

**JOHN G. LAKE  
STUDY LESSONS**

**PART ONE**

**(LESSONS 1-10)**

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## 1. THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

One of the most difficult things to bring into the spirit of people is that the Spirit of God is a tangible substance, that He is the essence of God's own being.

We are composed of an earthly materiality, that is our bodies are largely a composition of water and earth. This may sound a little crude, but the actual composition of a human being is about sixteen buckets of water and one bucket full of earth. I am glad that there is one bucket full of good mud in us. Water, you know, is a composition of gases, so you can see how much gas there is in mankind. But we are not all gas.

Now as to the composition of the personality of God, for God has a personality and a being and a substance, God is a Spirit and Spirit is a substance. That is the thing I am trying to emphasise. All heavenly things are of spiritual substance. The bodies of the angels are of some substance. It is not the same character of materiality as our own, for ours is an earthly materiality. The composition of heavenly things is of a heavenly materiality. In other words, heavenly materiality is Spirit. The Word says, "God is a Spirit." He is a Spirit. Therefore, "they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit."

The spirit of man must contact and know the real Spirit of God, know God. We do not know God with our flesh, with our hands, nor with our brains. We know God with our spirit. The knowledge of God that our spirit attains may be conveyed and is conveyed to us through the medium of our mind, through the medium of our brain. The effect of God in our body comes through the medium of the spirit of man, through the mind of man, into the body of man.

There is a quickening by the Spirit of God so that a man's body, a man's soul or mind, and a man's spirit all alike become blessed, pervaded and filled with the presence of God Himself. The Word of God is wonderfully clear along these lines. For instance, it says "I will keep him in perfect peace whose MIND is stayed on thee" (Isaiah 26:3). Why? "Because he trusteth in thee." That is the rest that a Christian knows whose mind rests in God in real, perfect trust. "I will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."

The Word of God again says that our FLESH shall rejoice. Not our mind, but our very flesh shall rejoice. The presence of God is to be a living presence, not only in the spirit of man, or in the mind of man alone, but also in the flesh of man, so that God is known in ALL departments of our life. We know God in our very flesh. We know God in our mind. We know God in our spirit. Bless His precious Name.

The medium by which God undertakes to bless the world is through the transmission of Himself. Now the Spirit of God is His own substance, the substance of His being, the nature and quality of the very presence and being of God. Consequently when we speak of the Spirit of God being transmitted to man and into man, we are not talking about an influence, either spiritual or mental. We are talking about the transmission of the living substance and being of God into your being and into mine. Not a mental effect, but a living substance. The living being and actual life transmitted, imparted, coming from God into your being, into my being. Bless God!

That is the secret of the abundant life of which Jesus spoke. Jesus said, "I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it MORE ABUNDANTLY," (John 10:10). The reason we have the more abundant life is because, by receiving God into our being, all the springs of our being are quickened by His living presence. Consequently, if we are living today and we receive God, we live life in a fuller measure. We live life with a greater energy because we become the recipients of the energy of the living God in addition to our normal energy, through the reception of His being, His nature, His life into ours.

The wonderful measure that the human being is capable of receiving from God is demonstrated by some of the incidents in the Word of God. For instance, the most remarkable in the scriptures is the transfiguration of Jesus Himself where, with Peter, James and John, the Spirit of God came upon Him so powerfully that it radiated out through His being until His clothes became white and glistening and His face shown as the light.

Now one must be the recipient of the light, glory and power of God before he or she can manifest it. Jesus demonstrated these two facts - the marvellous capacity of the nature of man to receive God into his being, and the marvellous capacity of the nature of man to reveal God. In the glory shining through His clothes, in the glistening of the glory of God that made His face glorious and wonderful, He demonstrated man's capacity to reveal God.

Paul received so much of God into his being that when men and women brought handkerchiefs and aprons and he took them into his hands, they became impregnated with that Living Spirit of God, that living substance of God's being. When they were carried to anyone who was sick or possessed of devils and laid on them, the word says the Spirit of the living God passed from the handkerchiefs and aprons into them and they were healed and the devils cast out.

You see, people have been so in the habit of putting Jesus in a class by Himself that they have failed to recognise that He has made provision for the same living Spirit of God that dwelt in His own life and of which He, Himself, was a living manifestation, to inhabit your being and mine just as it inhabited the being of Jesus or Paul.

There is no more marvellous manifestation of the life of Jesus than that manifestation of healing through the Apostle Paul.

Do you remember the incident of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment, knowing how His whole being, His whole nature radiated that wondrous, blessed life of God of which He was Himself the living manifestation? She said within herself, "If I can but touch His garment I shall be healed." So she succeeded, after much effort, to touch the hem of His garment, and as she did, there flowed into her body the quickening life stream, and she felt in her body that she was made whole of the plague. Jesus, being conscious that from Him something had flowed, said to Peter, "Who touched me?" Peter replied, "Why Master, you see the crowd, and do you say, who touched me?" "Oh," He said, "SOMEBODY touched me, for I perceive that virtue has gone out of me." If you will analyse that Greek word for "virtue" you will see it means

the life or substance of His being, the quickening, living power of God, the very nature and being of God.

If I transmit to another the virtue of my life, I simply transmit a portion of my life to another, the life power that is in me, blessed be God. The life of God that flows through me is transmitted to another, and so it was with Jesus.

The fact that the handkerchiefs and aprons which were brought to Paul became impregnated with the Spirit of God, and people who touched them were healed, is a demonstration in itself that any material substance can become impregnated with the same living Spirit of God.

In my Church in South Africa we published a paper in ten thousand lots. We had the publishers send them to the tabernacle and we laid them out in packages of one or two hundred all around the front of the platform. At the evening service I called certain ones of the congregation that I knew to be in contact with the living God, to come and kneel around and lay their hands on those packages of papers. We asked God not only that the reading matter in the paper might be a blessing to the individual and that the message of Christ come through the words printed on the paper, but also that He make the very substance of the paper itself become filled with the Spirit of God, just like the handkerchiefs became filled with the Spirit of God. If I were in my tabernacle now I could show you thousands of letters in my files from all quarters of the world, of people telling me that when they received our paper the Spirit came upon them and they were healed, or when they received the paper the joy of God came into their hearts, or they received the paper and were saved unto God.

One woman writing from South America said, "I received your paper. When I received it into my hands my body began to vibrate so I could hardly sit on the chair, and I did not understand it. I laid the paper down, and after awhile I took the paper up again, and as soon as I had it in my hands I shook again. I laid the paper down and took it in my hands a third time. Presently the Spirit of God came upon me so powerfully that I was baptised in the Holy Ghost."

Beloved, don't you see that this message and this quality of the Spirit contains the thing that confuses all the philosophers and all the practice of philosophy in the world? It shows what clearly characterises the real religion of Jesus Christ and makes it distinct from all other religions and all other ministries.

The ministry of the Christian is the ministry of the SPIRIT. He not only ministers words to another but he ministers the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit of God that inhabits the words, that speaks to the spirit of another and reveals Christ in and through him.

In the old days when I was in Africa, I would walk into the native meetings when I did not understand the languages and would listen to the preacher preach for an hour. I did not understand a word he said but my soul was blessed by the presence of the Spirit of God.

As bishop of the church I went from place to place holding conferences among white and native people. Both Dutch and English were spoken. I was as much blessed when

a Dutch man spoke as when an English man spoke, even though I did not understand him. Why? It was the living Spirit of God blessing my soul, not the words or explanations of the scriptures that he could give. I was blessed by the presence of God. The thing that the individual was ministering to my soul was the living Spirit of God.

The ministry of the Christian is the ministry of the Spirit. If the Christian cannot minister the Spirit of God, in the true sense, he is not a Christian. If he has not the Spirit to minister in the really high sense, he has nothing to minister. Other men have intellectuality, but the Christian is supposed to be the possessor of the Spirit. He possesses something that no other man in the whole world possesses, that is, the Spirit of the living God.

### **LETTERS PRESENTED FOR PRAYER**

These letters are to dear people all over the land, and I have this feeling that I would like to revive among us that blessed old practice of believing God for the very substance of the letter, the paper, or handkerchief to become so filled with the Spirit of the Lord God that when it comes into their hands they would not only feel blessed by the words of the letter, but the blessed Spirit of God would flow into their being out of the substance of the paper itself.

That is Christianity. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the thing that goes thousands of miles beyond psychological influence. If you want a clear distinction between psychological religions, as they are called, or mental science, you can see it in a minute. The real Christian ministers the real Spirit of God, the substance of His being. There should never be any misunderstanding along these lines in the minds of any.

A minister of Jesus Christ is as far removed above the realm of psychological influences as heaven is above the earth. Blessed be God. He ministers God Himself into the very spirits and souls and bodies of men. That is the reason the Christian throws down the bars of his nature and invites God to come in and take possession of his being. The coming of God into our body, into our soul and into our spirit accomplishes marvellous things in our nature.

A man came into my healing rooms one day, and said, "I am almost ashamed to call myself a man because I have so indulged the animal of my nature that I am more a beast than a man. You may say, 'Why don't you quit such a life?' "I have not the strength of my being to do so. Unless something takes place that will deliver me from this condition I do not know what I will do."

I tried to show him what the gospel of Jesus Christ was. I tried to show him that through living in the animal state, thinking animal thoughts, surrounding himself with beastly suggestion and contacting the spirit of bestiality everywhere, that element had taken such possession that it predominated in his nature. I said, "My son, if the gospel means anything it means there shall be a transference of nature. Instead of this living hell that is present in your being, the living, holy God will flow into your life and cast out the devil, dispossess the beast, and reign in your members."

We knelt to pray, and today he came back with tears in his eyes and said, "Mr Lake, I feel I can shake hands with you now. I am a beast no more. I am a man."

Yesterday a dear woman was present in our afternoon service. She had a tumour that for ten months the physicians believed to be an unborn child. She came with her nurse a few days ago to the healing rooms and told me her symptoms. The thing that fooled the physicians was that there was a movement they considered similar to life movement. The result was that during all these months they believed the woman would become a mother, until the normal time had long passed. She was the first one to be prayed for after the Thursday afternoon service. Today she returned and said, "Mr Lake, I want you to see me. I have my corsets on. I am perfectly normal. When I went to bed I was not aware that anything had taken place except that the choking had ceased and I felt comfortable. I was not aware of any diminution in my size. But when I awoke this morning I was perfectly normal."

I said, "How did the tumour disappear? Was it in the form of a fluid?" She said, "No, nothing came from my person."

Now I am going to ask you, "Where did a great tumour like that go?" What happened to it? (Voice from the audience: "Dematerialised.")

Yes, the living Spirit of God absolutely dematerialised the tumour, and the process was accomplished in one night while the woman slept. That is one of God's methods of surgical operation, isn't it?

Beloved, the Spirit of God took possession of that dear soul's person. That tumour became filled with the Spirit of God, and the effect of the Spirit of God in that tumour was so mighty, so powerful, that the Spirit of God dissolved it.

That is the secret of the ministry of Jesus Christ. That is the secret of the ministry of Christianity. That is the reason that the real Christian, who lives in union with the living God and possesses His Spirit, has a ministry that no other man in all the world possesses. That is the reason why the real Christian here has a revelation of Jesus Christ and His almightiness and His power to save that no other human in all the world possesses. Why? He is full and experiences in his own soul the dissolving power of the Spirit of God that takes sin out of his life and makes him a free man in Christ Jesus. Blessed be His name forever.

A few weeks ago a dear woman called me over the telephone and said, "I have a young friend who is a drunkard. The habit has such power over him that he will go to any excess to obtain alcohol. Dry state or no dry state, he has to have it. He is an intelligent fellow. He wants to be free. We have invited him to my home for prayer and he is here now. I want you to join me in prayer for him." I said, "All right, but first call one of your neighbours to join you in prayer for this man, then when you are ready, call me on the phone. Brother Westwood, Mrs Peterson, and I will join you in prayer." She called me in a little while, and we united our hearts in prayer for the young man who was on the other side of the city. About twenty minutes afterwards he rose from his knees and, with tears in his eyes, took the woman by the hand and said, "I am a man of sense. I know when something has taken place within me and the appetite has

disappeared.” That is the ministry of the Spirit, the ministry of God to man. Blessed be His Name.

Isn't it a marvellous, wonderful thing that God has ordained an arrangement whereby man becomes God's own co-partner and co-labourer in the ministry of the Spirit, “the church which is His body.” Just as Jesus Christ was the human body through which the living Spirit was ministered to mankind, so God has arranged that the living church, not the dead member, but the living church, alive with the Spirit of the living God, should minister that quickening life to another and thereby become a co-partner, a co-labourer together with God. Blessed be His name forever.

Men have mystified and philosophised the gospel of Jesus, but the gospel is as simple as can be.

Just as God lived and operated through the body of the man Jesus, so Jesus, the Man on the throne, operates in and through the Christian and through His body, the church, in the world. Just as Jesus was the representative of God the Father when He was on earth, so the church is the representative of Christ.

And as Jesus yielded Himself unto ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS, so the church should yield herself to do all the will of God.

The secret of Christianity is in BEING. It is in being a possessor of the nature of Jesus Christ. In other words, it is being Christ in character, Christ in demonstration, Christ in agency of transmission. When a person gives himself to the Lord and becomes a child of God, a Christian, he is a Christ man. All that he does and all that he says from that time forth should be the will and the words and the doing of Jesus, just as absolutely and entirely as He spoke and did the will of the Father.

## 2. THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS

*“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased.” Galatians 5:11.*

“Offence,” the stumbling block of the cross. This word calls for careful consideration. After writing to the Galatians, Paul calls attention to the “offence of the cross.” He suggests that those who read his letter would understand what he was saying. The “offence of the cross” was expected. If it was absent there was something wrong.

We sing:

“In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o’er the wrecks of time,  
All the light of sacred story,  
Gathers round that head sublime.”

We have almost with astonishment, and even with a tendency toward reluctance, come to a phrase like this, “The stumbling block of the cross,” or “the offence of the cross.” In meditation I ask you to consider with me the word, the arresting challenge of that word “offence” or “stumbling block.” It is very interesting to see how the great translators have attempted to get over the import of the word.

