



THE
WORD OF
FAITH

Inspiring Messages

By

Missionary Evangelist

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THE BURDEN BEARER

I saw him today as I walked along
A path on a rock-strewn hill
An Indian bearing a granite slab
For use in a distant mill.

Bound fast with a rope on his shoulders lay
The crushing, fatiguing load
That gnawed at the life of the poor peon
That climbed up the toilsome road.

Bent double beneath the tremendous weight
He painfully staggered on;
It seemed he must fall in the rocky path
That all of his strength was gone.

I say, as he leaned on a jutting rock
To rest for a moment there,
The look in his eyes, such a hopeless look
That told of his heart's despair.

I read in the piteous upturned eyes
And saw in the sweat-streaked face,
The cry of the suffering, sin cursed souls,
The plea of his downtrod race.

Exhausted by burdens more heavy by far
and fainting by life's long road,
They gasp out for mercy and hopeless wait
For someone to lift their load.

Then give them the gospel in all it's power
To shatter the chains that bind,
And watch the sad gaze turn to glorious joy
Through Jesus the Hope of mankind.

L. J. WALKER

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

(EPHESIANS 5:18)

The greatest need of the Church of Jesus Christ today is a mighty Holy Spirit baptism. Billy Graham in an address to ministers in California said, *“I believe the time has come to give the Holy Spirit His rightful place in our preaching, in our teaching, and in our churches. We need to go back and study again, what Paul meant when he said, ‘Be filled with the Spirit.’ We need to learn once again what it means to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* Many groups in an effort to become recognized and accepted by the church world have hindered and quenched the Holy Spirit. Instead of being filled with the Spirit, the church is filled with pride, filled with carnal professors, and filled with worldly goods. The Body of Christ on this godless, sinful, pleasure mad earth must be so filled with the Spirit that she will again capture the attention of the world by signs and wonders and holy living. The Holy Spirit must again be allowed to move in convincing power until sinners cry out for mercy. Nothing but the supernatural moving of God’s Spirit will draw and save sinners and deliver the captive souls from the snare of Satan! The Spirit of God does not repel sincere seekers, but He draws them unto himself! We cannot win the world by compromise; it must be made shockingly aware of sin by the difference in Holy Ghost filled believers. The only program that will turn cities upside down as did Paul, is God’s program of preaching the Word in demonstration and with power. The great spiritual giants of the past were men who were dedicated to the service of Christ alone. Unless Christ is the head of our churches and our individual lives, we can expect very little of the moving of the Holy Spirit, there is absolutely no room for anything else. His presence so fills our beings that the prince of this world has no landing strip in our souls. The early Church not only had received the initial baptism of the Holy Spirit, but they were continually being refilled and refreshed. After being purged in the fire of persecution we read, *“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, and they spake the Word of God with boldness.”* (ACTS 4:24,31)

WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO RECEIVE POWER.

In His last address to His disciples, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* (ACTS 1:8) They were not to preach, teach, or start organizing churches, but to WAIT for heaven sent endowment of power. Many have been dismayed and disappointed having been taught that with regeneration they have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and inwardly struggle with conflicts and turmoils. They hurry into the work of God and attempt to witness while very much unprepared for the task. One of the curses of the church today is the thousands of pulpits that are filled with a generation of ministers that have never experienced the endowment of power to preach. You may wonder why so little spiritual fruit is harvested when thousands of sermons are being preached each day. It is not only the Word that regenerates, but also the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not to wield the Word; it is the Spirit’s sword! It is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that gives boldness and authority to our preaching and ministry. *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”* (ACTS 4:13) These same men that once fled in terror and denied the Lord, were now bold in faith, *“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”* (ACTS 4:33) The people were amazed at this holy boldness and this power to heal the sick and to cast out devils. They fearlessly accused the Jews of murder, they boldly proclaimed Christ as Lord and God, and they proved this by healing the sick in His name. This is God’s program for today! Be filled with the Spirit!

THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES THE PLACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST IN THE BELIEVER.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.”

(JOHN 16:7)

The Holy Spirit is the vicar of Christ on earth. He speaks what He hears and guides us into all truth. He comforts, He encourages, He exhorts, He strengthens, He edifies and He reproves. The Church, the mystical body of Christ, has only one head, and He is the Lord Jesus. He governs and leads through the voice and influence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit separates unto the ministry, He sends out His workers and missionaries and He equips with the gifts of the Spirit. The errors and

doctrines of devils that have crept into the church have come in through the door of carnal organizations and refused the organization of the Spirit. They have forsaken the gift of the prophet and the apostle and in their place have tried to set up a democratic form of Church. The Holy Spirit will always lead us into truth and into paths of righteousness. If we are not filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will miserably fail in our Christian life, and eventually fall into the snare of the devil. *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* (JOHN 14:26)

WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO IMPART THE GIFTS TO HIS CHURCH.

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the believer has the potential of having one or more of the nine gifts of the Spirit in operation in His life. *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to EVERY MAN to profit withal.”* (1COR 12:7) They are not to be confused with natural talents or abilities, but each are supernatural manifestations of the Spirit, operated by the Spirit. These gifts are given for the edification and spiritual welfare of the Church, and without them, she will be incomplete in many aspects. As individuals we are admonished to put on the whole armour of God to withstand the wiles of the devil; so as a Church, we must become partakers of all the nine gifts of the Spirit. These gifts can be separated into three parts: gifts of utterance, gifts of revelation, and gifts of power. The three gifts of utterance are the gift of prophecy, the gift of divers kinds of tongues, and the gift of interpretation of tongues. The gifts of revelation are; the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits. The gifts of power are; the gift of faith, the gifts of healing, and the working of miracles. The gifts of the Spirit must be desired, they must be coveted, and they must be earnestly sought after. We must have more teaching on these truths to whet our spiritual appetite so that God will have the opportunity to shower us with these gifts. When these gifts are not sought after diligently, it is a sign of spiritual weakness and unhealthiness. A healthy Christian will hunger and thirst after God and have a healthy appetite for the things of God. Besides being thought, these gifts must be given the opportunity to be exercised in our services. The Holy Spirit is not an intruder in our programs, HE MUST DIRECT AND GUIDE and operate the gifts at will.

The nine gifts of the Spirit are for service, and the nine fruits of the Spirit are for fruit bearing in Christian character. Besides these gifts and fruits of the Spirit, there are five gifts of ministry given by our ascended Lord to His Church. None of these five gift ministries have been superseded, but all are necessary until the end of the Church Age.

“And He [Christ] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”
(EPHESIANS 4:11-13)

These gift ministries are given by Christ for the organization, edifying and governing of the Church until the end of the age. We need as never before to hear the voice of the prophet in our midst crying out against sin, separating unto the ministry and revealing the future to the Church. The ministry of the prophet and the apostle did not die with the twelve apostles but is ordained of God through the centuries of the Church age. It is written of the church at Antioch, *“...there were...certain prophets and teachers.”* (ACTS 13:1) Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles wrote, *“...as it is NOW REVEALED unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”* (EPH 3:5) He was not referring to the prophets of old, but of the New Testament prophets that were present in the Church. In these days of restoration, may God again restore unto His church the full ministry He has predestined for the consummation of the ages.

WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PRODUCE THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN US.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:”
(GALATIANS 5:22.23)

Greater than the power to work wonders and more enduring than the gifts of the Spirit is the fruit of Christian character produced in us by the life of God. When these fruits are abounding in us, we are assured of being a powerful witness for Christ and we will certainly be exercised in the gifts of the Spirit. Without these fruits, we will, *“...become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”* (1COR 13:1)

As the moisture of the earth is to a tree, so the Spirit of God is to the believer. The Divine life of God flowing through us will produce the fruit of the Spirit. Jesus said, *“I am the true vine...Every branch that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may*

bring forth more fruit.” (JOHN 15:1,2)

As the sap cannot flow through dead branches, so the life of God is hindered by the dead (carnal) things of our lives. When we are purged by the Word, we will produce more perfect and abundant fruit and so glorify God. Not only will the fruitless Christian be cut off, but He will die on his own accord as a tree withers from lack of moisture. As the moisture of the earth brings the minerals and the strength to the tree, so the Spirit of God brings the Word to the Christian. If we are filled with the Spirit, we, *“shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth His fruit in His season; His leaf also shall not wither....”* (Psalm 1:3) When the spiritual drought is severe, you will have a deep source of supply that will keep your leaf green in drought time. Unless there are showers of blessings, many Christians seem to lose the victory and grow parched in their souls. When the rain is scarce, we must learn to dig a well and so feed our souls from the streams of life. When the showers fail, dig a well of prayer and your soul shall be watered from the Lord. *“Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* (JOHN 4:14) Amen.

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
(ACTS 2:1-4)

The Christian Church was conceived in an atmosphere of love, unity and prayer. The Holy Spirit found one-hundred and twenty people with one mind and in one accord. Their only purpose was to wait for His coming in obedience to the promise of Jesus. A harmony of spirit pervaded the upper room and a holy expectancy filled each heart. Suddenly from the portals of the throne room He came as a rushing might wind. The angels witnessed the following scene with holy awe as the promise of the Father was fulfilled. The room became charged with His presence as cloven tongues as of fire sat upon each disciple. In that moment the Holy Spirit came in to each one and gave evidence of the indwelling by speaking through human lips in other tongues. They did not whisper these supernatural utterances but allowed them to pour forth in unutterable gushings of joy and love. They were immersed and bathed in the Spirit by the great Baptizer that John spoke of. The holy ecstasy was so great in them that they were accused of being drunken with wine. Peter stood up on that memorable day and boldly declared, *“These are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...”* (ACTS 2:15-17) These followers of Christ were not drunken as the crowd supposed but had tasted of the wine of the Spirit; they had been endued with the power from on high and would never again return to the ritual of dead religion. The shadow and type of the Old Testament was now fulfilled in this manifestation. The high priest went once a year into the Holy of Holies to present a sacrifice for the sins of the people. At the border of his garment, there hung tiny bells interspersed with pomegranates. The people waited in the court listening intently to the tinkling of the bells on the garment of the high priest and so were assured that the blood sacrifice was accepted by God. Peter said of Jesus, *“Therefore, being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”* (ACTS 2:33) Jesus Christ our High Priest once and for all presented the sacrifice of Himself for the sins of the world. The proof that He was accepted as our sin bearer was the resurrection from the dead. As the bells signified that the Priest was alive and interceding for the people, so the gift of tongues signifies today that our heavenly High Priest is alive and at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. Peter could boldly declare, *“being by the right hand of God exalted...He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”* (v 33) The pomegranates represent the gifts of the Spirit now given to the Church that should be continually in operation in His mystical Body until the end of this dispensation.

