

**JOHN G. LAKE
STUDY LESSONS**

PART TWO

(LESSONS 11-20)

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11. CHRISTIAN COMMUNION

I want to examine some portions of Scriptures with this one general thought in view - the presence of Christ. Some of you may have read a little booklet by an old monk, whose name was Father Lawrence. It is called "Practising the Presence of Christ."

One of the things the Christian world does not get hold of with a strong grip is the conscious presence of Christ with us now. Somehow there is an inclination in the Christian spirit to feel that Jesus, when He left the earth, returned to glory and in consequence, is not present with us now.

I want to show you how wonderfully the Scriptures emphasise the fact of His presence with us now. When He was talking to the eleven, just prior to His ascension, (Matthew 28), after delivering to them the great commission, He said:

"Go ye therefore and teach all nation, baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." He ended the statement with these words:

"And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

It would naturally seem as if a separation had been planned because of His return to glory, but no such separation was contemplated on the part of Christ. He promised His omnipotent presence with us always. Christ omnipresent means everywhere. Present in the soul, present in the world, present always unto the end of the age.

As Paul was going down the road to Damascus the presence of God's glory shone around him. He fell prostrate on the earth and heard a voice speaking to him. When he demanded to know who it was, the voice replied, "I am Jesus." Jesus was present with him as a Saviour to deliver him from his difficulties and his sins.

At a later time in Paul's career he returned to Jerusalem and was in danger of his life. While he prayed in the temple, he was overshadowed by the Spirit. He said, "I was in a trance, and saw Him saying unto me, make haste and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning Me." Paul endeavoured to argue with the Lord about it. That conversation has always been a blessing to my soul. It was so real. I have always been so glad that Paul answered back to the Lord and the details of the conversation have been recorded.

Paul said, "But Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on Thee. And when the blood of Thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him." But the Lord replied, "Depart, for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles."

Jesus is just as close to the Christian soul as He was to Paul. There is a beautiful verse that expresses that so sweetly, "Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet."

Christ is the living presence, not only WITH us, but to the real Christian, He is IN us, a perpetual joy, power and glory in our life. When a soul reaches to the heights of God it will only be because of the guiding, counselling, indwelling and infilling of Christ.

TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

Blessed Jesus, Lord and God, He who dwells within.
Blessed Jesus, He who came to free our hearts from sin.
Give us now Thy presence in us
Sweetly verified by Thy Holy Word
Give us now Thy presence
That we too may call thee Lord.
Precious Jesus, Lord of Heaven,
Blessed Jesus, come and dwell,
Blessed Christ of all the Heaven,
Dearer to our heart
Christ of God come in and dwell,
That within us we may be
Perfectly conscious of that indwelling,
And ever from sin set free.

Many of us, no doubt, have been struck with the beautiful war story that has been doing the rounds of the magazines for some months, called "The Comrade." It is the sense of comradeship that makes the Lord Jesus not only a Saviour in the ordinary sense, but a Saviour and Companion in all our ways and walks of life. He fills the place in our soul that only a comrade can fill.

On one of my exploring expeditions, while in Africa, I met a man in Portuguese East Africa who told me he had lived for eleven years with only natives as his associates. One evening as we came along, passing through the veldt, I observed this little cabin that indicated the presence of an European. I started over, expecting to discover a man with some white blood in him at least, but I was overjoyed to find he was an intelligent English gentleman.

He had come to Africa in the early days with his wife and children. His sons had been killed in a native uprising. His wife had died of fever and only he was left. I said, "Why didn't you return to England?" He replied, "I did not have any desire to return. Many of my friends I used to know had died or gone to Australia, or were with a new set of people. I concluded I would just settle down and spend the rest of my days here."

He sat up all night and talked about the ordinary things that were going on in the world about us. It was the first time he had any outside news in several years. We sat fellowshiping during the night.

In the morning, before I went away, I asked him what it was he missed more than anything else since he had been out there. He replied, "Mr Lake, I guess one word will cover it. "Comradeship." The lack of that real soul comradeship which makes life so dear to every man.

That is the place that Jesus purposes to occupy in the Christian life. That place of real comradeship. That place where, through His grace and love, He supplies to us the thing that we need so much to make this life the joyous, victorious life He purposed it to be. His presence with us, His guiding counsel, His transforming grace, His soul-absorbing presence, which ultimately commands all the intensity of our nature. It is all for us. Paul expresses it so wonderfully in the words, "Christ is all and in all."

Paul gives us yet another vision of the presence and power of Christ with us in the fourth chapter of Ephesians. This time it is as a Transformer.

"Until we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

This shows the ultimate purpose of Christ as Saviour, as a Companion, as the Indweller. Christ's presence with us is not just as an outward companion, but an indwelling, divine force, revolutionising our nature and making us like Him. Indeed, the final and ultimate purpose of the Christ is that the Christian shall be reproduced in His own likeness, within and without.

Paul again expresses the same thing in the first chapter of Colossians, the 22nd verse, where he says,

"To present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight."

That transformation is to be an inner transformation. It is a transformation of our life, our nature, into His nature and likeness.

How the mechanical fades away in view of the living fact of what Christ purposes to accomplish in us through the Spirit. How wonderful the patience, and marvellous the power that takes possession of the soul of man and accomplishes the will of God in absolutely transforming us into the real beautiful holiness of the character of Jesus.

Our heart staggers when we think of such a calling, such a nature, when we contemplate such a character. That is God's purpose for you and me.

In emphasising this truth the apostle again puts it into a different form. He says,

"Until Christ be formed in you."

In other words, until, by the transforming operation of the Spirit of God, we are remade or transformed. Until our nature is transformed by the operation of the Spirit of God in our soul. It is then we are re-made or transformed until our nature is transformed into the nature of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

His has the perfect character. Consequently, every other character that is co-joined with Him in real heirship must be like God's Son. Jesus can never present that which is faulty or evil or weak to the Father. The transforming grace of God must take away,

and does take away, sin from the soul of man. It gives him His strength instead of human weakness. It supplies the grace that makes him like the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the marvel He has undertaken to accomplish. To transform the soul of man into the likeness and character of Himself and then present mankind to the Father, "holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight."

When Jesus stood before the disciples, just prior to His going out into the garden, He delivered to them that wonderful address of the 14th, 15th, and 16th of John. He climaxed it with that marvellous high priestly prayer of the 17th. He endeavoured to bring them to understand His nature and power. Knowing that all power had been given unto Him, He took a towel and a basin and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. When He had finished He said, "Know ye not what I have done unto you." In explanation He said, "If I, being your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet." In assuming the attitude of a servant He had taught mankind what their relation as brother should be.

When we examine the human heart and endeavour to discover what it is that retards our progress, I believe we find that pride in the human soul is perhaps the greatest difficulty we have to overcome. Jesus, taking the place of a slave, taught us a wonderful humility. So we are enjoined to thus treat and love one another.

His presence with us and in us must produce in our hearts the same conditions that were in His own. It must bring into our life the same humility that was in Him. It is one of the secrets of entrance into the grace of God.

"When the precious Christ enters into unregenerate hearts He becomes the very centre of their being. He becomes the very peak of their ambition, that they might be like Him. He, through true humility of His soul, left the things of His glorious Father's Kingdom to come into this world of woe and sin and was enabled to live the life of perfection in this earth and become the real Redeemer and sympathiser of mankind." (Tongues and interpretation)

In the story of the Comrade, the substance of it is that the Comrade is ever present. In the course of the conversation with the Comrade it is observed that there are wounds in His hands and He replies, "Yes, they are old wounds, but they have been giving me a good deal of trouble of late."

That is the vital sense of real comradeship that makes the Spirit of Jesus so one with us that we realise and He realises when the conditions of our nature and mind affect Him.

For two days I have been under a tremendous burden. One of these spirit burdens that come at times when you cannot define them. I could not tell where it came from, but every now and then I felt I wanted to sit down and cry. Presently during the day a friend came and unloaded the burden of her soul to me and then I realised that I had been under a burden for that soul for two days. I had not known the trouble existed.

That is the character of comradeship that is between the real Christian and the Christ. The Christian feels the burdens of the Christ and the Christ feels the burdens of the Christian and, being united as one spirit, the interest of the Christ are the interests of the Christian and the interests of the Christian are the interests of the Christ. That relationship is of the truest, deepest order. It is the relationship of spirit with spirit.

When I was a young man, before I entered into this life, indeed from my boyhood, there were times when my spirit would become overshadowed with the burden of another life. Sometimes with the sorrows of another. I had one of these experiences when I was not more than ten or eleven years of age. On a particular Sunday, I arose with one of these burdens on my spirit and I walked out into the fields. There was a high hill on my father's farm. The sun had not yet risen over this hill. When I got to the top I looked down over the beautiful field. There was a lake and surroundings and I was thinking how beautiful it all was. In the midst of it tears commenced to run and I sat down on a stone and cried. After a while I got up and wondered why I was crying. Several days later we received a letter telling that dear old grandfather had died. Then dear old grandmother said, "Well, I do not want to live any more," and she died also. Around them were a group of sorrowing friends and somehow my spirit contacted that sorrow.

One of the truest things in all my life, in my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, has been to feel that He was capable of knowing my sorrows, and yours. In the truest sense He thereby became our Comrade.

In Isaiah there is a verse that wonderfully expresses that fact. "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them..." (Isaiah 63:9). "In His love and in His pity He redeemed them, and bare them, and carried them all the days of old."

There is a union between the Christ and the Christian that is so deep and so pure, so sweet and so real, that the very conditions of our spirit are transmitted to His and the conditions of the Christ's Spirit are transmitted to ours. It is because of the continuous inflow of the Spirit of Christ in our heart that we appreciate or realise His power and triumph. It lifts man above his surroundings and causes him to triumph anywhere and everywhere.

The Christian life is designed by God to be a life of splendid, holy triumph. That triumph is produced in us through the continuous inflow and abiding presence of the Spirit of the triumphant Christ. He brings into our nature the triumph that He enjoys. Indeed the mature Christian, having entered into that consciousness of overcoming through the Spirit of Christ, is privileged to transmit that same overcoming power and spirit to other lives, in and through the power of the Spirit of God.

That is why the Christian who is joined with the Christ, lives, moves and has his being in the same life, in the same Spirit that the Christ is in and has, and is therefore the reproduction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

12. THE CALLING OF THE SOUL

If I were to choose a subject title for the thought in my soul tonight, I would choose “The Calling of the Soul.”

Someone has given us this little saying that has become prevalent among many people. “My own shall come to me.” Jesus framed that thought in different words. He said: “He that hungers and thirsts after righteousness shall be filled.” It is the same law. “Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

RIGHTEOUSNESS is simply God’s rightness. God’s rightness in a man’s soul, in his spirit and in his body. In order that man may be right or righteous, God imparts to man the power of His Spirit. That Spirit contains such marvellous and transforming grace that, when received into the nature of man, He sets in motion the marvellous process of regeneration and man thereby becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus.

The deepest call of our nature is the one that will find the speediest answer. People pray and something happens. If they pray again something still deeper occurs within their nature and they find a new prayer. The desire is obtained.

In my ministry in South Africa I had a preacher by the name of Van Vuuren. That name means “fire”. Van Vuuren had been a butcher in the city of Johannesburg and was given up to die of consumption. His physician said to him: “You have only one year to live.” So he gave up his business and went down into the country to develop a farm so that his family might be able to support themselves.

After he left the city many were baptised in the Holy Spirit and healed and so forth, and his friends wrote him a letter saying, “So-and-so, who was sick, has been healed. So-and-so, your niece, has been baptised in the Holy Spirit and is speaking in tongues by the power of God. So-and-so has been blessed of God,” and so on.

Van Vuuren took the letter and went out into the fields and got down under a thorn tree and spread the letter out before God. Then he began to pray, “God, if you can do these things for the people at Johannesburg, you can do something for me. I have been a Christian for eighteen years and I have prayed and prayed for certain things that have not come to pass. God, if others can be baptised in the Holy Ghost, surely I can. If others’ hearts are made pure by the power of God, the power that made theirs pure can make mine pure also. If others have been healed then you can heal me.”

As he thus gave himself to God and opened his soul to heaven, suddenly the Spirit came upon him and he became the most transformed creature I ever knew.

God moved into the man. For eighteen days he walked as though overshadowed by the Spirit of God. God talked continuously to his soul, directing him to this one and that one, judges, lawyers, statesmen and physicians, rich and poor. When he would reach them the Spirit of God would pour forth through his soul such messages of God that in many cases they fell down and wept.

