

ADVENTURES IN RELIGION

**A SERIES OF RADIO LECTURES
GIVEN BY JOHN G. LAKE BETWEEN
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LECTURE ONE

This is the first of a series of articles on the general subject of "Adventures in Religion." I want to remind you, for a few moments, of some of the old mystics who were given glimpses into the unseen that it has not been the privilege of the ordinary man to understand.

The first and foremost was St. Francis of Assisi, whom the world has conceded to be one of the most Christ-like characters that has ever lived in the world. At a later period came St. John of the Cross, who for ten years, seemed to live detached from the world. Today he is discovered to be one of the most practical men.

At a later period Madam Guyon appeared on the scene and almost every library contains one of her books. The moulding of her character was so amazing that it has caused much discussion in the religious world of our day.

We have only, however, to look over the records of our own land to see many others. Such a man was Charles G. Finney, founder of Oberlin College and its first president. He was a practicing lawyer. He was seized with a conviction for sin so pungent that he retired to the woods to pray and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him so powerfully, so divinely and took such amazing possession of him, that he tells us he was compelled to cry out to God to cease least he should die. His wonderful ministry in the land is so well known. His books are so frequently found in our libraries that it is not necessary to discuss him further.

On this list I wish to mention one who is not usually mentioned so lovingly as Finney. He was a Scottish boy, educated in the University of Australia, (John Alexander Dowie). In addition to this, the Lord came to him in his own tabernacle one morning as he sat at his desk. Jesus was accompanied by His mother, the virgin Mary. He advised Dowie concerning his ministry. Jesus laid His hands upon him and from that period his ministry was marked by the supernatural.

It is a matter of public record and one of the most astonishing facts that on one occasion he invited all persons who were healed under his ministry to attend a meeting at the auditorium in Chicago. Ten thousand people attended the meeting. At the psychological moment they all arose and gave testimony to the fact that they were healed. Those who were not able to attend were asked to send in a card, three and a half inches square, telling of their healing. Five bushel baskets were filled with these cards, representing the testimony of 100,000 people. At the psychological moment these five-bushel baskets of cards were spilled over the stage, to emphasise the extent and power of God's ministry and blessing to the people.

Again, I want to call your attention to another marvellous life, that of Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission. To him the Lord came, not only in personal presence, but in prophecy concerning the future. It was Hudson Taylor who prophesied the great revival in Wales ten years before it came to pass, giving almost the very day on which it would begin, and its power and extent. All this came to pass just as he had outlined it, while he was in the heart of China.

The Welsh revival was one of the most remarkable revivals that was ever produced. It was apparently prayed out of heaven by a single little church whose lights were never extinguished for seven years. This indicates that a portion of that congregation was continually in prayer to God, that God would send a revival. And thus it came, the most astonishing and intensely powerful revival. In small churches, which would hold perhaps 500 people, in one corner fifty people would be singing the praises of God, thirty-five people would be down praying, another group would be praising God and testifying of His power.

It was not produced by evangelism. It was the descent of the Spirit of God on the people. Conviction for sin was so powerful men knelt in their stores, or wherever they were, to give themselves to God. Sometimes while men were drinking in the public houses at the bar, they would cry out to God and give their hearts to Him.

Beginning at that revival was a movement of God that spread throughout the world. In our own land we were particularly and wonderfully blessed by a movement that began New Year's Eve, 1900, which was accompanied by the baptism in the Holy Ghost, and multitudes were baptised in the Holy Ghost.

After that revival there arose a phenomenal group of men and women. I am going to mention a few. The first I am going to mention is Aimee Semple McPherson. She was a young girl on a farm in Ontario, Canada. She attended a meeting by a young Irishman, Robert Semple, who was preaching under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. She became convicted of sin, opened her heart to God, and found Him and was baptised in the Holy Ghost. Eventually they were married and went as missionaries to China, where he died of fever. She was left a widow and soon had a new born baby. Some friends provided the funds that brought her back to the United States. Later she formed the acquaintance of a fine young businessman and decided to settle down and forget all about her burning call to the gospel. This she tried to do. Two children were born to them. One day God came to Aimee in a meeting at Berlin, Ontario, conducted by Rev. Hall. Her early ministry for a period of about fifteen years surpassed everything that we have ever seen in any land since the days of the Apostles - a multitude was healed under her ministry.

Again, I want to call your attention to another unusual man, Raymond Ritchie, who belonged to Zion Hill. His father was mayor of Zion City at one time. This boy was tubercular. They did not seem to understand his difficulty. He had no ambition. He could not work like other boys. He was in a state of lassitude. Eventually he found God. We speak of finding God as the old Methodist Church spoke of being saved, getting religion, meaning one and the same thing. When a man confesses his sin and God comes into his heart and gives him the peace and consciousness of his salvation, he has found God.

Young Ritchie, after his salvation, was so absorbed in prayer, the family got sort of worried. The father finally told him he had to get to work and help earn his living. But some woman who understood the boy said, "I have a room you can have." Another said she would provide him with food to keep him alive.