The day of Pentecost marked the beginning of the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. This dispensation will terminate with the second coming of Christ when the Bride will take her place with her heavenly Bridegroom. Until this time, the Holy Spirit will continue His work in the Church as in the New Testament Church. We will never out-date the pattern set forth in the Book of Acts; it is God’s masterpiece in evangelization. It is the full -gospel as set forth here, that must be preached in all the world as a witness before the end come!

THE REVIVAL IN SAMARIA

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵ Who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶ (For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)” (ACTS 8:14-16).

These believers had received the Word of God through the anointed preaching of Philip and had given *“heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.”* (ACTS 8:6) They had received Christ as Saviour and had been baptized in water in Christian baptism; nevertheless, the Word clearly states that they had not received the Holy Ghost. Even though the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost years earlier, each believer must receive for himself, this same infilling and baptism. The apostles, Peter and John, followed the same pattern that marked the entire Book of Acts after Pentecost and *“Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”* (ACTS 8:17) We notice that there was an immediate manifestation accompanying the baptism because

Simon SAW this and offered them money. (v-18) After the conversion of Saul, we see that he also received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. *“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; AND PUTTING HIS HANDS ON HIM said, ...the Lord...hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”* (ACTS 9:17) Although no reference is made here of the evidence of tongues, Paul clearly states in the Epistle to the Corinthians the use of tongues in the Church and said, *“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.”* (1COR 14:18)

HE COMES TO THE GENTILES OF THE ITALIAN BAND

Peter went down to those of the house of Cornelius and preached Christ to them. They gladly received the Word of God and were then sealed with the Holy Spirit. *“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word...For they heard them SPEAK WITH TONGUES and magnify God.”* (ACTS 10:44-46) The Jewish believers that accompanied Peter were amazed when they heard the evidence of supernatural tongues and were convinced that the Gentiles had received the Holy Ghost in the same manner as they in the beginning.

THE DISCIPLES AT EPHESUS

When Paul found certain disciples at Ephesus, he immediately wanted to know the extent of their knowledge in Christ. The early Church greatly recognized the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and each believer was urged to receive it immediately. He said unto them, *“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.”* (ACTS 19:2) After baptizing them in Christian baptism *“Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied.”* (v 6) Here again we see the evidence of other tongues accompanying the baptism of the Holy Spirit together with the gift of prophecy. As conclusive evidence that this would be the sign unto the end of the dispensation, Christ said, *“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; THEY SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES.”* (MARK 16:17)

TO WHOM HE IS GIVEN

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for the believer that is deeply in love with Jesus and who keeps His Word. The world cannot receive Him, because it has no eyes for Him and is not interested in knowing Him intimately. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit brings the believer into a rich and rewarding love relationship with His Lord. Through Him we have access to the Father and by His influence we can understand the feelings of the heart of God. The Holy Spirit within separates from the world and places a deep longing in the yielded believer for the full redemption of his body. It is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of purchased possession which is our entire beings. The creature is subject to sin and the Spirit within that brings us into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God free from the law of sin and death. As we yield to His influence, the urgings of the Spirit become stronger drawing us closer to God and deeper in the centre of His will. Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit the believer will be stunted in his Christian growth and cannot know the deep experiences of the victorious life.

Our heavenly Father longs to give the Holy Spirit more than we desire to receive Him. The Lord has promised to take up his abode in those that love Him and that keep His commandments. This gift is promised to those that will diligently ask in faith. *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?”* (LUKE 11:13) The Lord requires a sincere hunger in the heart of the seeker which prepares him in heart and mind to appreciate and love the presence of God. Even though it is not necessary to tarry for the Spirit as far as God is concerned, tarrying before God can be blessed for it prepares the heart of the seeker. We should not cease to tarry after receiving the infilling but should continue seeking God for ministries or the impartation of the gifts. The Lord invited those with spiritual thirst to come unto Him and drink. When God places a thirst in the human heart, He has that which will fill this desire. If we hunger and thirst we shall be filled with good things from the hand.

In his great soul-stirring sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter said, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”* (ACTS 2:38-39)

The Lord said, *“He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive.”* (JOHN 7:38-39) For you that thirst, this promise is for YOU! for you that are called by His Spirit, this promise is for

you! Peter declared that God hath given the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him.

As you enter into His presence now, let there be an entire submission to His will and a yielding to His Spirit. After being assured of His cleansing in your heart, release your faith in a moment of time. If you cannot go to one with a ministry in the Holy Spirit, alone in the closet prayer, God will come to you. Expect Him to come to abide with you and wait in an attitude of faith. As His presence fills the room, drink in of this presence as a thirsty man refreshes himself with cool water. As the Holy Spirit comes in to abide, a great welling up of joy and power will pour from you. Allow His praises to pour unhindered from your lips. God dwells in the praises of His people. As you yield your faculties to His Spirit, He will give utterance in unknown tongues as evidence of His abiding presence. *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”* (REV. 3:20)

The Beauty Of and reproach. Prayer is looked upon by most as a burden rather than a blessing. Many indulge in prayer only when in desperate need or in times of public worship. Prayerlessness is looked upon as a weakness, rather than a sin, and many excuses are often found to justify this weakness. There are many that secretly conceal an aversion to prayer and hold that many of their prayers have not been answered. This causes them to harbour a secret resentment, even though never uttered, against God. To too many, prayer has been a disappointment, and therefore indulged in less and less. Others continue praying with extreme exertion and constantly force themselves to utter repetitions believing it their duty to God and man. Instead of a joyful communion between two deeply in love, it becomes a means to obtain ones needs or a fuel for the fires of religious egotism.

Prayer means many things to many people. Most people pray in one form or another and many will fervently avow that there is power in prayer.

The reason for most of these erroneous concepts of prayer is the ignorance of the Spirit of Prayer. The Holy Spirit is understood more clearly in His seven-fold manifestation. John refers to the seven-fold Holy Spirit in Revelation 5:6, as the seven Spirits of God. *“...and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.”* One of these seven Spirits is, *“the Spirit of grace and Supplication,”* (ZECK 12:10) or the spirit of prayer. Without the influence of the Holy Spirit, prayer is impossible. *“They that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* (JOHN 4:24) The text says, *“We know not how to pray as we ought.”* (ROM 8:26)

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

It has often been said that the conception of sin and of the holiness of God has been lost in the church. We hear much of the Holiness Movement in our times, but very little is known experimentally of the power of holiness. Many churches are sadly lacking in delivering power and grossly indifferent to the requisites of a Holy God. Prayerlessness is common in all groups and a lethargic attitude towards holiness and consecration is prevalent. On the other hand, we are witnessing a great spiritual awakening and a restoration of the gifts of the Spirit in many areas of the world. Divine Healing is being understood in ever widening circles and a positive faith attitude is being adopted by more and more people. Some groups still contend for the New Testament standards of holiness in dress while others firmly cling to sanctification as a definite experience subsequent to regeneration. In view of this, we may wonder why there exists such a far-reaching spiritual famine for the beauty of holiness. Our churches are filled with so many weak and sickly Christians whose spiritual growth has been stunted by insufficient food. The world in its ever increasing tempo is making high bids for the interest and attention of God's people. Worldly amusements have lured many of the youth and are slowly sapping the spiritual vitality of the church as cruel leech. Less and less time is spent in prayer and in personal devotions while more and more emphasis is being placed upon greater organization and more popular church programs. The blessings of the healing, health and prosperity are sought after, but the greatest blessing of all, holiness, is still unclaimed by the majority. Holiness is the most glorious and most all-embracing of the attributes of God. Isaiah heard the seraphim with veiled faces cry: *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts."* (ISA 6:3) Peter admonishes us, *"Be ye holy, for I am holy."* (1 PET 1:16) As children of a Holy God, we must be partakers of His Holiness. The holiness that characterizes our Father must have its fruit in us, His begotten. Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 5:1, *"Be ye therefore followers [imitators] of God, as dear children; and walk in love."* (EPH 5:1)

These have been some of the most challenging words spoken to me by the Holy Spirit. They refer not only to our actions, but to our attitude and Christian behaviour as spoken by Christ in the beatitudes. Through the power and life of the Spirit within us, we are able to imitate Him in love of the Spirit within us, we are able to imitate Him in love and in our attitude towards our fellow man. The will of God is our sanctification. The inexhaustible Grace of God offers to us, the beauty of holiness. God is keenly interested in the deep inner thoughts and feelings of our lives. He is much more interested in our sanctification and holiness than in the work of our hands or our service to Him. It is said of Christ, *"Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered."* (HEB 5:8) As the perfection of our heavenly High Priest, so our perfection and holiness is the chief interest of our Father. When the vine is thoroughly purged and cleansed, then and then only it is assured of bringing forth abundant and good fruit. Only the pruning process will produce a rich harvest, and only thusly can we justify our profession as Christians and be an honour to our heavenly Father. Any vine or tree left untended and uncultured will either die or produce very poor fruit. Unless the saplings are cut off they will draw from the life of the tree and produce only leaves. Jesus said to His disciples, *"Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you."* (JOHN 15:3) Unless the Word of God is brought to bear fearlessly upon the deceitful human heart, it will yield but wild and beggarly fruit. This purging or cleansing process we may well liken to the work of holiness that is done by the Holy Spirit. May it be written of you and I, *"But ye are washed, but ye are SANCTIFIED, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* (1COR 6:11)

HUMILITY

The greatest test of whether the holiness we profess is truly the life of God in us, will be the increasing humility it produces. The one infallible test of our holiness will be the humility before God and man which marks us. Humility is the perfection and beauty of holiness. The chief mark of counterfeit holiness is its lack of humility. There is none holy but God. We have as much of holiness as we have of God. The highest holiness is seen in the deepest spiritual humility. Our humility must be the life of Christ, the lamb of God within us. Humility towards Him is the only power that will enable us to be always humble with our fellowmen. Remember the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven is he that will humble himself as a little child; he it is the shall be exalted.