This is the point of the story I wanted you to understand. He said for eighteen years he had prayed for the real conversion and transformation of his wife and it had not come to pass. But that morning, after the Lord had baptised him in the Holy Ghost, a new prayer came into his heart. A new depth had been touched in the man's nature and from that great inner depth flowed out to God a cry that had been going out from his soul for years. That morning the cry of God touched the soul of his wife and before he reached the house she had given her heart to God. In three months all his family - his wife, eleven children and himself, had been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

The desire of which Jesus spoke (for when He spoke of desire, He spoke of this same call of the soul) was not the simple attitude of the outer man. Certainly it included it. Perhaps the desire in the beginning was simply that of the mind, but as the days and years passed and the desirability of obtaining grew in the soul, it became a call of the deepest depth of the man's nature. That is the character of desire that Jesus spoke of when He said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

The spiritual action that takes place within the nature of man, that strong desire for God, His ways, His love, His knowledge, His power, causes everything else, perhaps unconsciously to himself, to become secondary.

Politicians talk about a paramount issue. That is the issue that stands out by itself above all others and is the greatest and largest and of most interest to the nation. It is the paramount issue.

The soul has its paramount issue and when the desire of your heart is intensified so that it absorbs all your energies, then the time of its fulfilment is not far away. That is the desire that brings the answer. It is creative desire.

A woman testified in my hearing one day to this fact. She had been pronounced hopeless and was going blind. No human remedy could do her any good. Someone opened to her, in a dim way, the possibility of seeing through the power of God. She was not very well taught, but she said that every day for four years she gave up two and one-half hours absolutely to expressing the desire of her soul for real sight. Not only expressing it in words, but calling the power of God to her that would recreate in her the function of sight in her eyes and make her see." At the end of four or four and a half years she said, "My eyes are as well as they ever were."

That is the reward of a persistent desire toward God. Your nature may have sent out just as deep a cry to God as my nature has, and is still doing. Is the cry to God continuous? Gradually, as the forces of life concentrate themselves in line with that strong desire, the Spirit of God operates through your heart, being directed by that desire and concentrating on a particular line, intensifies every day because of the continuous desire of the soul to possess. The effect of that concentration of the Spirit of God on that soul is that, by the grace of God, there is brought to your soul all the elements necessary to formulate and create and fulfil the desire of your heart. One morning the soul awakens to discover that it has become the possessor of the desired object.

Jesus started men on the true foundation. Many simply desire health, others temporal blessings. Both are good and proper, but Bless God, Jesus started the soul at the proper point - to first desire RIGHTEOUSNESS, the righteousness of God, to become a possessor of the Kingdom. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," Jesus said, "and all these things shall be added unto you."

Jesus was bringing forth and establishing in the world a new character. It was a character that would endure forever, a soul quality that would never fail, a faith that knew no possibility of defeat. In establishing such a character Jesus saw that the character could only be established in the depth of a man's being, in his very spirit. Then, when the soul was grounded in the paths of righteousness, all the activities of the nature would be along righteous lines and in harmony with the laws of God.

God has a call in His own Spirit. If we study our own spirit we will understand the nature of God. The call of the Spirit of God is the call of righteousness, truth, love, power and faith.

I once met a young man who seemed to me to be the most blessed man, in some ways, of all the men I had ever met. I observed that he was surrounded by a circle of male and female friends, the deepest and truest it had ever been my privilege to know. One day I said to him: "What is the secret of this circle of friends that you possess and the manner in which you seem to bind them to you." He replied, "Lake, my friendships are the result of the call of my soul. My soul has called for truth and righteousness, for holiness, for grace, for strength, for soundness of mind, for the power of God, and the call has reached each of these ones and brought them to me."

In Topeka, Kansas, in the year 1900, a man stepped off the train one morning, walked up a particular street, and stopped in front of a large, fine dwelling. He said to himself, "This is the house." A gentlemen who happened to be out of sight around the building said, "What about the house?" and this story came out. He said, "For years I have been praying to God for a certain work of God among Christians known as the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. In my researches I have visited every body of Christian people in this country, that I knew of, who claimed to be possessors of the baptism. However, as I visited and examined their experiences and compared them with the Word of God, I became convinced that none of them possessed the baptism of the Holy Ghost as it is recorded and demonstrated in the New Testament."

He said that one day, as he prayed, the Spirit of the Lord said, "Go to Topeka, Kansas." As he prayed he observed, in the Spirit, a certain house and the Lord said, "I will give you that house and in it the baptism of the Holy Ghost will fall."

So he took the train and came to Topeka, walked down the street, and exclaimed as he passed by, "This is the house," and the voice around the corner replied, "What about it?" When the man had heard his story he told him he was the owner of the house. He explained that it had been closed for years. He asked him what he wanted it for and the man replied that he was going to start a Christian school. The owner said, "Have you any money?" He replied, "No." He said, "All right, you can have the house without money."

About an hour later a little Quaker lady came down the street, hesitated and looked around and said, "This is the house, but there is no one living there." After a struggle with her soul she went up and rang the doorbell. The first gentlemen answered the bell and asked what she wanted. She said: "I live over in the country at such and such a place. As I prayed the Spirit told me to come here to this house." He said, "Who are you?" She replied, "Just an unknown Christian woman." He said, "What have you been praying about?" She said, "About the baptism of the Holy Ghost."

Beloved, in three weeks eighteen persons were brought to that house. They formed a little company and began to pray. The company grew to thirty-six. On new year's night, 1900, the Spirit fell on that company and the first one was baptised in the Holy Ghost. In a few weeks practically the whole company had been baptised in the Holy Ghost and from there is spread all over the world.

Yesterday morning a woman came to my healing rooms. She was a stranger in the city. She said, "I have been praying for healing and asking God to show me where I could be healed. I heard of friends in Chicago who pray for the sick and I visited them, but when I arrived, the Spirit said, "Not here." She said, "I bought a ticket and was about to take a train back home. As I sat in the station I was approached by a little lady on crutches and, pitying her, I turned to speak a kind word to her. While conversing with her I saw she was a Christian of a deep nature, rarely found. I told her my story." She said, "Oh, I know where the Lord wants you to go. The Lord wants you to go to Spokane, Washington." (3000 miles from Chicago) The woman asked her if she knew anybody in Spokane, and the lady replied, "Why yes, I know Mr Lake. I used to nurse in his home years ago."

I prayed for her and told her the thing to do was to come in for ministry every day until she was well. She said she would. This morning I received a call on the telephone and she said, "I am not coming up to the healing rooms." I said, "Oh, is that the kind of individual you are? The one that comes once and gets nothing." "No," she said, "I came once and got something and I do not need to come back. I am healed and I am going home."

There is a call of faith in this church that is reaching way out, far out and in unaccountable ways. Way at the other end the Spirit of God is revealing truth to this soul and that soul and they are moving into this life and coming into unity with this church.

Is there a note of despair in your heart? Have you not obtained the thing your soul covets? Have you desired to be like that sinless, unselfish, sickless One? God will answer the call of your soul. You shall have your hearts desire. However, before that call becomes answerable it must be the paramount call of your being. When it becomes the paramount issue of the soul the answer will come. Jesus knew. That is the reason He said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." There is no doubt about it. All the barriers of your nature will go down before the desire of the soul. All the obstacles that ever existed will disappear before the desire of your soul. All the diseases that ever existed in your life will disappear before the desire of your soul, when that desire becomes the one great purpose and prayer of your heart.

I love to think of one great soul. He was not a great Christian, but he was a great soul. He was the son of a Church of England clergyman who came to South Africa, thinking he might get his system back to a normal state of health. He came to the SSS diamond mines at Kimberley and took a pick and shovel and worked with them long enough to understand diamonds. Indeed, he studied diamonds until he knew more about them than any other man in the world. Then he went to studying Africa until one paramount desire grew up in his soul. He said, "I will plant the British flag across the continent." Eventually this is what he did. He told me that in the beginning his vision extended to the Vaal River, then to the Zambezi and then across the trackless desert. He also planned a railroad six thousand miles long. John Cecil Rhodes died before he could fully bring to pass the paramount issue of his soul!

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness."

Oh, if I had one gift or one desire that I would bestow on you, more than all others, I would bestow upon you the hunger for God.

"Blessed are they that hunger." Hunger is the best thing that ever came into a man's life. Hunger is hard to endure. It is the call of the nature for something that you do not possess. The thing that will satisfy the demands of the nature and the hunger of a man's soul is the call of his nature for the Spirit of life that will generate in him the abundant love of God.

Years ago I was one of a family of which one member was an invalid in the house for thirty-two consecutive years. During that time we buried four brothers and four sisters. A call rose in my nature to God for something to stay that tide of sickness and death. Materia Medica had utterly failed. One after another the tombstones were raised. The call arose in my soul for something from God that would stem the tide and turn it backward.

Nothing else but healing could have come to my life. No other thing but the knowledge of it. God had to bring from the furthest ends of Australia the man who brought to my soul the message of God, and the manifestation of His power, that satisfied my heart and healing by the power of God became a fact to me.

We live that our souls may grow. The development of the soul is the purpose of existence. God Almighty is trying to obtain some decent association for Himself. By His grace He is endeavouring to have us grow up in His knowledge and likeness to that stature where, as sons of God, we will comprehend something of His love, of His nature, of His power, of His purpose, and be big enough to give back to God what a son should give to a great Father. To give the reverence, the love and affection that comes from the understanding of the nobleness and greatness of His purpose.

Great Britain produced two marvellous statesmen - a father and his son. They are known in history as the old Pitt and the young Pitt. The young Pitt was as great a statesman as his father. The son grew to that largeness where, catching the vision of his great father his soul rose to it, and he became his father's equal. As I walked through the House of Commons I came across the statues of the old and young Pitt. I

have forgotten the inscription at the bottom of the elder Pitt's statue, but at the base of the son's statue were these words: "My father, the greatest man I ever knew." Do you see the call of his soul for his father's largeness, for his father's nobility, for his father's strength and influence?

"Blessed are they that hunger." Bless God! What are we hungering for? A little bit of God, enough to take us through this old world where we will have the dry rot and be stunted and then squeeze into heaven? "Blessed are they that hunger" for the nature and power and love and understanding of God. Why? They shall be filled.

Not long ago I stood before great audiences of the churchmen of the world. They said, "Through all your ministry there is one note. It is the call for power." They said, "Do you not think it would be better if the church was calling for holiness instead of power?" I replied, "She will never obtain the one without the other. There is something larger than holiness. It is the nature of God." The nature of God has many sides. From every angle that the soul approaches God it reveals a new and different manifestation of Him - love, beauty, tenderness, healing, power, might, wisdom, and so on.

So the Christian who hungers and hungers and lifts his soul to God brings God down to meet his own cry. The spirit of man and the Spirit of God unite. The nature of God is reproduced in man as God purposed it should be. There are no sick folk in God. There is no sickness in His nature.

There is an incident in the life of Jesus that is so marvellous. Jesus Christ demanded His right to heal a woman who was bound by Satan with a spirit of infirmity and He was not satisfied until it was accomplished. Devil, church, creed and preacher went down before the call of the Son of God to assert His right to deliver that soul from sin and sickness. "Blessed are they that hunger."

13. CHRIST LIVETH IN ME

That is the text - "Christ liveth in me." That is the revelation of this age. That is the discovery of the moment. That is the revolutionising power of God in the earth. It is the factor that is changing the spirit of religion in the world and the character of Christian faith. It is divine vitalisation.

The world is awakening to that marvellous truth, that Christ is not in the heavens only, nor in the atmosphere only, but Christ is IN YOU.

The world lived in darkness for thousands of years. There was just as much electricity in the world then as now. It is not that electricity has just come into being. It was always here, but men have discovered how to utilise it and bless themselves with it.

Christ indwelling in the human heart is the mystery of mysteries. Paul gave it to the Gentiles as the supreme mystery of all the revelation of God and the finality of all wonder he knew. "Christ in you." "Christ in YOU."

Christ has a purpose in you. Christ's purpose in YOU is to reveal Himself to you, through you, in you. We repeat over and over that familiar phrase, "The church which is His body," but if we realised the truth of it and the power of it, this world would be a different place. When the Christian church realises that they are the tangible, living, pulsating body, flesh and bones and blood and brains of Jesus Christ, and that God is manifesting through each one every minute, and is endeavouring to accomplish His big will for the world through them, not through some other body, then Christian service and responsibility will be understood. Jesus Christ operates through you. He does not operate independently of you. He operates through you. Man and God become united. That is the divine secret of a real Christian life. It is the real, conscious union of man and God. There is no substitute for that relationship. You can manufacture all the ordinances on earth, all the symbols there ever were, until you become dazed and you lose yourself in the maze of them and still you must find God.