Wycliff’s translation employed the word that is now obsolete in our language. He rendered it the “sclaunger” of the cross. That was two words merged. We have divided them into “slander” and “scandal.” Cranmer translated it “slaumger.” The Geneva Council translated it “slander.” The Roman Catholic translated it “scandal.” The King James translates it “offence.” The English and American Revised Standard versions put it “stumbling block.” They were all trying to interpret the word. I am daring to submit for your consideration the Revised Version, as exactly expressing the word: “scandalon - stumbling block”.

Listen. It is something in the way, in the way of progress. Suddenly you trip and stumble and fall. That is the word. I am not quarrelling with the word “offence.”

What does this mean, “the stumbling block of the cross”? It is something that men stumble over intellectually; stumble over emotionally. It is the stigma attached to the cross.

The cross was well known throughout the Roman world. The Romans had taken it over from the Venetians for capital punishment. But even in that world it never produced anything in the sense of scandal or upheaval. It was the symbol of justice. It was the symbol of punishment for breaking the law. It was the poetic result of wrong doing against righteousness and justice. Men were not scandalised by the cross.

Then what is Paul talking about? It is the cross of Christ. Yes, but why should it be a scandal? It was the cross of Christ as presented to the world. What was being

presented to the world that would make it a scandal? What were those early ministers and preachers declaring about the cross of the Nazarene?

What were they declaring? They were declaring that the cross was the very centre of religion, the secret of government, and the inspiration of culture. That was what characterised the scandal. Jews from Jerusalem were moving out over all the world. Wherever they went they were telling that the cross of the Nazarene was the centre of religion. It was the secret of authority and government. It was the inspiration of true culture to human life. Men laughed. They stumbled over it. Men were against it emotionally, morally and intellectually.

We can see that there is the same sense in the minds of men today. The cross is still spelling out to men a scandal. Men are still intellectually tripped by it. They still revolt against it. The cross is still bearing a stigma.

You and I are called to represent that cross in word and in life, and if we fail to do it, we are failing in loyalty to our Lord and Master.

Will you come patiently with me to the historic scene? Yes, I would remind you of the well-known fact that while Pilate had the superscription written over Jesus, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews”, the wording was not the significant thing. The significant thing was that he had put it in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. The purpose was that no stranger near the cross would fail to read it. The three languages of the world powers were there.

Now look at the cross. Firstly, look at it from the soul of the Jew. Then look at it from the mind of the Roman. Lastly, look at it from the person of a Greek.

Now supposing you could put yourself back at the scene, and could see it as a Jew, and you could hear its witnesses saying that it was the secret of religion. What would a Jew, looking at the cross, see? Disgrace! To him the cross was the place of moral disgrace. “Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” Criminals are cursed.

For the Jew to be told that the cross was the CENTRE of religious life, the one and only secret of righteousness for an individual and the world - don't you see intellectually how he would stumble over it? The cross of the crucified male-factor being the secret of righteousness would be PREPOSTEROUS!

Then imagine you are a Roman and look at the cross from his standpoint. The point in human history when our Lord was born into this world, exercised His ministry and went to that cross, was unique. It was the only time a great power had mastered the known world. It had been attempted but had never succeeded before. It was the period known as PAX ROMANA, Roman peace. While I agree that “war is hell, I declare that that period was worse. No man or woman, boy or girl, owned their own soul under the rule of Rome. Her pro-consuls were everywhere. Her soldiers were everywhere. An example was shown by Pilate, the Roman governor. He mingled the blood of the Galileans with the Jewish sacrifices.

So you come as a Roman to look at the crucified Nazarene and you are told that this is the throne of an imperial power and empire. Here is the king, the one and only king who will subdue humanity so that His rule will be universal. I can hear the laughter of Rome at the very suggestion. The Roman idea of the cross was that the victim was not only in disgrace, but defeated. It was not a question of morality for them. They had their own laws and jurisprudence but were not bothered by morality.

Notice that at that time on the throne in Rome was a man who was notorious. The Romans believed that power was all that was necessary. That Galilean, whether He had done anything wrong or not, was eliminated from being a king just by being on a cross. If the Jew says, “preposterous”, the Roman says, “ridiculous.”

Why would the Romans object? Naturally, a defeated man could not be king. They had a false philosophy of government. The philosophy of force. If you have plundered a man so that he dare not do what he wants to do, you have conquered him. Rome did not care if the inner heart was in revolt. If they bludgeoned a person into submission, they considered that victory. Yes, that was the whole scheme of government and we have not escaped it yet. We still think we can compel a man to be moral. You can restrain him, but that doesn't change his heart.

There He was on the cross. What do I see there? The weakness of God! Paul says it is stronger than men. You look at the cross and there is one supreme thing manifested. It is the exhaustion of human power. Man attempting to govern has done all he can. He can do no more. He has taken the criminal and put Him on a cross. He has executed Him. All the armies of Rome can do no more. In a few moments that male-factor will have left the world. Is that all? They have done their utmost. They are powerless.

Jesus said, “Fear not him that killeth the body, and after that ...” The laughter of the man that thinks his victim is done for when he kills the body, faces a rude awakening.

Now for a moment, do not be a Jew or a Roman. Be a Greek. I am not thinking of the chattering Greek merchant. I am thinking of some chance traveller from Athens. He looked at that cross. If he looked once, he would never have looked again. A mutilated man was disgusting to the Greek. Greek idealism was looking for the perfection of physical personality and there was no room for mutilation in their thought.

It was not a question of whether this was the result of morality. The Greek, with his aesthetic culture, would have turned away from a broken and mutilated man. He would not have looked twice at such a sight.

Later, men passed through Greek cities, one after another, proclaiming that the broken, mutilated man on Judea's cross was the inspiration of culture, and of all that is refined and beautiful in life. The Greek intellect stumbled over it. Emotionally the Greeks revolted against it. If the Jew said, “preposterous,” and the Roman, “ridiculous”, the Greek said “absurd.” Wherever the Gospel was preached the scandal of the cross became known, the offence of the cross was created.

Why were these things so? What is the real reason behind these objections? - the Jews' objection to the cross being the centre of religion, the Romans' contempt when they

were told it was the secret of government, and the Greeks' revulsion when they were told it was the inspiration of culture?

The Jew would be scandalised by the cross because he had an inadequate sense of sin and was ignorant of the God of his fathers. He only saw there the moral delinquency. It was not the curse of the King, but the man who put Him there. "He was made sin." That is the sinner's place, and they did not see it. Men still do not see that it is the only place for sin and that God cannot deliver a man except his sin is put there. The route of religion is the cursing and cancelling of sin. Unless sin is cursed and cancelled there is no approach to God.

A man who tells me he is disgusted at the cross and that it is the religion of the shambles has never had an adequate sense of sin. A man who tells me that he does not go to church but goes to the country to worship God through nature, while sin is in his heart, is talking nonsense. Earth is crammed with God and every bush ablaze with Him, but only he who sees, takes off his shoes. You cannot worship God while sin remains in your soul.

There, on that bitter cross, the God of eternity, the God of Moses was dealing with sin so that it would be blighted, blasted, cursed, cancelled, and the way opened. When He cried, "It is finished!", the veil of the temple was rent in two and the way to the heart of God was opened for humanity. But they did not see it. Men were ignorant of God. God is holy, yet so full of infinite love that He would bow and bend and stoop and when sin must be cursed, gathered the curse into His own being and, bearing our sins in His own being on the tree, brought deliverance. The cross in religion, to those who are blind and ignorant of God, is still made a scandal and a stumbling block.

Why would the Roman object? The idea of a defeated man dying on a cross being a king was unheard of. To the Romans, the Man on the cross had no power. He would soon die and it would be all over. However, I repeat what Jesus said, "Fear not them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul ..." (Matthew 10:28). After that, then what? His resurrection from the dead. He is God's King. He is going to rule over this world. The secret of His rule is love. His subjects will serve Him because they love Him. He will not bludgeon a man into submission and call it victory while that man is still in rebellion in his heart. Men are afraid of God because of wrong concepts. Let a man meet God in Jesus and he will love God.

To the man with the ideal of bludgeoning power we point to the power of the resurrection. Don't look at the cross and stop there. Look beyond and see the mighty Christ at the right hand of the Father. Listen to the greatest declaration and cry of victory in the history of the world. "... I am the first and the last. I am he that liveth, and was dead and behold, I am alive for evermore and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:17-18).

Finally, why would the Greek revolt at the sight of a mutilated man? The soul of Greek idealism was expressed in the observance of the Olympic Games. It represented the perfect person, the perfect personality, the perfect body with its smooth, flowing muscles. The sculptures of ancient Greece displayed this high idealism. Their statues

are marvels of perfection that express a high ideal of physical beauty. It is no wonder the Greek would not take a second look at the mutilated Man on the cross.

To the man who is looking for physical perfection we would say, "Look at the cross and what it stands for, then look beyond." What will he see? What will the Greek see? He will see one "clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs are white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes are as the flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace." (Revelation 1:13-15). Jesus' transfiguration was a foretaste of His beauty. "His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light," (Matthew 17:2). Our body shall be like His glorious body (Philippians 3:21).

To the Jew, to the Roman, to the Greek and their counterparts today, we point you to the cross and show you what it means and then take you beyond, into the glories that are there and are yet to come to us.

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness, but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God," (1 Corinthians 1:23-24).

Christ, the power of God, can change your life. He can make a new creature out of you. Old things will pass away and all things will become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Old things are passed away. That is the power of the cross. All things are become new. That is the power of being raised in newness of life in Him (Romans 6:4).

There is the power of His resurrection, yet ahead for the physical body (Philippians 3:21). We are to be presented perfect in Christ Jesus, perfect in spirit, perfect in soul, and perfect in body (Colossians 1:28 and 2 Thessalonians 5:23).

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## **JAMES AND PETER (ACTS 12)**

Herod killed James with the sword. With the same intent he arrested Peter and put him in jail. In answer to prayer God delivered Peter. This incident is used often to show that God will deliver some but not others. Some, God will heal, but not others. What does deliverance or non-deliverance from martyrdom have to do with deliverance from disease? They are two vastly different areas of activity. There is no relationship between them. Jesus said that men would kill you (Matthew 24:9 and John 16:2). He never said disease would kill you. He healed all that came to Him. Martyrdom is partaking of Christ's sufferings. Disease and sickness were not in the category of Christ's sufferings that we are to endure.

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Outward attacks and troubles fix, rather than unsettle the Christian, as tempests from without only serve to root the oak faster, whilst an inward canker will gradually rot and decay it. (H. More) Allow God to rid your life of sin and sickness, for they are the inner cankers that destroy life.

### 3. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

I would like you to read one of the best incidents in the Word of God. It is the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. 1 Kings 18:17-40

In every land, among every people, throughout all history, there have been occasions when a demonstration of the power of God was just as necessary to the world as it was in the days Elijah. It is necessary now.

The people had turned away from God. They had forgotten that there was a God in Israel. They were trusting in other gods, just as the people are today. If I were to call you heathen I suppose most people would be offended, but I want to say that there are no people with more gods than the average American. Men are bowing down to the god of medicine. Men are bowing down to the god of popularity. Men are bowing down to this god and that god. Men are as afraid of the opinion of their neighbours as any heathen ever was in any time in the world. There is practically no Christian, let alone an unchristian, who has the real stamina to stand forth and declare his absolute convictions concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, much less Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. That is the reason that the modern church has lost her touch with God and has gone into a sleep unto death, a sleep that can only end in spiritual death and disintegration of the church as she stands. The only power that will revive the church in this land, and the world, is the power she will receive when she throws her heart open to God, as the people of Israel did, and say, "Lord God, we have sinned." The sin she needs to repent of is not the committing a lot of little acts which men call sin and that are the out growth of what is in the heart. The thing that mankind needs to repent of is this - that they have denied the power of God. They have denied to mankind that the Christ of Israel is the Son of God and that He is the Almighty Saviour. God's call to the Christian churches today is to come forth from their hiding places, just as Elijah came forth, and meet the king. Declare the ground on which you meet the enemies of God, and meet them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Christian church is absolutely, solely and entirely to blame for the whole existence of metaphysical associations which are covering the earth like a plague of lice. If the church of Jesus Christ, for the last 50 or 100 years, had declared to mankind, in the power of the Spirit, the Christ of Nazareth as He is, there would never have come into existence the whole tribe of metaphysical societies.

The world today is being taken by the metaphysical associations to such an extent that they are bowing before the metaphysical laws and calling them God. That is human nature and not God. The time has come when the Christian church has got to give a new demonstration to the world. If metaphysicians, through the operation of natural laws, can produce a certain character and degree of healing, then it is up to the church of Jesus Christ and the minister of the Son of God to demonstrate that there is a power in the blood of Jesus Christ to save and heal men unto the **UTTERMOST**. Not half-healed and not half the people healed! I pray and believe that God's time has come for God's challenge to mankind and the challenge of the Christian church to the world to be declared, and if it is God, let the **FIRE FALL**.

There was no bluffing with the old Israelite prophets. When the people came they laid their sacrifices on the altar, and they did not put artificial fire under it. Instead, the soul went down before God. He lifted his heart to heaven and when the fire came down and consumed the sacrifice, that was the evidence that the sacrifice was accepted.

The time has come when God wants the fire to fall and if you, my beloved brother and sister, will pay God's price and make Christ's consecration of yourself to God, we will see God's fire fall. It will not be destructive either. Only sin and selfishness and sickness will wither under that fire. Purity and life and holiness and character will stand forth purified and refined by the glory and the power of the God-fire that comes from heaven. God's fire is creative of righteousness as well as destructive of sin.

Some years ago, when I opened my work in South Africa and the Lord had moved marvellously for about six months, there was a movement taking place to congregate a crowd of Indian Yogi, (a society of people who utterly give themselves up to a demonstration of metaphysical things), Brahman priests, Buddhist priests, Confucian priests, and all kinds of other priests and hypnotists. After a while they said, "We would like to have a demonstration." I said, "Yes, I would like to have a demonstration also. Come on with your Yogis and your Buddhas and your Confucians and hypnotists. Let them show their God. Let them heal people if they can. Let it be in public, and let it be done on the platform of my tabernacle or any other place large enough to accommodate the public. Then when you have finished, we will call on the Christian's God and see what He will do."