Someone has said, that the essence of sin is pride. It is through pride that Satan can work. There is no more subtle and dangerous pride than the pride of personal holiness and is an abomination to God. *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."* (JAMES 4:6) In each one of us you may find the Publican and the Pharisee. These two personages come together in the house of worship. The Publican will find that his danger is not from the Pharisee beside him, who despises him, but the Pharisee within who commends and exalts. We can easily recognize the Pharisee when he comes to worship and openly exalts himself; the danger is when he comes dressed in the humble robes of the Publican while within

lurks the secret pride of the Pharisee. Pride is so insidious and deceitful that it is found in the most unlikely places and shows its ugly head at the most inopportune times. It is opposite to the nature of the lowly Nazarene who humbled Himself even to take the form of a servant. Humility is the beauty of Christ and the atmosphere of heaven. The lack of this humility or selfishness has brought untold evil and suffering upon the human race. It was pride that brought Lucifer from the elevated position he enjoyed, to become the basest and vilest of serpents! It was pride that had its fruit in the garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve, saying, *"...and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."* (GEN 3:5) It was self life and the lust of the flesh and of the eyes that distorted the sight of Adam and Eve. *"And when the woman SAW that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof..."* (v 6) Through this disobedience, many were born in sin, being bound to the law of sin and death. Through this pride, the loathsome stench of selfishness has become a part of the human race. Thanks be unto God that through the obedience and humility of the lamb of God we can be delivered from sin and from selfishness... *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* (ROM 5:19) The law of love has won the victory over self. *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* (ROM 8:2) Almighty humility had conquered over the arm of flesh. The lamb is conqueror over the beguiling serpent! The power of love has prevailed and has redeemed us from the curse of the fallen nature. Now we are new creatures in Christ Jesus! Now there is a new law operating in our flesh, the law of the Spirit. *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."* (v 13)

The Apostle Paul affirms, *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* (ROM 6-6)

The new Spirit within us must be constantly nourished and strengthened so that it may gain the ascendancy in our lives. Every thought must be brought into subjection to the mind of Christ. *"For as a man thinketh...so is he."* (PROV 23:7) What you constantly think, you will become. What is lodged in your heart and mind, will eventually find expression on your lips. That is the reason we must renew our minds by the entrance of the Word of God. The Words of God are thoughts of God written for us to think. Begin to so fill your mind with His Word, that you will think His thoughts and feel the motivating power in His love.

We must hate pride and the self-life with such intensity that it may be mortified and daily recognized as dead. We must realize that the natural mind is enmity against God and is not subject to the law of God. The natural man is selfish; the power of the spiritual man is love. Love is of God and is positive, selfishness is of the flesh and is negative. Love never faileth or cometh to an end; the self life ends in corruption and death. As we once bore the image of the earthly, so now we must put on the garments of the heavenly. We must not gratify the desires of the self-life but we must starve it to death. We must constantly feed and nourish the Spirit life within us by meditating on God's Word and daily waiting in His presence. *"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make NOT provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."* (ROM 13:14)

In every thought and decision we must grow ever conscious of the presence of Christ and seek to imitate Him in everything. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God...made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant...He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death."* (PHIL 2:5-8) You can see that the victory of Christ was the result of a constant humbling of Himself and entire obedience to the will of the Father. He spoke the Words of God, He did the works of God, He pleased the Father in everything He did. God therefore hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name. God exalted Him when a voice spoke from heaven saying, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."* (MAT 3:17) Let this be the purpose and aim of your life. Mirror the person of Christ as He was the express image of God. Breathe in of His life, be filled with His presence, be renewed in your mind by His thoughts and so hear His sweet voice saying, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."* (MAT 25:21) The great spiritual men of this world have been those who in every thought and action have tried to please God. They were men who as the apostles, sought to please God, rather than men. Paul said, *"If I should seek to please men, I should not be the servant of Jesus Christ."* (GAL 1:10) Strong words these, yet truly of a man with one Lord and Master. He was unlike the Pharisees who sought rather the praise of men than the praise of God. To be truly holy, we must be truly humble and seek to please God only, in spite of the price it may cost. God has spoken in love and wisdom when He said, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."* (1PET 5:6) God will exalt us, but we must humble ourselves. How few of us understand the true secret of taking the lowest seats in the lowest room. "I" is the most exacting personage, requiring the best seat and the best place for itself. "I" always feels grievously wounded if its claim is not recognised. Most of the quarrels among Christian workers and

churches arise from the clamouring of this gigantic "I". Now we may more clearly see the truth in the words of Christ. *"Unless a grain of corn fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone."* (JOHN 12:24) The death of self will result in the ascension of Christ in our lives. The perfection of humility will produce the great power of God in us that will set the captives free and bring life to the multitudes. The blossom of holiness will flower into the fragrance of Christ in us. The spirit of self-denial and humility will cause the perfume of the alabaster box to be wafted to all the lives around us. This fragrance is of great price and a sacrifice well pleasing to our Lord Jesus. This is the perfume of love that brings life where once the stench of death reigned.

In this work of sanctification and holiness, the Holy Spirit is the active agent. Flesh cannot conquer flesh, nor can Satan cast out Satan. It is the power of the Holy Spirit within us that will produce the holiness of God. All human efforts to this end are bound to utter failure. A yielding to the Spirit and life of Christ will cause us to see ultimate victory. This is a progressive work, God working in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. We must constantly affirm, *"But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and SANCTIFICATION, and redemption."* (1COR 1:30) *"And ye are complete in Him..."* (COL 2:10) Holiness is not an imitation of Christ by human effort but the operation of the life of Christ in our mortal bodies. It is the new law of life transcending and conquering the life of the old man. Christ must become the centre and hub of our lives, the purpose for all our living, the goal or our dearest quest. *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (PHIL 1:21) We must come to the place where we shall rejoice in any and everything that will produce this holiness in us. Having learned the secret of holiness, Paul could confidently affirm, *"I take pleasure in infirmities, [not referring to physical sickness] in reproaches, in necessities in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong."* (2COR 12:10) What a spiritual giant Paul had become, that he could rejoice in anything that would cause the power of Christ to rest upon him. God allowed these tests to come upon him because of the *"abundance of the revelations"* (v 7) that were given to him. He so despised the pride that could have come into his heart, that he could *"glory in his infirmities."* (v 9) We may not have to bear these same humbling experiences in our lives nor feel the same prick of the thorn in the flesh that worried the Apostle Paul. Nevertheless in order to obtain the beauty of holiness we must share the sufferings of Christ and bear humbling experiences. The flesh constantly clamours for attention and pride may still seek to enter from time to time until mortality be swallowed up in life. With each humbling experience and test of our faith and with each victory over sin, the voice of the flesh will become fainter, and the power of the Spirit will daily be renewed and become stronger. Let us feed upon the Word and grow in Grace daily until we come *"...unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* (EPH 4:13)

PRAYER AND HOLINESS

It has been well said: *"No man can expect to make progress in holiness who is not often and long alone with God."* Only alone in the secret place with God, can we find the light of His holiness shining forth in our lives. Only with intimate fellowship with Him, can we learn the secrets hid in Christ that will cause us to become more like Him. Christ conquered the evil temptations of Satan after forty days of fasting and prayer alone with the Father. Only after He received strength in the garden, from heaven, could He go forth in triumph over death and the cross. After the nights alone in prayer to God we find Him healing the sick and showing forth the love of God among the poor and needy. The world will clamour for attention, the flesh will desire gratification, but the still voice of the Spirit will urge us to prayer. Obey each impulse of the Spirit to come alone for rest and communion and these impulses will become stronger and lead your life. Prayerlessness and the subsequent evil it brings are the plague of the Church today! Our spirits become what we feed our hearts and eyes upon. If the attitude of our souls is a constant thirsting after God, then we shall be satisfied with the fruits of holiness. The peace of God shall continually flow as an undisturbed river through our beings. We will not be harassed by what man would try to do to us. Our first desire will be to please God and thus be considered faithful servants worthy of dwelling in our Father's house.

Remember as you come before God in prayer, that to catch a glimpse of His holiness, you must first see your undone-ness. In the glory of the holiness of God, Isaiah cried, *"Woe is me! for I am undone..."* (ISA 6:5) After first looking within, then our eyes can clearly see God. The greatest experiences in my life have been when my eyes have been bathed with tears because of my own wretchedness and thus have been overwhelmed in the ocean of God's Grace. Only then can the beauty of Grace be seen in all its glory, and then can we come to know the love of Christ that passeth understanding. After seasons of prayer such as this, I have noticed the renewal of power in ministry and felt the coals of fire in the intensity of sanctification upon my lips. It is the Grace of God that wills our sanctification and holiness. God wills to impart unto us the greatest attribute of His being. By Grace through faith we have become bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh; the life of Christ is now flowing through us, bringing the riches

of His Grace to bear upon our lives. We are united with Him in His death and resurrection. He that is Holy dwells within. The perfect seed imparted to us by the Spirit, is now growing within us and will result in godlessness and holiness.

Let our hearts be deeply ashamed of our prayerlessness through which we have made it impossible for God to impart His holiness to us. Let us beseech Him to forgive us this sin, and to draw us by His Spirit into that inner place of communion with God. Never think lightly of His Grace that leads you closer to His side. Honour above all else the travail of the Spirit of prayer in your soul.