There is only one reality. That reality is God. The soul of man must contact God and unless the spirit of man is truly joined to God there is no such thing as real Christian manifestation. All the processes of preparation, by which a soul is prepared by God for such a manifestation, are only preliminary processes. The final end is that man may reveal God and that God may not only have a place of residence but a right action in the body and spirit of man. Every Spirit-taught man in the world is aware of how gradually his own nature has become subjected to God and His will.

I visited a gentleman who had a complaint against me. He said, "I wrote you a twenty-four page letter and you have not received it. If you had you would not be here." I laughed. That man has been a Christian for thirty or forty years. He was always a devout man. I frequently spoke of him to my wife and friends as one of the most consistent Christian men I ever knew. Yet every once in a while we see how the big human rises up above the spirit and spoils the beauty and delight and wonder of the life that is revealing God.

God's effort and purpose in us is to bring all the conditions of our being into harmony with His will and His mind. God's purpose is not to make an automaton. When a ventriloquist operates a little wooden dummy, the dummy's lips move and it looks as though it is talking, but it is just moving because another power is moving it.

Now God has a higher purpose than making man an automaton. God's highest is to bring out all the qualities of God in your own soul, to bring out all the individuality that is in your life. He does not submerge or destroy your life, but changes it, energises it, enlarges it, until all your individuality and personality and being are of the nature and substance and quality of God.

You notice among the most devout Christians how continuously their thoughts are limited to that place where they can be exercised or moved by God. God's best is more than that. Receive the Spirit, then use the Spirit for God's glory.

While I was in Chicago I met a couple of old friends who invited me to dinner. At dinner the lady, who is a very frank woman, said, "Mr Lake, I have known you so long and have had such close fellowship for so many years. May I speak very frankly?" I said, "Yes, absolutely." "Well," she said, "there is something I miss about you. For lack of words I am going to put it in Paul's words, 'I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.' You do not seem to have the marks of Jesus." I said, "That depends whether or not it is the marks of mannerisms. If you are expecting that the personality that God gave me is going to be changed so that I am going to be another fellow and not myself, then you will miss it. If that is the kind of marks you are looking for you will not find them. However, if you are expecting to observe a man's flesh and blood and bones and spirit and mind indwelt by God, then you will find them. Not a machine, not an automaton, or an imitation, but a clear mind and a pure heart, a son of God in nature and essence."

All God's effort with the world is to bring out the real man in the image of Christ, with the knowledge of God, reconstructed until his very substance is the substance of God. When you stop to reason that to its proper conclusion, you will realise it is the only way that Jesus Christ Himself or God the eternal Father will have fellowship with man forever.

When you stop to analyse that fact, you will see that God is trying to make us in all our nature, being, habits and thought, in all the structure of our life, as beautiful and real, clear-minded and strong as Jesus Himself. Then we understand what Christ's redemption means. It is the bringing out of Christ IN YOU, until Christ in you is the one manifest. It is Him manifest through your eyes, just as God was manifest through the eyes of Jesus, Him manifest through your touch just as God was manifest through Jesus. It is not a power or a life separate from yourself, but two lives made one, two natures co-joined, two minds operating as one - Christ in YOU.

In the Chicago conference I sat with an old coloured lady one afternoon after the meeting and she told me of her many woes and sicknesses. After a time, when she had grown somewhat still, I said, "Dear mother, how long have you been a Christian?" She replied, "Since I was a child." Then I tried to show her that God expected a development of Himself and His nature and the working and action of Himself in her in

transforming power through the agency of the Holy Spirit. I explained that there was a process of remaking and remoulding that should change her nature and life and dissolve the rheumatism and Bright's disease and all the other difficulties, just as truly as long ago sin dissolved out of her soul.

After the conversation had gone on to the proper point I said, "Dear Sister, anybody can see that Christ dwells in your spirit." Her eyes were lovely, delightful. "Let your mind extend just a little bit. Let your thought comprehend that, just as Jesus dwells in your spirit and possesses your soul, in just exactly the same way He is possessing your blood and your kidneys and your old rheumatic bones. The very same thing will happen in your bones, when you realise that truth, as happened in your spirit when you were converted at the altar." (She told me how she had prayed twenty-two days and nights until Christ was revealed in her soul as Saviour. She seemed to want to wait twenty-two days and nights for God to manifest Himself in the rheumatic bones and I was trying to get her away from it.) She said, "Brother, lay your hands on me and pray for me and I will be healed." I answered, "No, I want you to get well by realising that right now that same Christ that dwells in your spirit and your soul is in your bones and in your blood and in your brain." Presently the old lady hopped to her feet and said, "My God, He is." She had it. Christ had been imprisoned in her soul and spirit. Now He was permitted to manifest in her body.

Brother Tom Hezmalhalch came into a black meeting in Los Angeles one day where they were talking about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He had picked up a paper and read of these peculiar meetings. Among other things, they spoke in tongues. That was new to him. He said, "If they do, and if it is real, that is an advance in the Spirit of God beyond what is common. I am going to get it." He went and listened as the old black man taught. He was trying to develop the thought of conscious cleansing and he used a beautiful text, "Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you." That became very real to Tom, and after a while, they were invited to come and kneel at the altar to seek God for the baptism of the Spirit. Tom said to me, "John, I got up and walked toward that old bench with the realisation in my soul of the truth of the Word. I realised that the real cleansing and Cleanser was in my heart. 'Now are ye clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.'"

He knelt down and prayed for a minute or two. His soul rose and his heart believed for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Then he got up and took one of the front seats. One of the workers said, "Brother, don't stop praying until you are baptised in the Holy Ghost." Mr Seymour said, "Just leave him alone. He has got it. You wait and see." A few days passed and one day, Tom said, the Spirit began to surge through him and a song of praise in tongues, an angelic voice, broke through his lips.

An old preacher came into my office in Africa and said, "Brother Lake, there is something I want to talk to you about. There used to be a very remarkable manifestation in my life. It was the manifestation of tongues and interpretation. But I have not spoken for a year. I wish you would pray for me." I said, "No, go over and lie down, and get still and let God move in your life." I went on writing a letter. Presently I observed that something wanted to speak in me and I turned my head just a little to see that the old man was speaking in tongues and I was getting the interpretation of it as I wrote the letter.

Christians are stumbling every day over that fact. You are doubting and fearing and wondering if Christ is there. Beloved brother and sister, give Him a chance to reveal Himself. He is there. It is probably because of your lack of realisation that your soul is closed and He is not able to reveal Himself. You know God is never able to reveal Himself in many outside of the spirit or soul. The real secret of the ministry of healing is in permitting the grace of God in your heart to flow out through your hands and your nerves into the outer life. That is the real secret. One of the greatest works God has to perform is to subject our flesh to God. Many Christians, the deepest Christians who really know God in their spirits and enjoy communion with God, are compelled to wait until a process of spiritualisation takes place in their bodies before God can reveal Himself through them. Do not imprison Christ in you. Let Him live, let Him manifest, let Him vent through you.

There is one great thing that the world needs more than anything else, and I am convinced of it every day I am alive. Mankind has one supreme need and that is the LOVE of God. The hearts of men are dying for lack of the love of God. I have a sister in Detroit. She came over to Milwaukee to visit us for two or three days at the convention there. As I watched her moving around I said, "I would like to take her along and just have her love folks." She would not need to preach. You do not need to preach to folks. It is not the words you say that are going to bless them. They need something greater. It is the thing in your soul. They have got to receive it. Then their soul will open and there will be a divine response. Give it to them. It is the love of God.

Have you seen people who loved someone who would not respond? If there is any hard situation in God's earth, that is it - to really, passionately love someone and find no response in them.

I had an English friend and was present at his marriage. Some years later he and his wife came to visit our home. He was the cold, closed up type of Englishman and his wife was the warm type. One day as they started out for a walk I noticed the passionate yearning in her soul. If he would just say something that was tender, something that would gratify the craving of her nature for affection, but he seemed to go along absolutely unconscious of it. After a while they came back from their walk. I was sitting on the front steps. After the lady had gone into the house I said, "Hibbs, you are a stiff. How is it possible that you can walk down the street with a woman like your wife and not realise that her heart is craving and crying for you to turn around and do something that shows you love her?" He said, "Do you think that is the difficulty? I will go and do it now." And everything subsided while he proceeded to do it.

What is it men are seeking? What is it their hearts are asking for when they are seeking God? What is their soul crying for? Mankind is separated from God. It may not be mountains of sin between you and God at all. It may be that your nature is closed and unresponsive. My! When the real love-touch of God is breathed into your soul, what a transformation takes place. There is probably no more delightful thing on earth than to watch a soul praying into God, when the light of God comes in and the life of God fills the nature and that holy affection that we seek from others finds expression in Him.

That is what the Lord is asking from you, and if you want to gratify the heart of Jesus Christ, that is the only way in all the world to do it. You know the invitation is not "Give Me thine head." The invitation is, "My son, give Me thine HEART." It is an affectionate relationship, a real love union in God, a real love union with God. Think of the fineness of God's purpose. He expects that same marvellous spiritual union that is brought to pass between your soul and His own to be extended so that you embrace in that union every other soul around you.

That is what it means to be baptised in one spirit, submerged, buried, enveloped and enveloping in the one Spirit of God.

While I was in Milwaukee recently, I went out one morning with Rev. Fockler to make a call on a sick person. We stepped into one of the most distracted homes I have ever been in. A strange condition had developed in one of the daughters and the household was distressed. They were a very sad group. They were German people. Fockler spoke German. Presently he began to talk to the household. I just sat back and watched. I noticed their faces began to relax and the strain left. The girl was apparently insane. She came down the stairs, stood outside the door where she could not be seen except by me. He continued to converse with the family and, as their souls softened and their faith lifted, her eyes commenced to change. She was moved upon by the same Spirit until her nature responded and in just a little while she stepped into the room. She had tormented that household. Nobody could get near her. She slipped up behind Fockler's chair and stood with her hands on the back of his chair. He understood and disregarded. After a little while she put her hands on his shoulders. In fifteen or twenty minutes we left that home. There was as much distinction between the attitude of those dear people when we came in and when we left as between heaven and hell. If hell has a characteristic it is that of distraction. If heaven has a particular characteristic it is the presence of God, the calm of God, the power of God, the love of God.

There was a time when the church could club men into obedience by preaching hell to them, but that day has long passed. The world has outgrown it. Men are discovering there is only one way and that is the Jesus way. Jesus did not come with a club, but with the great loving heart of the Son of God. He was "moved with compassion".

This morning I lay in bed and wrote a letter, an imaginary letter to a certain individual. I was getting ready so that when I came down I could dictate the sentences that would carve him right up. One of the phrases was, "You great big calf! Come out of it and be a man." As I lay there I got to thinking, "If Jesus was writing this letter, I wonder what He would write?" Somehow I could not frame it. My soul was not in an attitude to produce such a letter. So I came down this morning, called Edna and commenced to dictate. I was trying to dictate a letter in the Spirit of Jesus. Presently I woke up to the fact that I was putting the crimp into it like a lawyer. After she had written it and laid it down for me to sign I began reading it over. It was not what I wanted to write at all. The first two paragraphs had a touch of the right spirit but that was all, so I laid it aside. Then I went in and prayed a little while. After I had been praying for twenty minutes, the telephone rang. It was that fellow. He wanted me to come down to the Davenport Hotel. We had three of the best hours without being aware of the time.

We boast of our development in God. We speak glowingly of our spiritual experiences, but it is only once in a while that we find ourselves in the real love of God. The greater part of the time we are in ourselves rather than in Him. That proves only one thing. Christ has not yet secured that perfect control of our life, that subjection of our nature, that absorption of our individuality, so that He is able to impregnate it and maintain it in Himself. We recede, we draw back, we close up. We imprison our Lord.

The secret of a religious meeting is that it assists men's hearts to open. They become receptive and the love of God finds vent in their nature for a little while, and they go away saying, "Didn't we have a good time? Wasn't that a splendid meeting?"

I wonder if there is anything that could not be accomplished through that love of God. Paul says there is not. "Love never faileth." That is one infallible state. Try it on your wife. Try it on your children. Try it on your neighbours.

Sometimes we need to exercise the bigger love, the greater heart. It is a good thing to detach your soul. Do not hold people. Do not bind people. Just cut them loose and let God love them. Don't you know we hold people with such a grip when we pray for them that they miss the blessing. You have such a grip on your humanity that it is exercising itself and the spirit is being submerged. Let your soul relax and let the Spirit of God in you find vent. There is no substitute for the love of God. "Christ in you." You have such a capacity to love. All the action of the Spirit of God has its secret there.