The Great War came on, and the epidemic of the flu followed, when men died by the thousands throughout this United States. He became stirred, and began to pray for people and they were healed. The medical department presently took notice of it and they sent him to pray for sick soldiers and they were healed. He has continued in the ministry from then until now and has conducted some of the most wonderful healing meetings that have ever taken place.

Another man God has marvellously blessed and used is Dr. Price. He belongs to our own locality. Dr Price used to live in Spokane. He was baptised in the Spirit. Right away he began to manifest a most amazing ministry of healing. I attended one of his meetings at Vancouver, B.C. He had four audiences a day and 15,000 people in each and people for a block around who could not get inside. I think all the churches in Vancouver united with him in that meeting. It was the most amazing meeting I ever saw. Sick people stood in groups of fifty and he would anoint them with oil according to the 5th chapter of James and pray for them. They were so overpowered by the Spirit they would fall to the floor and a great number were healed.

LECTURE TWO

No greater book has ever been given to mankind than the bible. The amazing things recorded there that men experienced and that men wrought in the name of Jesus Christ, through faith, by the power of God, stand forever as an incentive to every man who enters and labours where they did. There is a place in God which your soul enters making it possible for the Spirit of God, through you as His agent, to register in the hearts of others.

Henry Fosdick says, "Until the New Theology can produce the sinless character of the old theology, it stands challenged." We believe that. We believe that the old-fashioned salvation, through the blood of Jesus Christ followed by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, makes possible an experience that no other religious experience in the world has ever been able to produce.

In the year 1900 there came a new wave of heavenly experience to this land and to the world. It began in Topeka, Kansas. It was in a bible school conducted by Charles Parham. The founding of that school was an amazing thing. He was moved by God to go to Topeka, Kansas. He obeyed the promptings of the Spirit and went to the city. After looking all around for a building suitable for a bible school he found none. One day a gentleman told him of a residence on the outskirts of the city. It contained about twenty-two or more rooms and it was unoccupied. The owner lived in California. He went to see the building and, as he stood looking at it, the Spirit of the Lord said, "I will give you this building for your bible school." He said to himself, "This is the house."

As he stood there a gentleman came up to him and said, "What about the house?" Parham told him what the Lord had said to him and the man, being the owner of the house, said, "If you want to use this building for a bible school for God it is yours." He handed him the key without any more ado.

The next day he went to the train and met a young woman of his acquaintance. She told him that when she was praying the Spirit of God told her there was going to be a bible school here and that she should come. She was the first student. Thirty-five students came, all correspondingly directed by the Spirit of God.

This group began a study of the Word of God to discover what really constituted the baptism of the Holy Ghost. After a month of study they became convinced that there was one peculiarity that accompanied the baptism of the Holy Ghost - speaking in tongues.

They went to seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Parham was not present at the time. On New Year's night at twelve o'clock, 1900, one of the group, a Miss Osmand, a returned missionary, was baptised in the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues. In a few days the entire group, with a couple of exceptions, was baptised in the Spirit. When Parham returned and found that the students in his school had been baptised in the Holy Ghost, he himself went down before the Lord and God baptised him in the Holy Ghost, too.

I want you to keep this story in mind for it forms the basis of the wonderful experience I want to relate in my next talk.

LECTURE THREE

For a moment I want to call attention to a challenge that has been distributed widely through the ministry of Henry Fosdick, as I mentioned yesterday. Fosdick has said, "Until the new theology can produce the sinless character of the old theology, it (the new theology) stands challenged."

That is our position. We are reminding you, friends, that God is a miracle God. God is a miracle. Jesus Christ is a miracle. His birth was a miracle. His life was a miracle. His death was a miracle. His resurrection from the grave was a miracle. His ascension was a miracle. His reception at the throne of God by the eternal Father was the greatest of all miracles, because it was then that God gave Him the gift of the Holy Ghost, and made Him the administrator of the Spirit forever.

Some things can be better taught by relating experiences than in any other way. I might try to impress you with the beauty and wonder of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but dear friends, I think the relating of a few experiences will make it clearer to our mind than any other way.

I am reminded of an incident that took place on a railway train. Father Neiswender was stricken with a paralytic stroke. He had not been able to sleep for weeks. When they got him on a train to bring him to Spokane, the motion of the train temporarily soothed him and he fell asleep and dreamed. In his dream an angel came to him and said, "When you get to Spokane, inquire for a man by the name of Lake. He will pray for you and God will heal you." He was directed to our place and when we prayed for him he immediately began to use his paralysed arm and side, but was not completely delivered. The third time I went to pray the Lord showed me a blood clot in the spinal chord as large as a bead. I prayed until the blood clot disappeared. No-one could explain an incident like that by any natural law. Consequently we must classify it in the line of miracles IN OUR DAY- not a thousand years ago.