Well, they came to the tabernacle to make the demonstration. One man, Professor Henderson, a professional hypnotist, was put forward. He said he was there to demonstrate what he could do through hypnotism. He brought with him as his subject a woman from Germiston who had a locked hip, probably from rheumatics or hip disease. After he had tried and tried privately for months and publicly before the people, I said, "Stand off!" Calling one of the brethren to pray with me, I said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I command this hip to become unlocked." Instantly she was healed and walked. I want to tell you more of what God did. That was as far as my faith reached, but God met me at that point. As I stood looking at her, I said to myself, "That is the way Jesus did it when He was on the earth, and that is the way Jesus does it now." It was Jesus who did it.

Well, as I stood looking at her, suddenly something came upon my soul from heaven. It was the anointing of the Spirit of God. I understood then what the blessed old Book talked about when it spoke of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon Elijah and the Spirit of the Lord coming upon Sampson, and so on. Sampson, under the power of the Spirit, took the Gates of Gaza and carried them off. He took the jawbone of an ass and killed a thousand men with it. These were the things by which God endeavoured to teach the world what the Spirit of the Lord was. Well, as I stood there, the Spirit fell upon me, not like the gentle dew of heaven but in power, until my spirit towered up in such strength I did not know how to control it. In my heart I cried out, "My God, what does it mean?" Then all at once I discovered the Spirit going out in operation to the spirit of that hypnotist. I said, "Are you the man who has been hypnotising this woman for two years and grafting her hard-earned money? In the name of Jesus Christ you will never hypnotise anyone else." Grasping him by the coat front, I struck him on the

shoulder with my other hand, saying, “In the name of the Son of God come out of him;” and it came out. That hypnotic demon was gone out of him. He never hypnotised again but earned an honest living.

God is not the God of the dead. He is the God of the living. The desire in my soul is that in this city God Almighty may raise up an altar unto the living God, not unto a dead God. Mankind needs an altar to the LIVING God, to the God that hears prayer, to the God that answers prayer, and the God that answers by fire. The time has come that God’s challenge has gone forth. God is saying, “If there is a Christian, let him pray. If there is a God, let Him answer.” God will meet the soul every time you turn to Him and meet Him face to face.

In emphasising this, the Lord Jesus Christ says to the world, “When ye pray, believe that ye receive, and ye shall have.” That is what is the matter. Your blank check is not worth ten cents in your hands. Why? Because you do not believe God. Fill in your check. Believe God and it will come to pass.

The call of Elijah is the call of the present hour. If Christ is the Christ, get your answer from Him. If Jesus is the Son of God with power on the earth to forgive sins, then as Jesus put it, “Rise up and walk, that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins.”

Jesus Christ was reasonable enough to meet man’s reasonings and inquiries. The minister of God who is afraid to walk out and believe his God and trust his God for results is no Christian at all.

What does Christianity mean to the world? Is it a hope for the glory land away off in the future? Is that Christianity? Is it a hope that you are not going to fry in hell all the days of your life? No! Christianity is the demonstration of the righteousness of God to the world.

So brethren, God has given us something to do. He has given us a demonstration to make. If we do not make it, then we have no more right to the claims that we make of being sons of God than the other people. If God be God, serve Him. If Baal, then serve him.

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## **CHRIST DOMINION**

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. It will lift her into the place where, instead of being the obedient servant of the world and the flesh and the devil, she will become the divine instrument of salvation, in healing the sick, in casting out devils (demons), and in carrying out the whole program of Jesus' ministry, as the early Church did.

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God made a tremendous commitment when He gave the 91st Psalm. If you dwell in the secret place of the Most High then no plague will come nigh thy dwelling. Had Job lived after this commitment he would have been safe from Satan. God would have cut the devil short with words similar to these, "I have made a sovereign commitment and being a sovereign God I cannot break my word." In the progressive revelation that God gave to mankind that culminated in a better covenant established upon better promises through Jesus Christ, we can see it is God's will and purpose for every person to have health - every member of the body of Christ. You are a living member of His body. There is no sin or sickness in Him.

## 4. MOSES' REBUKE

Moses had his interview with the Lord at the burning bush and God definitely commanded him to go to Pharaoh in Egypt and demand the deliverance of the children of Israel. God gave him the signet of His Presence with him - his shepherd's rod. All the miracles that followed that demand took place and the children of Israel were finally given permission by the King to leave.

They started toward the Red Sea when the King's heart drew back because, I presume, he felt he had done an unwise thing. He was losing the services of between two and a half, and probably four million slaves. In an effort to take back what he had done, he started after them with an army. In the meantime Moses had gotten down to the Red Sea. On the right and on the left were impassable mountains and Pharaoh and his armies were behind him.

The situation, from a natural point of view, was desperate. If there was ever a time when a man was seemingly justified in calling on God in prayer, it was then. I want to show you one of the things I regard as a hindrance in our life for God. Most of us do just exactly what Moses did. When the test comes we stop and cry, and as a second thing we stop and pray and put ourselves in a position where we become amenable to exactly the same rebuke that came upon Moses.

Moses started to pray. It is not recorded how long he prayed, or what he said, but instead of God being pleased He was grieved. He said to Moses, "WHY STANDEST THOU HERE, AND CRIEST UNTO ME? SPEAK TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THAT THEY GO FORWARD." These are the exact words:

*"The Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." Exodus 14:15-16.*

God did not even say, you stretch out your hand, and I will divide the sea. God said to Moses: "Stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it." It was not an act for God to perform, but it was an act for Moses to believe for. The responsibility was not with God, but with Moses. A weak Christianity is ever inclined to whine in prayer, while God waits for the believer to command it.

In my judgment, this is the place of extreme weakness in Christian character. I feel that very frequently prayer is made a refuge to dodge the action of faith. Just exactly as Moses began to pray instead of honouring God's word to him by the use of his rod, so many times we pray and it becomes offensive to God, because His word to us is that we stretch forth our hand, exercise our rod of faith, and divide the waters.

In many respects it seems to me this is the most powerful lesson that the Word of God contains on the subject of prayer and faith. Just stop for a moment and think of God throwing the responsibility of making a passage through the sea on Moses. God would

not take it. It was for Moses to believe God and act. God commanded, “Lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand”, not My hand. He had to lift the rod that God had given to him, the signet of God’s presence with him, to be used by his own hand.

In the consideration of the whole subject of an Apostolic church, do you not see the principle in it - the principle of acceptance of responsibility from God?

I want to call your attention now to the New Testament on this subject. In the ninth chapter of Luke we have Jesus commanding the twelve disciples:

*“Then He called unto Him His twelve disciples, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases, and He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”*

Moses stood before God and God gave him the commission to go down to Egypt. Then, as an evidence of His presence, He said: “What is it that you have in your hands?” Moses answered, “A rod.” He said, “Throw it down”, and as Moses obeyed it became a serpent. Then God said: “Take it up,” and it was changed into a rod again. This is one of the instances of taking up serpents. God said: “Keep it. It is the signet of my presence with you,” and it was so with Moses.

But you see, Moses had forgotten, as he stood by the Red Sea, that God had given him a sign of His Presence with him. Circumstances overpowered him and he commenced to pray, and that prayer was an offence to God.

Just as God had done with Moses, so Jesus called the twelve to Him and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases. That was their rod. He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick. Suppose they came to the sick and they commenced to pray and say, “Jesus, you heal this man.” They would be in exactly the same position as Moses was when he got down to the Red Sea and prayed, “Lord God, you divide these waters.” The two cases are absolutely parallel. God demands the action of the believer’s faith in God. YOU stretch out YOUR hand and divide the waters.

God has likewise given to every man the measure (rod) of faith and it is for man, as the servant of God, to use the rod God has given him. In these days there is an attitude of mind that I hardly know how to define. It is a mock humility. Rather, it is a false humility. It is a humility that is always hiding behind the Lord and is excusing its own lack of faith by throwing the responsibility over on the Lord. The Word of God, in speaking of this same matter concerning the disciples, says: “They departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere.”

Over and over again throughout the New Testament, the Word of God says, “they healed them”, “the disciples healed them,” and so forth. You see, they had received something from God. They were as conscious of it as Moses was conscious he had received a rod from the Lord. It was theirs to use. It was theirs to use for all purposes. Peter used the conscious rod of God to heal the man at the beautiful gate. He did not pray. He did not ask God to heal the man, but he commanded him: “In the name of

Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And the man obeyed. That was not intercession. It was a command. It was the faith in Peter’s soul that brought the result.

Peter used the rod. The rod in this case was the rod of faith. In whose hands was it? It was in the hands of Peter and John together and they used it. The word was spoken through Peter. The command was given through him. Unquestionably, John’s soul was in it just as much as Peter’s. By faith in His Name, by the faith of the disciples, the power of God was made active and the lame man was healed.

Beloved, the lesson in my soul is this. There is a place of victory and a place of defeat and there is a hair’s breadth line there. It is the place of faith in action. It is to believe the thing God says and to do the thing that He commands, accepting, as the servant of God, the responsibility God lays upon you. Not interceding as Moses did, but like Peter, through the faith that was in his soul, command the power of God on the man. Suppose Peter had prayed, “Oh, Lord, you come and heal this man.” It would have been his own acknowledgment of lack of faith to do what Jesus told the disciples to do - heal the sick.

In the story of Saul, in 1 Samuel 10, among other things, the prophet Samuel says to him:

*“The Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy, and shalt be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do AS OCCASION SERVE THEE; for God is with thee.” 1 Samuel 10:6-7.*

The lesson I know God wants us to see is this: He endues a man or woman with His authority to accomplish His will. The power of God is bestowed upon that person. It is not the person that accomplishes the matter. It is the stretching forth of the hand. The dividing of the waters must be in response to the faith of the person. He is the instrument. “Thou shalt do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.” That is, you simply go on about your business, and the power of God is present with you to accomplish the desire of your heart.

Returning to the case of Peter, he used the faith of God that was in his soul to restore a man who was born lame, and he was instantly restored.

In the case of Ananias and Sapphira, we see Peter using the same power by the spoken word, not to restore a man’s limbs, but to bring judgment on a liar. When Ananias lied the Spirit of God fell on him and he died as an example of sin. His wife likewise died. “Behold the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.”

Man is a servant of God. Man is an instrument through which God works. The danger is always that weak men have taken to themselves the glory that belonged to God. They have said, “We did it.” They did not do it. God did it, but the man believed God that it would be done.

How closely we are made co-workers with the Lord, “co-labourers together with Him.” It is God’s divine purpose to accomplish His will in the world through men. God placed a profound respect upon the body, “the church, which is His body.” I want to show you that.

In the tenth chapter of Acts we have a remarkable response to the prayers of Cornelius when an angel came to him and said: “Cornelius, thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and call, for one Simon, whose surname is Peter. He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.”

The angel came from heaven. He was a direct messenger of God. Yet the angel did not tell Cornelius the way of salvation. Why did the angel instruct Cornelius to send for Peter? Because Peter was a part of the body of Christ and God ordained that the power of God, with the ministry of Christ, shall be manifest through the body. Not through angels, but through the body, “the church which is His body.

It is, therefore, the duty of the body to use the Spirit of God to accomplish the divine will of God, the purpose of God. With what strength then, with what a consciousness of the dignity of service Christians ought to go forth! With what a conscious realisation that God has bestowed upon you the authority and the enduement of the Spirit to cause you to believe God and exercise faith for the will of God to be accomplished. Is it any wonder that David said; “What is man that Thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that Thou visitest him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels (Elohim), and hast, crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hand; Thou hast put all things under his feet.” Man and God working together, co-labourers, co-workers. Blessed be God.

## 5. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST - PART ONE

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is a most difficult subject to discuss with any degree of intelligence, for though we may not care to admit it, the fact remains that the density of ignorance among the people, and the ministry, on this subject is appalling. To view this subject with any degree of intelligence we must view it from the standpoint of progressive revelation. Like Christian baptism, the operation of the Holy Ghost must be seen (comprehended) in its various stages of revelation. Otherwise we shall be unable to distinguish between the operations of the Spirit in the Old Testament dispensation and the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the New Testament.

As we approach the threshold of this subject it seems as if the Spirit of God comes close to us. A certain awe of God comes over the soul. It is my earnest wish that no levity, satire, or sarcasm be permitted to enter into this discussion. Such things would be grievous to the tender Spirit of God.

In the beginning of this revelation, after the deluge, it seemed as if God was approaching man from a great distance, so far had sin removed man from his original union with God at the time of his creation. God seemed to reveal Himself to man as rapidly as man, by progressive stages of development, was prepared to receive the revelation. Consequently, we see that the baptism was a greater revelation of God's purpose in purifying the heart from sin than was the original ceremony of circumcision. Thus the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a greater, more perfect revelation of God than were the manifestations of the Spirit in the Patriarchal or Mosaic dispensations.

Three distinct dispensations of God are clearly seen, each with an ever-deepening manifestation of God to man. A preceding dispensation of God never destroys a subsequent richer revelation of God. This is manifestly seen in looking at the Patriarchal, Mosaic, and Christian dispensations. In the Patriarchal dispensation we see God appearing to man at long intervals. Abraham furnishes the best example, for to him God appeared at long intervals of 20 and 40 years apart, as with the other patriarchs. Under the Mosaic dispensation there is a deeper and clearer manifestation of God. God was ever-present in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. He was present also in the tabernacle where the Shekinah glory overshadowed the mercy seat. This was a continuous, abiding revelation of God. It was God with man not to man as was the Patriarchal dispensation. God was leading, guiding, directing, forgiving, sanctifying and abiding with man. However, the revelation of God under the Christian dispensation is a much deeper and truer revelation of God than this. It is God IN man. It is the actual coming of the Spirit of God to live in man. This brings us then to where we can see the purpose of God in revealing Himself to man in progressive steps of revelations.

Man, by progressive stages through repentance and faith, is purified. He is not only forgiven his transgressions, but cleansed from the nature of sin within that causes him to transgress. This cleansing from inbred sin, the nature of sin, the carnal mind, the old man and so on, is the actual taking out of our breast the desire for sin and all correspondence with sin in us is severed. The carnal life is laid as a sacrifice on the altar of Christ in glad surrender by us. This inner-heart cleansing, that John and the disciples of Christ demanded, is the work of the Holy Spirit by the blood and is

necessary if maturity in Christ is to be achieved. A holy God must have a holy dwelling place. Oh wondrous salvation, wondrous Christ, wondrous atonement. Man born in sin, shaped in iniquity, forgiven, cleansed, purified outside and inside by the blood of Jesus and made an habitation (dwelling place) of God. Man, who was once created in the likeness of God, can again become the dwelling place of God. That is what the atoning blood of Christ provided (Galatians 3:13-14). 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," that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ that they might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. This reveals God's purpose that by the blood of Jesus Christ we now become the habitation of God. Ephesians 2:22, "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Again in 1 Corinthians 6:19, we see Paul in astonishment saying, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?" Let us now see where we are and we will better understand how to go on.