On one occasion I stood by a dying woman who was suffering and writhing in awful agony. I had prayed again and again with no results. One particular day, however, something just happened inside of me. My soul broke clear down and I saw that poor soul in a new light. Before I knew it I reached out and gathered her in my arms and hugged her up to my soul, not my bosom. In a minute I knew the real thing had taken place. I laid her back down on the pillow. In five minutes she was well. God was waiting on me until He could get into my soul the sense of that tenderness that was in the Son of God.

That is the reason that His name is written in imperishable memory. The name of Jesus Christ is the most revered name in earth or sea or sky. I am eager to get into that category of folks who can manifest the real love of God all the time.

The real Christian is a SEPARATED man. He is separated forever unto God in ALL the departments of his life. His body, soul and spirit are forever committed to God the Father. From the time he commits himself to God his BODY is as absolutely in the hands of God as his spirit or his soul. He can go to no other power for help or healing.

A hundredfold consecration takes the individual forever out of the hands of all but God.

"Ye are not your own."

14. DISCERNMENT

1 Corinthians 12:8-12.

My first great interest in Africa was stimulated when I was a child, through reading of Livingstone's travels and exploration, and of Stanley finding Livingstone in the heart of Africa, and still more by reading of Stanley's trip across the continent and down the Congo.

As the years of my boyhood passed, I became conscious of a certain operation of my spirit that I shall endeavour to describe.

In my sleep, and sometimes during my waking hours, it seemed to me as if I was present in Africa instead of America. At such times I would note the geography of the country, the peculiarities of the landscape and the characteristics of the various tribes of native people. I became deeply sympathetic with the efforts of the Boers as I watched them endeavouring to establish their republics.

As I reached manhood these excursions in the spirit became more intelligent to me. On one occasion, while in the attitude of prayer, I approached South Africa from the Indian Ocean and travelled through Zululand over into the mountains of Basutoland. I noted the distinctions of the tribal characteristics as I passed through these states including the Orange Free State and the Transvaal from Basutoland to Johannesburg.

This excursion, projection of spirit consciousness, or whatever it may be termed, occurred during hours of communion with God in prayer.

During meditation and praying while on the sea, on my way to Africa, I would become suddenly conscious of the political conditions of South Africa. I would feel the struggles of the various political elements in their contest for supremacy. Then I would realise the condition of the country financially, and then see the religious aspects of the nation. I saw the predominating thought that bound the Boer people, as a nation, to the Dutch church and the struggles of the civilised native people to attain a religious independence.

While in the spirit I comprehended not only present fact, but my consciousness would project itself into the future so that I saw the train of national events that were yet to take place. I saw the west coast of Africa when it had great commercial seaports with lines of railways extending up into the Transvaal.

Much of this vision I have seen fulfilled at this writing, namely the uniting of the South African states into a national union (Natal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony and the Transvaal), the great religious upheaval, the settlement of political and financial problems, and so on. I saw the conquest of German Southwest Africa by the British, including some of the battle scenes of the present war there. (World War 1).

No one could realise, unless they had been associated with me in the work in Africa, how thoroughly this knowledge of the conditions in Africa was made to me. This was

not the result of reading, for I had read practically nothing of Africa since my childhood.

In travelling through the country after my arrival, nothing was new to me. I had seen it all in advance and could recollect times and circumstances when, in my visions of Africa, I had visited one city or another.

This knowledge of affairs was of inestimable value to me when I was actually on the ground. Businessmen and statesmen alike frequently expressed surprise at the intimate knowledge I possessed of conditions in the land, little realising how this knowledge had come to me.

This spiritual consciousness of conditions, or gift of knowledge, continued with me throughout my first years as president of the Apostolic Church of South Africa.

It was my custom to dictate my letters in the morning before going to my office, or out among the sick, for the duties of the day. At such times, when I wanted to write a letter to, say, Cape Town, Peitermaritzbur or Pretoria, I would bow my head in quiet before God for a few moments. While in this attitude there would be born in my consciousness the conditions of that assembly or district or town, whatever the case may be. I would see the difficulties the brethren were having there, if any, and hundreds of times I wrote revealing to them an inside knowledge that they were sure no one knew about.

In the conduct of our native work this feature was so marked that, after a time, a saying grew up among the natives, "You cannot fool Brother Lake, God shows him." Many, many times when the natives would come and present perhaps only one side of a matter, I would be able to tell them the whole truth concerning the difficulty.

On one occasion, a man came from Robertson made charges against a brother who was an elder in the work there. When he finished I said to him, "Brother, let us bow our heads in prayer." Instantly I seemed to be in Robertson. I observed the assembly, saw the various brethren there and noted their piety and devotion to God. I saw that the condition was almost the reverse of what had been presented. The man, himself, was the troublemaker.

On another occasion, a woman came to me several times requesting prayer for her deliverance from drunkenness. I urged upon her the necessity for repentance unto God, confession of her sins, and so on. She assured me many times that she has done all of this. One day she came while I was resting on the bed. My wife brought her into the room. She knelt weeping by the bed. As usual she asked me to pray for deliverance. I said to her, "What about the two hundred and fifty pounds sterling worth of jewellery that you stole from such and such a home?" She threw up her hands with an exclamation of despair, supposing that I would deliver her to the police or tell the party from whom she had stolen it. I calmed her by assurance that as a minister of Christ no one should know from me concerning the matter. I regarded the knowledge as sacred before God because He had revealed it to me in order to assist her out of her difficulty. She was delivered from her drunkenness and remained a sober woman, working earnestly in the vineyard of the Lord.

Some days later, a woman came to me saying, I have heard that so-and-so (naming the lady of whom I have spoken) has been converted and I know if she has she must have confessed to you that she stole jewellery from my home. I explained to her that even if such a confession had been made, as a minister of Jesus Christ I could not and would not reveal it.

As we conversed I told her I believed God had sent her in order that we might discuss together the forgiveness of God. I showed her that God expected us to forgive, even as we are forgiven. Indeed, we are commanded to forgive. The Spirit gave me such a consciousness of the forgiveness of God that as I presented it to her it seemed to flow in liquid love from my soul. She broke down and wept, asking me to pray for her that God would deliver her from her own sins and establish in her a knowledge and consciousness of His presence and life. She left saying, "Tell so-and-so that as far as the jewellery is concerned, I shall never mention it again. There will be no prosecution and by the grace of God I forgive her."

My wife possessed the spirit of discernment in a more marked degree than I did, especially concerning difficulties in peoples' lives. Particularly regarding those seeking healing. She had the power to reveal the reason they were not blessed of God.

It was my custom, in receiving the sick in my office, to let them stand in a line and I would pray for them, laying hands on each as they passed me. Some would not receive healing and their suffering would continue. Some would receive healing in part and some were instantly healed. I would send those who did not receive healing into the adjoining room. When I had finished praying for the multitude I would bring my wife into the room where these unhealed ones were. She would go close to one and would say, in substance, "Your difficulty is that at such-and-such a time you committed such-and-such a sin which has not been repented of and confessed." To another perhaps it would be, "God wants you to make restitution for such-and-such an act that you committed at such-and-such a time." To another, "The pride of your heart and the love of the world have not been laid on the altar of Christ."

Upon hearing the inner things of their hearts revealed many would bow at once and confess their sins to God. We would pray for them again and the Lord would heal them. Some would go away unrepentant. Some would go through the motions of repentance, but it was not of the heart, and they would not be healed. Thus we were taught to value highly the gift of God of which Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians 12:10, "to another the discerning of spirits."

The Spirit of God is like the bread that the disciples held in their hands. When they broke it and distributed it to the multitudes there was more remaining than when they began. The Spirit of God is CREATIVE, GENERATIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE, and the more you give the more you receive. Jesus laid down a perpetual law when He said, "Give and it shall be given unto you."

15. CHRISTIAN CONSCIOUSNESS

There is a wonderful single word that expresses what God is trying to develop in us. That word is CONSCIOUSNESS. I love it. It is an amazing word. Consciousness means, THAT WHICH THE SOUL KNOWS. Not that which you believe, or that which you have an existent faith for, or that which you hope, but that which the soul has proven, which the soul knows, upon which the soul rests, the thing, which has become concrete in your life.

Consequently God's purpose, and the purpose of real religion, is to create in the nature of man a consciousness of God. The church which succeeds in creating the highest degree of consciousness of God in the soul of man will live longest in the world. The only possible way of perpetuating a church in the world forever is to bring into the souls of the people the full measure of the consciousness of God that Jesus Christ enjoys.

It is a good thing, not only to be good, but to know WHY you are good. It is a good thing not only to be an American, but to know WHY you are an American. It is a good thing, not only to be a Christian, but to know WHY you are a CHRISTIAN and to know why CHRISTIAN CONSCIOUSNESS is superior to every other known consciousness.

I want to declare that Christianity stands superior to every other form of religion under the heavens and in the whole earth. No other religion under the heavens has the same consciousness of God or the same means of producing a consciousness of God that Christianity possesses.

In 1893 the great Chicago World's Fair was in this city. Among the features of the fair was a Congress on Religions. All the religions of the world were invited to send their representatives and present their peculiar religion for the good of all. Many regarded it as a great calamity that the various forms of eastern philosophy should thus be introduced into this country. I never felt that way. I have always felt that if Christianity could not demonstrate her superiority over every other religion, then Christianity does not have the place and power that Jesus Christ said Christianity had in the world.

The result of that Congress of Religions was that Christianity was so poorly presented the Indian philosophers ran away with the whole thing and, in the minds of thousands who listened, it left a belief that their knowledge of God and God's laws and the laws of life were greater than the Christian possessed.

Fellow Christians, there began in my soul, a prayer that Almighty God would reveal in me what the secret of real Christianity is, in order that, in this world, Christians might become kings and priests and demonstrate the superiority of the religion of the Son of God beyond that of every other in the whole earth.

In later years I went to South Africa. It was at a time of peculiar interest in South African history, just following the Boer War. The great industry there is mining. One quarter of the world's gold came from Johannesburg and its vicinity. The world's

diamonds came from South Africa, and the United States is the greatest diamond market of the world.

When the Boer war came, the native people became so frightened over war between white men that after it was over, they could not coax them back to open the mines. The result was that in order to get the industries established again, they had to send to China and get two hundred thousand (200,000) Chinese and put them to work to open the shops, mines, and other industries. These Chinese came in real colonies. Some were Confucians, some were Buddhists, some were Brahmans, some represented this or that form of philosophy. They brought their priests and their priest ministered to them.

At the same time there were one and a half million East Indians in South Africa. These represented all the cults of India. They complained that they were not being properly cared for and the British government sent to India and imported a great company of Buddhist, Brahman and Yogi priests, and all the rest of them, and they came to South Africa to assist their own people.

I had a Jewish friend, Rabbi Hertz, who became famous as a great Rabbi because of his influence for the British during the war. There was also a Roman Catholic priest, Father Bryant, a wonderful man. I listened to Dr Hertz give a series of lectures on the Psalms of David, which I regard as the finest of that character I had ever heard.

One day he said, "Did it ever occur to you what an amazing Congress of Religions we could have in this country? It would put the one in Chicago in 1893 in the shade." I said, "I have thought of it, but do not have sufficient acquaintance among these other men to undertake it, but would gladly give a helping hand." So it was eventually brought to pass.

We gathered once a week. We sat on the floor all night, in Eastern fashion, a priest with his interpreter, and we gave the individual as long as he wanted to tell out the very secret of his soul, to show the very best he could, the very depth of his peculiar religion, and the consciousness of God it produced. It was not the details of his religion we sought, but the soul of it, and the consciousness it possessed. We listened to the Indian Buddhist priest one night and the Chinese Buddhist priest the next night, the Indian Confucianism priest the next night and the Chinese Confucianism priest the next night, the Indian Brahman priest the next night and a Chinese Brahman priest the next night, and so it went on. Eventually it came to the night that Dr Hertz, the Jewish Rabbi, was to give the secret of the Jewish religion and tell out the whole of God that the Jewish religion revealed and the consciousness of God that was produced by the Mosaic and the prophetic teachings.

Did you ever stop to think that in all religious history, the Jewish prophets knew more of God than all the philosophers of earth combined? They superseded all of the ancients in knowledge of God, His ways and power. They gave to their day and generation such a revelation of God as the world had never known. Stop and think of the wonders of God that the Old Testament revealed. Think of the marvels that it seems would stagger the very soul of modern Christianity.