One more incident of this order. A family by the name of Bashor had a lovely boy who became dissatisfied at home and ran away. He went to a farmer where he was not known. He gave another name and worked for him for a year. In the meantime the family, with the aid of the police, searched everywhere for the boy but he could not be found. One day the mother came to me, broken-hearted, and told me the story. We knelt and prayed and asked God to cause that boy to get in touch with his parents. Two days later she received a letter from the boy. He told her that on the night we had prayed he went to bed and had an unusual vision. Jesus appeared and talked to him. Jesus said, "I forgive your sins, but I want you to write to your mother and get home to your folks." The boy was greatly moved, got up and told the farmer the incident, and the result was the farmer hitched up his team and brought the boy to his home. That boy is now married and has a nice family and still lives in Spokane. The part of that incident that might interest young folks is this. I was preaching at Mica, Washington where I related this incident. A young lady in the audience listened to the story and, after the meeting, said to me, "I would like to get acquainted with that young man." She did and he is now her husband.

Dear friends, these are some of the things that show us that there is a work of God's Spirit different from what we are ordinarily accustomed to. These are the things that make religion real to New Testament Christians. Different ones in the scriptures were guided by dreams. Joseph was guided by dreams. Some were guided by a voice from heaven. Now we are contending and bringing to your attention that there was an experience provided by the Lord Himself that made that intimacy a possibility. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I wish I might say that with such emphasis that it would penetrate the deep recesses of your spirit.

One more incident. Over in the woods back of Kellog, Idaho lived a family by the name of Hunt. I visited their home just a little while ago. The aged father was given up to die. The son was very anxious about him. The father kept saying, "Son, I ought not to die." The son had been much in prayer about this matter. One day, when he stood on a log road, a man appeared a little distance ahead and, as the gentleman approached, he addressed Mr Hunt saying, "I am Mr Lake. I have Healing Rooms in Spokane. If you will bring your father there, the Lord will heal him." He was so impressed, that he got his father and brought him to me for prayer, and the Lord healed him gloriously and he lived many years.

The value of the ministry of healing is not in the mere fact that people are healed. The value of healing is more largely in the fact that it becomes a demonstration of the living, inner, vital power of God, which should dwell in every life and make us new and mighty men in the hands of God. (1916)

LECTURE FOUR

When the German army started their famous march on Belgium and France, with an army of three million men, they came to the borders only to find that they were met with such a tremendous opposition that for ten full days they were compelled to stay back until they could bring up their heavy artillery. Statesmen of Germany declare that the ten days delay resulted in their losing the war. France and Belgium were prepared in the meantime to meet the assault.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said to his disciples: "Behold I send you forth as lambs in the midst of wolves," but He did not send them out without being prepared. They were commissioned and empowered by God, for that is what constitutes the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ gave his disciples a big program before He left them. He told them they were not only to preach the gospel to the whole world, but that they were to demonstrate its power.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature ... And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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." Mark 16-18.

These signs shall follow them that believe - those who accented their work.

Dear friends, men who were going to put a program like that into effect needed heavy artillery from heaven. That is what Jesus undertook to give from heaven. He said they were not to go out right away unprepared. Instead He said:

"Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49

That enduement from on high is the equipment of every child of God who follows the biblical pattern. We are trying to impress upon the minds of men that one of the greatest adventures in religion that this world has ever found was when men dared to step across the usual boundaries and dared receive from His hand the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which equips them with the power of God to bring blessings to other lives.

Just for one moment I want to bring you this fact. The first thing Jesus said would be manifested in the Christian life was, "In my name shall they cast out devils." It was the first thing in Christian experience, and the exercise of Christian power, that Jesus said would follow the Christian's life. They had power to cast out devils.

Jesus first gave that power to the twelve, then He gave it to the seventy, then He gave it to the church at large on the day of Pentecost when the baptism of the Holy Ghost descended upon 120 at Jerusalem. Jesus gave the equipment from heaven.

In our day, within the past thirty years, we have seen such a manifestation of God from heaven as no other century in the world's history ever saw, with the exception of the first four centuries of the Christian era. Beginning with 1900, the Spirit of God began to be poured out in power upon the world so that every country in the world has received this amazing power of God. Men who were ordinary businessmen, men who were scholars and teachers, students, and men from every walk in life found this equipment from heaven by the grace of God, and they

stepped out into a great life and ministry for God. This preparation is not for preachers only, but for the people. Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that BELIEVE."

Friends, there is an adventure for your soul, the most amazing adventure in the whole world. It takes a brave soul to step into the light of God and receive the equipment He provides. That is no place for a coward. A cowardly spirit, a spirit that is always hiding, always apologising for his faith, will never enter there. That is the gate of God. That is the gate into His Spirit. That is the gate into a life of effectiveness for every one who wants to serve God aright. Friends, you need this equipment to meet the demands of this day.

Sanctification is the cleansing of a man's nature, by the indwelling power of the Spirit of Christ, for the purpose of the transformation of the mind and nature of man into the mind and nature of Jesus Christ.

I like John Wesley's definition of sanctification: "Possessing the mind of Christ, and ALL the mind of Christ."

LECTURE FIVE

This afternoon I want to talk to you on the subject of MIRACLES. From the year 400 until now the church has assumed the attitude that the days of miracles are passed without any scriptural evidence whatever. They have taught that miracles were to demonstrate the divinity of Jesus and therefore, the divinity of Jesus being demonstrated, there was no longer any need for miracles.

