

difficulties have loomed on our horizon. But I believe God is behind all these trials and will bless and save these poor people.

Do you join us in believing prayer.

Yours in Jesus,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

Hartland P. O.,

Natal, South Africa

Dear Homeland Friends:

We are having a regular African down-pour of rain, and it is marvellous to see and hear it. The dongas are roaring like a great waterfall and it is less than an hour since the first drop fell. Our tubs are brimming over with lovely soft water, and the earth is simply drenched, with brooks of water running in every direction. It seems we are to have a normal rainy season this year after several seasons of drought, and the people are plowing and gardening, rejoicing in the prospect of a good year for food—unless hail storms destroy the gardens later. Already we have had a number of great rains. Last week we had a terrific wind and rain storm. We received word from Altona that our tent blew down and the goods which we left behind got well soaked. Isaya, his wife and the teacher saved them from destruction, for which we are very grateful indeed. The boys came back from brick making with the report that the wind carried away the covering from the bricks already made, and the rain spoiled them, so we see there is no use going on with brick-making during such a rainy summer as this promises to be. We can only hope to get some kind of a grass shelter as soon as we can go back, and make brief visits until the heavy rains are over. I have lost my fine horse since our last trip over there, so must wait until I can get another, which I trust may be soon. "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, who are called according to His purpose" and "our times are in His hands," therefore we are sure that all will be well if we trust and obey.

Even though our hearts so long to be there we are content to wait His further plans, knowing that His heart yearns over that needy field and that He hears and answers prayer in behalf of those precious souls. We know that He has a special purpose in our being here at this time, and we see the manifestation of His loving care in being sheltered in our home during these violent downpours. While the summer storms rage we can continue in prayer unto the Lord of the harvest, and, dear friends, there is no greater need in the work today than that of prayer. We need to pray and keep on praying until His will is brought to pass and the word going forward in the power of the Holy Ghost. For this we are crying unto Jesus. Continue in prayer for us that we may see a gracious outpouring of the Spirit of God here in Africa. My soul is reaching out for greater things and He is very gracious unto my cry and doing wonderful things for me in grace. I do love and praise Him. His sanctifying power is in my soul. Praise His name.

When this letter reaches you we will have entered the new year. May it be a very wonderful victory for us all through the precious blood of Jesus, and may we see many souls brought to Jesus.

Yours in the sweet will of God,

ALICE F. STERRITT

### OBJECTIONS TO HOLINESS

C. V. Fairbairn

"Then Elisha said, Thus saith the Lord, Tomorrow shall a measure of flour be sold for a shekel. Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof" (2 Kings vii. 1:2).

"And the Lord spake saying, Ye shall be holy; for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Lev. xix. 1:2).

So accustomed is the race to unholiness, that, right in the face of God's express command-promise, many a one, like the sceptical nobleman, declares that the divine will cannot be accomplished. Some of the favorite objections to the experience of holiness follow.

(1) IT IS NOT POSSIBLE—Then God has commanded the impossible, and yet has declared that without holiness we cannot see the Lord. Then, if it is impossible to be holy, God has practically told us that no one can get to heaven.

God is not a tyrant. "He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." He knew all about impossibilities when He said, "Ye shall be holy." Then, since with us this is impossible, and since God commands it, He must assume the full responsibility of making us holy. This he does. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (1 Thess. v.24).

(2) IT CANNOT BE DONE IN THIS LIFE—We will be holy in heaven; but we cannot be holy here. This objection leaves out of account the power of Omnipotent God. It views the question from the merely human standpoint.

God gave his oath, "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life" (Lk. i.73-75); and he tells us, "that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world" (Titus ii.12).

(3) THIS IS A NEW DOCTRINE—Nay, it is God's original purpose in creation. "He hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thess. ii.13). "He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Eph. i.4).

(4) IT WAS FOR THE APOSTLES ONLY—God says that it is "all men" who are to live soberly, righteously, and godly here. Jesus' prayer was not alone for his disciples; but "for all them that believe on Him through their word." "The promise is to . . . even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts ii.39).

(5) BUT THERE IS NONE RIGHT-EOUS, NO NOT ONE—Please do not try to make the Lord contradict Himself. He declares that Abel (Heb. xi.4), Noah (Heb. xi.7), Zechariah and Elizabeth (Lk. i.6), and Simeon (Lk. ii.25), were all righteous. If your contention is right, then these could not be righteous; but God says they were. When God says, "There is none righteous," He refers to man apart from grace and to no others. See Rom. iii.10-18. Yet, nevertheless, if they, even they, shall walk in the light, they shall

also be made righteous. See I. John i.7.

(6) THERE IS NONE PERFECT—No one is perfect in physique, or mind, or absolutely, as God is perfect; but we can have that "perfect love," which "casteth out fear."

"Well," says one, "Paul said that he wasn't perfect." Yes, in Phil. iii.12, he said that; and then in Phil. iii.15, he said he was perfect. Please reconcile these. Read the whole context and you will see that Paul said that he had not yet finished (perfected) the course he was running, but that he was going to keep running the race till he did perfect or finish the course. Then he says, "Let those of us, who are perfect, be thus minded." God declares that Noah (Gen. vi.9) Job (Job ii.3), and, by endorsing his prayer, Hezekiah, were perfect.

7) BUT OUR PREACHER DOES NOT PREACH IT—God commands it. Is your preacher ignorant of this? The Bible is full of it. Is your preacher an unbeliever? This much is true: he cannot preach the experience if he does not enjoy it; and he cannot enjoy the experience and not preach holiness. Paul had a first blessing, a revelation of Christ to him; but he also had a second blessing, a revelation of Christ in him. Paul preached holiness. Pray that your preacher get the second revelation, then he too will preach holiness.

(8) BUT SO MANY PROFESS IT WHO DO NOT LIVE IT—"We are not responsible for others, but only for our own obedience to God's commands. The same reasoning, if applied to the trades and temporal occupations, would keep you out of them all. For in educational life only a small percentage of those who graduate know how to think; only a trifle over five per cent of business men avoid bankruptcy; more than ninety per cent of the sick suffer with preventable diseases; and so on throughout the list, as infinitum. Man is a neglecter, a waster of his opportunities, and the excuse you offer, if made the law of your decisions in all respects, would close to you every door of life." (J. R. Pitt).

(9) SO LONG AS I GET TO HEAVEN I SHALL BE SATISFIED WITHOUT ANY GREAT PROFESSIONS OF HOLINESS. An old darkey mammy, after listening to a white brother declare that he would be satisfied to get a back-seat in heaven, responded "M-m-m-m, honey, de back seats am all spoken for. People needs to press up to de front dese days." God says that "there shall enter there nothing that defileth;" that "without holiness no man shall see the Lord;" that the very road to heaven "shall be called the way of holiness." (Rev. xxi.27. Heb. xii. 15. Isa. xxxv.8-10).

Brother, your difficulties may be real; they may be pretended; but, be what they may, God says, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Were it possible to get to heaven without holiness, without it you could not see God; and to be in heaven and never see God, if this were possible, would unheaven heaven.

Some day HOLINESS is going to be popular. Men are going to see it as the great essential, the sine qua non, and cry for it, when it will be too late to obtain it. Some day you will see that God does indeed fulfill his every promise, and does make men holy. I pray God that it may not be with you as it was with the Samaritan nobleman, who saw the fulfillment with his eyes, but never tasted the benefits. Unbelief forfeited the blessing for him; it will do the same for you. McPherson, Kansas.