When the Israelites were travelling over the deserts God arrested the process of decay in their shoes and clothing and they wore them continually for forty years. Think of the marvel of it. The arrest of the process of decay! Some people wonder if it is possible to arrest the process of decay in a man's life. Yes, it is. Bless God! Jesus Christ arrested the process of death by the power of God through the introduction of the life and the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ, giving man eternal life.

Think of the old prophet who, when they had lost the axe in the water and came to him in their distress, took a stick and held it in his hands. What for? Until that stick became magnetised by the Spirit and power of God. When he threw it in the water the axe rose to the surface and came to the stick. Think of the prophet who was called to the dying boy. He said to his servant, "Take this staff," (the staff that he carried), "Go ahead of me and lay it on the child." Why? Because he carried that staff next to his God-anointed hands until the staff itself became impregnated with the life and power of God. So the servant went ahead, and there was enough of God in that staff to keep the life there, and the spirit there, until he arrived and called the child to life by the power of God.

Later, they were burying a man and, in their haste, they opened the grave of Elisha, When the dead man touched his old God-filled bones, he became alive. There was enough of God in the old bones to quicken him into life again. Bless God.

You say, "Well, how can Christianity demonstrate anything further than that?" When I listened to Dr Hertz my heart asked, "Dear God, when I get my turn to reveal what Christianity is, what am I going to say that is going to reveal Christianity as superior to the Jewish dispensation, and the consciousness of God that it produced in the souls of the prophets?"

From eight o'clock at night until four-thirty Dr Hertz poured out his soul in a wondrous stream of God revelation, such as my soul had never heard. In the morning, as I started for home I prayed, "God, in the name of Jesus, when it comes next Thursday night, and it is my turn to show forth Jesus Christ, what am I going to say to surmount the revelation of God that he gave?"

I had searched Christian literature for it. I had searched the libraries of the world. I could not find it in the writings of the old Christian fathers. I searched the Word of God for it. I saw flashes of it, but somehow it would not frame in my soul. I decided there was only one way. I gave myself to fasting and prayer and waiting on God and one day, in the quiet, GOD TOLD ME THAT SECRET.

And from that day my heart rested in the new vision of Jesus Christ, and a new revelation of the real divinity of Christianity came to my heart.

So it came to my turn and I sat down and reviewed for hours, with care, step by step, the consciousness that the philosophers and priests had shown as belonging to their respective religions. Finally, the wonderful consciousness that Dr Hertz had shown as belonging to the Mosaic dispensation.

Bless God! There is a secret in Jesus Christ. CHRISTIANITY IS ALL SUPERNATURAL. Every bit of it. The philosophies are natural. The Mosaic dispensation and its revelation was supernatural, but its revelation did not have the high degree of overcoming consciousness that belongs to Christianity. Yet you can go around the world and you will not find one in a hundred thousand that can tell what the real secret of Christianity is, which makes it superior to all other religions.

You may say, "It is the Holy Ghost." Well, the prophets had the Holy Ghost. There is no more marvellous record given than the Old Testament records. When Moses wanted mechanics and workmen for the new tabernacle the Lord called a man by name and said, "I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom and in understanding and in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship, to devise cunning works, to work in wood and in silver and in brass and in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work all manner of workmanship." That is the way they learned their trade.

Later they were making preparations for the building of Solomon's temple. That temple is one of the seven wonders of the world. Did you ever stop to think of where the plans came from, or how they got them? David tells us that God gave him the plans of the temple in writing; "while the Spirit of God was upon me in writing," and he wrote the details of it. He put these details down with such accuracy that they prepared the temple in the mountains and when they came to put it together there was no sound of a hammer. Every piece fitted perfectly together. Wonderful movings of God! Wonderful presence of God! Talk about the glory of God. When Moses came down from the mountain his face shone or radiated with the glory of God so intensely the people were afraid of him and he was compelled to wear a veil until the anointing had somewhat left his soul.

But beloved, Christianity is more than that. Paul declared that the glory of Moses' face was superseded. I said a moment ago, Christianity is not a natural religion. It has nothing natural in it. IT IS SUPERNATURAL from the top to the bottom, from the centre to the circumference, within and without. It comes right from heaven, every bit of it. It is the divine outflow of the holy soul of the crucified, risen, glorified Son of God.

Why does God come down from heaven into the hearts of men, into the nature of men, into the bodies of men, into the souls of men, into the spirits of men? God's purpose in man is to transform him into the nature of God. Jesus said, "I said, YE ARE GODS" (John 10:34).

The philosophers came to the grave and died. They had no further revelation to give. They had left their tenants that exist to this day. I have studied the great Eastern philosophies. I have searched them from cover to cover. I have read them for years as diligently as I have read my Bible. I have read them to see what their consciousness was. The secret of salvation is NOT in them.

But in my Bible is seen that the Son of God saves men from their sins and changes them in their nature by His power so that they become like Him. That is the purpose of Jesus, to take a man and make a Christ out of him. To take a sinner and wash him pure and white and clean, and then come into his life and anoint him with His Spirit, speak

through him, live in him, change the substance of his spirit, change the substance of his body, until his body and his blood and his bones and flesh and his soul and his spirit are the body and blood and bones and soul and spirit of the Son of God. (Ephesians 5:30 and 1 Corinthians 6:17).

Oh, Jesus was crucified. Jesus was crucified after there grew in His soul the divine consciousness that He could go into the grave and, through faith in God, accept the word of God, and believe that He would raise Him from the dead. Jesus went into the grave with a divine boldness, not simply as a martyr. He was God's PRINCE, God's KING, God's SAVIOUR. He went into the grave God's CONQUEROR. He was after something. He went after the power of DEATH and He got it and He took it captive and He came forth from the grave proclaiming His victory over DEATH.

No more bowing before the accursed power that had been generated through sin. It was a captive. No more fear of hell! Do you hear it? No more fear of hell after Jesus Christ came out of the grave. He had death and hell by the throat and the keys in His hands. He was Conqueror!

When He came forth from the grave He came forth bringing that wonderful spirit of heavenly triumph that was begotten in the soul of Jesus because He had not failed. He had gone and done it. No longer a hope, no longer a faith, now a knowledge. God's consciousness in His heart. It was done!

Oh yes, I come back to that word with which I started. Do you know the secret of religion is in its consciousness? The secret of Christianity is in the consciousness it produces in your soul. Christianity produces a higher consciousness than any other religion in the world. No other religion in the world or other revelation of the true God equals it. It is the highest and holiest. It comes breathing and throbbing and burning right out of the heart of the glorified Son of God. It comes breathing and beating and burning and throbbing into your nature and mine, bless God.

That is the reason I love the religion of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. That is the reason the cross of Calvary is a sacred place. That is the reason the conquest of the Son of God in the regions of death makes a man's heart throb. That is the reason He gathered His disciples together, and as if He could not wait, He said, "Let me breathe it into you. Go forth in its power. All power is given unto me, both in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore. These signs shall follow. Cast out devils, speak with new tongues, heal the sick. Amen."

In those early centuries Christianity did not go into the world apologising. It went to slay the powers of darkness and undo the works of the devil and it lived in holy triumph.

HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS

I am going into the history of the Old Testament. It is surprising how ignorant people are of the Word of God. God made a covenant of healing with the children of Israel after they crossed the Red Sea and they lived under that covenant for four hundred and fifty years, unbroken. There never was an Israelite for four hundred and fifty years, so

far as the record goes, except Asa, who ever took one dose of medicine. One backslider went back on God and called the physicians like the heathen did, but the people trusted God and God alone for four hundred and fifty years, until Solomon got into polygamy. He went down into Egypt and married Egyptian wives who brought their heathen physicians with them. Eventually the whole nation fell from grace and went back again to taking pills and medicine and dope, just like some Pentecostal heathen do.

Do you want to get on God's territory? Cut it out. It belongs to the devil and the heathen and the great big unbelieving world.

When you see those holy flashes of heavenly flame once in a while in a person's life, as we observe in our Sister Etter, when someone is healed, it is because her consciousness and Christ's are one. She is fused into God. I saw a dying, strangling woman healed in thirty seconds as Mrs Etter cast out the demon. The flame of God, the fire of His Spirit, ten seconds of connection with the Almighty Christ at the throne of God, that is the secret of it.

Oh, how I would like to get you in touch with the Son of God for five minutes. I would like to see the streams of God's lightning come down for ten minutes! I wonder what would take place?

A few months ago I was absent from the city of Spokane and when I returned I discovered Mrs Lake was not at home. I was just in time to leave for my afternoon service. Just then someone came in and said, "Your secretary, Mrs Graham, is in the throes of death, and your wife is with her." So I hurried down to the place. When I got there the wife of one of my ministers met me at the door and said, "You are too late, she has gone." As I stepped in I met the minister coming out of the room. He said, "She has not breathed for a long time." As I looked down at that woman and thought of how God Almighty, three years before, had raised her out of death after her womb and ovaries and tubes had been removed in operations, and God Almighty had given them back to her, after which she had married and conceived, my heart flamed. I took that woman up off that pillow and called on God for the lightnings of heaven to blast the power of death and deliver her. I commanded her to come back and stay and she came back, after not breathing for twenty-three minutes.

We have not yet learned to keep in touch with the powers of God. Once in a while our soul rises and we see the flame of God accomplish this wonder and that, but beloved, Jesus Christ lived in the presence of God every hour of the day and night. Never a word proceeded from the mouth of Jesus Christ but what was God's Word. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

When you and I are lost in the Son of God and the fires of Jesus burn in our hearts like they did in Him, our words will be the words of life and of spirit and there will be no death in them. Beloved, we are on the way.

I have read church history because my heart was searching for the truth of God. I have witnessed with my own eyes the most amazing manifestations of psychological power. I know an East Indian yogi who volunteered to be buried for three days and he came

up out of that grave well and whole. I saw them put a man in a cataleptic state and place a stone fifteen inches square on his body, put his feet on one chair and his head on another, and strike that stone with a twenty-five pound sledge seven times, until it broke in two.

I watched these things and I said, "These are only on the psychological plane. Beyond that is the spirit plane and the amazing wonder of the Holy Spirit of God and if God got hold of my spirit for ten minutes He could do something ten thousand times greater than that."

Jesus was the triumphant One. Did you ever stop to think of Jesus at the throne of God? I like to think of the twentieth century Christ. Not the Jesus that lived in the world two thousand years ago. Not the humiliated Jesus. Not Jesus dying on the cross for my sin, but the glorified, exalted Son of God at the throne of God, who stands declaring, "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of hell and of death." Blessed be God!

And that is the Christ that breathes His power into your soul and mine, and that is the consciousness that is breathed from heaven in the Holy Ghost when it comes to your heart. Amen.

God purposed that the Christian church should be the embodiment of the living, blessed Son of God. It should be Christ living not in one temple, Jesus, but in multitudes of temples - the bodies of those yielded to God in holy consecration, God's real church, not in name only but in power. Many members, one in Spirit, one divine structure of divine faith and substance. Man transformed, transfigured, and transmuted into the nature, the glory, and the substance of Christ.

"THAT EVIL ONE TOUCHETH HIM NOT"

When the Spirit of God radiated from the man Jesus how close do you suppose it was possible for the evil spirit to come to Him? I believe it was impossible for the evil one to come close to Him. The Spirit of God is as destructive of evil as it is creative of good. I am sure that Satan talked to Jesus from a safe distance.

The real Christian is a SEPARATED man. He is separated forever unto God in ALL the departments of his life. So his body, soul and spirit are forever committed to the Father. From the time he commits himself to God, his BODY is as absolutely in the hands of God as his spirit or his soul. He can go to no other power for help or healing. A hundred-fold consecration takes the individual forever out of the hands of all but God.

16. COMPASSION

I wonder if you ever settled in your own mind what is the greatest blessing or revelation of the Spirit or power of God. I believe the greatest thing is that Jesus showed the world how to exercise compassion for one another. The law of Moses, that preceded Jesus, was exacting in its demands as all law is. That is the nature of law. Jesus undertook to reveal the Father-heart to the world. The greatest movement in the soul of God Himself was that movement of compassion for a needy world, which was so great, the Word says, that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

We are inclined to think sometimes that God is careless about the world. Not so. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His son to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.”

When the multitude followed Jesus into the wilderness He was moved with compassion for them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. The disciples said, “Now Lord, let us send them away.” Jesus understood men’s humanity. He understood the fact that they were hungry and the heart of the Christ was moved with compassion for them. He said, “No, get them to sit down. All there is in the company is 5000 people, besides women and children. You get them to sit down.” When they were seated, He took the five loaves and the two fishes, blessed them, brake, and gave to His disciples to give to the multitude. Jesus taught the world to have compassion. Men love to have compassion on the lovable and the beautiful, but Jesus taught the world to have compassion on the unholy, the sinful and the ignorant. One day they brought to Him a sinful woman and they said, “According to our law, she should be stoned.” According to the law there was nothing else for her, but the compassion of Jesus covered that soul and He said, “Go, and sin no more.”