We had a local incident that demonstrated the effect of this teaching. My conviction on the matter is that it has done more damage to the Christian faith than any other teaching that has been promulgated. There is a gentleman who works at the Devenport Hotel in Spokane, O.A. Risdon, who is one of the engineers there. He had a son with a deformed head. The top of the head was raised up like the ridge of a roof. The forehead and back of the head also were forced out in a similar manner, giving the head the appearance of the hull of a yacht upside down. He was born with what the physicians call a closed head. The boy was always slobbering. The pressure on his brain caused the right side to become paralysed and the boy was dumb. He was five years old at this time.

The physicians said there was nothing they could do. In desperation he appealed to his pastor. The pastor told him the days of miracles were past, that the Lord did not heal now, that miracles were given to demonstrate the divinity of Jesus. The father replied; "If Jesus healed my son I would be convinced that He is divine now. If He is divine He could lift this damnation from our house."

Finally, he came to us seeking help. We began to minister to the child. In a few days we observed that the paralysis began to depart. Instead of walking on one side of his ankles he began to walk on the foot, and that indicated that the pressure was relieved on the brain. In seven weeks the child was perfectly well. The bones of the head softened and came down to normal. The paralysis disappeared and the child began to talk. In three months he was in the public school. He is a young married man now.

Dear friends, if we had continued to believe that the days of miracles were past that boy would be in the insane asylum. But we believed that Jesus Christ was the same yesterday, today and forever and the boy was healed. It is a delight to believe the words of Jesus. I have used this rule in my study of the scriptures. If there is any question on any scripture I settle it with the words of Jesus. I consider all the scriptures are the Common Court of the gospel, but the words of Jesus are the Supreme Court of the gospel. When I want a Supreme Court decision I appeal to the words of Jesus.

You can read all the words of Jesus in two hours or less in a Red Letter New Testament. Make a practice of reading the words of Jesus on any subject that troubles you and make a compilation of what He says. He ought to be sufficient authority on any question, for the heavenly Father called attention to the fact that He is the Son of God and that we are to hear Him. He said:

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." Matt. 17:5.

LECTURE SIX

Jesus Christ came on the scene as a challenger. We have almost come to believe in our day that He was a sentimentalist and an easy type. He was King. He was the Prince of God. He was the Glory of heaven! He was the representative of the Eternal Father! He had a mission. He declared the Father. He stepped among the religions of the earth as the Challenger.

Jesus said there was real sin, that there was real sickness, that there was real death. He was not dodging the issue. He met it foursquare and He said, "I am bigger than it all. I am the Prince of Life." He destroyed sin and obliterated it from the souls of men. He blasted sickness and dissolved it from their system. He raised the dead to life. He challenged the devil, who was the author of death, to destroy Him if he could. He went into the regions of death and conquered and came forth triumphant so that it became necessary for the Lord to have a new vocabulary. He said, after coming forth from the grave, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matt. 28:19.

Sin and sickness and death, the triumvirate of darkness that Jesus met and overcame, were the original forces of evil in the world. They were the manifestation of the kingdom of darkness. There never will be a heaven, there never could be one, where these exist. Their destruction is necessary. Jesus realised it and He came to do what man could not do for himself. That is one of the reasons why men cannot save themselves. All the good works that man may perform from now to the day of his death will not save him. Sin is of the heart. It is in the nature. Jesus came to reconstruct man's nature and give him, instead of his own evil nature, the nature of God. Sin has made the nature of man vile. Christ came to give him deliverance from this nature and give him a new nature, the divine nature.

"Through sin death entered into the world."

Death is not a servant of God, nor a child of God, nor a product of God. SIN is the ENEMY of God. The New Testament declares that "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." Not the last servant or friend, but the last enemy. Death is doomed to destruction by the Lord Jesus Christ. Sin and sickness are incipient death.

That is the reason we do not speak of the things of the Lord and His salvation in moderate tones. We are shouting them to mankind. The spirit of a real child of God challenges darkness, challenges sin, challenges sickness. The Lord Jesus came to destroy sickness and wipe it out of the lives of men, to make possible the heaven of God in their hearts and lives now. There could be no heaven where disease and sickness are found. Sin and sickness and death must be blotted out. That is the reason, dear friends, that Christianity is always a challenger. Christianity is a thing of strength. Real religion is a source of power. It is the dynamite of God. The Holy Spirit gives the overcoming grace and strength essential to destroy sin, to destroy sickness, to overcome death.

LECTURE SEVEN

I am pleased to greet you today, dear friends, with a real account of one of the marvellous adventures in God. Jesus said,

“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.” Matt. 10:8

Christianity was not to be stinted in her giving. She was not to be a beggar. She was to be a giver. She had something from heaven to give that the world did not have. She had something to give that would bring deliverance to the world. Jesus was putting His program of deliverance in force through the church.

The man is a bold man who undertakes to carry out this program of Jesus. The Christian who never has faith enough in God to undertake it, I fear, is of the cowardly type. I am afraid that modern Christianity stands indicted at the bar of God for cowardliness because of fear to undertake the program of Jesus.

Friends, this is why we urge upon men the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is the only thing that brings the heavenly equipment to the hearts of men that makes them equal to this program and the possibility of carrying it out.

