

**JOHN G. LAKE  
STUDY LESSONS**

**PART THREE**

**(LESSONS 21-28)**

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## 21. THE POWER OF CONSECRATION TO PRINCIPLE

The great purpose of Jesus Christ in coming to the world was to establish the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is universal, containing all moral intelligences, both angels and men, willingly subject to the will of God in heaven and on earth. The Kingdom of Heaven is Christ's Kingdom on the earth, which will eventually merge into the Kingdom of God. We read of that merging period in the 15th of 1 Corinthians, where it says:

*“Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom of God, even to the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”*

In order to establish a kingdom there must be a basis upon which it is to be founded. When the revolutionary fathers got together in '76 they laid down in the Declaration of Independence the principles upon which American government was to be founded. One of the first principles was, “All men are born free and equal.” Everyone, by virtue of being born as men, is equal to every other man. All men are born free and equal before the law. There is no special privilege.

The second principle was that man, because of his birth and his free agency, was entitled to “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Thirdly, they agreed that government rested on the consent of the governed.

These were the underlying principles upon which the government was to rest. There was nothing insignificant about them. The doctrines by which these principles were to be made effective were not discussed but they were the foundations upon which the greatest system of human government in the world's history was built.

Likewise Jesus, when He came to establish His Kingdom, first enunciated the principles upon which His government was to rest. The eight beatitudes, officially declared in His Sermon on the Mount, were the great principles upon which His government was to be founded.

A principle is not a dogma, or a doctrine. It is the underlying quality, the fundamental truth, upon which all other things are based and the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven are the underlying qualities upon which the whole structure of the Christian life rests. They are the principles upon which the real government of Jesus Christ will be founded and exercised. The eight beatitudes are the principles of the Kingdom. The Sermon on the Mount is the constitution. The commandments of Jesus are its laws or statutes.

Firstly, the kingdom is established in the hearts of men. The principles of Jesus Christ are settled in our own spirit. We become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. The total citizenship of the Kingdom in this present age constitutes the real church, which is His

body. Throughout the church age the working of the body is to demonstrate to the world the practicability and desirability of the Kingdom of Heaven, that all man may desire the rule of Jesus in the salvation of men.

It is the purpose of Jesus to make the church, which is His body, His entire representative in the world. Jesus came to express God the Father to mankind. This was necessary in order that God might give an expression of Himself to the world. Likewise, the church is necessary to Jesus Christ as an expression of Himself to the world.

The first principle He laid down was, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Usually we confuse this with the other one, "Blessed are the meek," We commonly think of one who is poor in spirit as being a meek, quiet person, someone who possesses the spirit of meekness. However, it is much more than that. The thing Jesus urged upon men was to practice what He had done Himself.

Jesus was the King of glory, yet He laid down all His glory. He came to earth and took upon Himself our condition. "He took not on him the nature of angels but took on Him the seed of Abraham." (Hebrews 2:16) He took upon Himself the condition of mankind, that is, of human nature's liability to sin. Therefore, He was "tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin." Because He took upon Himself our nature, and understood the temptations that are common to man, He is "able to succour them that are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18) He understands. He is a sympathetic Christ. Bless God!

Now see! "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Blessed is he who regards the interests of the Kingdom of Heaven as paramount to every other interest in the world, paramount to his own personal interest. Blessed is he whose interest in life, whose interest in the world is only used to extend the interest of the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed is he who has lost his own identity as an individual and has become a citizen of the Kingdom. Blessed is he who sees the Kingdom of Heaven as the ultimate to be possessed. Blessed is he who forgets to hoard wealth for himself, but who uses all he has and all he is for the extension of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is putting the law of love of God and of one another into practice.

