



# The Shining Light<sup>®</sup>

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## Ohio Camp Meeting 2021

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## THE SHINING LIGHT

Subsidiary of The Gospel Trumpet

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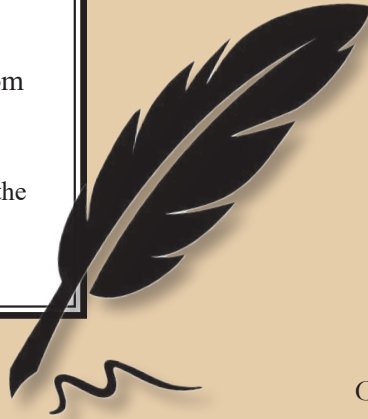
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The Shining Light is operated under the authority of the general ministerial body of the Church of God.



## Pets

A pet can be a kitten,  
A pet can be a dog,  
A pet can be a cricket  
Hopping on a log.

A duck, a sheep, a tadpole,  
A rabbit, or a bug,  
God loves them all,  
And we do too.

But the pet I like the best  
Is not like the rest;  
It's the kind that sings  
Softly and sweetly.  
Can you guess what it could be?  
Ariel Hernandez (Age 8)



## Strong Men I Know

I like my mom to read to me  
From our Bible story book.  
I learn about strong men and kings  
I like the way the pictures look.

Samson with his eyes put out  
David with his sling  
Daniel in the lion's den  
Lazarus, who had nothing.

Elias Sims (Age 8)

## The "Pandemic"

Covid 19 was used by the kings of the earth to make more money. We have to wear masks at a lot of places and little businesses have had to shut down. But I also believe this is a good time. A time that the multitudes will come flowing in. So we as a people must stand and do our part so that the multitudes will come flowing in. We cannot just sit and watch. We must get out there and do something!

I think God made it like this so the souls can come in. We must stand and say we will not bow to the king's golden image. We as a people must stand and say we will not wear masks! We must get together and say we will not social distance! Covid 19 is not something to bow down to. We have been kicked out of stores and restaurants because we refuse to wear masks. But we will be a good light to the world, and then they will get saved. People want to know if they should wear masks everywhere or not. Well, here is the answer. No! Today we have the answer for the hungry soul. We cannot let Covid 19 divide us because that is what the kings of the earth want it to do.

This system is a mess! We have the answer so people will come for refuge. This is not a time to be sleeping. Souls are waking up. Some of you have been locked down. We will continue to pray for you. They are shutting the churches down. But we will still go to service. We had one drive-in service, and we were done! If we want to win the world, we must say, "We will not bow down!" Do not bow down! Sis. Joanna Thilmony (Age 7)



Ages  
3-5





Ages  
6-8





# Ages 9-12



# A Living Experience

From a message by  
Sis. Elizabeth Oppel

I am so glad to really be saved and be a child of God. I was nine years old when the Lord gloriously saved my soul! When I came to the saints at the age of seven, I didn't understand everything, but as I got a little older, I started to feel conviction and to feel guilty for the sins I had done. I wasn't a drug addict, and I hadn't been on the streets, but I was a filthy sinner before God. There came a point in my life when I said, "Lord, I don't care what it takes, I just want to be saved." And in the hour of desperation, I got on my knees and the Lord gloriously saved my soul.

I remember as a child, Bro. Jason Hargrave singing "My Heavy Burdens Rolled Away." I wasn't even a teenager. I was still sitting with my Papa, and as they started singing that song I walked up and down the isles with glory in my soul! I didn't have to wait for all the saints to rejoice; a well was springing up within my own soul! When I was nine, we lived in the country and had a long lane; and I would ride my bicycle up and down the lane, and you know what I was doing? I was praying, "God, talk to me!"

I am thirty-three years old now, and I have never gone back to sin, never backslidden, and never sinned one time. I have never had to repent for sin again because Jesus gave me a real experience of salvation. I want to tell you that my experience is not an exception, but is the normal Christian experience. Children, you can get saved when you're young; you can stay saved through your teenage years, as you get married, and when you have children. You can stay saved all the way to heaven! Salvation is for anyone that wants to pay the price.