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God. His purpose is to dwell in man after his perfect cleansing from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. His coming was as definite as the advent of Jesus. When Jesus was born his birth was proclaimed by an angel voice and chanted by a multitude of the heavenly host praising God (Luke 2:9,13-10.) Equally, the Holy Spirit's advent was attested to by His bodily form as a dove (Luke 3:22), and by His sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and by cloven tongues of fire upon each of them (Acts 2:2-3). The Heavenly dove, the tempest roar, and tongues of fire crowning the hundred and twenty were as convincing as the guiding star and the midnight shout of angelic hosts. The coming of the Holy Ghost upon the hundred and twenty is found in Acts 2.

At the last supper, when Jesus addressed the disciples, He said to them, "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. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment," (John 16:7-8). After the resurrection, when the eleven disciples were together at Jerusalem, conversing with the two who had walked with Him to Emmaus, Jesus, Himself stood in their midst. He said unto them, "Peace be unto you." They were frightened, believing they had seen a spirit. Jesus addressed them and said, "And, behold, I send the promise of the Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). In Acts 1, we find that the one hundred and twenty tarried in prayer in the upper room ten days. Between the crucifixion of Jesus and Pentecost was 53 days.

There was a crucifixion day. It was necessary. And now, we the children of God, must be crucified with Christ and freed from sin, our old man nailed to the cross. We die to sin. It is a real act, a genuine experience. It is done. So we are made partakers of Christ's death. Then there was a resurrection day. He arose as a living Christ, not a dead one. He lives! He lives! And by our resurrection with Him into our new life, we leave the old sin life and the old man who is buried in baptism (Romans 6) and are made partakers of His new resurrection life. The life of power, the exercise of the power of God, is made possible to us by Jesus having elevated us into His own resurrection life by actual spiritual experience.

Then He ascended. This was just as necessary as the crucifixion and the resurrection. Jesus ascended to heaven and is seated triumphant at the right hand of the Father. According to His promise, He sent upon us the Holy Ghost. This experience for us is personal and dispensational. The Holy Ghost descends upon us and enters into us. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the Holy God, the Spirit of Jesus, taking possession of our personality, living in us, moving us, controlling us. We become partakers of His glorified life, the life of Christ in glory. SO it was with the hundred and twenty (see Acts 2:2-4): “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind.” (Suppose we heard it now. What would people think?) “And it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” It was the Spirit that spoke in other tongues. What spirit? It was the Holy Ghost who had come into them, who controlled them, who spoke through them. Listen! Speaking in tongues is the voice of God. Do you hear God’s voice? THEY spake as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now we have advanced to where we can understand God’s manifestations. Not God witnessing to man. Not God with man, but God in man. “They spake as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

(Editor’s note: At this point the Spirit of God fell on Brother Lake causing him to speak in tongues, in an unknown language. The audience was asked to bow their heads in silent prayer for the interpretation of the words spoken in tongues. As they prayed the interpretation was given as follows:

“Christ is at once the spotless descent of God into man and the sinless ascent of man into God. And the Holy Spirit is the agent by which it is accomplished.”)

He is the Christ, the Son of God. His atonement is a real atonement. It changes from all sin. Man again becomes the dwelling place of God. Let us now see one of the most miraculous chapters in all the Word of God, Acts 10. A man, Cornelius, was praying. He was a Gentile centurion. An angel appeared to him and spoke. He told him to send to Joppa for Peter. Peter was a Jew and he was not supposed to go into the home of a Gentile. He had not yet learned that salvation was for the Gentiles. God had to teach him. How did God do it? Peter went up on the housetop to pray and as he prayed he fell into a trance. Think of it! A trance! He fell into a trance. Suppose I was to fall on the floor in a trance. Nine-tenths of this audience would be frightened to death. They would instantly declare that my opponent had hypnotised me. Why? Because of the ignorance among men of how the Spirit of God operates. But listen, listen! As he laid on the roof in a trance he saw a vision. He saw a sheet let down from heaven, caught by the four corners, full of all manner of beasts and creeping things. A voice - what voice? - the Lord’s voice said, “Rise, Peter, kill and eat.” Peter said, “Not so, Lord. I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” Then the voice said, “What I have cleansed call thou not common.” Peter obeyed. He went with the messengers. Now see the result. As he spoke the Word, “the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the Holy Ghost.” How did

they know? “They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” Then answered Peter, “Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptised which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” So it all ended in a glorious baptismal service in water for all who had been baptised in the Holy Ghost.

In Acts 22:12, Paul told of Ananias coming to see him. How did Ananias know Paul was there? See Acts 9:10-19. “And there was at Damascus a certain disciple named Ananias and to him the Lord said in a vision, go into the street called Straight and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus.” Now let us see how it would happen today. The Lord would say, “Ananias, go down into Straight Street to the house of Judas and ask for a man named Saul of Tarsus for behold he prayeth.” And the Lord would tell Ananias what Saul had seen (Acts 9:12): “and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hands on him that he might receive his sight.” Here Ananias talks with the Lord. Do you know anything of such communion or talks with God? If not, get the baptism of the Holy Ghost like the early Christians, and their subsequent knowledge and experiences can be yours. Then you will see, as we do, the operation of the Lord upon saint and sinner by the Holy Ghost. Men say to us, “Where do you men get your insight into the Word?” We get it just where Paul and Peter got it - from God by the Holy Ghost. Galatians 1:11-12.

Beloved, read God’s Word on your knees. Ask God to open it to your understanding by His Spirit. Read the Word with an open heart. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Ananias went and found Paul as the Lord had directed him and Paul was healed of his blindness and baptised in the Holy Ghost. He was also baptised in water and spoke in tongues “more than ye all.” (1 Corinthians 14:18)

Now see again Acts 22:14. Ananias spoke to Paul and said, “The God of our Fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldst know His will, and see that Just One, and shouldst hear the words of His mouth. For thou shall be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.” Say, what about the people who say, “Don’t tell these things to anyone.” “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptised, and wash away thy sins calling upon the name of the Lord.” You see, as with Peter at Cornelius’ house, all this work of the Spirit ended in salvation and baptism.

Now God, through Ananias, promised Paul that he should know “His will and see that Just One and shouldest hear the voice of His mouth,” (Acts 22:14). When did that come to pass? Three years after when Paul returned to Jerusalem. “Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem,” (Galatians 1:18). “And it came to pass that when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance,” (Acts 22:17). Think of it, the intellectual, wonderful Paul, the master theologian of the ages, the orator of orators, the logician of logicians in a trance. Bless God for that trance. It was the fulfilment of what Ananias had said to him three years before. “And saw him (Jesus) saying unto me, Make haste and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem for they will not receive thy testimony concerning Me.”

Now what is a trance? It is the Spirit taking predominance over the mind and body and, for that time, the control of the individual is by the Spirit. However, our ignorance

of the operations of God is such that even ministers of religion have been known to say it is the devil.

Let us see where Paul got his commission to preach and instructions about what he was to preach, and let us see what his condition and attitude was when Jesus gave him his commission.

See Acts 26:16-18. He was lying on the road on his way to Damascus. Now if we were to see someone lying on the road talking to an invisible person no doubt we would, in our ignorance, send for an ambulance or for the police. But this is where the glorified Christ spoke to Paul and gave him definite instructions about what he should preach. The purpose of his preaching was to be the salvation, not the entertainment, of others. "But rise, stand upon thy feet: for I (Jesus) have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee." Jesus promises to appear to Paul again, and that was fulfilled while he lay in a trance in the temple three years later (Acts 26:16).

Now the object of his preaching was to "open people's eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified (present experience) by faith that is in Me (Jesus). Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision," (Acts 26:18-19).

From this we see and are able to understand the operations of God by His Spirit. So, is the Holy Ghost in the church today? Verily, yes, but you say, "We do not see Him work in this way. Why is it?" Because you say all these things were for the Apostolic days. However, you cannot take the Word of God and find one place where the gifts of the Holy Ghost were withdrawn.

The nine gifts of the Holy Ghost are found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11: "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom (gift one), to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit (gift two), to another faith by the same Spirit (gift three), to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit (gift four)..." Oh, praise God for the discovery of the gifts of the Holy Ghost and especially for the gift of healings. May we all learn to know Christ not only as our Saviour but as our sanctifier and healer, too. "...to another the working of miracles (gift five), to another prophecy (gift six), to another discerning of spirits (gift seven), to another divers (different) kinds of tongues (languages - not an acquirement, but by the Spirit) (gift eight), to another the interpretation of tongues (gift nine)."

We have seen that the Holy Ghost came into the church at Pentecost and the gifts were in the Holy Ghost. Therefore, if the Holy Ghost is in the Church, the gifts are too, but because of the lack of faith we do not see them exercised in the ordinary church. We believe and stand for the obtaining of these gifts through our personal baptism in the Holy Ghost and the enduement of the Holy Ghost's power as promised by Jesus, yes, commanded by Him - Acts 1:8: "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."

People ask, "What is tongues?" Tongues is the voice (or operation) of the Spirit of God within. When the Holy Ghost came in He spoke. Again, in Acts 10:44-48, when the Holy Ghost fell on them, Peter demanded the right to baptise them in water saying, "Can any man forbid water, that these would be baptised, which have received the Holy Ghost?" See verse 46, "for they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost by which Peter claimed the right to baptise them in water. Again in Acts 19:1-7, Paul met twelve men at Ephesus whom John had baptised unto repentance, but Paul re-baptised them by Christian baptism. In verse 5 we read that when they heard this, they were baptised (water baptism) in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then, when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. "Tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not." (1 Corinthians 14:22)

## 6. THE BELIEVER

There is only one thing I could preach on today, and that is:

*“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth ... ”*

He that BELIEVETH. He that believeth, bless God. The believer is the big fellow. “He that believeth,” Jesus said.

*“He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved.”*  
Mark 16:16

Don't you know Jesus Christ was the most drastic teacher this world ever saw. Jesus Christ demanded that every other religion in the world be abandoned and thrown to the bats in order that men might receive the gospel of the Son of God. Do you hear that?

Not only so. Jesus Christ demanded that every other dispensation and revelation of the true God be set aside in favour of the one pure, existent demonstration and manifestation of Jesus Christ. That is the reason the Jew seeks God for salvation through Jesus Christ, even though he had the first and greatest revelation, until Jesus came. Christianity is the most drastic thing in its demands on the human conscience that the world has ever known. There is no other teacher in the world like the Son of God, who places such demands on a person's life.

Listen, dear hearts,

*“Go ye into all the world.”*

The Lord began His preparation of the group to whom He said these wonderful words with the closest possible intimacy. My, He called them one at a time out of the course of the world into attachment with Himself. He lived with them, ate with them, slept with them, worked with them, taught them and prayed with them for three years. He took them to the bedside of the dying, took them out in the streets among the sick, the lame, the halt and blind, and healed them, and said, “Go out likewise ‘He that believeth.’”

They came into the ranks of Jesus as believers, as believers in Him. Their abandonment of all that had gone before for the divine superiority of Jesus Christ and His revelation was complete. They came to the Lord with open hearts and open minds and open souls to understand and know the way of God, to receive the light of heaven into their hearts and become divinely equipped by His eternal power.

Oh, the believer has a marvellous place. “He that believeth!” Sound it out dear ones. “He that believeth.” Christianity is the most extraordinary democracy the world has ever known. Jesus Christ laid it's ground work, it's strength, it's soul and spirit of the life in the believer. “He that believeth.” A personal relationship and union with Jesus Christ in heaven, bless God. My, how it sweeps out class distinction and wipes away everything, letting the believer stand in the first place of relationship with God.

How struck I was with our Brother Wilson's testimony the other night. He said he had studied Christian Science for five years. He said when he first got the light of Christian Science he thought it was the most beautiful and wonderful thing in the world. After a while he began to discover it was nice sounding phrases and beautiful words, but was lacking in the divine secret, the secret of the eternal power of Jesus Christ through His blood, and he abandoned it.

Oh my, there is lots of that in the world. Before Jesus Christ came Christian Science, in a hundred forms, was old and grey whiskered and outcast and in the dump heap. Buddhism, Confucianism, Zoroastrianism and all the rest of the long line of human philosophies had to go to the dump heap when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, revealed the Lord from heaven. Give them no place, have no contact, separation were the words of Jesus. Let them go. Dump them for the divine superiority of Jesus Christ, by the Holy Ghost, in the human heart.

“He that believeth.”  
“HE THAT BELIEVETH.”

Christianity is not based on the mere statement of these words, or mere belief in them. If it was, it would be a philosophy equal to the others. Possibly superior in its demands on the conscience, but it would be placed on the philosophic demonstration, the same as the other philosophies are. No sir! That is not Christianity. The secret of Christianity is that Jesus Christ based it on acceptance of Himself. Jesus Christ said, “Receive Me, receive Me. He that receiveth Me.” Not he that receiveth my words alone, but he that receiveth Me.

“He that receiveth.”  
“He that receiveth Me.”

Receive Him. That is what constitutes you a believer - when you receive the Lord into your heart. Not when you receive some particular teaching or a partial statement of His word, but when you receive Him, the Lord, the Christ, the Redeemer into your heart.

“He that believeth.”  
“He that believeth Me.”

Christianity is the most extraordinary revelation. It so far surpasses everything else in the form of religion in the known earth that there is no comparison with it whatsoever.

I have recently written a letter to say that I am accepting an invitation to preach at the International New Thought Convention next July, for five days. I am going to preach to them about the Son of God. In conference with them a couple of years ago (one or two hundred of them) their national leaders said, “Lake, we absolutely challenge you to show where the gospel of Jesus Christ, or the teachings of Jesus are superior to the teachings of the philosophers.” I said, “Dear brethren, it is not the statements on the demands of the conscience. That is not the secret of Christianity. The secret of Christianity is that Jesus gave HIMSELF to the BELIEVER, that Jesus Christ comes into the believer's heart, that He comes to dwell within his soul, that He comes to

anoint his spirit from heaven, that He comes to take possession of his heart and life, that he comes to live in him, move in him, act in him, speak in him, pray in him, and all the other activities of the Christian soul.”