I want to talk to you today of a bold soul and, in my judgment, a very extraordinary one indeed. I refer to a gentleman who lives in this city, a preacher of the gospel from the days of his youth, Rev. C. W. Westwood. His home is on Nora Avenue.

A number of years ago there was born at one of the great hospitals of the city, a little child (a girl) from healthy parents, Mr and Mrs Young. Mr Young, for many years, had a stall in the Westlake Market. Mrs Young has been a nurse for many years and also is well known. When this baby was born it weighed 6½ pounds. Because of some strange difficulty the child could not assimilate its food. When she was nine months old she only weighed four and a half pounds. The child looked more like a little dried-up alligator than a human being. She finally fell into a state of death and remained in a dying condition. In the meantime we were called to minister to the child.

Mr Westwood was assigned to the case. One day when he went to the hospital as usual to minister to the child, they explained that the child was not there. It had died that morning and was in the dead room. He asked if he might see the child. He went into the dead room and took the child down. He sat down on a chair with the baby on his knees. He opened his heart to God and turned the spirit of faith in his heart loose on behalf of the little one. In a little while (and I am saying this with all reverence before God, because I expect to meet this matter when I stand before the great Judgment Throne), the child revived. He sent for the parents. They took the child from the hospital and put her in the hands of an elderly lady by the name of Mrs Mason, who nursed her for six weeks. At the end of that period she was as well as any other child. Her name is Agnes Young.

About a year ago I received a telephone call from Agnes Young asking me if I would perform a marriage ceremony for her and her fiancé. This young couple lives at Eugene, Oregon now.

And so I want to leave this testimony, that God is as good as His Word. That faith in Almighty God brings to pass the very same things today that it always did.

LECTURE EIGHT

The climax of all adventures was the adventure of Jesus in delivering men from sin and sickness and death. One cannot measure the Man of Galilee with any tapeline or yardstick that comes from human reasoning. Jesus is outside of the realm of reason. In the first place His history was written by the prophets ages before He was born. Man can write a better history of Jesus from the Old Testament than they can from the New Testament. In the New Testament we have simply a little fragment about His incarnation and birth and then thirty years of silence, except for a little glimpse of Him when He was twelve years of age. All the books that have been written of Jesus have been written almost entirely about His three years of public ministry that began with His baptism in the Jordan and closed with His resurrection. Now men try to write on His pre-existence. Here and there one has caught a glimpse of His ministry seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

I want you to see another fact. Every prophecy that was written before His time was all in the miracle realm. His incarnation was a real miracle. He was not born under the natural laws of generation. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost. He was a true incarnation - God uniting Himself with humanity. The scenes surrounding His birth, the angelic visitation, the coming of the wise men were all miracles. The angel's warning to Joseph to flee with the child to Egypt was miraculous. The very silence of those thirty years is considered most miraculous. The divine silences represent the most marvellous elements in the book we all love. The descent of the Spirit at His baptism was a miracle. From that day until Mount Olive was a period of miracles. His life among men was a miracle. The new kind of life that He revealed to the world was a miracle. Jesus' mental processes were miraculous. Our libraries are full of books written by great thinkers, like Thomas Edison and others, who were incessant thinkers. With Jesus there is something different. He speaks out from the Spirit that dominated His spiritual faculties. Jesus' spirit ruled his intellect. Gems of divine truth dripped from His lips as honey from the honeycomb. The Sermon on the Mount and great portions in Luke and John are as untouched as when they dropped from the lips of Jesus. Men's writings grow old and out of date. God's truth is ever fresh. Yes, Jesus words and life and contact with men was miraculous. It is still miraculous.

His death on the cross, His three days in the tomb, His dramatic and startling resurrection were all miracles. His presence among the disciples on different occasions and, finally, His ascension in the presence of five hundred witnesses were miracles. They do not belong to the realm of reason. They belong to the miraculous realm. Jesus was in the realm of the Spirit, the realm of faith, the realm where God acts, the realm where the real child of God lives. You see, Christians have been translated out of the realm of human thought and reason into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, the realm of the Spirit.

It would be uncharitable if we were to criticise the man of reason, who knows nothing about the spiritual realm. Christianity is not the product of human reasoning. Christianity is a divine intervention. Christians are those who have been "born from above." They have been recreated. This life of God that comes into their spirit nature dominates the reason so that they have the "mind of Christ," to think God's thoughts and live in God's realm of miracles.

Friends, when a Christian tries to live by REASON he is moving out of God's country into the enemy's land. We belong in the miraculous or supernatural realm.

Christ was a miracle. Every Christian is a miracle. Every answer to prayer is a miracle. Every divine illumination is a miracle. The power of Christianity in the world is a miraculous power. God help us to realise that ours is a high and holy calling.

LECTURE NINE

I want to talk to you about some of the purposes of God. Among them is God's amazing purpose to baptise men in the Holy Spirit. I think that even among the deepest Christians in our day little is understood of the real purpose of God in this wonderful experience.