With increasing humility in our lives, there will be increased holiness. With the perfection of holiness there will be the inflowing of God's power to deliver the lost. Great exploits of faith will be accomplished in Jesus' name after you have come into that place of rest. You will be strong in faith and therefore confident your prayer will be answered. Believe God for this position, claim it now by faith in His name. *"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly... Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."* (1TH 5:23, 24) Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

(ROMANS 8:26-27)

Too many Christians today think of prayer with a feeling of guilt and reproach. Prayer is looked upon by most as a burden rather than a blessing. Many indulge in prayer only when in desperate need or in times of public worship. Prayerlessness is looked upon as a weakness, rather than a sin, and many excuses are often found to justify this weakness. There are many that secretly conceal an aversion to prayer and hold that many of their prayers have not been answered. This causes them to harbor a secret resentment, even though never uttered, against God. To too many, prayer has been a disappointment, and therefore indulged in less and less. Others continue praying with extreme exertion and constantly force themselves to utter repetitions believing it their duty to God and man. Instead of a joyful communion between two deeply in love, it becomes a means to obtain one's needs or a fuel for the fires of religious egotism.

Prayer means many things to many people. Most people pray in one form or another and many will fervently avow that there is power in prayer.

The reason for most of these erroneous concepts of prayer is the ignorance of the Spirit of prayer. The Holy Spirit is understood more clearly in His seven-fold manifestation. John refers to the seven-fold Holy Spirit in Revelation 5:6, as the seven Spirits of God. "...and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." One of these seven Spirits is, "the Spirit of grace and Supplication," (ZECK 12:10) or the Spirit of prayer. Without the influence of the Holy Spirit, prayer is impossible. "They that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." (JOHN 4:24) The text says, "We know not how to pray as we ought." (ROM 8:26) The Spirit of prayer is one of the greatest needs in Christendom today.

The coldness and indifference that is prevalent in the Church in general today, is proof of the absence of the Spirit of prayer. In many instances the "church" is begetting children born of the flesh who know nothing by actual experience of the new birth. The present day Church for the most part knows nothing of the "groanings which cannot be uttered" (ROM 8:26) or the power of prayer in the Spirit that marked the early church. Without the influence of the Spirit of prayer we cannot expect spiritual fruit nor useful converts in the Kingdom. Have you ever wondered why converts seem so powerless and manifest so little of the Spirit of Christ? It is simple because the Spirit has not had the liberty to fully cleanse and break them in humility before God. The Word is not allowed to come forth in the power of the Spirit and so many gain a hope before they have really fully submitted to the entire will of God. Submission is not pressed and their duty before God is not fully made clear. When the sinner comes into an atmosphere charged with the power of prayer, the secrets of his heart is made known and the Spirit does a complete work in his heart. I have seen a person find Christ in five minutes who had entered a Spirit filled prayer meeting who had attended church regularly for almost forty years and had not found salvation. It is the Holy Spirit that wields the Word until it convicts and convinces of sin. It is the message that is conceived in the upper room of prayer that will transform lives and bring about the new birth. As in the natural there is pain that accompanies a natural birth, so in the spirit, without the travail of the Spirit, there can be little accomplished. Neither positive thinking nor talented programs can take the place of the Spirit of prayer.

The great depth of the ministry of prayer in the life of the Apostle Paul, caused him to become a powerful minister of the Gospel in the conversion of many souls. With conviction he could say, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," (GAL 4:19)

It is written, "When Zion travailed, then she brought forth her children." (ISA 6:8) The generation that is filling many pews today is a generation born of the bondwomen and of the flesh! "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." (GAL 4:29) Unless the Holy Spirit guides the message and the minister, flesh will produce flesh, no matter how handsome or cultured it may seem.

The Holy Spirit wields a sword, not a feather to tickle the ears of the hearers!

The Holy Spirit is as a consuming fire, not the air-conditioned spiritual temperature of many of our churches!

The great success of men such as Moody and Finney is attributed largely to the fearlessness of their

preaching and the Spirit of prayer that dwelt upon them. More can be accomplished through the prayer of the Spirit than this world dreams of.

God has no grandchildren, only sons and daughters conceived by the unadulterated Word of God and begotten of the Holy Spirit!

The Church has lost so much of the Spirit of prayer until sin can sit comfortably in the front pew and feel no pangs of conscience. There are many sinners today that hold high positions in the Church, and are respected by their fellow members but who have never once been brought face to face with their sins! The power of prayer that emanated from the upper room on the day of Pentecost caused the Jews of Israel to cry out, "*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*" (ACTS 2:37)

The Holy Spirit grips the conscience until the convicted sinner can almost feel the flames of hell kindling upon his feet and he will either yield to the claims of God or be lost. When the Spirit of prayer is poured out in the Church, its fire will burn up the dross and perfect holiness and the fear of the Lord.

WHY HAS THE CHURCH LOST THIS SPIRIT OF PRAYER AND HOW CAN SHE REGAIN IT?

The first step toward having the Spirit of prayer is to receive the initial Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Too many have been fooled into thinking they have received the Holy Spirit at conversion, or because they have been told they have, and possess no evidence of it in their daily lives. As previously explained in the first chapter, the evidence of the Baptism is the speaking in a supernatural language as the Spirit gives utterance. Speaking in other tongues TOGETHER with the fruits of a Spirit-filled life, is proof of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Tongues alone can be as the tinkling symbol and sounding brass unless the Holy Spirit has indwelt the life and will of the Christian. I have seen the Spirit of Prayer come upon some immediately prior to the infilling with the Holy Spirit, but the general rule is to enjoy His presence following a deep consecration.

Secondly, to enjoy the Spirit of prayer we must spend much time in prayer. Marthas are much more common than Marys. God has many servants that are always seemingly busy working FOR Him, but so few have learned the secret of sitting at His feet. The lessons learned thusly in secret will teach us to work WITH Him, so that each effort will reap a spiritual harvest and not merely expend energy. Prayerlessness is one of the greatest sins of the Church, and because so little time is spent with God, we lack the blessings of His Spirit leading us out in prayer for the lost. We should not confuse praying, with the Spirit of prayer, because they are not the same. We can pray without praying in the Spirit, even though we cannot pray without the influence of the Holy Ghost. Let me try to clarify this statement. Paul states, "*I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*" (1 COR 14:15) Praying in the Spirit is the prayer of the Holy Spirit praying for and in us while our understanding is unfruitful. The reason the Spirit "*helpeth our infirmities*" is because we "*know not how to pray as we ought.*" The Holy Spirit knows what is the mind of God and also understands the existing need and therefore prays through us accordingly. This prayer can be either in unknown tongues, or when very deep, it is expressed in groanings and sighs too deep for words. We are admonished to pray both with the understanding and also in the Spirit. Each is necessary, and when together, create a powerful force that can move men and mountains.

The Holy Spirit's influence also leads our minds at times to pray according to the will of God. If God strongly lays a burden of prayer on your mind and heart, we can reasonably ascertain that it is His will to concede the answer. At such times the understanding is fruitful and we are praying effectually through the influence of the Holy Spirit. We can reasonably conclude that the Spirit of prayer is given because of our human weaknesses to help us to pray according to the will of God: That it may be a prayer in the spirit unknown to the mind; and that both the mind and the spirit may be aware of the need. We are exhorted to, "*Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*" (EPH 6:18)

TO HAVE THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER WE MUST BE SOBER AND GRAVE

The Spirit of Christ is always occupied in the things that pertain to the Kingdom. The spirit of foolishness and levity that characterizes the world should have no place among the children of God. "*Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*" (EPH 5:4) "*Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*" (1PET 4:7) The condition of lost souls is a serious matter and requires serious thought. If our minds are exercised about the heathen and the lost around us, we will be grave and not given to foolish and light chatter. Christians who are very loose in their conversation have little or no concern for the lost, and therefore their minds are far from the mind of Christ. How can they possibly enjoy the spirit's influence or walk together when they are not agreed?

I believe Christ was a man full of joy and yet I cannot picture Him engaging in frivolities nor idle pastimes when the lost were perishing around Him. He was constantly inspired by the Spirit of God that led Him to groan and cry and weep for the lost and dying world. Think a moment of the prophets and you will understand the gravity of the Spirit of God. Come into the prayer closet with Jeremiah and hear him cry, *“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”* (JER 9:1) As in days of old, God is putting a mark upon *“those that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that are done in Jerusalem.”* (EZEK 9:4)

A person with the Spirit of prayer will be infinitely more useful than a hundred cold carnal professors of Christianity without the Spirit. Even though at times you will be burdened and concerned for the great need of the world and the Church, yet you will enjoy the strength of the joy of the Lord in your innermost being. Happiness is subject to circumstances, but joy is a fruit and product of the Holy Spirit.

God is seeking for intercessors that will stand in the gap and avert disaster and judgment. For every soul born into the Kingdom, someone had to pray. If you are wise you will win souls and have an eternal reward. *“They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”* (DAN 12:3) Do not pray only for your friends or relatives but be unselfish in your praying and intercede for those who have never heard the Gospel and you will soon enjoy a burden of intercessory prayer for their salvation. In visiting many churches I cannot help notice the selfishness of many prayers that are so wrapped up in their own personal needs and seldom reach out to the unreached. We cannot have the Spirit of prayer unless we love the lost with a passion. The Comforter is also the Spirit of intercession. He that is the Spirit of truth will also lead you into the prayer of faith. Allow the many fold operation of the Holy Spirit full liberty in your prayers.

Our heavenly High Priest is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. Will you not share this great burden and allow the Holy Spirit to use you in the greatest ministry known to man? You can redeem the lost, you can snatch them from the burning fires of hell, you can avert disaster to our country and upon the heathen! Pray always, pray with understanding, and pray with the Spirit. We are responsible for all the good we are capable of doing. Let us not be found guilty of the blood of the lost because we would not take the time to pray. We can pray without loving, but we cannot love without praying.

In the prayer of the Spirit you will not need to utter many words. Most people do entirely too much talking when they pray. He will pray through you. Yield to His influence, obey His leading, and if you are not hardened or harbour sin in your life, you will soon feel the power of the Spirit rising up within you in search of the lost.

The call of the shepherd for the lost, the groan of the father for the prodigal, the pain of the mother waiting to be delivered; all this and more you will experience in the prayer of the Spirit. The joy of the conqueror in triumph, the joy of mother in her new-born, the satisfaction of the surgeon in saving a life; all this and infinitely more you will feel when you pray through. Amen.

