."

Actually... would you believe it, our policeman resigned, handed in his authority and quit? And there we were in a revival, and the devils were around ten deep. We closed the revival. One night, right after that, someone came knocking on my door and I went to see who it was, and there stood that fellow that had caused all the mischief. He said, "What is the matter? No meeting tonight?" I said, "No, no meeting here, but I will take you over on Chestnut Street where one is." After we started out I sized him up and said, "Say... you are a fine built young man." That is something I never did do when I was in the world. I could feel him getting closer and closer. I felt him relax. Finally, he said to me, "Say... wasn't you a Baptist one time?" I said, "No, I came right out of the world raw; but what do you know about the Baptist?" He said his mother was one. Say... I began to praise the Baptist. As Paul said, "When I was among the weak, I became as the weak." I knew many good things about the Baptist I could say. I told him, "Boy, many prayers are anchored in heaven for you, do you ever feel the effects of it?" He said, "I'll be honest with you, I do."

We got to the meeting place and looked in and he said, "No, it is too big a crowd. I won't go in." Away he went, and I never saw him again. But I heard about him. Someone said to me, "Say... you remember the fellow that used to break up the meetings? I saw him and he said, 'No, I never would come around any more, for when a man treats me like Sowders did, I'm leaving him alone.'"

Say... a 38 had nothing to do with winning him. It is no good if you are not wise as a serpent, and whip him on his own ground. If you can't do that, you will be no good from now on out.

**"It is embarrassing to stand before a man that speaks by the spirit of God, for you don't know what he will say."**

It is a peculiar people. I can't preach it like you want me to preach it. I can't act like people want me to act. Of course, if I was in a stylish, up-to-date church, I would stand right here behind the bible stand. I would not get out of my tracks. Keep my voice exactly right. Isn't that wonderful? Yes it is! Shoot and never hit a hair. That is a fact!

I went somewhere, and the people wanted me to have a meeting. They said, "That fellow sure scatters, but I like him. Well, I would rather have a gun that scatters, than one that don't. Take one that don't,

and you can't shoot right down through... -  
between the Deacon's wife, and the Doctor's daughter,  
but with one that scatters you don't know what will  
come next. If you know, you would draw your head  
down to one side and shut your eyes. It is  
embarrassing to stand before a man that speaks by the  
spirit of God, for you don't know what he will say.

**"God would not put the gifts in the church  
until the people had enough wisdom to  
know how to handle them."**

During one of the earlier meetings, Brother Seeley D. Kenny asked me if I believed in the gifts, prophecies, tongues and interpretations, and the operations and manifestations of the spirit. I said, "Sure I believe in them." Brother Kenny said, "all right, if you believe in them, let's go down to the altar and get them." So, Brother Kenny knelt at the altar and began praying for the gifts. I just sat back and patiently waited until Brother Kenny finished praying. When Brother Kenny finished, he came over to me where I was sitting behind the bible stand. I ask him, "Did you get them?"

I told him, "God would not put the gifts in the church until the people had enough wisdom to know how to handle them." I told him, "It will take a long time to get ready to receive the gifts, and you and I will probably be off the scene when it happens, but they are coming just the same.



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| When you cry, you weep .....                    | 87 |
| Thank God I wasn't a hireling .....             | 90 |
| But just relax, and let His will .....          | 92 |

## DENYING SELF

|   |    |
|---|----|
| What caused that? I denied myself ..... | 83 |
|---|----|

## DISCOURAGEMENT

|  |    |
|--|----|
| It just knocked me cold .....          | 1  |
| I was lying there so discouraged ..... | 3  |
| It is more than I thought it was ..... | 31 |

## DESPISING

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Meet Reverend Sowders ..... | 13 |
|-----------------------------|----|

## DOCTORS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Doctors declared that it was .....      | 1  |
| Has that fellow got a doctor yet? ..... | 1  |
| I went to my room and held .....        | 2  |
| He knew all about the natural .....     | 37 |
| I recommend Jesus Christ .....          | 73 |

## DOUBT

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| A doubt that big will actually .....  | 22 |
| God caught me off my guard, and ..... | 56 |

## DISCERNMENT

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| The Holy Ghost is a wonder .....      | 56 |
| But stay under the barn because ..... | 66 |

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| You pray for me and I'll pray ..... | 68 |
|-------------------------------------|----|