Did you ever see Buddha come into anybody? Many thousands have accepted his philosophy, but he never came from heaven to dwell in any man’s heart or life. Confucius has never come to dwell in any man’s heart. Zoroaster, in all the marvel of his wondrous teachings, never came from heaven to dwell in the human soul. When he died, he died, and the grave covered him and there was not a thing left except the books that he wrote as a guide for others.

Ah, Christianity begins where philosophies leave off. I always feel sorry for the individual who only sees Christianity as a human code, or a moral law, even though it was given by Jesus Christ Himself. That is not Christianity. The moral code that Jesus gave must be made a possibility in your soul, in your life by the Christ who came to dwell in your heart.

“He that believeth.”

He has entered into an exalted place, into an amazing relationship. Christianity is absolutely distinguished among all the religions of the world in that it provides for the resurrection of the body, and Jesus Christ Himself was made the “first fruits” of the resurrection. He came forth in a glorified body, in a glorified life, in glorified power, as glorified being to dwell, by the Spirit, in the heart of every other man in the world. Bless God.

Think of the royal, regnant, glorified Son of God of heaven, at the eternal throne, coming into my heart, into your heart, believer! To dwell in your life. Bless God. Oh, I wish the blessed Lord would uncover our eyes to the divine majesty of the believer’s relationship.

“He that believeth.”

Jesus had such an exalted concept of the relationship of the believer to the Eternal Christ on the throne that he ordained him with Himself. Hear it! He ordained him with Himself. I am telling you that Jesus Christ said that the BELIEVER had authority from heaven to say to the lame man, “Arise and walk.”

Heaven conferred something on the souls of men when He made it possible for the risen Lord, by the Spirit, to come into your heart and mine. Oh, how the joy bells of heaven ought to be breaking loose in our soul and the fires of heaven ought to shine forth from us because the Christ came into our hearts. Blessed be His Name.

Jesus of Nazareth did His work in the world. He shed His tears over mankind and laboured in the Spirit for their salvation. He died on the cross and shed His blood. But Jesus my Lord came forth out of the tomb as a living, glorified, regnant sovereign of earth and heaven, with all power and authority in His hands. Hallelujah! Jesus of Nazareth was my Lord in the days of His humiliation, but Jesus the Christ at the

eternal Throne, is the divine manifestation of the overcoming of God. He is the ultimate of all perfection, the final manifestation of all that is God-like. Hallelujah.

If I leave nothing else in your hearts I would like to leave this one text in your soul. Let it be branded in your soul, stamped on your conscience, burned into your heart, that Jesus Christ as is presented in the first chapter of Revelation, which I love to call the Twentieth Century Christ, is not Jesus in tears in Galilee, or on the Mount of Olives weeping over Jerusalem, but the resurrected, glorified, masterful finality in God who stands out and says,

“I am He.”

Let the world look. Let the universe behold. Let the devil see. Let the kingdoms of darkness take notice:

*“I am He that liveth and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of hell and of death.”* Revelation 1:8.

Would it not sound strange if you heard Buddha say that? You do not see anything like that in his writings. He never gave a revelation like that. It took the Christ to get that.

A famous author of a new religion presented himself to Talleyrand and told him of this amazing religion he had evolved and wanted to know the best and quickest means to present it and fix it upon the minds of the people. Talleyrand told him to come back in three days and he would give him an answer. In three days he came back, and Talleyrand received him. The gentlemen asked, “Have you got my answer?” “Yes,” He said, “it is this. Get crucified, lay in the grave for three days, come forth in resurrection, ascend to heaven as the glorified Son of God and the whole world will receive you.”

Beloved, that is what makes Christianity superior to every other religion. Listen dear hearts. Jesus Christ, that glorified Son at the eternal throne, who speaks words that no other in all the universe of God ever speaks, said,

*“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forever more, and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

It is He who, by the Spirit, deigns to come into the heart of the believer.

Oh, glory to God! If you have not appreciated the baptism of the Holy Ghost, look up to heaven and see the glorified One who purposes to come into your life and possess it.

Suppose I could get inside of Mrs Lake. Can you imagine such a thing? She would be 190 pounds heavier than she is now. She would have a voice like a pirate and all my other characteristics. She would be me. Do you see it?

There is a divine secret in Christ's salvation. It is Christ actually in you by the Holy Ghost, dwelling in you, speaking in you, living in you, blazing in you, flashing from you.

I was up half the night writing a letter to a brother. I had done it three times and each time I tore it up. I said, "The letters were not worthy. They did not have sufficient of heaven's finality. I am going to wait until God gives the real light that he needs. He has never seen Christ at the throne, the glorified, regnant Jesus in heaven that comes into a man's life."

Our eyes become clouded and our souls dimmed with the earthly things we see around us and it is only once in a while that our spirit rises above them into the light of heaven and we see the glorified Son of God.

I call you to His feet. I ask you to join your soul to His heart. Without that you will never know the abundance of His salvation.

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Romans 10:9-10

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

## 7. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST - PART TWO

There are as many degrees in God in the baptism of the Holy Ghost as there are preachers who preach it. Some people are born away down weeping at the foot of the cross. They are still on the earth plane with Christ. They are still weeping over their sins, still trying to overcome sin and be pure of heart.

But there are other people who are born away up in the blessed dominion of God, like our Mother Etter. They have resurrection power. All power is given and it is in our soul.

Beloved, one day there will be Christians, baptised in the Holy Ghost, who are away up in the throne of God, away up in the consciousness that is breathed out of His holy heart. Someone is going to be born a son of God and be baptised in the Holy Ghost where Jesus is today - in the throne-consciousness of Christ. Where they can speak, like Jesus spoke and feel like Jesus feels. "I am He that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore and have the keys of hell and of death." Absolute overcoming consciousness!

Those who are trying to pump up a Pentecost that wore out years ago, listen! God let it die. God has only one way under heaven to get you to move up into Him and that is to let you become dissatisfied with the thing you have. If you do not have the consciousness you once had, God Almighty understands the situation. He is trying to get you hungry so that you will commit your body, soul and spirit to God forever and, by the grace of God, you will be baptised in the Holy Ghost over again. Baptised at the throne of God-consciousness, in the power of Jesus Christ as He is today. "As He is, so are we in this world".

When most of you were baptised in the Holy Ghost the Lord had to baptise a whole dose of medicine and pills and everything that was in you. God never had to baptise that kind of stuff in the Lord Jesus. He came down to the River Jordan and gave His BODY, SOUL and SPIRIT to God forever and He never took a pill or a dose of medicine. He never went to the spirit of the world for assistance, or to the devil for help. His SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY were God's from that minute, forever.

Beloved, God is calling men and women to a holier consecration, to a higher place in God, and I am one of God's candidates for that holy place in God. I want to get to the throne of God. Oh, yes, God baptised me in the Holy Ghost with a wondrous baptism, according to the understanding I possessed ten or fifteen years ago, but I am a candidate today for a new baptism in the Holy Ghost that comes out of the heart of the GLORIFIED Christ, in the lightnings of God, everlasting overcoming, on the throne with Jesus.

That is the experience that is going to make the sons of God in the world. That is the reason they will take the world for Jesus Christ, and the Kingdom will be established, and they will put the crown on the Son of God and declare Him "King of kings and Lord of lords" forever. Amen.

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Therefore fear not, for God is able to perform in you even that which He performed in Jesus and raise you likewise in union with Christ Jesus and make you reign in dominion over sin, instead of being dominated by the powers of evil and darkness.

Tongues and interpretation (Battle Creek, Michigan, September, 1913)

## **8. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST - PART THREE**

### **SOME OF THE THINGS IT HAS PRODUCED IN MY LIFE**

The baptism of the Holy Ghost was of such importance in the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ that He commanded His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem “until ye be endued with power from on high.” (Acts 1:8) They steadfastly carried out what the Lord had commanded, waiting on God in a continuous prayer meeting in the upper room for ten days until the promise of the Father was fulfilled (Luke 24:49). They waited until that baptism had fallen of which John the Baptist spoke in Matthew 3:11, saying, “I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.”

In order to obtain from heaven the Spirit of Jesus (the Holy Ghost), it is first necessary that the individual knows that his sins are blotted out, that the blood of Jesus Christ has sanctified his heart and cleansed him from the sinful nature (the Adamic nature), the inherent nature of sin (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Personally, I knew that my sins had been blotted out, but it was only two months prior to my baptism in the Holy Ghost that I learned, by the Word of God, and experienced in my life, the sanctifying power of God subduing the soul and cleansing the nature from sin. This inward life cleansing was to me the crowning work of God in my life at that period and I shall never cease to praise God that He revealed to me the depth, by the Holy Ghost, of the power of the blood of Jesus.

Many people ask why, when your heart is sanctified and the conscious knowledge of your cleansing has taken place, you are not instantly baptised with the Holy Ghost. From my own experience and the experiences of others, it is readily seen that, even though the heart is cleansed from sin, it is still necessary in many instances, for the dear Lord to further spiritualise the personality until the individual has become sufficiently receptive to receive within his person the Holy Ghost. The forces of our personality must be subdued unto God. We commonly speak of this as spiritualising. In many instances, even though the heart is really pure, the individual does not immediately receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Sometimes he gives up in despair and turns back to his first works, believing that there must still be sin in his heart. This discredits what God has already done within him through the blood of Jesus. It is not always that the heart is still impure or he is not thoroughly sanctified. It is only God waiting and working to spiritualise his personality and bring him to the place where he may receive into his being the Holy Ghost.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is not an influence, or a good feeling, or sweet sensations, though it may include all of these. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the coming into the personality of Him, the Holy Ghost, which is the Spirit of Jesus. He takes real possession of your spirit (or inner man), your soul (the mind and animal life) and your flesh. He possesses the whole being. The flesh is caused to quake sometimes because of the presence of the Spirit of God in the flesh. Daniel quaked with great quaking when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (Daniel 10:1-13).

Beloved reader, do you realise that it is the Spirit of Jesus that is seeking admittance into your heart and life? Do you realise that it is the Spirit of Jesus in the spirit, soul and body of the baptised believer that moves him in ways sometimes strange, but who accomplishes the wondrous work of God in his life. Every baptised believer praises God that this has taken place in him.

As a justified man, even without an experience of sanctification, the Lord committed to me, in measure, the ministry of healing to the extent that many were healed, and in some instances, real miracles of healing took place. Yet I did not know God as my sanctifier. Ten years later, after sanctification had become a fact in my life, a great and wonderful yearning to be baptised in the Holy Ghost and fire came into my heart. After seeking God persistently almost night and day for two months, the Lord baptised me in the Holy Ghost, causing me to speak in tongues and magnify God. I had looked for and prayed and coveted the real power of God for the ministry of healing. I believed God that when I was baptised in the Holy Ghost His presence in me, through the Spirit, would do for the sick the things my heart desired and what they needed. Instantly, upon being baptised in the Spirit, I expected to see the sick healed in a greater degree and in larger numbers than I had before known, but for some time I seemed to be disappointed.

How little we know of our own relationship with God! How little I knew of my own relationship with Him. Every day for six months following my baptism in the Holy Ghost the Lord revealed to me many things in my life where repentance, confession and restitution were necessary, even though I had repented unto God long ago. O the deep cleansings, the deep revelations of one's own heart by the Holy Ghost. It was indeed as John the Baptist said, "whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner: but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire."

Firstly, the baptism in the Holy Ghost meant to me a heart searching as I have never known before. There was no rest until, in every instance, the blood was consciously applied and my life set free from the particular thing that God had revealed. As I said, this process continued for six months after my baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, a love for mankind, greater than I had ever comprehended, took possession of my life. Yes, a soul yearning to see men saved, so deep, at times heart rending, until in anguish of soul I was compelled to abandon my business and turn all my attention to bringing men to the feet of Jesus. Sometimes, while this process was going on in my heart during those months, people would come to my office to transact business and even where there were great profits to be made for a few minutes of persistent application to business, the Spirit of love in me so yearned over souls that I could not even see the profits to be had. Under His sway money lost its value to me and in many instances I found myself utterly unable to talk business to the individual until first I had poured out the love passion of my soul endeavouring to show him Jesus as his then present Saviour. Many times these business engagements ended in the individual yielding himself to God.

That love passion for men's souls has sometimes been overshadowed by the weight of care since then, but only for a moment. Again, when occasion demanded it, that mighty

love flame absorbing one's whole being and life would flame forth until, under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, on many occasions sinners would fall in my arms and yield their hearts to God.

Others have sought for evidences of this Pentecostal experience being the real baptism of the Holy Ghost. Some have criticised and said, "Is it not a delusion?" In all the scale of evidences presented to my soul and taken from my experience, this experience of the divine love, the burning love and holy compassion of Jesus Christ filling one's bosom until no sacrifice is too great to win a soul for Christ, demonstrates to me more than any other thing that this is indeed the Spirit of Jesus. Such love is not human! Such love is only divine! Such love is only Jesus, Himself, who gave His life for others.

Then, the development of power. After the mighty love came the renewed, energised power for healing of the sick. O what blessed things God has given on this line! What glorious resurrections of the practically dead! Such restorations of the lame and the halt and the blind! Such shouts of joy! Such abundance of peace! Verily, "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses"

Then came as never before the power to preach the Word of God in demonstration of the Spirit. Oh, the burning fiery messages. Oh, the tender, tender, loving messages! Oh, the deep revelations of wondrous truth by the Holy Ghost! Preaching once, twice, sometimes three times a day, practically continuously during these four years and four months. Oh, the thousands God has permitted us to lead to the feet of Jesus and the tens of thousands to whom He has permitted us to preach the Word!

Then came the strong, forceful exercise of dominion over devils, to cast them out. Since that time many insane and demon possessed have been set free. Spirits of insanity, all sorts of unclean demons have been cast out in the mighty name of Jesus through the power of the precious blood. Saints have been led into a deeper life in God. Many, many have been baptised in the Holy Ghost and fire. My own ministry was multiplied a hundredfold in the very lives of others to whom God committed this same ministry. Yes, verily the baptism in the Holy Ghost is to be desired with the whole heart.