After Jesus had laid down the things that he possessed He was able to say to us, as He had experienced it himself, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

We commonly think as we read the Word of God that some of the teachings of Jesus were accidental, or applied to a particular individual and to no one else. We think of the rich young ruler who came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "Thou knowest the commandments. Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honour thy father and thy mother." The young man said, "All these have I kept from my youth up." Then Jesus said to him: "Yet lackest thou one thing. Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven and come, follow me." (Luke 18:18-22)

Jesus was applying to that young man that first principle of the Kingdom. We have said of that young man he was covetous, he loved his wealth and that was keeping him out

of the Kingdom of Heaven. Not so. Jesus was applying one of the principles of the Kingdom to that young man's life. He turned away sorrowful. He had not developed to the place where he could do that thing.

There is an apocryphal story that tells us that the rich young ruler was Barnabas. After the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Ghost, Barnabas received from heaven the thing Jesus had tried to impart to him. He forgot all about himself and his own interests and desires and he sold his great possessions and came with the others and laid them at the apostles' feet. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Jesus was able, after all, to get the real thing into the heart of Barnabas that He desired in the beginning.

The real miracle of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost was not the outward demonstration of tongues. It was such intense unselfishness produced in the hearts of all baptised that they each sold their lands and estates and parted the money to every man as he had need. They were moved by God into one family. Their brother's interest was equal to their own. That was "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

The second principle of the Kingdom is, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." This figure is taken from the old prophets who, when the nation sinned, took upon themselves the responsibility of the nation. They put sackcloth on their body and ashes on their heads and, in mourning and tears, went down before God for days and weeks until the people turned to God. They became the intercessors between God and man. In some instances in the Word we read where God looked and wondered. He wondered that there was no intercessor. There were no mourners who took upon themselves the responsibility of the sins of the people, who dared to stand between man and God.

We see how wonderfully Moses stood between God and the people. When God said to him, after they had made the golden calf, "Let me alone... that I may consume them and I will make of thee a great nation." (Exodus 32:10) Moses said, "Not so, Lord. What will the Egyptians say. What will be the effect upon Thy great Name? Will they not say that their God destroyed them?" God had said to Moses, "I will make of thee a great nation," but Moses was big enough to turn aside the greatest honour that God could bestow upon a man, to become the father of a race. "Not so, Lord. This people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book." (Exodus 32:31-32)

The prophet became the great intercessor. He took upon himself the burdens and sins of the people and when he got down to confess he did not say, "Oh, these people are so weak and they do this and that." When he got down to pray he said, "Lord God, WE are unworthy." He was ONE with his people. He identified with them, as one with them. He was not putting any blame on them. He was big enough to take the whole blame, the entire responsibility and go down before God, laying the whole matter before Him, until the blessed mercy of God was again given to the people.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are they that mourn." Blessed is the man who comprehends the purposes of God and who understands his responsibility and possibility. Blessed is the man who, by God-given mourning and crying, turns the

people to God. With a heart yearning for sinners, he becomes a mourner before God and takes the responsibility of fallen men on his own life. He goes down in tears and repentance before God until men turn to God and the mercy of God is shown to mankind.

The day God puts the spirit of mourning upon Pentecost will be the gladdest day heaven ever knew. Blessed be His precious Name!

It always jars me in the depths of my spirit when I hear people say hard things about churches and sects. That is not our place. Our place is as an intercessor, as the one who is to stand between the living and the dead, as those whom God can trust to pray down the power and mercy and blessing of God upon this old race.

Firstly we see that the Kingdom is based on principles. Principles are greater than doctrines. Principles are the foundation stones upon which all other things rest. Doctrines are the rules, the detail by which we endeavour to carry out the things that the principles contain, but the principles are the great foundation stones upon which all things rest.

### **ABSOLUTE CONSECRATION**

Let us turn away from this until we see Jesus at the Jordan, consecrating Himself to His own life's work, then we will understand how the Christian is to consecrate himself to carry out the principles.

The Word tells us that when Jesus was about thirty years of age He came down to the River Jordan where John was baptising and presented Himself for baptism. John looked at Him in amazement and said, "I have need to be baptised by Thee, and comest Thou to me?" But Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." Unto "All righteousness."

Listen! Hear the declaration by which Jesus Christ was baptised. It was His consecration unto "all righteousness." There was no further to go. It comprehends all there is of consecration and commitment unto the will of God and all there is of good. Unto "all righteousness."