WHY GOD HEALS

In this brief treatise on the subject of Divine Healing, I am prepared to give five strong reasons why God will heal you. Unless we have unshakeable proof that God will heal, then our faith is mere presumption. You must not only believe God will heal, but must have Scriptural proof that will stand the test under any circumstances. Should sickness strike you or yours unexpectedly right now, would you be prepared in faith to stand upon God's Word for healing? It is one thing to believe in Divine healing when we are well and strong, but an entirely different thing to fearlessly claim it when the fever rages or that little body is wracked with pain. What proof do you have that God will heal YOU? When human reasoning conflicts with God's Word, where will you stand? Suffering and sickness present some serious arguments not readily overcome. Far be it from me here to throw the first stone when times of doubt and fear fill your thoughts but this message is for the purpose of proving conclusively that God will heal YOU today!

The Bible declares, *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”* (HEB 13:8) This is the first reason I believe God will heal you. The will of God has never changed. The power of God has never changed. The ministry of Christ has never changed. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has never changed, but is the same power of God unto salvation to all that believe. God guarantees to heal YOU! The ministry of Jesus is presented thusly: *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing ALL that were oppressed of the devil.”* (ACTS 10:38) Jesus healed all those oppressed of the devil. Disease still is Satan's oppression. Sickness is not of God therefore Christ came to heal and so destroy the works of the devil. Jesus Christ is the same today. His ministry has never changed nor lost its power. *“And whithersoever He entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought Him that they might touch if it were but the border of His garment: and as many as touched Him were made whole.”* (MARK 6:56) Christ is ever present by His spirit, both in the villages and in the cities and if you will but touch Him with your faith, you too will be made whole. Christ described His own ministry thusly: *“The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”* (MAT 11:5) Jesus Christ is the same today, now, this very moment! *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and HEALING ALL manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”* (MAT 4:23) Even though He is not now seen in the flesh, Jesus is still preaching by the Holy spirit in the ministries of His servants and still healing all manner of diseases and all manner of sicknesses. I have seen the blind eyes open in Jesus' name, the crippled walk, the deaf hear instantly. Who healed them? Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the same yesterday, today and forever! Nothing is too hard for Him, there is no case He will not take. His presence will bring healing life to you now! Hear Him say to you now, *“I am the Lord, I change not.”* (MAL 3:6)

GOD HAS PROMISED TO HEAL YOU

“And the Lord will take away from thee ALL SICKNESS, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt [the world] upon thee.” (

DEUTERONOMY 7:15)

“God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?”

(NUMBERS 23:19)

These two verses of Scripture give us unshakeable proof that God will heal YOU. Take each promise as your own. God speaks through His Word to whosoever will believe. This Word is not for a remote dispensation, but spoken to you NOW. Simply trust Him, and your faith shall make you whole. *“Surely He shall deliver THEE...from the noisome pestilence.”* (PSALM 91:3) *“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall RAISE HIM UP.”* (JAMES 5:15)

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

(3 JOHN 1:2)

Not only does God promise to heal you, but He wills your health and prosperity. The question of the will of God to heal, has kept untold multitudes from healing and health. You cannot pray in faith unless you know that God WILLS to heal you. If you doubt that God wills to heal you, it is very improbable that you will have faith to claim this blessing. You can ascertain the will of God by His revealed will in the Word, and also by the witness of your spirit. These two witnesses should agree.

There is a story of the leper that came to Jesus, that beautifully illustrates the will of God as revealed in Christ. Remember, Jesus came to do the will of the Father. Each time He made the lame

walk or opened the eyes of the blind, He was fulfilling the perfect will of God. He is the express image of the invisible God, the will and purpose of God made manifest in the flesh.

“And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean. ³ And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I WILL; be thou clean.” (MATTHEW 8:2-3)

What a beautiful portrayal this is of the will of God to cleanse and heal! Jesus Christ is the same today, and He wills to make YOU what He willed for this poor, unclean leper. To the Centurion Jesus again speaks these words of comfort, *“I WILL COME and HEAL him.”* (v 7) If Jesus never refused anyone healing while He was on earth in the flesh, what reason do we have to believe He will refuse anyone now when His ministry is so much greater through the Holy Spirit? If God was *“the Lord that healeth thee”* (EXO 15:26) in the dispensation of law, how much more will He heal YOU who are under the glorious liberty of grace? Stand fast in this liberty, and be not again entangled with the yoke of bondage. Listen to His gentle voice now, stilling all the doubts and fears of your heart, *“I will, be thou made whole.”*

GOD PURCHASED YOUR HEALING

The greatest proof of all that healing through Christ is a reality, is the irrefutable fact of your redemption from the curse of the law. Because of sin and its curse, sickness, death, disease, poverty and barrenness came upon mankind. This curse has been removed to all that will enter the refuge of Christ.

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

(GALATIANS 3:13)

Remember, this curse included both death and sickness. (DEU 28) The lifting of the curse gives us eternal life through faith in Christ, and offers healing from sickness and disease. You do not need to suffer what Christ suffered in His substitutionary work for you. I believe we must carry the cross of self-denial, service and at times suffering, but this cross is nowhere referred to in the Word, as sickness. The *“torn in the flesh”* that Paul bore, was plainly a *“messenger of Satan”* or a demon sent to buffet him bringing upon him reproach, beatings, imprisonments, peril etc. (2 COR 12:7) In this trial God's grace was sufficient to uphold this great servant of the cross.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes WE ARE HEALED.”

(ISAIAH 53:5)

This great prophetic chapter begins with an important question; *“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?”* (v 1) To those who believe the report of the Father, son and Holy Spirit, (our report) to them God has promised to reveal His power. What Christ did, He chose to do for us. His triumph is our triumph. He became sick with our sicknesses! He was bruised for our transgressions! The cruel stripes that tore the flesh of His back, brought healing to all that dared believe this report. Both spiritual and physical healing are included in the atonement. The Psalmist said, *“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases.”* (PSALM 103:2-3)

The Holy Spirit in Divine omniscience, has chosen to interpret the great atonement scripture of Isaiah 53.

“When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His Word, and HEALED ALL THAT WERE SICK: ¹⁷ THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.”

(MATTHEW 8:16-17)

He healed the sick to fulfill the prophecies afore recorded by His Spirit. He heals today to continue the ministry He started on earth and to satisfy the immense love of HIS BEING. Your healing is purchased by Christ, willed of God, and brought to you by the Holy Spirit. Receive it now!

GOD COMMANDS YOUR HEALING

Not only did Christ heal the sick, but He commanded His disciples to continue this ministry. He did not plan that this ministry should end, but rather that it should increase in the magnitude and scope.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father.”
(JOHN 14:12)

Note carefully that this promise is in the singular, “shall he do.” The works that Christ did while on earth, He continues through the ministry of believers that invoke His name. He said, “*Whatsoever ye shall ask [demand] in my name, I will do it.*” (v 13) These are breathtaking promises and will be fulfilled only to those who will accept them literally and meet the conditions set forth in the Word.

In sending forth His disciples, Jesus said, “*And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils.*” (MAT 10:7-8) This commandment has never been withdrawn. The disciples acted upon this commandment in simple faith and saw the fulfilment of the words of Christ. They could return with joy saying, “*Even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name.*” (LUKE 10:17) The commandment to heal the sick and to preach the Gospel, was not limited to the twelve. Jesus “*appointed other seventy also, and sent them.*” (v 1) Their commandment was the same, “*And heal the sick that are therein.*” (LUKE 10:9) Philip was one of many that obeyed this commandment.

“And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.”
(ACTS 8:6-7)

This commandment now has been given to you and me. I have acted upon these words of Christ and have seen the sick healed in mass. Time and again God has stood with me and confirmed His Word with signs and wonders and gifts of the Holy Ghost. This manifestation of God's power will inspire faith and many will believe and accept Christ as Saviour. God has left this charge to you. This ministry is for all God's consecrated servants who will accept it and believe.

“And He said unto them, Go YE into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. ¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following. Amen.”
(MARK 16:15-20)

DELIVERANCE IS YOURS!

“That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.” (LUKE 1:74-75)

Many of God's people are languishing under the oppressive lash of Satan, while millions more are being tortured by fears of insecurity and inability. Countless others are bound to their sick beds with grievous ills and diseases, crying to God for deliverance! The world is being lashed by the waves of Satanic oppression through spirits of fear, hatred and lust! Clouds of spirits of infirmity and sickness have enveloped the atmosphere in which we live!

“The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” (REVELATION 12:12)

God has promised deliverance from the hand of our enemies that we might serve Him without fear! As in the time of Esther, God's people are faced with enemies that are preparing for their destruction. In the story of Esther, the wicked Haman had caused King Ahasuerus to write a decree for the destruction of the Jews. Throughout the mediation and intercession of Esther, a new decree was given in which the power of deliverance was granted. The Jews were called to “gather themselves together, and to stand for their lives, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power and province that would assault them.” (EST 8:11) The Jews were granted an overwhelming victory by the decree, and the enemy fled before them in fear! Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach DELIVERANCE to the captives.” (LUKE 4:18) The deliverance of Calvary has been decreed! God is making His Word good and has granted us authority and power “over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (LUKE 10:19) God has commanded liberty to the captives of fear, sickness and disease. He has proclaimed deliverance to those bound by Satanic oppression and bruised by the insinuations of the father of lies! Any force or influence which tends to deter us from doing the perfect will of God, is our enemy. It is time for deliverance from our enemies and from the hand of all that hate us! It is time for light, gladness and joy because of God's decree! It is time to rise up and claim what is rightfully ours by the covenant of blood!