Brother, sister, when we stand before the bar of God and are asked why we have not fulfilled in our life all the mind of Christ and all His desire in the salvation of the world, how will our excuses stand if they are weighed against the salvation of imperishable souls. How terrible it will be for us to say we neglected, put off, failed to seek the endowment that comes from on high, the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Again, as I close, may I say that it was only after the Lord had baptised me in the Holy Ghost that I really learned how to pray? When He prayed through me, when the soul's cries, born of the Holy Ghost, rolled out of my being and up to the throne of God, the answer came back - His prayer, His heart yearning, His cry. May God put it in every heart that we may indeed see the answer to our Lord's prayer, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven."

But someone will say, "How about tongues?" We understood that you taught that tongues were the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost?" So they are. "Tongues

are a sign to them that believe not.” (1 Corinthians 14:22) While I personally praise God for the wonderful and blessed truths of His Word by the Spirit, revelations in doctrine, in prophecy, in poems by the Holy Ghost in tongues with interpretation that He has given me, yet, above all the external evidences, that which God accomplishes in your own lives also, demonstrating to your own consciousness the operations of God, no doubt the greatest evidence is to the believer himself, for that which is known in consciousness cannot be denied. Nevertheless, we stand firmly on scriptural grounds that every individual who is baptised in the Holy Ghost will and does speak in tongues.

Baptism means a degree of the Spirit upon the life sufficient to give the Spirit of God such absolute control of the person that He will be able to speak through him in tongues. Any lesser degree cannot be called the baptism or submersion, but rather would properly be spoken of as an anointing. The life may be covered with deep anointings of the Holy Ghost yet not in sufficient degree to be properly called the baptism.

## **9. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST - PART FOUR**

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the greatest event in Christian history. It is greater than the crucifixion, of greater import than the resurrection, greater than the ascension, greater than the glorification. It is the end and finality of crucifixion and resurrection, ascension and glorification.

If Jesus Christ had been crucified and there had been no resurrection, His death would have been without avail, in-so-far as the salvation of mankind is concerned. Or if He had risen from the grave in resurrection and failed to reach the throne of God to receive from the Father the gift of the Holy Ghost, the purpose for which He died, and for which He arose, would have been missed.

The reason we are here tonight is because there was no failure. Jesus went to the ultimate, to the very throne and heart of God and secured right out of the heavenly treasury of the Eternal Soul, the Almighty Spirit, and poured it forth upon the world in divine baptism.

### **BIRTHDAY OF CHRISTIANITY**

The Day of Pentecost was the birthday of Christianity. Christianity never existed until the Holy Ghost came from heaven. The ministry of Jesus in the world was His own divine preparation of the world for His ultimate and final ministry. His ultimate and final ministry was to be **BY THE, SPIRIT**.

The ministry of Jesus during His earth life was localised by His humanity and by His message being given only to Israel. But the descent of the Holy Ghost brought to the souls of men a **UNIVERSAL** ministry of Jesus, to every man, right from the heart of God. Heavenly contact with the eternal God in power set their natures all aflame for God and with God, exalting their natures into God, and making the recipient **GODLIKE**. Man became God-like!

### **HOLY GROUND**

There is no subject in all the Word of God that should be approached with so much holy reverence as the subject of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Beloved, my heart bleeds every day of my life when I hear the flippancy with which Christians discuss the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

When Moses entered into the presence of God at the burning bush, God said, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." How much more so when a person comes into the presence of God looking for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, remembering that in order to obtain this gift, Jesus Christ lived in the world, bled on the cross, entered into the darkness of death and hell and the grave, grappled with and strangled that accursed power, came forth again, and finally ascended to heaven in order to secure it for him. If there is anything under heaven that ought to command our reverence, our holy reverence, our reverence beyond anything else in the world, it surely is the subject of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Sometimes my soul is jarred when I hear people flippantly say, "Have you got your baptism?" Suppose that Jesus was on the cross and we were privileged to look into His face at that moment. I wonder what the feeling of our soul would be? Suppose we were to follow behind the weeping company that bore His dead body and laid it in the tomb. What would our feelings be? Suppose we were to meet Him in the garden, as Mary did, in the glory of His resurrection, or suppose that God in His goodness would let us look into that scene of scenes at the throne of God when the heavens lifted up their gates and the Lord of Glory came in. Oh, if we could beloved, we would have a better comprehension of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

I love that dear old word "Ghost." The Anglo-Saxon is "Ghest" - a spiritual guest, heavenly visitor, spiritual presence, the Angel One. That Angel One comes to you and me right out of the heart of the Eternal God, breathed through the soul of Jesus Christ! When He came upon a man originally, as He did upon the hundred and twenty at Jerusalem, no one went around saying: "Brother, have you got your baptism?" They were walking with their shoes off, with uncovered heads and uncovered hearts before the Eternal God!

I believe that the first essential in a real, Holy Ghost church and a real, Holy Ghost work is to begin to surround the baptism of the Holy Ghost with due reverence. A reverence of God that an experience so sacred, that cost such an awful price, should be surrounded.

### **A LESSON ON REVERENCE**

One day in South Africa I sat on a kopje in company with a lady, Mrs Dockrell, a beautiful woman of God who was baptised in the Holy Ghost. As we sat together on the rocks meditating and praying, the rest of the company being a little distance away, I observed the Spirit falling upon her powerfully until she was submerged in the Spirit. Then she began to deliver a message, first in tongues, later giving the interpretation in English, and I listened to the most wonderful lecture on the subject of REVERENCE I have ever heard in all my life.

Afterward I said to her. "Tell me what you can about the experience through which you have just passed." She had never been in Europe but she said, "I was carried by the Spirit to somewhere in Europe. I approached a great cathedral." She went on to describe its architecture. She continued, "As I approached the door I was greeted by an English priest who led me down the isle to the altar and I knelt. A white cloud began to settle down and presently, out of the cloud, came the face and form of Jesus Christ. The priest was standing in the rostrum and began to speak. I could see by the action of the Spirit that the words he spoke were simply words that were being spoken by the Lord." It has always been one of the sorrows of my life that I did not have a stenographer who could have taken down that wonderful message on reverence for the works of God.

I have been reading one of the most beautiful books I have ever read. It is written by an English lady, Mrs Parker, a missionary to India, and describes the life, teaching and mission of one Sadhu Sundar Singh, an Indian Sadhu. A Sadhu is a HOLY MAN, who renounces the world absolutely utterly, never marries, never takes part in any of the

affairs of the world, separates himself to religious life, practices meditation on God and the spiritual life. Sundar Singh, when he found the Lord Jesus Christ, conceived the idea of becoming a Christian Sadhu. They walk from place to place. They wear no shoes, they sleep on the ground and their life is utterly abandoned to God.

One of the statements of Mrs Parker, who wrote of Sundar Singh, was to this effect: "As you approach his presence an awe comes over the soul. It seems as if you are again in the presence of the original Nazarene." Let us approach the Holy of Holies with a similar awe. Let us be reverential in the presence of the glorified One.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is peculiar to the Lord Jesus Christ. "I indeed," said John, "baptise you in water unto repentance, but HE shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and with fire; whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Jesus Christ, the glorified one, must lay His hands on you and me and bestow upon us all His own nature, the outflow of God, the substance of His soul, the quality of His mind, the very being of God Himself. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you?" A temple of God, a house of God in which God lives!

### **A HABITATION OF GOD**

Sometimes I have tried to get it clear before my soul that God LIVES IN ME. I have tried to note the incoming influence and power of that pure, sweet, living Spirit of the Eternal God. I have tried to realise His presence in my spirit, in my soul, in my hands, in my feet, in my person and being - a habitation of God. A habitation of God! God equipping the soul to minister Himself, God, to the world. God equipping the soul of man that he may live forever in harmony of mind with God. God furnishing to the soul of man the POWER of His personality by which man is made as God. For all the God-like qualities of your heart are due to the fact that God, by the Spirit, dwells in you. What is it that you look for in another? It is God! You look into the eyes of another to see God. If you fail to see God in the other life, your heart is troubled. You are looking for God.

I am not interested in the form, the figure or the name of an individual. I am interested in seeing God. Is God there? Is God in that man? Is God in that woman? Is it God that speaks? Is it God that moves? Are you seeing God?

### **YOU MAY HAVE GOD**

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the incoming of God in personality in order that the man, through this force, might be moved by God. God lives in him. God speaks through him. God is the impulse of his soul. God has His dwelling place in him.

YOU may have God. That is the wonder of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is not a work of grace. It is God possessing you. Oh, your heart may have been as sinful as any heart of man ever was sinful. But Christ comes to your soul. That spirit of darkness that possessed you goes and in its stead, a new Spirit comes in. The Spirit of Christ. YOU have become a new creature, a saved man, a God-filled man.

## **A TRANSFORMATION**

Sin manifests itself in three ways. In thoughts, acts, and nature. Salvation is a complete transformation. God takes possession of man and changes his thoughts. In consequence, his acts change and his nature is new. A Christian is not a reformed man. A Christian is a man renewed, remade by the Spirit of God. A Christian is a man indwelt by God. He is the house of God, the tabernacle of the Most High! Man, indwelt by God becomes the hands, the heart, the feet, and the mind of Jesus Christ. God descends into man. Man ascends into God! That is the purpose and power of the baptism in the Holy Ghost. A soul is saved. How does Jesus reach them? Through your hands, your heart, and your faith. When God baptises you in the Holy Ghost, He gives you the biggest gift that heaven or earth ever possessed. He gives you Himself! He joins you by the one Spirit to Himself forever.

## **THE REQUIREMENT**

The requirement is a surrendered heart, a surrendered mind, a surrendered life. From the day that a man becomes a child of God, baptised in the Holy Ghost, it is God's intention, through Jesus Christ, that man should be a revelation of Jesus. The Christian should not reveal himself any more but be a revelation of Jesus.

If you were looking to see whether a man is baptised in the Holy Ghost or not, what would you look for? You would look for God in him. You would look for a revelation of the personality of God. God in him, God speaking in him, God speaking through him, God using his hands, God using his feet, a mind in harmony with God, a soul in touch with heaven, a spirit united and unified with and in Jesus Christ!

## **GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE NOT COMPREHENDED**

It is not in my heart to discourage any man or to make you disbelieve, for one minute, in the trueness of your own baptism in the Holy Ghost. I believe that God, by the Spirit, has baptised many in the Holy Ghost. Hundreds and hundreds of people have been baptised in the Holy Ghost during the life of this church in the last six years. But beloved, we have not comprehended the greatness of God's intent. It is not that we have not received the Spirit, but our lives have not been sufficiently surrendered to God. We must keep on ascending right to the throne, right into the heart of God, right into the soul of the Glorified.

## **THE HOLY GHOST NOT A GIFT OF POWER BUT OF GOD HIMSELF**

The common teaching these days that my heart is endeavouring to combat is that God comes to present the individual with a gift of power, and the individual is then supposed to go out and manifest some certain characteristic of power. No! God comes to present you with HIMSELF. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

Jesus went to heaven that the very treasury of the heart of the Eternal God might be unlocked for your benefit, and that out of the very soul of the Eternal God the streams

of His life and nature would possess you from the crown of your head to the sole of your feet. That there would be just as much of the Eternal God in your toe nails and in your brain as you are capable of containing. In other words, from the very soles of your feet to the last hair on the top of your head, every cell of your being would be a residence of the Spirit of the living God. Man is made alive by God and with God by the Spirit. In the truest sense, man is the dwelling place of God, the house of God, the tabernacle of the Most High.

Listen! “The words that I speak, I speak not of myself, but the Father that DWELLETH in Me.” ... “But the Father that dwelleth in Me.” Where did the Eternal Father dwell in Jesus Christ? In every part of His being, within and without. In the spirit of Him, in the soul of Him, in the brain of Him, in the body of Him, in the blood of Him, in the bones of Him! Every single, solitary cell of His structure was the dwelling place of God, of God, OF GOD!

When you look for God you do not look on the surface. You look within. When you discern a man to see whether God is in him, you look into his spirit, into his soul, into the depths of him, and there you see God.

How trifling are the controversies that surround the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Men are debating such trifling issues. For instance, does a man speak in tongues, or does he not? Do not think for a moment that I am discounting the value of tongues. I am not. But beloved, I will tell you what my heart is straining for. Down there at Jerusalem they not only spoke in tongues, but they spoke the languages of the NATIONS. If it was possible for Peter and Paul, or for the Jewish nation, then it is possible for every last one of us. Not to speak in tongues alone, as we ordinarily understand that phase, but to speak because God dwells in you and He speaks to whomsoever and in whatever language He desires. If your present experience in tongues is not satisfying, God bless you. Go on into languages as God meant that you should. Dear ones, I feel the need for that and I feel it right down in my heart to a depth that hurts. I lived in South Africa for a number of years, where it is commonly said that there are a hundred thousand tribes of native people. Every last one of them speaks a different dialect. These tribes number sometimes as low as ten thousand people and sometimes as high as hundreds of thousands, even millions, of people.

Suppose we were going to evangelise Africa rapidly. It would be necessary to have a hundred thousand different missionaries each mastering one particular language, for there are a hundred thousand of them. No sir! I believe before high heaven that when the Spirit of the Eternal God is poured out upon all flesh, that out of the real Christian body will arise a hundred thousand men and women in Africa that will speak in the language of every separate tribe by the power of God.

The unknown tongue of the Spirit is to teach you of God, to be a faith builder in your soul, to take you out into God’s big practical endeavour to save the world. That is the reason, dear ones, that I bring this issue to your soul. In the matter of the baptism of the Holy Ghost we are in a state of the earliest infancy of understanding, the earliest infancy of divine control, the earliest infancy in ability to assimilate our environment, including languages.

When we go to a school we see classes arranged for every grade. I was talking to a young school teacher who teaches out in the country in a little public school. I asked, "How many children have you in your school?" She replied, "Fifteen." I asked, "How many grades have you?" She said, "Eight grades." Fifteen scholars divided into eight grades.

The Christian church is God's big school. What student in the eighth grade would think of saying to the child learning its A, B, C's, "You don't know anything. Why don't you have the eighth grade understanding?" Well, in due time he will have it. That is why the student does not say such a thing. It is because he knows the child will have it. One day that boy will understand just the same as he does. A weak Christianity always wants to drop to the imperfect and adjust itself to the popular mind. But a real Christianity always seeks to be made perfect in God, both in character and gifts.