Someone told me about this incident. A lady who lived in the country, a widow, who had one daughter, was labouring for small wages. Her great ambition was to be able to educate her daughter. She had toiled and worked and invested the money in Liberty Bonds, to be held for the education of her daughter. Recently she came down from one of the country towns to Spokane to make a few necessary purchases for her daughter’s new life and school. She stood at one of the counters of the Crescent store. She turned her back for a moment and presently discovered that the little treasure was gone. The savings of a whole lifetime. The struggles of a mother’s heart! The endeavour to gratify the one big love of her soul in the education of her daughter. In spite of the assistance of the officials of the store, she was unable to find any trace of it. At last she sat down and wept bitterly. A lady, the widow of a banker, who saw her, told her to come up on the balcony with her and sit down. Another lady joined them, and the lady who first saw her said, “Now come, we are going to sit down together and believe God on behalf of this soul. We are going to believe that God will move the soul of the person who took that little treasure, until his soul sees that thing like this mother sees it.” People are learning, blessed be God. They sat down together to pray for that soul. The mother returned to the country and in the mail following her came a letter with the little treasure and a little note saying, “I couldn’t keep it. Forgive me, and may God forgive me. Compassion reaches further than law. Further than demands of judges.

Compassion reaches to the heart of life, to the secret of our being. The compassion of Jesus was the divine secret that made Him lovable. Religious people are exacting. Good people are exacting, but good folks have to learn to exercise compassion just like others do.

Remember the incident with the disciples and the Samaritans? The Samaritans did not want Jesus and His disciples to come. They said, "We have heard strange stories, how this or that thing happened, how a great amount of swine were drowned," and so on. They had heard about the pigs, but they probably had never heard of how the widow's son was raised from the dead or how the water had been turned into wine. The disciples loved their Lord. They were exercising His power, they were ministering to the sick, they were endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings of the world, but still that sense of insult was so overpowering that they said, "Master, shall we call down fire from heaven, to consume them?" My, how the big thing in your soul gets hurt and how easy it is for us to feel the righteousness of the issue, rather than the compassion of the Son of God. There is no limit to the compassion of Jesus.

Two blind men were crying by the wayside, calling on the Lord to have mercy on them. He stopped, and asked what they wanted. They answered, "Lord, that we may receive our sight." And He healed them. If you want the real explanation for His saving men out of their sins and sicknesses, it is in the love of His soul. That divine compassion of God and His desire to help men out of their sorrows and difficulties, and back to God.

Jesus' example on the cross is set forever as the very peak, the very soul of the compassion of God, through Christ. After they had pierced His hands and feet when, with His last breath, He prayed to God, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." When a man is able to look upon his own murderers and speak such words as these, surely it shows that he speaks beyond that which the human heart is capable of giving and is speaking only that which the soul of God can give.

How long should we endure? How long should we endure the misunderstandings of friends without rebuff? If we consider these things, surely we see the secret of the life that He endured all the way. To the very end and also in the very end, He was blessed by God. His triumph was there. The ignorant crucify you and trample over the loveliest things of your soul like they bruised the soul of Jesus. The triumph is there.

In the divine fullness of the heart of God in Christ is the revelation of a divine conception that alone endures, even unto death, through which the nature and love of God is revealed to a dying world. When Jesus was trying to give us balance in the life of God He gave us, once more, a beautiful parable. The parable of the Good Samaritan. "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves who stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him. They departed, leaving him half dead. By chance there came down a certain priest that way." One would have expected compassion from a priest, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. The Levite, a holy man of the people, came down and he looked upon him and passed by on the other side. But the poor Samaritan, a dog in the mind of the Jew, "when he saw him, had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine and set him on his own beast and brought him to an

inn and took care of him. On the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, "Take care of him; and what-so-ever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." He did not do the best thing, but he did the best thing he knew and Christ commended it. How often have you had the loveliest things of your soul trampled upon? Not by some drunken person, but probably by the one nearest to your heart. Probably by the one who ought to have understood more than any other.

Do you not see the manner in which we wound the soul of Jesus continuously through our lack of holy compassion? There is something a man has never divined and probably never will be able to divine. That subtle something in the nature that can be touched and moved by divine compassion. It takes down the bars of our life and lets the divine love of God flow through our soul.

How often have you or I stood or knelt by the side of the dying and disease smitten and have waited and prayed, ineffectively, until within our own heart something melted, something dissolved, and something richer than tears came from our souls and by the grace of God we saw the answer to our prayers before our eyes.

There is such a thing in the world as stigmata, that is, contemplating something so much that it actually becomes a fact in your own being. It is best explained by telling of an incident from the life of St Francis. He contemplated the cross of Christ with such intensity, it so moved him, that he said to his follower, "When I am dead, open my body and you will find the impress of the cross of Christ on my heart." Sure enough, after his death, when they opened his body, there was the impress of the cross of Christ on his heart. There is an inner life, an inworking of God.

The compassion of Jesus was illustrated when He broke up a funeral procession one day as He passed along in that little city of Nain. The dead man was named by these tender terms: "the only son of his mother, and she was a widow". When Jesus looked on that procession something broke loose in His soul. He stepped up to the bier, being moved with compassion, and said, "Young man, I say unto thee arise." The sorrows of others moved the soul of Jesus and touched His heart. His friend Lazarus died and four days later the Lord went there. Hearing that He was approaching the village, one sister came to meet Him and said to Him, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother would not have died." The other sister poured out her heart to Him in a similar manner. Eventually, He stood by the grave of His friend and He wept. Something terrific was moving in His soul and He said, "God, I thank Thee that Thou hearest me always." Then He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he that was dead came forth.

Once, in South Africa, we were praying for a sick lady for a time without results. Then I said, "I will take my sister and go and pray for her." We prayed again but there was no victory. A day or two later we were down in the city, in one of the large department stores. As we stood there the Spirit of the Lord said to me, "Go to her now." I said to my sister, "As soon as you are through we will go over and pray for that sick lady." We went and I watched her writhe in pain and agony until I put my arms about her and cuddled her head close to my heart. Presently, something broke loose in my soul and in one moment (I hadn't even started to pray) she was lifted out of her agony and

suffering. A divine flood moved her and I knew she was healed. I laid her down on the bed, took my sister's arm and we went away praising God.

Here is one more incident. I want to give you this for your own help and blessing. I knew a man in South Africa who was an ardent Methodist. He had ten sons, all local Methodist preachers and three daughters, three beautiful daughters. They were holy women. He had a wonderful family, one of the most wonderful families I have ever known. The old gentleman had been stricken with disease and the agony of his suffering was so great there seemed to be only one way and that was to drug him into insensibility. As the years passed he became a morphine fiend. He told me that he smoked 24 cigars, drank two quarts of whisky and used a tremendous quantity of morphine every day. Think of it. So, until he was 73 years old, he was drugged into senselessness most of the time. I prayed for him unceasingly for 16 hours without result. William Duggin, one of my ministers, on hearing of the situation, came to my assistance. I remember how he stood over him and prayed for him in the power of God. Somehow there was no answer. I watched that man in convulsions until his daughters begged me to let them give him morphine and let him die senseless rather than to see him suffer longer. I said, "No. I have your pledge and his too, that life or death, we are going to fight this battle through." Presently, as I stood there watching the awful convulsions, particularly in his old bare feet which were sticking out of the bottom of the bed, this came to my mind, "Himself took our infirmities." I reached out and got hold of those feet and held them with a grip of iron. That thing, which is too deep for any form of expression we know, broke forth in my soul and in a single moment I saw him lie still, healed of God. Many times after that I walked with him over his three vast estates, on which there were 50,000 orange trees and 50,000 lemon trees, and the old man told me of his love for God and of the richness of His presence and I had my reward, blessed be God.

If the church ever succeeds in doing that big thing, that great thing, that unspeakable thing that God purposes we should do, it can only be when we enter into that divine compassion of the Son of God.

17. GUIDANCE

Oh, Soul, on the highway, from earth unto glory
 Surrounded by mysteries, trials and fears;
Let the life of thy God, in thy life be resplendent;
 For Jesus will guide thee, thou need'st never fear.

For if thou wilt trust Me, I'll lead thee and guide thee
 Through the quicksands and deserts of life, all the way.
No harm shall befall thee; I only will teach thee
 To walk in surrender with Me day by day.

For earth is a school to prepare thee for Glory;
 The lessons here learned, you will always obey.
When eternity dawns, 'twill be only the morning
 Of life with Me always, as life is today.

Therefore, be not impatient, as lessons thou'rt learning;
 Each day will bring gladness and joy to thee here;
But heaven will reveal to thy soul, of the treasure
 Which infinitude offers, through ages and years.

For thy God is the God of the earth and the heavens;
 And thy soul is the soul that He died for to save;
And His blood is sufficient, His power is eternal;
 Therefore rest in thy God, both today and always.

Given in the Spirit in tongues with interpretation
 to John G. Lake at Johannesburg,

South Africa, 1908.

18. THE PLATFORM OF JESUS

There is a passage in the Declaration of Independence that has always rung very deeply in my spirit. It is the thought of the Revolutionary Fathers in giving an explanation and reason to the world for undertaking to set up a new government among the families of nations. They said something like this: out of due respect for mankind they felt it necessary to give a reason for such an act.

As we invite this company of people together in this section of the country, I feel that a due word of loving explanation may be helpful.

I have been in this particular manner of ministry for many years. I believe Brother Fogwill and I began in this ministry about 16 or 17 years ago. Of course we were Christian ministers before that, but at that period God enlarged our vision of Himself and His purposes.

Personally, I received my ministry in the gospel of healing through John Alexander Dowie, a man whom I have loved with all my soul. Though in his later life he became broken in mind and committed many foolish things, so that discredit for a time was brought upon his work, I knew him from the beginning until the day of his death. I have been to his grave since I returned to this land and as I have thought over that wonderful life, I have prayed in the silence of the night time, "Lord God endue me with the Spirit of God in the measure that you did that life."

I have always regarded it a privilege in my life and a unique thing that I was invited to preach in his pulpit after his death, and I preached there for several months. I remember standing on the platform and above my head was a great crown, possibly eight feet in diameter. It was made from boots with iron stirrups on them, thick soles and all that sort of thing that had come from people who had been healed of short limbs. Can you imagine how I felt as I stood in that place and looked around those walls seeing plaster-of-Paris casts fastened up on them, some of which had come from my own friends who had been healed. There were iron braces that cripples had worn and beds on which the dying had been brought. One of them belonged to Anna Hicks. It was fastened to one of the walls above the gallery. I thought of the day when she was carried in practically dead and that old man prayed for her and she was healed. The company of her students who had lovingly escorted her to the station at Beren, Kentucky said to me, "We carried her just like we would if she had been dead, as pall-bearers, and we received her back as from the dead."

Her friends cabled her and telegraphed her from all over the world and she gladly told the story, the wonderful story. It was almost the same character of story that our Brother Zienke told you this morning, of the love of God and of the tenderness of the Christ that mankind has not known. Of Jesus the healer still.

Beloved, there is a deep, passionate yearning in my soul, that above all else, you may set forth to the praise of God, such a character of righteousness in God, such a purity of holiness from God, that you may not only be recognised in your city, but throughout the world as a people among whom God dwells.

Beginning this work, as I do at this time, I want to say that I do not come as a novice to this time in my life. God has permitted me, in the years that have passed, to assist in the establishment of two great works of God, each of them on a new plane in God. I trust that, in calling together once again the people of God, it shall be to establish a work on a new plane. Indeed, a higher one that our souls have ever known. A plane where the radiant purity of the holiness of God will be shed forth into the whole world. I believe that is God's purpose.

Jesus, Himself, stood at Nazareth on an almost similar occasion. He had been raised in one of the country towns. He had disappeared from His community, gone down to the Jordan and had been baptised by John. The Holy Ghost had come upon Him and He had returned to his own home-town, to the synagogue where He had worshipped as a boy.

One thing I have always praised God for is that when God put me into public ministry He made me start in the very town, the very community, next door to the very home where I had been raised. I always feel that when a man fights out the battles of life in his own home-town, among his friends and neighbours, and receives love and confidence from them, he has received a good preparation for the next step in life. Jesus knew the best place for a man to begin to serve God when He said to the demoniac of Gadara who was delivered, "Go home to thy friends, and show them how great things the Lord hath done for thee" (Mark 5:19).