King Ahasuerus commanded that Haman, the enemy of the Jews, be hanged upon the gallows and his sons also. Haman suffered the ignoble death he planned for Mordecai who went out from the presence of the King in royal apparel. Then, “The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.” (EST 8:16) Christ has granted us an overwhelming victory in which He triumphed over Satan, overcame his power and seated on the right hand of the Father. “And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” (COL 2:15) As were the Jews, so we were given up to destruction by the commandment contained in ordinances. We were under the curse of the law that brings sickness and death, poverty and barrenness. Christ has “blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.” (COL 2:14) “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.” (GAL 3:13) He has made a way by which we can “serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness...all the days of our life.” (LUKE 1:74,75)

Notice that the decree of deliverance for the Jews did not destroy all their enemies but gave them authority over them. Christ has given His disciples authority in His name to cast out devils, to destroy his work and deliver his captives. Even though the final destruction of Satan has not as yet been realized, and the enemies of our Christian warfare still resist surrender, yet the Word of God is our authority over them. The decree of King Ahasuerus brought joy and gladness and delivered the Jews from fear. The decree [Word] of God today will, when believed and acted upon, bring joy and gladness and deliver us from fear. Instead of fearing our enemies, our enemies will fear us and the Word of God on our lips! “And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.” (EST 8:17) A great revival broke out when the Jews acted upon the commandment of the King and claimed their rights from their enemies. Again in the New Testament church when the apostles dared to believe God's word, there was a great revival.

“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. ¹² And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;...¹⁴ And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.” (ACTS 5:11-14)

I cannot impress too strongly upon you, that the Word of God is our authority over every fear and ill brought upon us by the curse of the law through sin. Let me give you some scriptures to combat some of

the more common fears and enemies of the Christian today.

DELIVERANCE FROM FAILURE

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” (3 JOHN 1:2)

“...whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” (PSALM 1:3)

DELIVERANCE FROM SICKNESS

“And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee.”

(DEUTERONOMY 7:15)

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.” (ISAIAH 53:5)

DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR OF DEATH

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (JOHN 5:24)

“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (HEBREWS 2:15)

DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR OF FINANCIAL REVERSAL

“The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.” (DEUTERONOMY 28:12)

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.” (LUKE 6:38)

DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR OF BACKSLIDING

“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” (JUDE 1:24)

DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 TIMOTHY 1:7)

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.” (ISAIAH 41:10)

All doubt is a form of fear. Faith cometh by hearing the Word of Go. Let there be light and joy in your heart and soul now as you read God's proclamation of deliverance. Now confess it with your lips, believe it with your heart and act upon it right NOW! Rise up and claim it; slay and cause to perish all the enemies of your soul, strength and health. God *“hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”* (2 PETER 1:3) Now hasten, the King hath spoken, tell if far and near, preach it to those who are in bondage and fear. *“Where the Word of the King is, there is power.”* (ECCL 8:4)

RESTORED FAITH!

“And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said unto them, “What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?” ¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto Him, “Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said unto them, “What things?” And they said unto Him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: ²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. ²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.”

(LUKE 24:13-21)

I feel it of the utmost importance to write this message concerning the regaining of lost faith. The spirit of God has impressed upon my mind the great need for restored faith among His people. The loss of faith, and the subsequent indifference, is a great ill in Christendom today, sapping the spiritual life of many. These are momentous days of restoration of the early church power, of the promised outpouring of the spirit in all the world, and of the restoration of the gifts of the Spirit. The wave of unbelief caused by seemingly unanswered prayers, has dulled the edge of the sword in the hands of God's people, and rendered much of the power of the word ineffective. It is time for RESTORED FAITH! It is time for a reawakening of the unshakeable faith of the early apostles who *“with great power they gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”* (ACTS 4:33) God would restore these paths to walk in and repair the breach made by the enemy.

The loss of faith is evidenced by manifested formality in religious services.

A stereotyped, formal way of saying and doing things, that is clearly the result of habit, rather than the out-gushings of vibrant faith and love! The prayer is prayed to be heard, not felt or actually expected to result in a definite answer.

Another evidence of lost faith is a WANT OF RELIGIOUS ENJOYMENT ACCOMPANYING GROUP WORSHIP. The services become little more than a duty, and there is a lack of spiritual worship and joyful communion with God. The services come under a religious bondage and Christian duties become a burden and not the spontaneous outburst of a loving heart. It is evidenced in the individual by a LACK OF SECRET PRAYER and the outpourings of the Spirit of prayer. While love and faith of Christ remains fresh in the soul, the indwelling Spirit of God will reveal Himself as the Spirit of supplication and travail. Many harbour a secret resentment against God religion in their heart, that is seldom if ever expressed. At times we fail in daily communion and obedience and wonder why God seems so distant at the moment we are in desperate need. Prayer is a daily receiving of Divine life, not a last resort in cases of emergency. For those that forget God in times of prosperity He declares,

“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh...Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me...Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.”

(PROVERBS 1:26,28,31)

For many years, many have been walking away from Jerusalem, the city of the upper room experience. The Holy city, where deep and sacred consecrations were made. Many have long forgotten Calvary's hill, where the love of God was first shed abroad in their hearts and they heard the tender words of the dying Jesus, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* (LUKE 23:34) The road away from God is not walked in a day, but a long tiring journey which some day dawns in the awakening of the fact that the Spirit hath departed! When Samson realized that the Spirit had departed from him it was too late! Slowly he had drawn away from God until his strength departed and he was at the mercy of his enemies.

It is time friend, to recognize the stranger walking along beside you, hearing your confession of doubt. He is aware of the day the cock will crow and faithfully warns us in advance. Let us walk no longer on the road to Emmaus, but realize our condition as a body, repent of our blindness and slowness of heart and believe, and thus restore our vital communion with God. He is walking along beside us, hearing the confession of doubt we make, feeling the sadness and discouragement we feel and ready to reveal Himself afresh as the risen Lord!

Now follow closely the account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; follow earnestly and prayerfully as the "stranger" leads them to RESTORED FAITH. You too can be restored in faith as you read this message with a desire and a longing to meet the Master again!

The confession of lost faith in verse twenty one is very significant. *"But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done."* (v21) We see here a picture of the heart-broken and frustrated disciples. They watch their Lord and Master delivered up to die and nailed to the cross by cruel hands. They had witnessed the burial and apparent death of all their hopes. The words, *"But we trusted"* plainly reveals that their faith was in the past tense. They HAD trusted but what now? They had watched their Lord and Master delivered up to die and nailed to the cross by cruel hands. They had witnessed the burial and apparent death of all their hopes. Had God really failed them? Had His promises deceived them? We say NO very emphatically! *"God is not a man that He should lie!"* (NUM 23:19)

Friend, is your faith of the "past tense" nature? Has the passing of time caused you to waver in your trust in His power and love? The disciples said, *"and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done."* (v 21) The trial of our faith is on the third day. The fires of the third day experience are the hottest, but there only can we be perfected. Do not measure God's promises by days! Faith is not in the past but a part of the present! God is eternally *"I AM"*. After four days Jesus said to Mary, *"Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"* (JOHN 11:40) Make your faith to be living, vibrant, powerful, as you realize that GOD IS! His nature, His love, His power and His Word are eternal and changeless! *"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day and for ever."* (HEB 13:8)

The disciples were shaken in faith as the unprecedented circumstances belied their expectancy. Do not think that our ways are God's ways nor our methods God's methods. Many of our prayers are not answered because they pour from a heart that is not fully submitted to God. Prayer does not bring God on our side, we must be sure we are on God's side! Many times the glory of God is revealed after apparent conditions of defeat and hopelessness. Look through the darkness with the eyes of faith and you shall see beyond the purpose of God.

Do not serve or believe God for what He will do for you. Let your consecration be that of the three Hebrew captives as they defiantly answered the King, *"our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...But if not...we will not serve thy gods."* (DAN 3:17,18) Oh, for the consecration and love to be able to say in the face of death, *"but if not."* Let us not serve God conditionally but unreservedly. If our faith is of this nature, He will deliver, He will heal, He cannot allow such faith to be denied! Remember, temper your faith with submission and you will never fall away.

After Jesus had heard the conversation of the saddened disciples, He commenced to expound unto them in all Scriptures, the things concerning Himself. This is your next step. *"Eat the roll, and cause it to fill thy belly."* (EZEK 3:3) God stands behind His Word. Jesus is in every page of the Word. He is the Word made Flesh. (JOHN 1:14) You will find Him in the Word. Restored faith will be yours as you allow the Word to become a part of you. Meditate on it day and night. Learn not only of God's mighty Acts, but learn His ways as did Moses. The next step is found in verses twenty-eight and twenty-nine. *"He made as though He would have gone further. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, Abide with us..."* (vv:28,29)

Oh that we yearn with all our heart to have Him abide with us. Let the promise of His presence be the passion of your life! His Word declares, *"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."* (EXO 33:14) *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* (HEB 13:5)

Let us remember that Christ will never force entrance. He waits to hear your invitation; He would have you constrain Him. Hold on in prayer as Jacob when he cried, *"I will not let thee go, except thou bless me."* (GEN 32:26) If you cherish His presence, you may hear His voice saying, *"Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night."* (SONG 5:2)

Now we see a beautiful picture of Jesus coming into the home in the village of Emmaus to have supper with the lonely disciples. See Him as He sits at meat with them, watch Him as He takes the bread, blesses it and breaks it for them. *"And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He*

vanished out of their sight.” (v 31) Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” (REV 3:20)

After you have heard His voice and allowed Him to come in, place before Him the best in your life. Many do not enjoy the close fellowship of Christ because they have held back and not freely given Him all. There must be no “bread” that you eat alone, no possession or love that is not sanctified by His. No part of your will must be closed to His influence. Allow Him to take the sacrifice of your life as He took the bread, allow Him to bless it, to break it, and then your eyes will be opened! You will see Him as He is! Your eyes will behold the King in His beauty! You will feel the resurgence of quickened faith in your bosom. You will have RESTORED FAITH! Receive it now, act upon it, and go with the consciousness of the lingering presence of God! Amen.

THE LIVING WORD

“I AM THE LIVING BREAD which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

(JOHN 6:51)

The world today is perishing because of famine, “*not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.*” (AMOS 8:11) It is a rare thing to find a professing Christian who will diligently study, love and meditate on the Word of God.

The words of Jesus in our text brought offence to His hearers, and many, because of lack of understanding, failed to appreciate these tremendous truths. He spoke of Himself as the “Living Bread” that He would give for the life of the world. He said, “*Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life.*” (JOHN 6:54) What was He referring to? Was it the communion table, the Mass? I think not.