## DISPENSATION

|  |    |
|--|----|
| God immediately began to show me ..... | 66 |
|--|----|

## DREAMS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| The Boot and the Seine .....                   | 1  |
| The Garden VS the Resurrection .....           | 1  |
| I went to my room and held that toe .....      | 2  |
| Well that was the beginning of the .....       | 4  |
| I used to hate to see women dancing .....      | 5  |
| Son, that thing that was drawing you .....     | 9  |
| I was wondering if they were .....             | 17 |
| A voice said, "There are big ones .....        | 20 |
| The Old Man is after you .....                 | 23 |
| You are not catching anything .....            | 30 |
| It is more than I thought it was .....         | 31 |
| This is something that has stood .....         | 38 |
| Oh God, let me walk circumspectly .....        | 43 |
| For me to follow my wife meant .....           | 52 |
| A perfect dream .....                          | 57 |
| God can't do anything, until they .....        | 59 |
| But stay under the barn because .....          | 66 |
| The water was so high, it .....                | 72 |
| Weighed in the balance .....                   | 80 |
| Son this is going to the bottom .....          | 80 |
| Son I am your pilot. You don't know .....      | 80 |
| I know this, that my salvation .....           | 88 |
| She will stay out until the light is lit ..... | 89 |
| God is increasing our talents .....            | 90 |

## DRESS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Sister Berlie... the first one in ..... | 44 |
| Working out his salvation .....         | 93 |

## DRIVING A CAR

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| He wants us to drive carefully .....  | 75 |
| Of course, God took that out .....    | 76 |
| What is the use of telling you? ..... | 91 |

## DUTY

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Go ahead and do it! That is your ..... | 72 |
|--|----|

## DYING

|   |    |
|---|----|
| It is miserable for a person to be .....    | 3  |
| I will die before I take any medicine ..... | 29 |

## EDEN

|  |    |
|--|----|
| The gift of the Holy Ghost, and then ..... | 66 |
|--|----|

## EDUCATION

|   |    |
|---|----|
| She would say, "Praise the Lord .....     | 19 |
| God said, "It is time for you to go ..... | 29 |
| That man is not educated .....            | 37 |
| I have been preaching for 25 .....        | 53 |
| God put that spirit in that woman .....   | 54 |
| God told me many a time to go .....       | 55 |
| But I was laboring day and night .....    | 80 |
| He made me to know I wasn't .....         | 80 |
| Could not handle Spunky like .....        | 82 |

## ELCO, IL

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| I was walking on my hands ..... | 76 |
|---------------------------------|----|

## ENCOURAGEMENT

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| That was ME that laid my hand ..... | 29 |
|-------------------------------------|----|

## END OF THE WORLD

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Ennis, the world is coming to an .....     | 3  |
| Oh, no. I will never go to Palestine ..... | 68 |
| And I told them about one asking .....     | 71 |
| There is going to be a famine .....        | 74 |

## EMBARRASSING

|  |    |
|--|----|
| It is embarrassing to stand before a ..... | 93 |
|--|----|

## ENEMIES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| What I am, I am through the power .....  | 27 |
| If I have to have a piece of paper ..... | 34 |
| It pays to love your enemies .....       | 75 |
| If thine enemy hunger feed him .....     | 76 |

## EVANGELISTS

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| In type... the church is a wife ..... | 23 |
| You ought to send for an .....        | 23 |
| One day God began to talk .....       | 24 |
| God is the Judge, let Him make .....  | 52 |

## EXAMPLE (BEING AN)

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Remember me, how I used to be .....  | 86 |
| The Lord said, "Take this good ..... | 87 |

## EXPERIENCES (HIS)

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| I was coming back ...and I knew ..... | 3  |
| I was there with God .....            | 14 |
| The Lord let me see that man's .....  | 15 |
| In these times of refreshing .....    | 18 |
| The Holy Ghost is a wonderful .....   | 23 |
| Go and pray, go and pray .....        | 31 |
| That was when Jesus talked to .....   | 59 |
| The seven vials .....                 | 64 |
| Jesus was so concerned about .....    | 88 |

## EXPERIENCES (OTHERS)

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| People were falling everywhere ..... | 17 |
| They came in after the meeting ..... | 18 |
| God healed the calf .....            | 24 |

## FAILURE

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| God showed me what would happen ..... | 88 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

## FALSE REPORTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| That fellow Sowders over there is ..... | 85 |
|---|----|