### **MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**

Dear ones, I want to repeat to you a little of my own personal history on the subject of the baptism of the Spirit, for I know it will clarify your soul.

### **MY CONVERSION**

I knelt under a tree at about sixteen years of age, in repentance and prayer, and God came into my soul. I was saved from my sins and from that day I knew Jesus Christ as a living Saviour. There was never a single moment of questioning about the reality of His incoming into my life as a Saviour, for He saved me from my sins. My friends said, "You are baptised in the Holy Ghost."

### **SANCTIFIED**

Sometime later, I think when I was still under twenty, or thereabouts, I met a Christian farmer, Nelvin Pratt, who sat down on his plough handles and taught me the subject of sanctification and God let me enter into that experience. My friends said, "Now surely you are baptised in the Holy Ghost." Later in my life I came under the ministry of George B. Watson of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, who taught with more clarity and distinguished between the baptism of the Holy Ghost and sanctification, and I entered into a richer life and a better experience. A beautiful anointing of the Spirit was upon my life.

### **MINISTRY OF HEALING**

When the ministry of healing was opened to me, I ministered for ten years in the power of God. Hundreds and hundreds of people were healed by the power of God during this time and I could feel the conscious flow of the Holy Spirit through my soul and my hands.

However, at the end of ten years, I believe I was the hungriest man for God that ever lived. There was such a hunger for God that as I left my offices in Chicago and walked down the street my soul would break out and I would cry, "Oh God!" I have had people stop and look at me in wonder. It was the yearning passion of my soul, asking

for God in a greater measure than I then knew. My friends would say: “Mr Lake, you have a beautiful baptism in the Holy Ghost.” Yes, it was nice as far as it went, but it was not answering the cry of my heart. I was growing up into a larger understanding of God and my own soul’s need. My soul was demanding a greater entrance into God, His love, presence and power.

### **MY BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST**

Then one day an old man strolled into my office, sat down, and in the next half hour revealed more of the knowledge of God to my soul than I had ever known before. When he left I said, “God bless that old grey head. That man knows more of God than any man I’ve ever met. By the grace of God, if that is what the baptism of the Holy Ghost with tongues does, I am going to possess it.” Oh, the wonder of God that was then revealed to my heart!

I went into fasting and prayer and waiting on God for nine months and one day the glory of God, in a new manifestation and a new incoming, came to my life. When the phenomena had passed, and the glory of it remained in my soul, I found that my life began to manifest the various range of gifts of the Spirit. I spoke in tongues by the power of God and God flowed through me with a new force. Healings were of a more powerful order. Oh, God lived in me. God manifested in me. God spoke through me. My spirit was deified. and I had a new comprehension of God’s will. I had a new discernment of spirit and a new revelation of God in me. For nine months everything that I looked at framed itself into poetic verse. I could not look at the trees without them framing themselves into a glory poem of praise. I preached to audiences of thousands night after night and day after day. People came from all over the world to study me. They could not understand. Everything I said was a stream of poetry. It rolled from my soul in that form. My spirit had become a fountain of poetic truth.

Then a new wonder was manifested. My nature became so sensitised that I could lay my hands on any man or woman and tell what organ was diseased and to what extent. I knew all about it. I tested it. I went to hospitals where physicians could not diagnose a case, touched a patient and instantly I knew the organ that was diseased, its extent and condition and location. Then one day it passed away. A child gets to playing with a toy and his joy is so wonderful he sometimes forgets to eat.

Do you remember when you were first baptised in the Holy Ghost and you first spoke in tongues. How you bubbled and babbled. Wasn’t it so wonderful, so amazing? We just wanted to be babies and go on bubbling and exhilarating. Now we are wondering what the matter is. The effervescence seems to have passed away. It is a good thing that it did! God is letting your soul down, beloved, into the bed-rock. Right down where your mind is not occupied any more with the manifestation of God. God is trying to get your mind occupied with HIMSELF. God has come into you, now He is drawing you into Himself.

Will you speak in tongues when you are baptised in the Holy Ghost? Yes, you will, but you will do an awful lot more than that. An awful lot more than that! You will speak with the soul of Jesus Christ. You will feel with the heart of the Son of God. Your heart will beat with a heavenly desire to bless the world because it is the pulse of Jesus

that is throbbing in your soul. I do not believe there will be the tiniest inclination in your heart to turn around to another child of God and say, "You are not in my class. I am baptised with the Holy Ghost." That is as foreign to the Spirit of the Son of God as night is from day. Beloved, if you are baptised in the Holy Ghost, there will be a tenderness in your soul so deep that you will never crush the aspiration of another by a single suggestion, but your soul will throb and beat and pulse in love and your heart will be under that person to lift them up to God and push them out as far into the glory as your faith can send them.

I want to talk with the utmost frankness and say to you that tongues have been to me the making of my ministry. It is in that peculiar communication with God that He reveals to my soul the truth I utter to you day by day in my ministry. That time of communication with me is mostly in the night. Many a time I climb out of bed, take my pencil and pad, and jot down the beautiful things of God, the wonderful things of God, that He talks out in my spirit and reveals to my heart.

Many Christians do not understand the significance of tongues, any more than the unbeliever understands the experience of your soul when you are saved from sin. It has taken place in you. It is in your heart. It is in your mind. It is in your being. The man who tries to make you doubt the reality of your experience with God when He saved you out of your sin is foolish. It is established IN you. The old Methodists could not explain the experience, but they said: "It is better felt than told." They knew it by internal knowledge. So it is in a real baptism of the Holy Ghost. So it is in prophecy. So it is in healing. So it is in tongues. Do not throw away what you have. Go on to perfection.

### **THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT**

THE SPIRIT OF MAN HAS A VOICE. Do you get that? The spirit of man has a voice. The action of God in your spirit causes your spirit to speak by its voice. In order to make it intelligent to your understanding it has to be repeated in the language that your brain knows. Why? Because there is a language common to the spirit of man, and it is not English, and it is not German, and it is not French, and it is not Italian, or any other of the languages of earth. It is a language of the spirit of man. And, oh, what a joy it was when that pent-up, bursting, struggling spirit of yours found its voice and "spoke in tongues."

Many times I have talked to others in the Spirit, by the Spirit, through the medium of tongues, and knew everything that was said to me. But I did not know it with this ear. It was not the sound of their words. It was that undefinable something that made it intelligent. Spirit speaks to spirit, just as mouth speaks to mouth, or as man speaks to man. Your spirit speaks to God. God is Spirit. He answers back. Bless God. And I believe with all my heart that is what Paul had in mind when he talked out the "unknown" tongue. The unknown tongue is that medium of internal revelation of God to you. It is the common language of the spirit of man by which God communicates with your spirit.

## **INTERNAL REVELATION MADE INTELLIGENT BY INTERPRETATION**

If you want to make that medium of internal revelation of God intelligent to other folks, it must be translated into the language that they know. That is the reason the apostle says, "Let him that speaketh in tongues pray that he may interpret," that the church may receive edifying. Paul says: "IN THE CHURCH I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." Your revelation from God is given to you in tongues, but you give it forth in the language the people understand.

Beloved, settle it. It is one of the divine mediums and methods of communication between your spirit and God's. As long as you live, when you talk about TONGUES, speak with reverence, for it is God. When you talk about healing, speak with reverence, for it is God. When you talk about prophecy, remember it is God.

### **AN ILLUSTRATION**

A German woman came to the healing rooms one day and a brother prayed for her. She had been a schoolteacher but had to give up her profession because of her eyesight. She came back later after having been alone for three weeks. She had never been in a religious service in her life where they speak in tongues and had no knowledge of the scriptures along that line. She came back to me with a volume of written material that God had given her. When she had been prayed for to receive healing, the Spirit of God came upon her and she was baptised in the Holy Ghost. Now God had commenced to reveal Himself to her, teach her of His Word, and of His will, until she filled a volume with written material of her conversations with Him. She communed with God in tongues, her spirit speaking to God, but when she came to me I received it in English.

The man that sits along side of you cannot understand that. He never talked to God. He does not understand anything about getting up in the middle of the night to write down what God has said to him. He needs something else to convince him that there is a God. Tongues are for a sign, NOT to them that believe, but to them that believe not. But prophecy, the outspeaking for God, is for all. Therefore, Paul does not want them to crush a man who is speaking in tongues, but to keep their hands off and stand back. Leave him alone with God. Let him travel away out in His love and power, and come back with messages in his soul.

But he must not monopolise the time of hundreds of people in the church with a private communication of God to his soul. However, when he has completed his interview with God, he gives forth his knowledge as interpretation or prophecy.

There have been so many controversies over the various gifts of the Spirit as they appeared one after another. Twenty-five or thirty years ago when we began in the ministry of healing, (this was preached in 1921) we had to fight to keep from being submerged by our opposing brethren in Jesus Christ who thought we were insane because we suggested that the Lord Jesus Christ could still heal. In the state of Michigan I had to go into the courts to keep some of my friends out of the insane

asylum because they believed God could heal without taking pills or some other material stuff. (To popularise healing, some have compromised on the use of medicines, but the REAL CHRISTIAN STILL trusts God alone.)

It happened because they did not understand the eternal and invisible nature of God. They had no idea God could be ministered through a man's hands and soul and fill a sick man's body, take possession of him and make him whole. The world has had to learn this. It is a science far in advance of so-called material or physical science.

Then that marvellous wave of God came over the country from 1900 to 1906, when hundreds of thousands of people were baptised in the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. But listen! Old John Alexander Dowie, riding on the wave of that wonderful manifestation of healing power, wanted to build a church and stamp it with healing only. His church practically did that and died. Other churches branded theirs with holiness only, and died. Others with an anointing of the Holy Ghost called "baptism," and they died in power also. Later on we wanted to build a great structure and stamp it with tongues. After a while the tongues got dry. Somehow the glory and the glow had gone out of them. They became rattly and did not sound right. What was the matter? There was nothing wrong with the experience. God had not departed from our lives but was hidden from our view. We were absorbed in the phenomena of God and not in God Himself. Now we must go on. Beloved, I can see as my spirit discerns the future and reaches out to touch the heart of mankind, and the desire of God, that there is coming from heaven a new manifestation of the Holy Ghost in power. That new manifestation will be in sweetness, in love, in tenderness, in the power of the Spirit, beyond anything your heart or mine ever saw. The very lightning of God will flash through men's souls. The sons of God will meet the sons of darkness and prevail. Jesus Christ will destroy anti-Christ.

### **A DELUGE OF THE SPIRIT**

In 1908, I preached at Pretoria, South Africa, when one night God came over my life in such power, in such streams of liquid glory and powers that it flowed consciously off my hands like streams of electricity. I would point my finger at a man and that stream would strike him. When a man interrupted the meeting I would point my finger at him and say, "Sit down!" He fell as if struck and lay for three hours. When he became normal they asked him what happened, and he said, "Something struck me that went straight through me. I thought I was shot."

At two o'clock in the morning I ministered to sixty-five sick that were present. The streams of God that were pouring through my hands were so powerful the people would fall as though they were hit. I was troubled because they fell with such violence, and the Spirit said, "You do not need to put your hands on them. Keep your hands a distance away." And when I held my hands a foot from their heads they would crumple and fall in a heap on the floor. They were healed, almost every one.

That was the outward manifestation. That was what the people saw. But beloved, something transpired in my heart that made my soul like the soul of Jesus Christ. Oh, there was such tenderness, a new-born tenderness of God. It was so wonderful that my heart reached out and cried and wept over men in sin. I could gather them in my arms

and love them and Jesus Christ flowed out of me and delivered them. Drunkards were saved and healed as they stood transfixed looking at me.

During that period men would walk down the isle, and when they came within ten feet of me, they would fall prostrate, one on top of the other. A preacher who had sinned, fell prostrate as he looked at me. He was saved, baptised in the Holy Ghost, and stirred the nation with his message of love.

In eighteen months God raised up one hundred white churches in the land. Those hundred churches were born in my tabernacle at Johannesburg. The multitude of those who composed that hundred churches were healed or baptised in the Holy Ghost under my own eyes, as I preached or prayed.

I continued in the ministry of healing until I saw hundreds of thousands healed. At last I became tired. I went on healing people day after day, as though I was a machine. All the time my heart kept asking, "Oh God, let me know Yourself better. I want you. My heart wants YOU, God." Seeing men saved and healed and baptised in the Holy Ghost did not satisfy my growing soul. It was crying for a greater consciousness of God. The inner part of me was yearning for Christ's own life and love. After a while my soul reached the place where I said, "If I cannot get God into my soul to satisfy the soul of me, all the rest of this is empty." I had lost interest in it, nevertheless, if I put my hands on the sick they continued to be healed by the power of God.

I will never forget Spokane, Washington. For during the first six months I was there God satisfied the cry of my heart and came in. My mind opened and my spirit understood afresh and I was able to tell of God and talk out of the heart of me like I never had been able to before. God reached a new depth in my spirit and revealed new possibilities in Him. So beloved, you pray through. Pray through for this church, pray through for this work. Oh! God will come! God will come with more tongues than you have ever heard. God will come with more power than your eyes ever beheld. God will come with waves of heavenly love and sweetness and blessed be God, your heart will be satisfied in Him.

Will a man speak in tongues when he is baptised in the Holy Ghost? Yes, he will. And he will heal the sick when he is baptised, and he will glorify God out of the spirit of him, with praises more delightful and heavenly than you ever heard. He will have a majestic bearing. He will look like the Lord Jesus Christ and he will be like Him. Blessed be God.

The greatest manifestation of the Holy Ghost-baptised life ever given to the world was not in the preaching of the apostles. It was not in the wonderful manifestations of God that took place at their hands. It was in the UNSELFISHNESS manifested by the church. Think of it! Three thousand Holy Ghost-baptised Christians in Jerusalem from the day of Pentecost onward, who loved their neighbour's children as much as their own, who were so anxious for fear their brethren did not have enough to eat that they sold their estates, brought the money and laid it at the apostles feet and said, "Distribute it. Carry the glow and the fire and the wonder of this divine salvation to the whole world." That showed what God had wrought in their hearts. Oh, I wish we

could arrive at that place where this church was baptised in that degree of unselfishness.