We say to one another that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is God coming into man. We say that it is God manifesting Himself in man, and other expressions of this type, but it fails to convey to the mind anything like the great purpose of God in His incoming in us.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit has among its wonderful purposes the dwelling of God in us, the perfecting of His life in us, through His Word in our spirit, through His power in our life. Tongues is the peculiar manifestation of God accompanying the coming of God the Holy Spirit into our life. This was the evidence when the Holy Spirit of God descended on the day of Pentecost at Jerusalem. The Scripture is given in these wonderful words:

“Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:2-4

What is the real purpose? What is God doing? Is He giving to the individual certain powers to demonstrate and to convince the world? I do not think that is the real reason. There is a deeper one. God is taking possession of the inner spirit of man. From the day that Adam sinned the spirit of man was a prisoner. This prison condition continues until God releases the spirit of the individual in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The spirit remains dumb, unable to express itself to mankind, until God, through the Holy Ghost, releases the spirit and the voice of the spirit is restored.

You understand man is a triune being. He is spirit, soul, and body and these departments of his life are very different. God manifests Himself to the spirit of man. The experience of real salvation is the coming of God into the spirit of man. It is the infusion of the spirit of man and God.

In the olden days the church used to discuss the subject of sanctification but were somewhat hazy in their explanation of what it was. Sanctification is God taking possession of our mental forces, just as He took possession of our spirit, when He bestowed on us eternal life. Your mind is brought into harmony with God, even as your spirit was brought into harmony with God. Following the example of Jesus, we dedicate not only our spirit and soul (or mind) to God, but also our body to God. That is the reason we left doctors and medicine behind.

I want to talk to you about speaking in tongues by relating an experience and reciting a poem God gave me, when I was a missionary in South Africa and had my residence there. There was a dreadful epidemic of African fever and within thirty days about one-fourth of the population of some sections of the country, of both white and black, died. I was absent from my tabernacle on the field with a group of missionaries and we did the best we could to get them healed by God and help bury the dead. I returned to my tabernacle, after about three weeks absence, to discover that the same thing was taking place there. I was greatly distressed. My pianist was gone. My chief soloist was gone. She was the only daughter of an aged mother. I went to her home to console her and comfort her. As I sat by her table she reminded me that just four

weeks before I had been present when the pianist and the soloist were practicing music in that home. My soul was very sorrowful. As I sat meditating I began to pray, "My God, I would like to know what sort of reception such a soul as that gets when they arrive on the other side." Presently God spoke to my soul and said, "Take your pen and I will tell you about it."

The first thing that came was the name of the poem in tongues. Then the Lord gave me the interpretation. It was called "The Reception." The first verse came in tongues, then I received from the Lord the interpretation and then the next verses like-wise, and so on. In the mean time some thing transpired in my own spirit. I felt as if I was being elevated into the presence of God and I could look down on the folks on earth. It was described in these verses:

THE RECEPTION

List! 'Tis the morning hours in Glory.
A shadow through the mists doth now appear -
A troop of angels sweeping down in greeting.
A "Welcome Home" rings out with joyous cheer!

A traveller from the earth is now arriving;
A mighty welcome's ringing in the skies!
The trumpets of a host are now resounding
A welcome to the life that never dies.

Who is the victor whom the angels welcome?
What mighty deeds of valour have been done?
What is the meaning of these shouts of triumph?
Why welcome this soul as a mighty one?

She's but a woman, frail and slight and tender,
No special mark of dignity she bears:
Only the Christ light from her face doth glisten:
Only the white robe of a saint she wears.

She's but a soul redeemed through the blood of Jesus.
Hers but a life of sacrifice and care;
Yet with her welcome all the Heaven's ringing,
And on her brow a victor's crown she bears.
How come she thus from sin's benighting thralldom,
The grace and purity of heaven to obtain?
Only through Him Who gave His life a ransom;
Cleansing the soul from every spot and stain.

See! As you gaze upon her face so radiant,
'Tis but the beauty of her Lord you see;
Only the image of His life resplendent;
Only the mirror of His life is she.

See with what signs of joy they bear her onward;
How that the Heavens ring with glad acclaim;
What is the shout they raise while soaring upward?
"Welcome! Thrice welcome, thou, in Jesus' Name!"

Rest in the mansion by thy Lord prepared thee,
Out of the loving deeds which thou hast done,
Furnished through thoughts and acts which have portrayed Me,
Unto a lost world as their Christ alone.

Hear how thy heavenly harp is ringing!
Touched are its strings with hands by thee unseen.
Note that the music of thine own creating
Heaven's melodies in hearts where sin has been.

See how the atmosphere with love is laden,
And that with brightness all the landscape gleams!
Know this the gladness and the joy of heaven
Shed now by rescued' souls in radiant beams.

Oh, that here on earth we may learn the lesson
That Christ enthroned in our hearts while here,
Fits and prepares the soul for Heaven,
Making us like Him both there and here.

Doing the simple and homely duties
Just as our Christ on the earth has done,
Seeking alone that the Christ's own beauties
In every heart should be caused to bloom.

Showing all men that the blood of Jesus
Cleanses our hearts from all sin below,
And that the life of the Christ within us
Transforms the soul till as pure as snow.