## FAMILY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I haven't been there since .....          | 8  |
| I remember when I was praying .....       | 42 |
| God calls who He wants .....              | 43 |
| The Lord said, "What are you .....        | 47 |
| Willie, I saw Jesus .....                 | 62 |
| The water was so high it covered .....    | 72 |
| Here Bill Needy, I am going to pour ..... | 72 |
| But grandmother was hardened .....        | 74 |

## FAITH

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Was it faith? NO. It was obedience ..... | 90 |
|--|----|

## FAMINE

|   |    |
|---|----|
| There is going to be a famine world ..... | 74 |
|---|----|

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| <b>FATHER (HIS)</b>                        |    |  |    |
| The Garden VS the Resurrection.....        | 1  |  |    |
| If that man had understood how.....        | 83 |  |    |
| <b>FEEDING GOD'S SHEEP</b>                 |    |  |    |
| Don't withhold the good because of...      | 61 |  |    |
| <b>FEELING THE HOLY GHOST</b>              |    |  |    |
| The housewife can feel it when.....        | 5  |  |    |
| <b>FEELINGS</b>                            |    |  |    |
| So don't you try to feel. Just trust.....  | 35 |  |    |
| <b>FIGHTING</b>                            |    |  |    |
| I would not lose my salvation.....         | 1  |  |    |
| <b>FINANCES</b>                            |    |  |    |
| I'm positive... no man can buy you....     | 91 |  |    |
| Isn't it wonderful to be under a.....      | 90 |  |    |
| <b>FISHING &amp; HUNTING</b>               |    |  |    |
| The Boot and the Seine.....                | 1  |  |    |
| God told me many a time to go.....         | 55 |  |    |
| <b>FOOL</b>                                |    |  |    |
| Say, it pays to be a fool sometimes..      | 1  |  |    |
| I lost so much blood my skin was.....      | 1  |  |    |
| Brother Bob Shelton... he would.....       | 83 |  |    |
| <b>FOOT WASHING</b>                        |    |  |    |
| There is a foot washing tonight.....       | 5  |  |    |
| I got down, and I washed that.....         | 74 |  |    |
| <b>FORGIVENESS</b>                         |    |  |    |
| The voice of the Lord, it actually.....    | 3  |  |    |
| <b>FORMALITY</b>                           |    |  |    |
| The first thing you know, they.....        | 69 |  |    |
| <b>GARDEN</b>                              |    |  |    |
| The Garden VS the Resurrection.....        | 1  |  |    |
| <b>GIFTS (SEE TALENTS AND GIFTS)</b>       |    |  |    |
| God would not put the gifts in the.....    | 94 |  |    |
| <b>GIVING</b>                              |    |  |    |
| Don't withhold the good because of...      | 61 |  |    |
| <b>GLORIFYING GOD</b>                      |    |  |    |
| Well, God was glorified. I was.....        | 92 |  |    |
| <b>GOATS</b>                               |    |  |    |
| Don't withhold the good because of...      | 61 |  |    |
| <b>GODHEAD</b>                             |    |  |    |
| I'll tell you, nobody felt like going out. | 84 |  |    |
| <b>GOD'S SILENCE</b>                       |    |  |    |
| What is the use of telling you?.....       | 91 |  |    |
| <b>GOD'S WILL</b>                          |    |  |    |
| If ever I was in the center of the.....    | 52 |  |    |
| God is the Judge, let Him make you..       | 52 |  |    |
| <b>GRACE OF GOD</b>                        |    |  |    |
| I'm glad I landed among a people.....      | 82 |  |    |
| <b>GUIDANCE</b>                            |    |  |    |
| I began to help the Spirit.....            | 22 |  |    |
| I readily saw that this was a.....         | 22 |  |    |
|  |    | There is something about this.....         | 23 |
|  |    | Study to shew thyself approved.....        | 23 |
|  |    | I was led perfectly by God in.....         | 29 |
| <b>HEALINGS (HIMSELF)</b>                  |    |  |    |
|  |    | I lost so much blood my skin was.....      | 1  |
|  |    | Has that fellow got a doctor yet? ...      | 1  |
|  |    | That fellow is about to die.....           | 2  |
|  |    | I went to my room and held that.....       | 2  |
|  |    | God said to me, "Why don't you.....        | 18 |
|  |    | I will die before I take any medicine.     | 29 |
|  |    | It was awful hard, but now I feel.....     | 34 |
|  |    | I have always stood for music.....         | 42 |
|  |    | Lord, this child has confidence in.....    | 61 |
|  |    | I didn't watch my spirit.....              | 78 |
|  |    | Then later, God gave him space.....        | 87 |
|  |    | Thank God I trusted.. I trusted Him..      | 89 |
|  |    | I wore out one set of eyes studying..      | 91 |
| <b>HEALINGS (OTHERS)</b>                   |    |  |    |
|  |    | She overcame it with the word.....         | 6  |
|  |    | You can see the Holy Spirit.....           | 8  |
|  |    | God healed the calf.....                   | 24 |