In the world that we live in, salvation has been brought to such a low point that you can claim to be saved and still be a sinner. You can claim to be alive and be dead. But I am glad for a place that is still teaching true salvation. A place that doesn't only cause a form of godliness, but the power that comes with salvation. The Bible talks about living creatures; it talks about being

transformed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Salvation is NOT a boring experience; it's not turning over a new leaf. Salvation is not a New Year's resolution, but salvation is getting a brand new book and living in a brand new world. I'm glad this morning that there's a salvation experience for everybody that desires to have it.

I fear that there could be a tendency for you children and young people to not really get a hold of a real experience, because you know the terminology—you know you are supposed to pray at the prayer bench, you know how to dress and what to wear; but I want to tell you that's not enough. It's not enough to say the right words and to say you have conviction. You children and young people need to get a hold of a true experience of salvation that can prepare you for heaven. You must have something that can make you run when you don't feel like running, and shout when you don't feel like shouting, something that can help you resist temptations. We are not in the business of making churchy people.

The Bible talks about Jesus when he went to the well. There was a woman there who was caught in iniquity. She had had multiple husbands and she needed to get an experience of salvation. Jesus told her something very wonderful in John 4:13: "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall give them shall never thirst. But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of living water springing up into everlasting life." Jesus is saying here that if you drink of a churchy experience, and if you drink of an experience that is not of the water that He gives you, an experience that only makes you feel better in your conscience, that is not the real thing, and you will thirst again.

Don't settle for anything less than communion with Jesus Christ. If you don't have an experience that makes you happy, then you don't have an experience at all. I don't understand how you can be saved and never



have any moving of the Holy Ghost in your life. There must be something that wells up inside you! Some people have a crank on their experience. They have to crank it up to get anywhere. That's not an experience of salvation; salvation takes over. There are times I come to meeting tired and don't want to testify, but there's a springing up in my soul, and I can't keep quiet! If salvation doesn't excite you, you just don't have it. You need to experience a crisis in your life! Just because you dress right, just because you come to service doesn't mean you've had a crisis experience. If you're dead, you're just not saved. If you don't have any kind of bubbling on your soul, you're missing out on something really good! True salvation will make you happy. You can come down to the prayer bench a filthy, dirty sinner burdened with sin, or as a backslider and get a hold of God. You can get a glow on your face and feel your burdens roll away!

Ezekiel 39:12 talks about the effects of the battle of Gog and Magog. You will not get away from this battle. You are born in this time, and you will be on one side or the other. Anyone who is not on God's side is on the side of the dead. Some of you reading this are lying dead on the ground. Verse 12 says, "In seven months the house of Israel shall be burying of them," and that's what we're doing right now. We are

cleansing the land, glory to God! Dead bones, you have two options: either become alive or we're burying you. The church of God will be a clean place! This is not about you, this is about God's church! "And it shall be to them a renown, the day that I shall be glorified." Do you know what glorifies the Lord? When the wheat and the tares are separated and gathered into bundles. Well, glory!

I want to warn you about becoming a tare by association. If your best friend is dead, we will assume that you are also dead. This is not time for us to have dead religion. Are you thirsting for the world? Is the temptation so strong you can't even resist? Then you need the well of living water that springs up into life eternal. If you don't have it, it's there for you today.

Let me tell you one more thing. When you get a hold of the well of living water, you don't ever have to let it go! It's so good! I've been saved for twenty-four years, and I'm never going back! It's been the best twenty-four years of my life! I know that there is a cost to this salvation, but after you obtain it, you'll realize that you've been worried about nothing.

It's so wonderful to be a Christian! Children, if you don't have salvation, it is for you! Get an experience from a young age. Thank God for the well that springs up into everlasting life, a salvation that lasts in this life and leads you to the next! Hallelujah!!

# Five Steps to Backsliding

By Bro. Ray Tinsman

## 1. Sloppy Living

Sloppy in standards, convictions, thoughts, and relationships

## 2. Doubts

Doubts about yourself, lack of aggressive Christianity,  
withdrawal

## 3. Fault-finding

Finding fault with others, excuses—i.e. “I’m just real,”  
fellowship with like people

## 4. Confusion

No one can be good, confusion about everything

## 5. Backslidden

Bitterness