So Jesus understandingly permitted Himself to be baptised of John "unto all righteousness." Similarly, you and I have also been baptised. But see! Immediately after He was baptised something took place. Firstly, the Spirit of God came upon Him as a dove and abode upon Him. Then He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. It was not the devil that led Him into the wilderness. It was the Holy Ghost.

In the 16th chapter of Leviticus we see one of the beautiful figures which will illustrate that to you. On the day of Atonement two goats were selected. The priest laid his hands on one of them and put a tow-rope around its neck. A Levite then took the tow-rope and led the animal for three days into the barren sands of the wilderness. It was left there to die. That is a picture of the LIFE-DEATH of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Ghost is God's Levite. He put a tow-rope around the neck of Jesus Christ and led Him likewise for three days (a year for a day - God's three days) into the wilderness. What for? To prove and test the real fact of His obedience to God and whether His consecration was going to stand. So the Spirit, the Holy Ghost, led Jesus into the wilderness.

Now I want you to see something. We are triune beings just as God Himself is triune. You will see the character of the consecration that Jesus made at the Jordan. God is TRIUNE. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Man is also TRIUNE. The Word says, "I pray God YOUR whole SPIRIT, and SOUL, and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23) So Jesus, when He went into the wilderness, encountered a temptation peculiar to each separate department of His being. The Word of God says He fasted forty days and was hungry. Satan came to Him and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." But Jesus could not do it. If He had done it He would have been exercising His own authority on His own behalf and He had committed Himself unto "All righteousness." He only lived to express God. He only lived to express the Father. He said, "The words I speak, I speak, not of myself. The work that I do I do not of myself." All He was, all He said and all He did, was the expression of God the Father.

May the Lord give us an understanding of the utterness of what a real baptismal consecration ought to be. When an individual comes and commits himself to Christ once and for all, forever, he ceases to be or to live in his own behalf. He ceases to live for himself any longer, but becomes the absolute expression of Jesus Christ to mankind.

So Satan had no power to tempt a Man who had made a consecration like that. The hunger pangs of Jesus' body, after He had fasted forty days, were not enough to turn Him aside from the consecration He had made to God.

The second temptation was one peculiar to the MIND (soul). He was taken to a pinnacle of the temple and Satan said, "Do something spectacular. Cast yourself down. Let the people see you are an unusual person and that you can do unusual things and they will give you their acclaim."

Jesus could not do that. There was nothing in the mind of Jesus Christ that could tempt Him to be disobedient to the consecration He had made unto "all righteousness." So He turned the temptation aside.

The third temptation was one peculiar to the SPIRIT. By a supernatural power Jesus is permitted to see "All the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them," in a moment of time. Then Satan said unto Him, "All these will I give thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me." But Jesus turned him aside. No cross-less crowning for the Son of God. No bloodless glory for my Lord. He had come to express God to the world. He had come to demonstrate one thing to you and me. To show that man, relying on God, can have the victory over sin and Satan. Bless God! That is the peculiar thing about the life of Jesus Christ that makes Him dear to your heart and mine.

After going on the tow-rope of the Holy Ghost for three years, like the first goat, through the sorrows and trials and disappointments of life, even ministering and blessing despite the world cursing Him, He was able to come as the second goat and present Himself as the sinless, spotless sacrifice unto God at the cross.

If Jesus had fallen down anywhere along the line or if there had been a single instance where He had failed to express God to the world, He could never have been the Saviour of the World. "HE BECAME the author of eternal salvation." He was honoured by God in being permitted to die for mankind, having triumphed, having presented Himself the sinless, spotless sacrifice unto God. His blood flowed for all mankind. Blessed be His Name!

We have seen two things. We have seen the principles of Jesus Christ and we have seen His consecration to carry out those principles. He consecrated Himself utterly to the mind and will of God. Now we are going a step further.

