

Masking Symptoms or Curing the Disease

By J. D. Williams

Recently I experience an affliction common to all, the common cold! I took all the usual stuff and waited for it to just go away. As I took the different kinds of medicines for various symptoms, I noticed some of the labels. This one stops watery, itchy eyes; this one stops coughing and sneezing. Others reduce fever, soothe sore throats, or relieve a stuffy nose. As I read these labels, I wondered, if all of my symptoms are cured, why do I still have a cold? You would think if no symptoms exist, neither would the condition. Of course I think we all understand that these medications only mask the symptoms, and do not cure them. And while you may feel pretty good and go about your business, you still have a cold and only time will cure it.

As I thought about this, I kept thinking, there must be a lesson in this somewhere. Here is what I think it is. Taking cold medicines is like practicing denominationalism. It doesn't really cure what ails you, spiritually, it only masks the symptoms. As stated above, if you take enough medication, you will probably feel great and go about your business as usual. But you are still not cured. And denominationalism will not cure you of that deadly disease called sin! Satan's medicine will only trick you into thinking you are healthy. Most cold products will stop short of promising to actually cure you, but they promise the next best thing. That may be great for the cold virus but the next best thing is no good when your soul's salvation is involved, because there is no next best thing! You need the real cure that only God's word can provide. No amount of denominational medicine Satan prescribes will cure you. Only obedience to God's word will.

Horse Sense

A preacher trained his horse to go when he said, "Praise the Lord," and to stop when he said, "Amen." The preacher mounted the horse, said, "Praise the Lord" and went for a ride. When he wanted to stop for lunch, he said, "Amen." He took off again, saying, "Praise the Lord." The horse started going toward the edge of a cliff. The preacher got excited and said, "Whoa!" Then he remembered and said, "Amen," and the horse stopped at the edge of the cliff. The preacher was so relieved and grateful that he looked up to heaven and said, "Praise the Lord!"

Just Kill the Spider

One of the deacons was frequently called upon to pray at the mid-week service, and he always concluded his prayer the same way: "...and now Lord, clean out all the cobwebs in our lives." I think you know what he was talking about -- those little unsightly words, deeds and thoughts that we let accumulate throughout the week.

Well, it got to be too much for one brother who heard him say that prayer so many times. So one Wednesday night after hearing these words again, he jumped to his feet and shouted, "Don't do it, Lord; JUST KILL THE SPIDER!"

Brethren, how well it would be if we would kill the spider rather than continue to have our lives filled with cobwebs. We will never be able to live acceptably for God and

reach the heights Christ sets for us until deep inside of us we have the desire to be clean and right.

The greatest problem faced by the average Christian is that we do not have the desire to really give up the world and completely surrender to Christ. Thus, we always find our lives cluttered with "cobwebs," with sins and mistakes.

Let's start inside of our lives. Once we kill the spider, we will no longer have to worry about the bothersome cobwebs. (Author Unknown)

My Own Back Yard By Ellen Kyle

I was sitting and wondering what is love,
The kind described by God above.
How will I know it, how will I see,
God please show this love to me.
I was wondering, hoping for an answer to my prayer,
Then suddenly I understood, it was everywhere.
I saw it in a couple who had a loved one slip away,
And came to worship that very same day.
I saw it in a woman struggling with ill health,
And never once showed she felt sorry for herself.
I saw it in a couple so elderly and frail,
Who always are so friendly and attend without fail.
I saw it in a man who gives his time to teach,
Because the lost he loves and wants so much to reach.
I saw it in a preacher who's not afraid to cry,
And say how much he loves us and for heaven we must try.
I saw it in his wife, who tries God's ways to live,
I saw her daily walk and that she has so much to give.
I saw it in a woman that who through unfailing love,
Has done so very much to help me know God above.
I saw it in the families who teach their children right,
And have not given up the struggle no matter how hard the fight.
I saw it in the teens who gave in to their peers,
And came and repented, their eyes filled with tears.
I saw it in the ones who always come alone,
When their spouses chose to just stay home.
I saw it in friends that have done so much for me,
They are always there to encourage and to uplift me.
Lord help me to remember when my search for love seems hard,
I only need to look in my own backyard.

I Forgot To Live

First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
And then, I was dying to finish college and start work.

And then, I was dying to marry and have children.
And then, I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.
And then, I was dying to retire.
And now, I am dying...
I forgot to live!

A Moments Wisdom

People who do a lot of kneeling don't do much lying.
Poverty of character is far worse than poverty of purse.
To truly achieve one must truly believe.
Deeper giving means deeper living.
We are known by what we say — and by what we don't say.
Instead of picking you up, alcohol will let you down.
To stand and walk straight, one must kneel often.