In John 1:1 we read, “*In the beginning was the Word [logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.*” (JOHN 1:1,14) The Logos, meaning ‘that which proceeds from the bosom of the Father,’ took the form of humanity for the suffering of death to redeem mankind by the offering of Himself. His body was broken and His blood was shed for thee remission of our sins when He became our substitute.

Jesus Christ was and is the Word of God. He became the incarnate Word at His birth, or the Word made flesh. He is now the Living Word. He will come as the conquering Word, His vesture dipped in blood, and riding upon a white horse. “*And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called THE WORD OF GOD.*” (Rev 19:13)

The “*bread of heaven*” and the “*flesh*” He spoke of refers to the living words He spoke by the prophets through His lips, in the Epistles, and in Revelation. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets and Apostles of old, inspiring them to speak and write the Holy Scriptures. Jesus said, “*The words that I speak unto you, they are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE.*” (JOHN 6:63) The worlds were made by the Word of God and are sustained by the word of His power. The Word of God is creative, it brings life, it transforms and it edifies. God is what His Word is, and the Word reveals God. If the Church could grasp the significance of these truths, it would be changed into a living, powerful, sanctified body, “*unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” (EPH 4:13)

First we see that the eating [receiving] of this word brings the new birth into being. “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever.*” (1 PET 1:23) Jesus also spoke of this fact when He declared, “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.*” (JOHN 3:5) “*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.*” (JOHN 1:12) Christ is received and made part of us by His Word. He said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My WORD, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation.*” (JOHN 5:24) The word “*heareth*” means to hear and obey from the heart. “*If a man love Me, he will keep My WORDS.*” (JOHN 14:23) We show our love and faith in God by the way we treat His Word. The Word is clothed in a vesture dipped in blood, the blood of the Lamb of God that was slain.

Secondly, we see that we are sanctified and cleansed by faith in the Word. “*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth [WORD] through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren.*” (1 PET 1:22) “*That He [Christ] might sanctify and cleanse it [the Church] with the washing of water by the WORD.*” (EPH 5:26) “*Now ye are clean through the WORD which I have spoken unto you.*” (JOHN 15:3)

The Word of God spoken in faith and love is the most powerful force on earth. Jesus said it will heal the sick: “*He sent His Word and healed them.*” (PSALM 107:20); cast out demons, bind the powers of darkness and “*loose the oppressed*” (ISA 58:6). “*If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*” (JOHN 15:7) “*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH.*” (MARK 11:23) When God spoke, He believed His Word, and Holy Spirit brought the creation into existence. When the disciples preached the word, they believed it, and the Lord worked with them “*confirming the Word with signs following.*” (MARK 16:20)

Thirdly, we see that the Word will renew our minds and bring our thoughts into harmony with our recreated spirits. The Christian battle is to bring every thought into obedience to the Word of God. We must bring the evidence of our senses under the dominion and power of the Word. The Word of God must gain the ascendancy and supersede our carnal [sense] knowledge and the wisdom of man. The

Apostle Paul admonished us in Romans 12:2, *“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Here we plainly see that the progressive will of God (good, acceptable and perfect) is to be realized only as we present ourselves *“a living sacrifice”* (v 1) and become renewed in our minds by the Word. This will be your greatest battle, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,”* (GAL 5:17) and *“the carnal mind is enmity against God.”* (ROM 8:7) The victory can be ours as we daily feed on the Word, and allow it to nourish our spirits and renew our minds.

Now let us see more clearly how we can eat the Word, abide in the Word, and have the Word abide in us.

In the story of the virgin birth, we see there were three steps to the incarnation. These three steps must be followed to have Christ formed in our hearts, and to allow his Words to gain the ascendancy in our lives.

First, we see that Mary believed the word of the angel Gabriel concerning the birth of Jesus. She believed it with all her heart, even though she could not understand how it would come to pass. Unwavering faith in the Word, is therefore, the first requisite to obtaining the promise of God. We may not understand how God will do it, but suffice us to obey in faith as did Abraham. Believe God's Word above your sense knowledge; believe it in spite of your feelings or symptoms. Only God's Word is eternal, our feelings will change and cannot be relied upon.

Secondly, she submitted herself to the Word. *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”* (LUKE 1:38) This is the next step. There must be a resignation and more than that, an active submission to the Word at any cost. Do not struggle with God but allow His will to envelope yours. Sink lovingly into the arms of God's will. His will is best for you.

The cost of submission was great for Mary and harsh criticism was rained upon her head being found with child. This will also be the case with ever born again believer who bears the image of Christ in their heart and life. The world does not understand the change that is wrought when Christ comes in to abide. Many times you may have to obey God's Word in spite of what even Christians may counsel. God does not have to tell your neighbours or friends what He wants you to do. Let His commands be the last word in all matters, never seek to get counsel from others at the expense of God's Word. To claim your healing may also cause you to be misunderstood and be subjected to reproof from unbelievers and carnal-minded Christians. The Word is foolishness to them that perish but it is the power of God to them that believe. (1COR 1:18) Submit yourself to God and resist the Devil! (JAMES 4:7)

Thirdly, she confessed the Word. *“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy WORD.”* (LUKE 1:38) This is a very important and oft neglected phase of deliverance. Your confession will either free you or build fear and sickness in your system. *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”* (MAT 12:34) See that your lips speak only of the faith and victory in your heart. In Romans 10:10 we read, *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* The Spanish translation expresses *“salvation”* as health, both spiritual and physical. To be saved, we believe and confess Christ as Lord. To be healed, we believe and confess *“I am the Lord that healeth thee.”* (EXO 15:26) *“By His stripes we were healed.”* (1PET 2:24) To be prospered, we believe and confess, *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health.”* (3 JOHN 1:2) To have our needs supplied, we believe and confess, *“According as His divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness.”* (2 PET 1:3) Your confession will bring possession! You will overcome by the words of your mouth!

Believe, submit and confess the Word in the face of any circumstances, above all the voices of doubt...above the howl of fear...in the midst of the storms of life. God is in His Word. He watches over His Word to perform it! Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word endureth forever. Eat His flesh [Word] daily. Drink of the blood, or life of the Word which is the Spirit of God. As the blood giveth life to the flesh, so the Spirit of God gives life to the Word. The Holy Spirit will make the Word alive in you. *“The Spirit giveth life.”* (2COR 3:6) Abide in the law of the Word and it will abide in you. Abide in Christ and He will abide in you.

“He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.” (JOHN 6:56) Amen.

PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE

I firmly believe in divine intervention in human extremities. It has been well said, *“Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.”* I believe in divine miracles to answer the desperate need of humanity. Everything about Christianity is miraculous. From His virgin birth to His inhuman death on the cross, everything about Jesus of Nazareth was miraculous. The great ascent from the lowly birth in Bethlehem to His unprecedented influence in all the world shows clearly that He was God. This one solitary life has effected the world more than all the great men who have ever lived combined! Jesus Christ is still miraculous! Take the supernatural from Christianity and what have you left? To deny His power to work wonders and miracles today is to deny God Himself! Not only does God work miracles in the universe and in nature but He works miracles every day in human lives. He can give you a miracle if you will follow these simple rules of faith. Prepare for a miracle, expect a miracle, and hold on in faith for a miracle. Have you reached a point of extremity in your life? Are you in desperate need of nothing short of a miracle to solve your problems? Has everything humanly possible failed to meet your need? THEN PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE!

Our Lord Jesus daily prepared for, expected and witnessed miracles. The world was amazed and astonished as the sick were instantly healed, the dead were raised to life and the stormy elements obeyed His voice. To the Lord this was but the answer to the faith given by God that each one can possess. He promised that not only could we speak to a fig tree and see it wither and die, but we could speak and see mountains removed at our word. If a mountain of despondency and despair has dimmed your vision and obscured the light, then start now to lay the plans for a divine intervention in your human extremity.

One day our Lord being moved with compassion, healed the sick that followed Him into the desert. When the day was almost gone, the disciples urged Him to send the multitude away that they might buy food for themselves. When Christ commanded, *“Give ye them to eat,”* (MARK 6:37) they were completely unprepared to comprehend, much less to obey such a command. It was an impossible demand upon them from a natural standpoint and they were positively at a loss for a solution. Then Christ knowing what He must do, laid the foundation for a miracle. *“He commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. ⁴⁰ And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.”* (MARK 6:39-40) Now the scene was almost set for the miracle. To complete the final setting, He took the meagre supply of bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to the disciples. As they distributed the bread in faith, God moved in a supernatural way and multiplied each morsel until there was an abundance of food for the five thousand. He has simply prepared for a miracle and nothing short of this could happen. Christ never made provision for failure, but rather He was always confident that God was with Him.