When we thus come to the dark cold river,
No night, no darkness, no death is there,
Only great joy that at last the Giver
Grants us anew of His life to share.

LECTURE TEN

Today I want to talk to you about one of the remarkable and outstanding incidents in the Word of God. You will find it in the 19th Chapter of Acts and the 11th and 12th verses. It reads:

“And the Lord wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”

The people brought their handkerchiefs or aprons to the Apostle Paul that they might touch his person. They were then carried to the sick and laid upon them. The demons went out of them and the sick were healed.

An examination of this incident discloses one of the most wonderful facts I know. Firstly, that the Spirit of God is tangible. We think of the air as tangible, of electricity as tangible and we register the effects of it. I want to say to you, friends, that the Spirit of God's equally as tangible and can be handled and distributed. He can be enclosed in a handkerchief or apron and sent as blessing to the one who needs it.

Get this Scripture and read it for yourself and secure from heaven the blessing it contains. Remember when you are in a struggle, and doubts and fears assail you, that God is not far away in the heavens. His Spirit is right here to bless, here to act in your life for a blessing.

Along this line I want to present this testimony of Mrs Constance Hoag who is dean of women at the state college, Pullman, Washington. She was visiting her son at Fairfield, Washington. They were going for a motor ride. When she stepped on the running board her son, thinking she was already in the car, started the car. She fell and broke her kneecap and the bone protruded through the flesh. They carried her into the house, then called us on the long distance and asked that we pray and send her a handkerchief as soon as possible, by messenger. We sent the handkerchief and in fifteen minutes after she received it the bone had gone back into place. In forty-five minutes the knee was entirely well.

However, her friends began to challenge this healing and she found herself in the midst of a strange debate. A little later almost the same accident happened again. She was thrown to the pavement and the other knee cap was broken and protruded in two sections through the flesh. Once again we prayed over a handkerchief and sent it to her and once again the power of God acted, but this time not so quickly as the first time. The second time she said the pain was gone in half an hour. In an hour the bone had gone back in its place and in an hour and a half the knee was healed and she was well. Friends, the Spirit of God is as tangible today as it was in the days of the Apostle Paul.

LECTURE ELEVEN

This morning I was out on the extreme east side of the city. I ran across a strange thing. A man was coming down the street with a pack on his back. The pack was in a cowhide which was only about half cured. In the sack he had a cow's leg. As I came up to him he said, "Excuse me, sir, but this is my Christian cross." I said, "Excuse me, but it looks like just the opposite to me." He went down the street and as far as I could hear him he was scolding me.

Then I went to the home of a woman who had been ill a long time. She had lain in bed and was gradually growing worse and, all the time, she was accepting this sickness as from God. So I told her this foolish incident. I said, "Dear woman, if you knew the Word of God you would never accept a thing like that as the will of God because Jesus most emphatically declared that sickness was not the will of God but the devil's." She had accepted that rotten, nasty business as God's will and had lain in bed for eight months. It is as offensive to God as the man with his "Christian cross." I want you to know, dear friends, that the Word of God is the foundation upon which our faith is to be built.

Jesus said that He came "to destroy the works of the devil'." Acts 10 declares:

"How 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; for God was with Him."

You do not find "if it be thy will" in the teaching of Jesus. He never suggested in word or deed that sin, sickness and death were the will of God. The leper who came to Jesus for healing in the 8th of Matthew did say, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." I suppose he, too, was accepting the dirty leprosy as the will of God. Jesus instantly said, "I will; be thou clean." The answer of Jesus to the leper is Jesus' answer to you, to every sick man. "If it be thy will" was never suggested in any of Jesus' teaching concerning sickness and disease. Friend, Jesus declared His will in the most emphatic manner. His will is always to heal if you but come to Him.

Every student of the primitive church discerns at once a distinction between the soul of the primitive Christian and the soul of the modern Christian. It lies in the spirit of Christ's dominion.

The Holy Spirit came into the primitive Christian soul to elevate his consciousness in Christ to make him a master. He smote sin and it disappeared. He cast out devils (demons). A divine flash from his nature overpowered and cast out the demon. He laid his hands on the sick and the mighty Spirit of Jesus Christ flamed into the body and the disease was annihilated. He was commanded to rebuke the devil and the devil would flee from him. He was a reigning sovereign, not shrinking in fear, but overcoming by faith.

It is this spirit of DOMINION, when restored to the church of Christ, that will bring again the glory-triumph to the church of God throughout the world and lift her into the place where, instead of being the obedient servant of the world, the flesh, and the devil, she will become the divine instrument of God. She will minister Christ's power in salvation, in healing the sick, in the casting out of demons and in the carrying out of the whole program of Jesus' ministry as the early church did.

LECTURE TWELVE

I want to tell you the story of an unusual family. I am going to call this story, "Following the Trail of Jesus". A number of years ago I felt as if I wanted to do something out of the ordinary to call attention to the subject of divine healing. So I went to the newspapers and posted \$500. Then I announced that if anyone who was sick or diseased would come to the Healing Rooms and be ministered to for thirty days, and if at the end of that time they were not substantially better or healed, they could have the \$500.