|  |    | Why wouldn't I still preach it?.....       | 35 |
|  |    | Brother Isabel brought him to.....         | 35 |
|  |    | Man healed from a paralytic.....           | 59 |
|  |    | I am not going to heal her.....            | 60 |
|  |    | When he did, that paralyzed side.....      | 60 |
|  |    | Lord, this child has confidence.....       | 61 |
|  |    | She was loaded down with dust.....         | 62 |
|  |    | Stolen waters are sweet, and.....          | 67 |
|  |    | Before I had received the Holy.....        | 83 |
|  |    | Then later, God gave him space.....        | 87 |
|  |    | Thank God I trusted.. I trusted Him....    | 89 |
|  |    | Was it faith? NO. It was.....              | 90 |
|  |    | You can't get around it.....               | 92 |
| <b>HEALINGS WITHHELD</b>                   |    |  |    |
|  |    | I am not going to heal her.....            | 60 |
| <b>HELL</b>                                |    |  |    |
|  |    | I'll tell you, nobody felt like going out. | 84 |
| <b>HIRELING</b>                            |    |  |    |
|  |    | Thank God I wasn't a hireling.....         | 90 |
| <b>HUMBELING</b>                           |    |  |    |
|  |    | I sat down and ate, asking no.....         | 80 |
|  |    | But I was laboring day and night.....      | 80 |
| <b>HUMILIATION</b>                         |    |  |    |
|  |    | Well, God was glorified. I was.....        | 92 |
| <b>HUMILITY</b>                            |    |  |    |
|  |    | The minister that is going to have.....    | 11 |
|  |    | It is something that will develop.....     | 11 |
|  |    | There are many things we can.....          | 39 |
|  |    | I never saw God any greater than.....      | 39 |
|  |    | He wasn't after the big jobs.....          | 50 |
|  |    | Well, God was glorified. I was.....        | 92 |
|  |    | But just relax, and let His will.....      | 92 |
| <b>IGNORANCE</b>                           |    |  |    |
|  |    | He knew all about the natural.....         | 37 |
| <b>IMITATING OTHERS</b>                    |    |  |    |
|  |    | When you try to be like somebody.....      | 82 |
| <b>IMPORTANCE</b>                          |    |  |    |
|  |    | But just relax, and let His will be.....   | 92 |
| <b>INTERPRETATION</b>                      |    |  |    |
| <b>JANITOR</b>                             |    |  |    |
|  |    | I had always rather been a janitor.....    | 67 |
| <b>JERUSALEM</b>                           |    |  |    |
|  |    | You will never go back to Jerusalem,       | 91 |
| <b>JEWISH PEOPLE</b>                       |    |  |    |
|  |    | Old Sam was just standing there.....       | 7  |
|  |    | It was the finest Hebrew he had.....       | 33 |
|  |    | If we put shoes on the Jew's feet.....     | 46 |
|  |    | Oh, no. I will never go to.....            | 68 |
| <b>JUDGMENTS, CHASTENINGS</b>              |    |  |    |
|  |    | God was judging me (and wife).....         | 6  |
|  |    | That was a big sin!.....                   | 15 |
|  |    | She was mad at her sister,.....            | 16 |
|  |    | I said, "God wants to talk to you".....    | 20 |
|  |    | The chastening of the Lord is a.....       | 21 |
|  |    | He has put me in the ministry of.....      | 27 |
|  |    | What I am, I am through the power..        | 27 |
|  |    | The Lord gave him space for.....           | 28 |
|  |    | It was awful hard, but now I feel.....     | 34 |
|  |    | We are going into something.....           | 38 |
|  |    | Oh God, don't let me ever get.....         | 44 |
|  |    | If it is not according to the word of....  | 46 |
|  |    | One man lost his voice and never.....      | 55 |
|  |    | When he did, that paralyzed side.....      | 60 |
|  |    | Nothing did that.. Only being cruel....    | 60 |
|  |    | I didn't watch my spirit.....              | 78 |
|  |    | Some people have laughed.....              | 81 |
|  |    | She had been unmerciful.....               | 82 |
|  |    | My God! What did that?.....                | 85 |
|  |    | People, you can't trifle with God.....     | 87 |
|  |    | Then later, God gave him space.....        | 87 |
|  |    | God showed me what would happen.....       | 88 |
|  |    | You will never go back to Jerusalem..      | 91 |
| <b>LED</b>                                 |    |  |    |
|  |    | Jesus was so concerned about His... 88     |    |
| <b>LEARNING</b>                            |    |  |    |
| <b>LITTLE CHILDREN (GOD'S PEOPLE)</b>      |    |  |    |
|  |    | For My people are starting out like.....   | 63 |
| <b>LONESOME</b>                            |    |  |    |
|  |    | And the company that comes from.....       | 66 |
| <b>LOVE</b>                                |    |  |    |
|  |    | They came to see that preacher.....        | 69 |
| <b>MAKING YOUR MIND UP</b>                 |    |  |    |
|  |    | I was going to forfeit my life.....        | 2  |