If your wife does not know you are a Christian nobody else is likely to. If your husband does not know you are a Christian, it is a poor testimony. It is the woman that is with you, who eats with you and sleeps with you, that will know whether you are a child of God or not. It is the man who lives in the same house with you and the people in your community who will know best how much of the life of God radiates from your own soul.

So Jesus stood in His own home-town of Nazareth and read this wonderful text. It is known, or ought to be known, as the platform of Jesus Christ.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor."

THE POOR. (Jesus Christ has an anti-poverty program) That is the first duty of every child of God and every church of God that ever came into existence. The Church that fails in this duty to mankind has failed in the first principle and has denied the first principle of the platform of the Son of God.

My heart has never gone out in sympathy to a body of Christian people who became a little clique and represent a certain select number of society. My conception of the real church of God is one where rich and poor alike feel at home, where there are no barriers and no boundaries, but where soul flows out to soul and in the larger life, man knows only man and God. Blessed be His precious Name.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor."

The ministry of the things of God must ever be without money and without price. My soul could never descend to the place where charges are made for the services of the minister of the gospel of Christ. Never, bless God!

It is our privilege to make possible a ministry to the people without money and without price. The magnanimity of the Lord Jesus Christ has stood out as a blessed and wonderful feature in all His ministry. I have sometimes wondered how many people really knew how the Lord existed during His own earth life. The Word of God gives us one little hint in these words: "Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance." That was how the Son of God was able to minister without money and without price to mankind. Today we have that privilege too. It is ours. I have faith in God that this church will demonstrate Christ's ministry to the poor.

For ten years God has privileged me to preach the gospel without salary, without collections. I have never asked a man for a cent in my life and I have lived and been able to minister every day. God has met me every time and I believe He will meet every other man and woman who will likewise put their trust in God and go forward.

The second plank in the platform of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is this:

"To heal the broken hearted."

There are lots of them. Since I have been in Spokane the Lord has let me into the homes of the rich and poor and it is not in the poor districts that you find all the broken-hearted by any means. "He hath sent Me to heal the broken hearted." That is the ministry of this body. If there is a broken-hearted soul in your locality you are the one who, in the Name of Jesus Christ, has the privilege of ministering the things of God to that soul - broken-hearted because of sin, broken-hearted, sometimes by sickness, broken-hearted because of the conditions around them that they seem unable to control.

When I see the living God, in His tender mercy, touch one and another and make them whole, whether in spirit, soul, or body, I rejoice equally in either case, for what God does is always good and worthy of praise. I regard the healing of a man's body to be just as sacred as the healing of his soul. There is no distinction. Jesus made none. He provided a perfect salvation for mankind - all that man needed for his spirit, soul or body.

So this ministry will be a healing ministry. This church will be a healing church. This will be a place where you can invite your friends who are ill and help them. I trust, after a time, we will be able to bring people in great numbers, those sick people who are on beds and stretchers and crutches, so the Lord Jesus, through this church and its ministry, may make them well.

It is my purpose that a number of brethren who have had this same burden on their hearts for many years as I have, may come together in this city. We will use the city as a headquarters and extend this ministry throughout the land. I have particularly invited my old preaching partner, Brother Cyrus B. Fockler of Milwaukee, my dear, precious

brother Archibald Fairley of Zion City, a prophet of God and one of the anointed of the Lord, Brother (Rev.) Bert Rice of Chicago, my dear Brother (Rev.) Charles W. Westwood of Portland, Oregon and Reverend Fogwell to assist me in this ministry. Brother Westwood visited me for a few days and is now going on to Chicago to make the necessary arrangements.

This is the outline so far as God has made it clear. This is to be a healing church. Everyone who has been called to this ministry, and those who will be called in the future, will minister to body, soul and spirit through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The third plank in the platform of Jesus Christ is this:

“To preach deliverance to the captives.”

How many there are! Not long ago, I received a telephone call from a lady in one of the missions saying that she had a man there who was a terrible drunkard. Every once in a while he would get delirium tremens. He saw devils and he was haunted by them. The lady said, “We cannot do anything for him. We thought perhaps you could help him.” He came up to see me and sat down to tell me about himself. Right away I discerned that he was a soul who, from his very birth, had been gifted with spiritual sight. But instead of associating in the spirit with angels, with God and with Christ, all his spiritual association had been with devils, demons and horrors until, in order to escape from that condition, he had become a drunk in his youth. He had paralysed himself with drink so he could have relaxation for a time, and that was his difficulty.

I said to him, “My son, kneel down. We are going to pray to God.” I prayed that God would bind every last demon and lift his soul into union with God, that He would fill him with the Holy Ghost so he might associate with the angels of God and become a new man in Christ and have fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

In a few days he returned and said, “Oh, brother, it is all so new, so different. As I walk along the street there are no more demons and no more devils. As I came up to the church today an angel, so beautiful, so sweet, so pure, walked by my side. Brother, there he is now. He has wounds on His hands and on His feet.” But my eyes were dim. I could not see Him. I presume his eyes were like the eyes of the servant of Elisha. “To preach deliverance to the captives” from all kinds of powers, earthly and sensual. It is the privilege of the real church to bring deliverance to the captives of sin, of disease, of death and hell, not only to proclaim the message of deliverance, but to exercise the power of God and set them free.

The fourth plank:

“Recovering of sight to the blind.”

Among the blessed healings of the past few weeks there is one dear soul who is not yet completely healed. She is a blind woman whose eyes have gradually opened day by day from the first morning of prayer. She will be present with us in the near future, as Brother Zeinke was this morning, to praise God for her deliverance.

“Recovering of sight to the blind.” There are many blind hearts, blind minds, blind souls, as well as blind eyes, who do not see the beauty and power of the things of Christ. To them we bring today the message of our Christ, “recovering of sight to the blind.”

I pray above every other thing this church will be a church that will know God so intimately that when men come in contact with any one of us they will feel they have met one who is able to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ to them. I believe it will be so.

The fifth plank:

“To set at liberty them that are bruised.”

There are the bleeding ones, the bruised ones, those who have been hidden away and those whose lives have been made a burden. Let me tell you this incident.

The last night I preached in my tabernacle in Johannesburg they brought a young man with whom life had gone so very hard. He had lost hope and had gone into such despair that he tried to blot himself out by committing suicide. He shot himself in the mouth and the bullet came out the back of his head. Strangely, he was not killed. This left him with a violent pain in the base of his brain that caused him to suffer untold agony and his neck was rigid.

On this night the greatest part of the congregation was composed of Cornish miners, whom I have regarded as the hardest men I have ever met in South Africa. They live a very hard, terrible life. They dissipate terribly.

This man came up on the platform to be prayed for and I wanted the sympathy of the people, so I made a plea in words like these: “Here is a poor fellow with whom life has gone so hard that he tried to blot himself out and, in an endeavour to do so, he shot himself. The result is that he is in the condition you now see.” Presently I began to observe that up from the audience there came a wave of loving sympathy. I said, “If you have never prayed in your life, if you have never prayed for yourself, bow your heads and pray tonight and ask God to deliver your fellow man.”

I put my hands on him and prayed and the power of God came down upon him. Instantly his joints became loose, his neck pliable and the pain gone. Looking up into my face, he said, “Who did that?” I said, “That was the Lord Jesus Christ.” Dropping on his knees before me he said, “Brother, show me how to find that Christ. I want to know Him.”

In the audience that night was one of the most cultured gentlemen it has ever been my privilege to know. He stood up from his seat and, reverently raising his hands, he said, “My Lord and my God.” He had not been a Christian, but he saw a new vision of the love of God for man that night.

Further back in the audience another soul was touched. He was a different type of man. He came from a different environment. He stood up and slapped himself on the hip and shouted, “Bully for Jesus!” It came out of the depth of his soul.

Beloved, it is my conviction that the purity of Jesus Christ and the radiant holiness and power of God will manifest Christ alike to the cultured and the uncultured, for both hearts are hungry when they see the living Christ.

The sixth plank of the platform:

“To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Not next year, not in five years, not when you die, but a present salvation, a present healing for spirit, soul and body. Blessed be His Name. All you need to do is bring your whole being into perfect harmony with the living God so that the Spirit of God radiates through your spirit, mind, and body. Blessed be His Name.

Among the most precious privileges that is given to the real church is to be, in reality, not in word alone, the Body of Christ. The Word of God speaks of “the church,” which is His body. God the Father manifested Himself through that one beautiful, holy, purified body of Jesus Christ in such a perfect manner, that when men looked upon Him they did not see the man Jesus, they saw God. Then Jesus ascended and sent the Holy Spirit to the church that is you and me. What for? So that the new body should come forth and the real church, united to God and filled with the Holy Ghost, would manifest God again to mankind through this body. That church is made up of all that are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

When God wants to heal a man, the healing does not fall down from heaven. It comes through the medium of the child of God. Therefore, God has given us the exalted privilege of being co-labourers together with Him. One of our high privileges is to radiate, to give forth from the love passion of our souls, the courage and strength to help other souls to come to God. The business of the church is to be a saviour, or saviours, for the Word of God says, “And saviours shall come up on Mount Zion.” These are those in such union with God that they are able to lift mankind up to the “Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The simplest way is to pray, “Father, forgive all my sins. I take Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to be my personal Saviour. I invite You to come and live in my heart.”

“Will God hear me?” you may ask. God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Certainly He will hear and accept you, for you are obeying His own command. Jesus said, in John 6:37, that he who comes to Him he will in no wise cast out. It is God’s will that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him, that is, by Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:25). What happens to your sins and iniquities? “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more,” (Hebrews 10:17). What love God is willing to bestow on us! For God so loved the world (you) that He gave His only begotten Son for you and for me (John 3:16). Why not bow and repent from your heart and pray that simple prayer this

very moment. It will revolutionise your life and give you that most abundant life and the peace of God that passes understanding. God bless you.

If I were to come to you, as an accredited agent, from the upper sanctuary, with a written invitation to you, having your name and address on it, you would not doubt your warrant to accept it. Well, here is the Bible, your invitation to come to Christ. It does not bear your name and address; but it says, "Whosoever:" That includes you. It says, "All." That includes you. It says, "If any:" That includes you. What can be surer and freer than that?

The depths of our misery can never fall below the depths of mercy.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13.

"Be strong in the Lord." Ephesians 6:10.

"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 2:1.

True love never grows heavy. Who would be loved must love. Love warms more than a thousand fires. Love rules without law. Love is master of all arts.

19. REALITY

PRELIMINARY

Hebrews 2.

When I read this chapter there is a thrill that goes down through my soul, and I would to God that the real spiritual truths of it could forever be established in the minds of men.

I once listened to an eminent minister preaching from the text, "What is man?" When he got through I had a feeling that man was a kind of outcast dog with his tail between his legs, sneaking out to throw himself into the lake. It sounded like he was saying, "Here goes nothing."

I said, "He has not caught the fire of the thing Jesus was endeavouring to teach through the apostle which was that man was the crowning creation of God. God endowed him with a nature and qualities that, by the grace of God, can express more of God than any other of God's creations. God purposed by the Holy Spirit to make the salvation of Jesus Christ so real in the nature of man that "He that sanctifieth (Jesus Christ) and they that are sanctified" are both of one nature, both of one substance and one character. They are one in life, one in the righteousness of His death and one in the consequent dominion that came because of His resurrection and glory.

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Hebrews 2:11)

We are brethren of the Lord Jesus Christ! He is the elder brother and we are the younger members of the family of the same Father. We are begotten by the same Spirit, energised by the same divine life of God and qualified through the Holy Ghost to perform the same blessed ministry.

"He took not on Him the nature of angels;
But He took on Him the seed of Abraham."

I wish I could write these things in your soul and brand them in your conscience.

SERMON

Experimentally I knew God as Saviour from sin. I knew the power of the Christ within my own heart to keep me above the power of temptation and to help me live a godly life, but when the greatness of the purpose of God in the salvation of man first dawned upon my soul, I say to you that life became for me a grand, new thing.

When, by the study of His word and the revelation of His Spirit, it became a fact in my soul that God's purpose was no less in me and you than it was in the Lord Jesus, I saw the purpose that God had in mind for the human race. I saw the greatness of Jesus' desire. His desire was so intense that it caused Him, as King of Glory, to lay down all

that glory possessed for Him and come to earth to be born as a man, to join hands with our humanity, and by His grace, lift us in consciousness and life to the same level that He Himself enjoyed. Christ became a new factor in my soul. Such a vision of His purpose thrilled my being. I could understand how it was that Jesus, as He approached man and his needs, began at the very bottom. He called mankind to Him and, by His loving touch and the power of the Spirit through His word, destroyed the sickness and sin that bound them and set them free in both body and soul. He lifted them into union and communion with Himself and God the Father. Yes, bless God, by the Holy Spirit indwelling the souls of men, Christ purposed to bestow on mankind the very conditions of His own life and being and to give to man, through the gifts of the Spirit and the gift of the Spirit, the same blessed ministry to the world that He Himself had enjoyed and exercised.