Over at Monroe, Washington, was a man by the name of Paul Gering, who had got to fooling around with spiritualism. That dear fellow was an open, splendid man. He was a hard-working businessman. After he got to fooling with spiritualism nobody could live with him. He was more like a raging lion than a human. He went all over the U.S. seeking deliverance from all kinds of folks who were praying for the sick.

He read my announcement and became interested. He sent me a telegram asking me to come to Monroe and put on a meeting and, of course, pray for him. He met Mrs Lake and me at our hotel and drove us out to his home on the outskirts of the city. He walked into his home and stopped in the middle of the dining room and fell on his knees saying, "Mr Lake, I am waiting for you to pray for me that I may be delivered." We laid hands on him and prayed and, bless God, the power began to go through him. He was completely delivered. The demons were cast out and he was baptised in the Spirit. From that time on hundreds of people have been saved and healed and baptised in the Holy Ghost under his ministry. Now he is a great wheat farmer in the Big Bend country. Last night I spent the evening at his home and conducted a public service for his relatives and neighbours.

Just let me follow the trail of Jesus with you in that family for a few minutes. His sons were unsaved. His daughters were unsaved. One by one, after the father's deliverance, the faith of God in his heart laid hold on God for his family. They became converted and baptised in the Spirit until his entire family, including his beloved wife, was saved and baptised in the Holy Ghost.

Mr Gering had a brother, Joe, a hard fellow and a heavy drinker. He owned a farm down in the country. His wife was distressed for she saw he was gradually losing his grip on his affairs and squandering his money and they were getting into financial difficulty. She was a woman of prayer and was praying for him. Finally one day he came to visit Paul Gering. Paul said, "Joe, I am going to Spokane to attend Mr Lake's meeting. Come with me." We were conducting meetings in our tabernacle. When they came, we were in the prayer room. The meeting went through without anything unusual occurring until we were practically ready to dismiss. This man, Joe Gering, was sitting on one of the back seats. A lady turned to me and asked, "Who is that man on the back seat?" I said, "That is Paul Gering's brother." She said, "The Lord told me to go and lay hands on him and pray and he would be saved and baptised in the Holy Ghost." I said, "Then you had better go and do it, sister."

She went back to him and engaged him in conversation and finally asked if she might pray with him. He said he had no objection to her praying for him. So she laid her hands on him and began to pray and, as she did, the Spirit of God from heaven came down on him and in a few minutes he yielded his heart to the Lord and prayed through until he got a real witness from heaven and began to rejoice in the Lord. After he rejoiced for awhile she said, "Now you ought to be baptised in the Holy Ghost." He knelt down again and began to pray and, after a few minutes, Joe Gering was baptised in the Holy Ghost. That man's soul was so full of rejoicing that he spent the entire night singing and praying and rejoicing and talking in tongues and

sometimes in English. In a few days he was out among the sinful and sick and getting folks saved and healed.

Here is another portion of the story. These men had a sister who lived at Palouse, Washington. She was unfortunately married to a very wicked man. She developed a tumour, and he insisted on her being operated on. She tried to tell him that in their family the Lord always healed them. He would not listen and insisted she be operated on. They brought her to St. Luke's Hospital in Spokane and she was operated on. A dreadful infection developed and they wired to the family that she was going to die, so the family began to gather here to see her. I knew nothing of these circumstances.

I was riding up Monroe Street when the Spirit of the Lord said, "Go to St. Luke's Hospital and pray for Paul Gering's sister. She is dying." I went immediately and inquired at the office and was directed to her bedside. I laid my hands on her and began to pray and the Spirit of the Lord came upon the woman. The infection was destroyed and in ten minutes she was sound asleep. The next day she was on the highway to a blessed recovery. These are some of the things that take place when folks get into the line of God.

Their old mother was a godly woman who lived at Palouse. She had been notified that her daughter was likely to die and, when she got the word, she went into her closet and interceded with God and prayed for the daughter's deliverance. I believe before God that when God spoke to me it was the answer to that mother's prayer. He sent help through me and the Lord made her whole.

GERBER GIRL'S HEALING

One day Mrs Lake and I were present in a gathering of Christian people where these Gering people were, and some of their neighbours. A family by the name of Gerber had a girl 17 or 18 years old. She stood up with her back to us and I remarked to Mrs Lake, "Did you ever see such a perfect form? That girl would do for an artist's model." But when she turned around I was shocked at her appearance. I never saw anyone so cross-eyed. It was a dreadful sight.

Later I talked to the father and he told me that surgeons would not undertake to straighten her eyes. They said it was impossible and, if they undertook it, she was likely to lose her eyesight. Presently the young girl came over our way and I said, "Sit down, little woman, I want to talk to you." After talking a few minutes I stood up and laid my hands on her eyes. The Spirit of God came upon her and in three minutes time those eyes were as straight as they were supposed to be. She is now married and has a beautiful home and lovely babies. Her eyes and heart are straight.

Christ is at once the sinless descent of God into man, and the sinless ascent of man into God. And the Holy Spirit is the Agent by which this is accomplished.

Tongues and interpretation (Somerset East Cape Colon, South Africa, June, 1910)