# D

## MANIFESTATIONS

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| When the light of heaven is.....      | 26 |
| They were very demonstrative.....     | 32 |
| Brother Bob Shelton... he would go .. | 83 |
| People try to do a great big.....     | 73 |
| I was walking on my hands.....        | 76 |

## MARRIAGE

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Nothing did that.. Only being cruel .... | 60 |
| He came out of there with his.....       | 86 |
| They were not married by God.....        | 91 |

## MEDICINE

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| I had met Somebody that had laid..... | 6  |
| I will die before I take any .....    | 29 |

## MEEK SPIRIT

|  |
|--|
| You'll never do it any other way but... 87 |
|--|

## MEETINGS

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| God loves to see meetings close..... | 65 |
| There was no such thing as .....     | 69 |

## MIDDLE GROUND

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Charity is bearing a lot of wildcats .... | 6  |
| I am rich unto all who call upon Me ...   | 37 |

## MINDS

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| And that which occupied their minds . | 89 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

## MINISTRY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| He has put me in the ministry of.....     | 27 |
| I'll give thee the heathen for thine..... | 28 |
| I became so strong that it just.....      | 50 |
| I'm intending, when God slips me.....     | 51 |
| I say that a man can get so close to ..   | 51 |
| Don't withhold the good because .....     | 61 |
| "I have lots of men to bring them.....    | 62 |
| Obedience is better than sacrifice .....  | 62 |
| Thank God, I was connected .....          | 63 |
| But that dear mother has told me.....     | 65 |
| People can't come around here.....        | 67 |
| I had always rather been a janitor .....  | 67 |
| They came to see that preacher.....       | 69 |
| The voice was so loud that it.....        | 69 |
| You won't take the word of God .....      | 70 |
| There was something in me.....            | 70 |
| "Son, when you were young, you ..         | 71 |
| 'Go ahead and do it! That is.....         | 72 |
| God gave me a voice like a.....           | 73 |
| God knew exactly what to do! .....        | 81 |
| "When you try to be like someone.....     | 82 |
| I'm positive ...no man can buy you ....   | 91 |
| Well, God was glorified. I was.....       | 92 |

## MISSIONARY WORKS

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| You will never go back to..... | 91 |
|--------------------------------|----|

## MISTAKES

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| A perfect dream.....                  | 57 |
| I had spent Brother Bob's money ..... | 62 |
| Could not handle Spunky like.....     | 82 |

## MONEY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I was with men, but they were not ..... | 14 |
| When the time comes that we need ..     | 15 |
| The most beautiful sun you ever .....   | 28 |
| I had spent Brother Bob's money .....   | 62 |
| Isn't it wonderful to be under a .....  | 90 |
| I'm positive ...no man can buy.....     | 91 |

## MOTHER (HIS)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| The train disappeared, and as far ..... | 2  |
| She wrote me a letter and said .....    | 7  |
| You pray for other boy's mothers .....  | 22 |
| I baptized my own mother in the.....    | 36 |
| Mother got the Holy Ghost and said ..   | 40 |
| God only hears that which comes .....   | 52 |
| Willie, I saw Jesus.....                | 62 |
| I had more concern about the home..     | 72 |
| She had been unmerciful.....            | 82 |
| I'm glad I landed among a people.....   | 82 |
| She had an understanding of.....        | 83 |