We recall the faith of the four men that bore their paralysed friend to Jesus on a stretcher. When they arrived at the home where Jesus was, they found it utterly impossible to reach Him because of the great throng. Their friend was in desperate need of healing from Christ. They firmly believed in His love and power to heal if they could only get their friend to Him. They knew they must prepare for a miracle. They must do their part if they would see the answer to their prayer. They quickly climbed to the roof of the home and pulled their crippled friend up by means of ropes. Then after tearing out the tiling, they let their friend down in the midst before the Lord. They had prepared the setting and now a miracle was evident. When Jesus saw their faith, He commanded the paralysed man to be made whole and to rise and walk. The healing virtue of the Lord struck his wasted body, and in an instant, he was on his feet praising God for a miracle! (LUKE 5:18-26)

The little woman with the issue of blood became aware of her desperate need for healing. The doctors had given her up to die, and nothing short of a miracle could save her now. In her sick and weak condition she laid the plans for a miracle. She believed it would happen if she could meet the requirements. Christ would arrive in her town, and she was certain of His power to heal her. She did not despair of the plight, nor tearfully seek the sympathy of her friends. Only one person could help her and she must reach Him. She told herself, *“If I just touch the hem of His garment, I shall be made whole.”* Finally the moment came! The crowd was pressing in upon the Nazarene as He slowly moved down the street, speaking a word of comfort, dispelling disease and sickness everywhere. He had arrived! Her heart seemed it would pound through her breast and every fibre of her being throbbled with the impulses of the approaching miracle! She struggled to reach the Master but the crowd was milling about and pressing in upon Him. She reached for His garment desperately, only to be pushed away by the strong. She must reach Him; her only hope for life was a miracle. She had prepared, believed and prayed for this day, and now she must complete the act her faith demanded. In a last desperate effort, straining in a last attempt, she pressed through the crowd to finally touch this man of

power. Then it happened! Her faith touched Him and a strange sensation flooded her being. She had prepared and believed for a miracle and her faith had made her whole. Healing virtue surged through her being and she was made well! (MARK 5:25-34)

The widow of Zaraphath was urged by the prophet to prepare for a miracle. The famine that existed in Zidon had weakened her body and torn every last hope from her heart. Her drawn and haggard face was lined with desperation and want. Hopelessly she prepared the remaining portion of meal for herself and son. She was gathering the sticks to cook the last meal she would have with son. The end had come in her sad struggle for survival. Then God sent the man of faith to her door. He required a seemingly unwarrantable sacrifice from this starving woman. He said, *“Make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.”* (1 KI 17:13) Her unselfish obedience to this man of God, prepared the way for God to work a miracle to sustain her through the famine. If she had thought only of herself and her son and not provided for the man of God, then she would have perished by her own hand. As she gave, it was given to her a hundred fold, *“good measure and pressed down and shaken together, and running over.”* (LUKE 6:38) *“And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail.”* (1 KI 17:16) One of the greatest ways of preparing for a miracle to meet your monetary needs, is to first prepare for the man of God and for the work of the Lord. (1 KINGS 17:10-16)

You may have a miracle in your life. If you have a desperate financial, spiritual or physical need, then prepare for an expect a miracle, God will do the rest. He has promised to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory, but you must prepare the way. First ascertain whether your desire would be the will of God. Secondly, would it glorify Christ and further the Gospel. Thirdly, would it be unselfish and in some way bless others. If the answer is yes, then simply go ahead and lay all the plans. Remember, your only limitation is the limit of your faith and vision. All things are possible when you believe. You have to remove the tombstone as did Mary, you may not be able to obey your reasoning nor the counsel of your friends. Let nothing discourage you but continue in faith, looking only at the promises of God. Do not attempt to test God, you must stake your life upon His Word. When God has witnessed by His Spirit in your heart, then you are not moving on mere assumption, you have faith. God will work with you and confirm His Word as you believe.

The miracle worker is here now! He is present with you as you read this inspired message. God will do a miracle for you if you will only believe. The Great “I AM” is changeless and His power is eternal. He will perform signs and wonders in your life and ministry if you will but trust and believe. Amen.

GOD'S THREE LAWS OF PROSPERITY

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

(3 JOHN 1:2)

God's three laws of prosperity stand as immutable as the laws of nature. Each key to spiritual and material success is contained in the pages of God's Holy Word. It is the will of your heavenly father that you PROSPER and be in health. Christ has come to give us more ABUNDANT LIFE. There is no need for you to become a victim of circumstances, forced to drift with the current of opposition. You can apply God's eternal laws of success to the spiritual, domestic and financial areas of your life with assured prosperity. If you fail to heed and apply these laws of God, you are bound to inevitable failure. Remember, success is not always measured in dollars and cents.

THE LAW OF DEFINITENESS OF PURPOSE

As shown by a survey of more than thirty-five thousand persons, 98% of all people have no definite purpose to life other than the vain compulsion to sustain comfortable existence. Think of it! 98% of the people of the world are drifting aimlessly through life, with no idea of the work to which they have been called or fitted. If you set no goals, it is improbable that you will arrive at any achievement.

Most people are selfish in their desires and therefore bound to unhappiness. There must be direction and purpose in your life! You must have an UNSELFISH REASON to justify your existence. You cannot succeed while applying a “hit or miss” attitude. Every effort, word and investment must go toward the fulfilment of your goal. A definite purpose is the starting point of all achievement. It provides eight great incentives.

1. It develops self-reliance and self-discipline.
2. It encourages you to specialise in your field.
3. It inspires budgeting of time and money.
4. It alerts the mind to ideas and opportunities.
5. It develops the capacity to reach decisions.
6. It inspires the co-operation of others.
7. It prepares the mind for faith in God.
8. It provides a positive attitude, freeing the mind from doubts and fears.

As a Christian your first purpose in life is to please and glorify Christ. As David, you must be able to say *“ONE thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after.”* (PSALM 27:4) David had only one supreme desire and this he pursued with all his might. To dwell in the presence of the Lord and to behold His beauty was the thirst of his soul. To please God was all he lived for. He could truly say, *“As the hart [deer] panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”* (PSALM 42:1)

To insure a happy and useful life, it must revolve around the person of the Lord Jesus. Love for and inspired by Him, is your greatest incentive for prosperity. Let Christ become the hub and centre of all your aims and desires, and the spokes will extend into the areas of your work, home and church. *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* (MAT 6:33) After Christ is made your head and partner, all decisions are inspired by His spirit. You are always confident, you cannot fail. *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”* (ROM 8:31) You never act independently of His Spirit. He dwells within us and *“it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”* (PHIL 2:13) You seek only the glory of God, therefore, your mind is prepared to hear the words and counsels of God. You do not fear, *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* (2 TIM 1:7) You become steady in adversities; the storm that moves other hearts to fear is but a challenge to the peace of God within you. When Christ is in the boat no wind can ruffle you, for Christ abides within. As your Lord and Guide, He is interested in everything you do, and you are always careful to please Him in every decision. With each motive inspired by the desire to please Christ, you become unselfish and humble. You attract love to you; people love your company and draw upon your faith and confidence. Your home is happy because it is centred in Christ. Now He leads you to find the goal and purpose of your life. The greatest force in all the universe is working with you to accomplish the purpose for which you came into being. You have achieved the first step towards success, definiteness of purpose.

THE LAW OF ECONOMY

Now that you have chosen your goal and purpose in life, nothing must be done except that which will further this purpose. This law affects your money, time and words. You must discipline and budget these natural resources in each department of your life. Your spending plays a very important part of this role of success. Most people waste far more than they actually need. If you learn not to waste time, words or money, you have almost overcome all obstacles in your path to prosperity. Always consult that inner voice of the Spirit before you spend. Remember you are a steward of His goods.

The law of economy affects your words. Idle words breed sin and will ultimately cause you to lose the respect of others. Be more quick to listen than to speak. *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* (COL 4:6) Your words must be chosen for the purpose of edifying. Idle chatter and gossip can be disastrous. Let your conversation be inspired by the love of God so that it may minister grace to the hearers. Let the treasures of wisdom be on your lips so that men will want to hear your words and cherish your counsel. Speak sparingly and always with a purpose. Time, words and money are your three greatest assets in this path toward prosperity.

THE LAW OF GENEROSITY

“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”

(PROVERBS 11:24)

Your attitude concerning giving is of the utmost importance. The law of generosity does not conflict in any way with the law of economy. All giving must be for the advancement of your purpose in life to glorify Christ and for the upbuilding of His Kingdom. Your ultimate success must be for the glory of God and the winning of lost souls. It is an undeniable fact, that without sowing there can be no reaping. *“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* (GAL 6:7) True riches are always produced by a generous and sacrificial life. All of the riches that we enjoy today have been sown in sacrifice and tears by someone, sometime. Our greatest treasure of eternal life came through the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus.

“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

(2 CORINTHIANS 9:6)

Your giving must be sown, not wasted. It must be invested, not merely given with a generous spirit. It is an unfruitful fact that, *“with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.”* (LUKE 6:38b) When giving will benefit the cause of Christ and further your aspired goal, give unselfishly. The more you give or invest wisely, the more benefits you will reap. *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and RUNNING OVER, shall men give into your bosom.”* (LUKE 6:38a) You cannot outgive God. A miserly attitude will result in poverty in every aspect of life. Give and invest generously in the purpose of your life. Never seek something for nothing, but give amply for what remuneration you receive.

Your generosity must include God's work, your home, your business and the poor. Don't forget, “He that hath pity upon the poor leandeth unto the Lord,” and God always pays high dividends. This includes not only the financially poor, but those that are poverty stricken without the bread of life. In investing in the work of God remember to invest wisely. The storehouse spoken of in Joel, is a kingdom of God from which we all are fed. God has only one source of supply and from that He supplies all our needs. It behoves us to give where it is most needed and where it will do the most good. Unwise and selfish giving has greatly hindered the purpose of God in bringing the Gospel to every creature. Not all religious giving is pleasing unto God. The Lord wills that the bread of life be distributed evenly and justly to all that hunger and thirst after righteousness.

THE CHALLENGE OF MISSIONS

Approximately 9% of the population of the world speak English. Approximately 96% of all church giving is consumed upon 9% that speak English, while only 4% of Christian giving reaches a massive 91% of the population of the world! How unwisely we have invested! How foolish we have been to pour millions of dollars into expensive church buildings when God is interested in the message! Many are fooled into thinking they are giving to the Lord when in reality they are merely giving to satisfy a selfish desire for a beautiful church or comfortable accommodations. Give wisely where most needed to receive the most from every dollar invested. Many thousands of dollars are invested in each soul in most of our churches today. On most foreign fields, a very small amount is needed to win and house one

soul. I believe we should continue to grow and expand our building program here in the United States. I would have it borne in mind, however, that the church is to house people, not to keep abreast of the architectural designers. 120,000 souls are perishing every day without ever hearing of Christ because of the selfishness and unwise giving of the Christian world. The communists are investing wisely in revolution and terror. Can we not use this lesson to bring the Gospel in every nation, tribe and tongue? Give unselfishly to foreign missions, and in reaching toe lost in the least possible time. Choose the channel of your giving as you would evaluate any property for investment. Be sure your giving will win many souls and so bring back the king. This is the heartbeat of the eternal father! Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice until all have heard it once? W hat percent of your giving goes to the heathen?

God wills your physical, spiritual and financial prosperity. Use your talents, time, words, and money wisely. They are God's gift to YOU. You are God's steward of these worldly goods. God's immutable laws insure you lasting and eternal rewards! Amen.