That would be a greater manifestation than healing, greater than conversion, greater than baptism in the Holy Ghost, greater than tongues. It would be a manifestation of the LOVE of 1 Corinthians 13, that so many preach about but do not possess. When a man sells his all for God and distributes it for the Kingdom's good, it will speak louder of love than the evangelists who harp about love and oppose tongues and the other gifts of the Spirit.

It was the same Holy Ghost that came upon them and caused them to speak in tongues. No more grabbing for themselves. No more bantering for the biggest possible salary. No more juggling to put themselves and their friends in the most influential positions. All the old characteristics were gone. They were truly saved. Their hearts were like the heart of Jesus, their souls were like the soul of God. They loved as God loved. They loved the world. They loved sinners so that they gave their all to save them.

Do you want Him? You can have Him. Oh! He will come and fill your soul. The Holy Ghost will take possession of your life. He will reveal the wonder of heaven and the glory of God and the richness and purity of His holiness and make you sweet and God-like forever.

### **PRAYER IN TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION**

“Thou art not far away, Oh God. Our souls tonight are enveloped in the Eternal God. We feel Thee round about us. We feel Thy precious loving arm and the beating of Thy heart, and the pulsing of Thy heavenly soul, and we are asking Thee, my God, that the truth of the Eternal shall be breathed into us forever until all our nature is submerged in God, buried up in God, infilled with God, revealing God.”

## 10. BEHOLD, I GIVE YOU POWER

*“When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him, and behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”* Matthew 8:1-2.

That man knew that Jesus had the power to heal him, but he did not know it was God's will. He did not know that Jesus had committed Himself to the healing of mankind. If he had known he would have said, “Lord, heal me.”

It is always God's will to heal. Our faith may fail. My faith failed to the extent that unless someone else had gone under my life and prayed for me, I would have died. But God was just as willing to heal me as He could be. It was my faith that broke down. God is willing, just as willing to heal as He is to save. HEALING IS A PART OF SALVATION. It is not separate from salvation. Healing was purchased by the blood of Jesus. This Book always connects salvation and healing.

David said: *“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases.”* Psalm 103:2-3.

There has never been a man in the world who was converted and was sick at the same time, who might not have been healed if he had believed God for it. But he was not instructed in faith to believe God for healing.

Suppose two men came to the altar. One is sick and lame and the other is a sinner. Suppose they knelt at the altar together. The sinner says, “I want to find the Lord.” Everyone in the house will immediately lend the love of their heart and the faith of their soul to help him touch God. But the lame fellow says, “I have a lame leg” or my spine is injured. I want healing.” Instead of everybody lending their love and faith in the same way to that man, everybody puts up a question mark.

That comes because of the fact we are instructed on the Word of God concerning the salvation of the soul, but our education concerning sickness and His desire and willingness to heal had been neglected. We have gone to the eighth or the tenth grade or the university on the subject of salvation, but on the subject of healing we are in the A,B,C class.

Verse 3: “Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will. Be thou clean.” Did He ever say anything in the world but “I will”, or did He ever say, “I cannot heal you because it is not the will of God”, or “I cannot heal you because you are being purified by this sickness”, or “I cannot heal you because you are glorifying God in this sickness?” There is no such instance in the Book.

On the other hand we are told, “He healed ALL that came to Him.” Never did a soul apply to God for salvation or healing that Jesus did not save and heal! Did you ever think what calamity it might have been if a man had come to Jesus once and said, “Lord, save me”, and the Lord had said, “No, I cannot save you”. Every man

forevermore would have a question mark as to whether or not God would save him. There would not be a universal confidence as there is today.

Suppose Jesus had ever said to a sick man, “No, I cannot heal you”. You would have the same doubt about healing. The world would have settled back and said, “Well, it may be God's will to heal that man or that woman, but I do not know whether or not it is His will to heal me.”

Jesus Christ did not leave us in doubt about God's will, but when the church lost her faith in God, she began to teach the people that maybe it was not God's will to heal them. So the church introduced the phrase, “If it be Thy will” concerning healing. But Jesus “healed all that came to Him” (Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:6; Luke 9:11).

Notice what it says in Isaiah 35. “He will come and SAVE you. THEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND SHALL BE OPENED, AND THE EARS OF THE DEAF SHALL BE UNSTOPPED. Then shall the LAME MAN LEAP AS AN HART, and the TONGUE OF THE DUMB SHALL SING.” Salvation and healing connected!

*“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities and BARE OUR SICKNESSES.”* Matthew 8:17.

And lest we might be unmindful of that great fact that he “bare our sicknesses and carried our sorrows”, Peter emphasises it by saying, “Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Not “by whose stripes ye are healed”, but “by whose stripes ye WERE healed”. The only thing that is necessary is to BELIEVE GOD. God's mind never needs to act for a man's SALVATION. He gave the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to die for you. God cannot go any farther in expressing His will in His desire to save man. The only thing that is necessary is to believe God. There is salvation by blood. There is salvation by power that actually comes from God into a man's life. The blood provided the power. Without the blood there would have been no power. Without the sacrifice there would have never been any glory. Salvation by blood, salvation by power.

The church in general is very clear in her faith on the subject of salvation through the sacrifice of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Christian world in general, regardless of their personal state of salvation, has a general faith and belief in the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world. But they are ever in doubt and very inexperienced on the power of God.

*“When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, ‘I will. Be thou clean.’ And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus saith unto him, ‘See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses*

*commanded, for a testimony unto them.’” Matthew 8:1-4.*

Did you ever stop to think that they have no medical remedy for the real things that kill folks? Typhoid fever - Fill the patient with a tank full of medicine and he will go right on for twenty-one days.

In 1913 I was in Chicago, in a big meeting, when I received a telegram from the hospital in Detroit, saying, “Your son, Otto, is sick with typhoid fever. If you want to see him, come.” I rushed for a train and when I arrived I found him in a ward. I told the man in charge I would like a private room for him so I could get a chance to pray for him. Well, God smote that thing in five minutes. I stayed with him for a couple of days until he was up and walking around. He went along for four or five weeks and one day, to my surprise, I got another telegram telling me he had a relapse of typhoid. So I went back again. This time there was no sunburst of God like the first time. Everything was as cold as steel, and my, I was so conscious of the power of the devil. I could not pray audibly, but I sat down by his bed and shut my teeth, and I said in my soul, “Now, Mr Devil, go to it. You kill him if you can.” And I sat there five days and nights. He did not get healing the second time instantly. It was healing by process because of the fact my soul took hold on God. I sat with clenched teeth, and I never left his bedside until it was done.

You may be healed like a sunburst of God today and tomorrow. The next week or the next month when you want healing you may have to take it on the slow process. The action of God is not always the same because the conditions are not always the same.

In the life of Jesus people were instantly healed. I believe Jesus has such a supreme measure of the Spirit that when He put His hands on a man he was filled and submerged in the Holy Ghost, and the diseases withered out and vanished.

But beloved, you and I use the measure of the Spirit that we possess. (You can, as a member of His body, possess the Spirit in the same measure as He. God does not expect us to fulfil John 14:12 with less equipment than Jesus had. W. H. Reidt) And if we haven't got as much of God as Jesus had then you pray for a man today, and you get a certain measure of healing, but he is not entirely well. The only thing to do is to pray for him tomorrow, and let him get some more, and keep on until he is well.

That is where people blunder. They will pray for a day or two, and then they quit. You pray and keep on day by day and minister to your sick until they are well. One of the things that has discredited healing is that evangelists will hold meetings and hundreds of sick will come and be prayed for. In a great meeting like that you get a chance to pray once and do not see them again. You pray for ten people and as a rule you will find that one or two or three are absolutely healed, but the others are only half healed, or quarter healed or have only a little touch of healing. It is just the same with salvation. You bring ten to the altar. One is saved and is clear in his soul. Another may come for a week and another for a month before he is clear in his soul. The difference is not with God. The difference is inside the man. His consciousness has not opened up to God.

Every law of the Spirit that applies to salvation applies to healing likewise.

“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed” (Matthew 8:5-8). Here is healing at a distance. That centurion understood divine authority, and the same divine authority is vested in the Christian, for Jesus is the pattern Christian.

*“For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.” Verse 9.*

The same divine authority that was vested in Jesus is vested BY JESUS in every Christian soul. Jesus made provision for the church of Jesus Christ to go on forever and do the same things He did and to keep on doing them forever. This is what is the matter with the church. It has lost faith in that truth. The result is it went on believing He could save people from sin, but the other great range of Christian life was left to the doctors and the devil or anything else. The church will never be a real church in the real power of the living God again, until she comes back again to the original standard where Jesus was.

Jesus said, “Behold, I give you authority.” What authority? “Over unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease” (Matthew 10:1). Jesus has vested that authority in you. You say, “Well, Lord, we understand the authority that is in your Word, but we haven't the power.” But Jesus said, “Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you” (Acts 1:8).

Now the Holy Ghost is come upon every Christian in a measure. It is a question of degree. There are degrees of the measure of the Spirit of God in men's lives. The BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is a greater measure of the Spirit of God, but every man has a degree of the Holy Spirit in his life. You have. It is the Spirit in your life that gives you faith in God and makes you a blessing to other people. It is the Holy Spirit that is out-breathed in your soul that touches another soul and moves them for God. Begin right where you are and let God take you along the Christian life as far as you like.

*“When Jesus heard it, He marvelled and said to them that followed Verily, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Verse 10.*

Jesus always commended faith when He met it. Jesus did not always meet faith. All the people who came to Jesus did not possess that order of faith. They had faith that IF THEY GOT TO JESUS they would be healed. But here is a man who says, “Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.”

Do you remember the case of the man at the pool of Bethesda? He did not even ask to be healed. As he lay there Jesus walked up to him and said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The poor fellow went on to say that when the water was troubled he had no one to put him in and while waiting, another stepped in ahead of him. Then Jesus said unto him, "Arise, take up thy bed and walk," and he was made whole. Afterward Jesus met him and said, "Behold thou art made whole. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." (John 5:14).

Most sickness is the result of sin. That is the answer to the individual who sins. For thousands of years men have been sinning and in consequence of their sin they are diseased in their bodies. This will give you an idea. Scientists tell us there are tubercular germs in 90% of the population. The only difference is that when people are in a healthy state the germs do not get a chance to manifest themselves. I am trying to show the intimacy between sin and sickness. It is not necessarily the sin of the individual. It may never be the sin of the individual.

In the records of the Lake and Graham family away back, tuberculosis was never known to them, until it appeared in my sister. My sister accompanied me to Africa and she became so ill that when I got to Cape Town we had to wait until her strength returned. God healed her.

Regarding people being healed at a distance, we receive telegrams from all over the world. Distance is no barrier to God. The United States has just finished the building of the greatest wireless station in the world. They send messages that register almost instantly ten thousand miles away. Similarly, when your HEART strikes God in faith it will register there wherever that individual is just as quick. All the discoveries of later years such as telegraph, telephone, wireless and that sort of thing are just the common laws that Christians have practiced all their lives.

Nobody ever knelt down and prayed, but that the instant they touched God their soul registered in Jesus Christ in glory and the answer came back to the soul. Christians have that experience every day. The wise world has begun to observe that these laws are applicable in the natural realm. I asked Marconi once how he got his first idea for the wireless. He replied he got it from watching an exhibition of telepathy in a cheap theatre.

The prayer of the heart reaches God. Jesus replied to the leper, "I will. Be thou clean." Next was the centurion's servant. The centurion said, "You do not need to come to my house. You SPEAK THE WORD ONLY and my servant shall be healed." In the soul of Jesus He said, "Be healed." Distance is no barrier to God. Distance makes no difference. The Spirit of God will go as far as your love reaches. Love is the medium that conveys the Spirit of God to another soul anywhere on God's earth.

This is what takes place when you pray. The Spirit of God comes upon you and bathes your soul and a shaft of it reaches out and touches that soul over there. If you had an instrument that was fine enough to photograph spirit, you would discover this is done.

Is it not a marvellous thing that God has chosen us to be co-labourers with Him and He takes us into partnership to do all that He is doing? Jesus Christ, at the throne of

God, desires the blessing of you and me and out of His holy heart the Spirit comes and the soul is filled and we cannot tell how or why.

I have known of thousands of people who have been healed who have never seen my face. They send a request for prayer. We pray and never hear anything more about them sometimes, unless a friend or a neighbour or someone comes and tells us about them. Sometimes someone sends in a request for them. They will tell you they do not know what happened . They just got well. But you know why. That is the wonderful power there is in the Christian life and that is the wonderful cooperation that the Lord Jesus has arranged between His own soul and the soul of the Christian. That is the church which is his body.”

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Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He healed all that were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38). He did not use carnal weapons in destroying the work of the devil. He used a spiritual weapon. It is best expressed in Luke 6:19,

*“And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue (power) out of him, and healed them all.”*

This is the perfect remedy for all of man's ills. Jesus taught His disciples the use of this weapon. He sent out the twelve (Luke 9:1-2). He sent out the seventy (Luke 10:1-19). His training was not fruitless. It is shown in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Acting in the name of Jesus, the outflow of power from their lives brought healing to all that came to them. They duplicated His ministry. There is not one record of a failure in the book of Acts. The weapon of their warfare against the work of the devil in forms of sickness and disease was spiritual and not carnal. The same power is available today.

“Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). God gives the members of the body of His Son power over the devil. He never gives the devil power over them.

One of the marvels of Christianity is the power given the believer. “Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). The devil cannot make a believer do a single thing without the believer's consent or assent. Resist the evil and he flees. Give in and he wins. It is this fact, as simple as it may sound, that constitutes our responsibility for our behaviour. No person can say, “I sinned in spite of myself”, but he or she can only say, “I sinned because of myself.”

Cleansed from all sin (root, stem and branch) so that the devil has no anchor within, and having put on that invincible armour of Ephesians 6, the believer is the master in every situation. If the believer stands firm and uses his armour efficiently he is unbeatable by the devil.

Couple all that is said above with this statement from 1 John 4:4: “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” Why should a believer ever give in to the devil and sin?

I can identify with Jesus as a member of His body when He said, “The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.” Why let the devil in or put anything in? See John 14:30.

“And the God of peace shall bruise (shatter completely) Satan under your feet shortly. In any warfare there comes a time when the enemy is shattered. Stand true and allow God to shatter him under your feet.” (Romans 16:20) Stand fast!