## MUSIC

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Why the Holy Ghost, the very ..... | 9  |
| I have always stood for music..... | 42 |
| God knew exactly what to do! ..... | 81 |

## NEIGHBORS

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| If you take the ways of God.....   | 75 |
| It pays to love your enemies ..... | 75 |

## NEW ISSUE (ONENESS DOCTRINE)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| That sweet little baby died, and.....       | 5  |
| I had no place to sleep, and an .....       | 37 |
| I stood for Jesus and for God.....          | 43 |
| They are rooted and grounded.....           | 48 |
| Keep your eye on me, I am on .....          | 49 |
| They wore out more Bibles in that.....      | 49 |
| God told me He would have.....              | 49 |
| Oh Lord, I feel so good, why do I feel      | 76 |
| I'll tell you, nobody felt like going ..... | 84 |
| But thank God... in the battle.....         | 84 |

## OBEDIENCE

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I obeyed them that had the rule.....      | 15 |
| God is able to take hold of a man's ...   | 43 |
| That little skinny woman took the .....   | 61 |
| Obedience is better than sacrifice .....  | 62 |
| Was it faith? NO. It was obedience..      | 90 |
| You go to Louisville, and I will give.... | 91 |

## OFFENCES

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| But I went right on eating, and..... | 80 |
|--------------------------------------|----|

## OLMSTEAD, IL

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Here in Olmstead was where God..... | 78 |
|-------------------------------------|----|

## ONENESS (SEE: NEW ISSUE)

## OPPOSITION

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I'll tell you, nobody felt like going out . | 84 |
|---|----|

## ORDER OF GOD (DIVINE ORDER)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Well, that was the beginning of the.... | 4 |
|---|---|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I am rich unto all who call upon.....   | 37 |
| Just because he fell out of the ranks . | 38 |
| Our big strong God takes weak.....      | 32 |
| And I saw it just like I see you.....   | 47 |

## ORDINATION

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| My son, this night you are..... | 26 |
|---------------------------------|----|

## ORGANIZATION (SEE 'SECTS' ALSO)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| I reached over to pull him out.....      | 30 |
| If I have to have a piece of paper ..... | 34 |
| We won't put Saul's armor on.....        | 43 |
| And I saw it just like I see you.....    | 47 |
| They are rooted and grounded.....        | 48 |
| This is not an organization.....         | 50 |
| There was something in me.....           | 70 |
| If thine enemy hunger, feed him.....     | 76 |

## OVERCOMING

|   |    |
|---|----|
| I had met Somebody that had laid.....     | 6  |
| She overcame it with the word .....       | 6  |
| I would give up my wife before I .....    | 19 |
| She would say, "Praise the Lord.....      | 19 |
| God said, "It is time for you to go ..... | 20 |
| God put us together and worked .....      | 22 |
| Study to shew thyself approved .....      | 23 |
| If thine enemy hunger, feed him.....      | 76 |
| By overcoming evil with good.....         | 76 |
| He made me to know I wasn't.....          | 80 |
| But I went right on eating .....          | 80 |
| I sat down and ate, asking no .....       | 80 |
| Could not handle Spunky like.....         | 82 |
| What caused that? I denied myself....     | 83 |
| I thought I was perfect for two or .....  | 93 |

## PECULIAR

|  |    |
|--|----|
| I'm a peculiar man.....                  | 30 |
| It is embarrassing to stand before ..... | 93 |

## PENTECOSTALS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| "I'll give thee the heathen for thine..... | 28 |
| Paul was speaking to the.....              | 29 |
| They are rooted and grounded.....          | 48 |
| I got down and washed that fellows..       | 74 |
| Thank God I wasn't a hireling.....         | 90 |

## PERFECTION

|  |    |
|--|----|
| I thought I was perfect for two or ..... | 93 |
|--|----|

## PERSECUTIONS

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| They came to see that preacher..... | 69 |
|-------------------------------------|----|

## PETS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| You can sanctify a dog or a cat.....   | 71 |
| Could not handle Spunky like you ..... | 82 |

## POLITICS

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| The KKK was filling the country..... | 31 |
| The Lord said to me, "Son. I am..... | 39 |

## POWERS (NATURAL-SUPERNATURAL)

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
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|   |    |  |    |   |    |
|---|----|--|----|---|----|
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| Some meh can't be trusted .....           | 91 | The Lord said, "Tell them to ask .....     | 3  | That sweet little baby died .....           | 5  |
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# F

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Working out his salvation..... 93

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