

## SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

The spiritual world is in conflict. There is the conflict between darkness and light, between the forces of Satan and the forces of God. Jesus declared: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him." Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Satan desires to keep men in bondage to their sin, disease and superstition. The end product of this bondage is eternal death. "The wages of sin is death." Christ said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He desires to set men free.

Because of this conflict between Satan and Christ, you and I are faced with spiritual conflict. As individuals, we are told to put on the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the girdle of truth, shoes to speed the publishing of the gospel of peace, and a shield of faith. More than that, he has given us as our offensive weapon the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Wherever the Word of God is taken to set men free, to loose them from the bondage of sin, there is conflict. Let us not cringe in this spiritual conflict. Because of Calvary, Satan is a defeated foe. Rather, we cry out for all to hear, "Let me burn out for Thee, dear Lord, let me burn out for Thee."

## POLITICAL CONFLICT

The political world is in conflict. Jesus said, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet, for nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. In Laos tonight there is still conflict. In Viet Nam a small group of guerillas is stealthily making its way through the jungle. Its object: to capture and torture forces loyal to the Government. In a dank basement of Buenos Aires a group of young men plot the overthrow of their government. Cuba, that once-tranquil island, now bristles with Communist guns. High in the Himalya mountains China occupies 14,000 square miles of Indian territory. India is determined to get it back - by force. Berlin is an island of freedom in a sea of slavery. The Dutch have left New Guinea to the United Nations. Soon this second largest island in all the world will be turned over to a blustering Indonesia. Brazil exists from month to month in the midst of political crisis. Troops are marching on Formosa; will they ever march on the mainland? Congo is still in civil war. Israel's Arab enemies threaten her, but fear her army. Algeria, newly independant, deserted by the French, now hangs in the balances.

Over all there hangs the terror of a possible World War III. The atom bombs that fell on Japan are primitive and puny compared to today's 100 megaton H bombs and the dreaded cobalt bomb. "There shall be wars and rumors of wars." This world is in conflict.

## NATURE'S CONFLICT

The natural world is in conflict. Jesus said: "There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." This prophecy is fulfilled in our day. Two examples. On the northwest face of Peru's tallest mountain, Glacier 511 absorbed the amber warmth of a setting Capricorn sun. The mass of ice was huge. Droplets of melt seeped into its cracked surface, and the water lubricated its cliffy footing. Heat, cold and gravity were writing a fatal equation. It was 6:13 Jan. 10, 1962. Seven minutes later 3 million tons of ice had hurtled 9 miles down the mountainside burying Peruvian villages in its path and killing three thousand five hundred people.

In April the Chinese Peoples Congress gathered in The Great Hall of the People in Peking. There they heard that China was not able to feed her own people. The horrifying famine had cut the Chinese diet by 30 % in three years. How bad was it? No one knows, but conditions were worse than the terrible famine of 1877 which killed 13 million Chinese. Already weakened by 2 years of bare rations, deficient in calories, thousands of Chinese were swept away by disease. Though they scoured the hills for edible plants and grasses, many died of outright starvation. 600 million Chinese had faced a winter of famine—only the fit survived. "There shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in various places." This world is in conflict.