March 2004

shall up... EAGLES' WINGS ... with wings

as eagles."

Isaiah 40:31

AERY NEIGGEL

"They shall mount up...

> God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea, And rides upon the storm.

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take, The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy, and shall break In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace: Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.]

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

—H. Weir

Dear Fellow Learning Saints,

What is your conception of God? The Scripture tells us that, "No man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18), so man left to himself comes up with many conjectures as to what He is like. Some, of course, do not believe that He exists, using as a reason, that if He did He wouldn't allow wars and other tragic happenings, while others use the same reasoning to claim He is hard, unfeeling and not fair. With a little light, there are those who assume that His blessing will make them healthy and prosperous.

Though we cannot see God, yet we can tell by the evidences He has in His creation for us to see that He exists, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1-3).

Besides the voice of creation manifesting the ex-

istence of God, the eye of faith, depending on its singleness, can see the work of God in the everyday happenings of their lives. How prone we are when things are going well to bless God as loving and kind, but when something catastrophic occurs we are besieged by the enemy suggesting thoughts that God is unfair and unkind. Job was one who allowed several traumatic events to cause him to question God and His motives. In the end his faith was restored and he could say to God, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee" (Job 42:5). How good if we can see the hand of God over all that surrounds us and touches us.

Leaving the types, shadows and distances of the Old Testament, we come to the New Testament, where grace and truth is manifested, and in which God seeks to reveal Himself in a more intimate relationship to His own- that of a Father. To this end, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Apparently baffled by the promise of Jesus of being taken to the Father's house, and even before that becoming acquainted with Him, "Philip saith unto him, Lord shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us" (John14:8). It had not been realized that Jesus the incarnate Object Lesson, come from God the Father in the likeness of man, was a true representation of God in all His moral qualities. Thus, "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John 14:9).

Lest anyone think that the physical characteristics of Jesus in any way were a representation of God the Father, let me say that this could not be for, "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). Being full of grace and truth led our Lord to be kind, gentle, loving and compassionate, while at the same time He could firmly reprove unrighteousness, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17).

Early in His ministry, our Lord's God-likeness was questioned when, "Nathaniel said unto him (Philip), Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, come and see" (John 1: 46). And so the scrutiny was on. A little later a group came to Philip saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21). And what was seen by his listeners in Nazareth? "All bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Luke 4:22), while some of those sent to apprehend him gave as a reason for their unsuccessful attempt, "Never spake man like this man" (John 7:46). Another observer of Jesus testified to Him, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2). Taking up the little children and blessing them, as recorded in Mark 10:16, reveals His gentleness, with His act of restoring to life the son of the widow of Nain and presenting him to her (Luke 7:11-15), was an act of His compassion.

The preceding examples of the acts of our Lord while on earth in no way exhaust what He did while here, but are some examples of His display of the Father and His love, which was consummated on the cross when He laid down His precious life in love for the world. Though ascended back to heaven, He is still visible to the eye of faith and, "We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

May we ever seek to learn Christ, whether it be by the contemplation of His life and work in this scene, or His present work in the glory; knowing that we learn what the Father is like through Him.

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. . . .And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man save Jesus only." Matthew 17:5 & 8.

Still learning of Him,

Leslie L. Winters

O Lord, Thou too once hasted This weary desert through, Once fully tried and tasted Its bitterness and woe. And hence Thy heart is tender In truest sympathy, Though now the heavens render All praise to Thee on high.

—J.G.D.

For address correction or free new name addition,		
write to:		
Leslie L. Winters	or	Christine Albury