The old song that we used to sing became new to my heart. Its melody runs through my soul:

“Salvation, O the joyful sound,
In a believer’s ear
It soothes our worries, heals our wounds
And drives away our fears.” And lots more, bless God.

I could understand what was in Charles Wesley’s heart when he wrote his famous hymn, “Jesus Lover of My Soul,” and penned as its climax that marvellous verse:

“Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name;
I am all unrighteousness,
Vile and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.”

(This was not the last verse, but the third.)

The same thing was in the spirit of Isaiah when in the beautiful thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah his exultant soul broke forth in the shout of praise, “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 sing.”

I could understand the thrill that must have moved David when he sang the 103rd Psalm.

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His
benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth
all thy diseases.”*

The vision that has called forth shouts of praise from the souls of men in all ages is the same vision that stirs your heart and mine today. This vision is of the divine reality of

the salvation of Jesus Christ by which the greatness of God's purpose in Him is revealed to mankind by the Spirit of the Living One. We are transformed and lifted and unified with the living Christ, through the Holy Ghost, so that all the parts and energies and functions of the nature of Jesus Christ are revealed through us unto the salvation of the world. Bless God.

This vision of God's relation to man and man's relation to God is changing the character of Christianity from something that is grovelling, weeping and wailing its way in tears, to the kingly recognition of union and communion with the living Son of God. It is recognition that the Word of God so vividly portrays, in the lesson I read, that "in bringing many sons into the world" (not one son, but many), "it was fitting for him to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering."

I am glad that the scriptures have dignified us with that marvellous title of "sons of God." I am glad there is such a relation as the "Son of God" who, by His grace, has cleansed us by His precious blood and filled and energised us by His own kingly Spirit so that we, by the grace of God, have become God's kings, God's gentlemen indeed and in truth.

The Spirit of the Lord says within my soul, that the kingly nature of the Son of God is purposed to be revealed in the nature of every man, so that Christ's kingliness may be prevalent in all the world and govern the hearts of men, even as it governs the hearts of those who know Him and have entered into His glory.

(A young man is called up from the audience.)

I listened to this young man's testimony on Friday night with a thrill in my soul. I want him to tell you what God had done in him and for him.

TESTIMONY

"I do not know whether I can tell it all or not. I am sure there is a good deal I cannot tell. When I was a lad of about 14 years old I was forced to work in the mines and I spent a lot of time in water, which brought on rheumatism. I was crippled for years in my younger days and gradually grew worse. I could walk around. You could hardly notice where I was afflicted. It was in my hips and back.

A great many physicians said there was no relief for me. When I came down here to Spokane I worked as a labourer but I could not stoop down. When I dropped my pick or shovel I would have to pick it up with my feet then reach for it with my hands.

I came to this meeting last fall. When Brother Lake prayed for me I was healed of rheumatism within thirty minutes. It had been a constant torture to me for years. Later, I contracted tuberculosis and was examined by Dr Stutz, the county physician. He advised me that the best thing to do was to go to Edgecliff. Other physicians also

agreed that I was very bad and they did not think I would live more than six or eight months unless I went out there right away.

I did the same thing as before. I went to the healing rooms for prayer. Brother Peterson prayed for me and in three weeks I went to Dr Stutz. He could not find a trace of tuberculosis. I have gained eleven pounds and I've never felt better in my life."

That is a simple story isn't it, but reveals the question that has probably caused more debate in Christian life than almost any other and of which the world has little understanding. That is, that the Spirit of God is a living force that takes possession of the nature of man and works in him the will of God, which is always to make man like Himself. Blessed be His precious name.

It would be a strange word indeed, and a strange salvation, if Jesus was not able to produce from the whole race one man in His own image, in His own likeness and of His own character. We would think that salvation was weak, would we not?

If the world is full of cripples - crippled souls, crippled bodies, crippled minds - and it is, then I want to know what kind of idea the world has received of the divinity of Jesus Christ and of the power of His salvation. Is there no hope? Is there no way out of the difficulty? Is there no force that can lift the soul of man into union with God, so that once again the life of God thrills in his members?

Our purpose, by the grace of God, is to reveal to the world that this is the real truth and purpose and power of the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. My soul rejoices every time I see a man set free, for I say within my heart, "There is one more witness to the divine fact that the Christ of God is a living power, taking possession of the nature of man and transforming man's being into His own image."

The mere fact of our brother's deliverance from suffering, the inability to help himself, and the possibility premature death, is a very small matter in itself in comparison with the wonder it reveals to us. The revelation of the power of God at the command of man, being applied to the destruction of evil, whether spiritual, physical, mental or psychological, shows us Christ's purpose and desire to bring man, by the grace of God, once more into his heavenly estate where he recognises himself as a son of God. Blessed be His name.

Years ago I found myself like my brother, but in a much worse state. My legs drew out of shape and my body had become distorted by the common curse of rheumatism. My pastor said, "Brother you are glorifying God," and my church said, "Brother, be patient and endure it. Let the sweetness of the Lord possess your soul." I was good enough to believe it for a long time, until one day I discovered that it was not the will of God at all, but the will of the dirty crooked-legged devil that wanted to make me like himself. At that point everything changed and I laid down everything and went to Chicago to the only place I knew where a man could get healed. I went to John Alexander Dowie's Divine Healing Home at 12th and Michigan Streets. An old, grey-haired man came and laid his hands on me and the power of God went through my being and made my legs straight. I went out of there and walked on the street like a Christian.

Do you know, when my legs straightened out, it was the beginning of one of the deepest lessons that I ever learned in my life. It taught me that God does not appreciate a man with crooked legs any more than He does a man with a crooked soul. I saw the abundant power of the gospel of salvation that is placed at the disposal of man to remove the unchristlikeness of his life. If there is unchristlikeness in the body, we can get rid of the curse by coming to God and being made whole. For there is just as much unchristlikeness in men's bodies as there is in men's souls. That which is in the inner life will also be revealed in the outer life. That which is a fact in the mental and psychological will become a fact in the physical also. Bless God for that divine fact of all facts that the spirit of man and the Spirit of God are of one substance and one nature. When that spiritual power is imparted to a man's mind and body, they too becomes Christlike. Blessed be His holy Name.

The Spirit of the Lord speaks within my soul and says:

“Within the breast of every man is the divine image of God (living God), in whose image and likeness he was made. Sin is a perversion, and a sickness and an impostor. The grace and power of God, through the Holy Ghost, delivers man from all bondage of darkness and man in all his nature rises into union and communion with God and becomes one with Him the truest sense. He becomes one in the thoughts of God, one in the aspirations of God, one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ as the Saviour of man. Then man gives himself as a saviour, also lifting men, by the grace of God, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” Blessed be His holy Name.

“There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His Justice,
Which is more than liberty.

But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own,
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.

There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour;
There is healing in His blood.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

If our lives were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine

In the sweetness of our Lord.”

So the divine realities remain. The reality of God as a living power, the divine assistance of the heavenly nature, known to every man who enters by the Spirit through the door, Christ Jesus, into a living experience. The man who doubts is the man on the outside. The man on the inside has no questions to settle that do not comprehend God, like that soul that has never been in contact with His life and power. Christ invites mankind to enter with Him into the divine knowledge and heavenly union that makes the spirit of man and the Spirit of God to be one indeed and in truth. Bless God!

Man is the most divine reality that God has given in His great creation. Man in the image of God, renewed by the life of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, revealing and giving forth by the living Spirit, transforming even as he himself has been transformed. Blessed be His name.

God has made us, in the truest and highest sense, co-partners and co-labourers with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He has not withheld from any man one possibility that was manifested in Jesus. On the contrary, He invites mankind to come forth in the dignity and power of sons of God and, in Christ, to join in the mighty wonder of the salvation of the world over sin and sickness and the power of death and darkness and hell. Bless God.

Salvation to my heart is Christ's glorious reality. One night, way back in Canada, I knelt under a tree and poured out my heart to God. I asked Him, by His grace, to take possession of my life and nature and make me a Christian man and let me know the power of His salvation. Christ was born in my soul. Such a joy of God possessed my heart that the leaves of the trees seemed to dance for months following. The birds sang a new song and the angels of God witnessed the glory of heaven in my heart. Blessed be His Name.

Salvation is a progressive condition. The difficulty with church has been that men have been induced to confess their sins to Christ and acknowledge Him as a Saviour, and there they stopped. They have been petrified, they have withered, they have died there at that point, dry rotted. I believe in these phrases I have seen the real thing that has taken place in 85% of professing Christians in the world. We never saw Christ's intention. That day away back there, when the glory light of God first shone into my soul, it was glorious. It was the best I had ever known to that moment. However beloved, it would be a sorrowful thing in my life if I was compelled to look back to that day as the best. No. There were better days than that. There were days when the Lord God took me into His confidence and revealed His nature, His purpose, His love and His ministry. Yes, bless God, there came a day when God, once more in His loving mercy, endowed me with the Spirit of God, to be and perform the things that He had planted in my soul and had revealed in His own blessed Word and life.

I invite you into this life of divine reality. I invite you to enter into the Lord Jesus. I invite you to enter into His nature that you may know Him, for no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. It is through the revelation of the Spirit of Christ in the soul of man that he is privileged to know Jesus as the Lord. We may

know Him as an historic character, we may know Him as the ideal man, we may know Him as the Christ and Saviour, but we do not know Him as the living God who imparts His own nature and life and power to us, until we know Him, as the scripture says, in the Holy Ghost.

He who feels that religious life is a dream or a myth or an abstract something that is hard to lay your hands on, an intangible condition, is mistaken. In the bosom of the Living One is the divine realities of God, filling and thrilling the soul of Christ Himself and filling and thrilling the soul of every recipient of the life of the Lord Jesus.

The Spirit of the Lord once more speaks within my heart and says that, “the joys of God and the glories of heaven and the understanding of angelic existence and beings are known only to him who is privileged in consciousness to enter that life and realm. God, by His grace, has purposed that man, in his nature and consciousness, shall live in union and communion with our Father God, with the Lord Jesus Christ His Son, the innumerable company of angels and the presence of just men made perfect and we shall know the power and wonder of the blood of Jesus that speaks of better things than that of Abel.”

The Spirit of the Lord speaks yet again and says that, as Jesus was the Prophet of all prophets because of the completeness of the union of His nature with God, man, in turn, becomes the prophet of prophets as his spirit assimilates with the Spirit of Him, the divine One. Man becomes the lover of all lovers, even as Jesus Christ was the lover of all men. He thrills men with the intensity of His affection in the union of spirit with Himself, binding them by the love of His nature, as the bond-slaves of Christ forever.

So the Christian draws to himself the love of men, not because he slavishly desires it, but because of the fact that he obeys Christ’s divine law, “Give and it shall be given unto you, full measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over, so shall men give into your bosom.” Blessed be God.

I want to tell you that this little church is one of the most loved of all churches in the world. I want to tell you that more hungry hearts are turned in longing toward this little company of people than to any other company of worshippers in the land. Why? They have heard that God is here and the longing of the nature of man to know God causes them to turn their hearts and their faces toward the source of heavenly blessing. Shall we give it to them, or will we disappoint them? Shall they receive the blessing of God through our hearts, or will they turn away hungry and dissatisfied? Yes, I know your answer, for I know the answer of the Spirit, “Give and it shall be given unto you.” Blessed be God. The greatest giver is the greatest receiver. He who gives most receives most. This is God’s divine law. The reverse of God’s law is always evidenced

in the soul of man as selfishness. Always getting, always getting, always getting, until the nature contracts and the face distorts and the brain diminishes and the life that God gave to be abundant becomes an abomination that men are compelled to endure.

20. THE RECEPTION

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

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

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

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

She is but a soul redeemed by the blood of Jesus,
Hers but a life of sacrifice and care.
Yet with her welcome all the heaven is ringing,
And on her brow a victor's crown she bears.

How came she thus from sin's benighting thralldom,
The grace and purity of heaven to obtain?
Only through Him who gave His life a ransom
Cleansing the soul from every spot and stain.

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

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

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

Hear how thy lovely harp is ringing;
Touched are its strings with hands by thee unseen.

Know that the music of thine own creating
Heaven's melodies in hearts where sin has been.

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

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

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

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

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

Given to John G. Lake in tongues
and interpretation while in Africa.