### **EVEN UNTO DEATH**

Let us look at the last night of the Lord's life. He was with His disciples in the upper room. There was the final act, the consummation of all His life. There was a phase of this act I know the Lord had not made clear to many.

They sat around the table after they had eaten their supper. Jesus took bread and broke it saying, "Take eat, this is My body, which is broken for you," and yet He was there in the flesh. Now what did it mean? What was its significance?

It is this. By that act the Lord Jesus Christ pledged before God, before the holy angels and before men, that He would not stop short of dying for the world. There was no limit. He was faithful "even unto death." Just as He had faithfully lived the conscious life-death each day, dying to every desire of His mind, will and being, He was now going one step further. He was going to be faithful "even unto death."

So He said, "Take eat, this is My body, broken for you." After supper likewise, He took the cup, when He had drunk, saying, "My blood of the New Testament."

Now listen. From time in memorial, mankind has been in the habit of pledging himself in the wine cup. There is no known date of its origin. It is so ancient we do not know when the custom began, but our Jesus sanctified the custom to God and His church forever.

Jesus poured wine into the cup, took it, and said, "This is my blood of the New Testament," and He drank it Himself. It was the pledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Having laid down the principles of the gospel of the Son of God, having walked, lived and suffered for three years, He was finally going to the very uttermost. There was no further to go. He said, "This is My blood of the New Testament," meaning He would give His life for the world.

That was not all. He made His pledge, then after He drank from the cup He said, "Drink YE all of it." When the disciples took the cup, the same one their Lord drank

from, they also drank to that pledge. They were made partakers in the same pledge and likewise pledged themselves to “My blood of the New Testament.”

Christianity has character in it. Jesus Christ put character in it. Bless God! “My blood of the New Testament.” The other day I read the list of the apostles as they are given by Hippolytus, one of the early writers. He tells us that five of the twelve were crucified just as Jesus was. Others died by the spear and sword and three died natural deaths, after enduring tortures. So it meant for them just what it meant for their Lord, “My blood of the New Testament.” We see the degree of faithfulness to which they pledged themselves that night.

We have loved and admired the spirit of the apostles. The Spirit of Jesus Christ was so intense in the early Christians that millions of them gave their lives for the Son of God. Multitudes died the death of martyrs and multitudes died in the war to exterminate Christianity. Millions! Think of that. It gives some meaning to the saying that “the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church.”

How often have you and I taken the Lord’s cup? Has it meant the same to you and I? Does it mean that to you and me now? Beloved, I have no doubt that the sacred cup has touched many lips, perhaps the lips of most of you. If we have been understanding, comprehending Christians, we will have realised it meant to us just what it did to the Lord - our everlasting pledge of faithfulness.

There is no place for sin in the Christian’s life. There is no place for letting down in the Christian’s life. There is no place for weakening in the Christian’s life. When the early Christians were having a hard time Paul said, “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” (Hebrews 12:4) That was expected of them. They were expected to resist “even unto death;” thus Paul said, “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood.” In the Revelation, the church in Smyrna is commanded, “Be thou faithful UNTO death, and I will give thee a crown of life!” (Revelation 2.10)

After our fathers had signed the Declaration of Independence in this land, they pledged, “Our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour,” then they went out and gave themselves to eight years of war in order to make it good.

When people make a declaration on principles it costs them something. After a while, the men in the revolutionary army got into a situation where they did not have shoes on their feet, so in the depths of winter, they tied straw and rags on their feet. They stood by principles, they lived by principles, they were ready to die by principles and the British tracked them by the blood marks on the snow.

So Jesus Christ, in enlisting an army, put them under a kindred pledge with Himself. He pledged Christians on the same plane with Himself. Just as far as the Lord went, they went “even unto death.”

The real purpose of becoming a Christian is not to save yourself from hell or be saved to go to heaven. It is to become a child of God with the character of Jesus Christ. It is to stand before men, pledged unto the uttermost, “even unto death,” by refusing to sin

and refusing to bow your head in shame. It is preferring to die rather than dishonour the Son of God.

If the character of Jesus Christ has entered into us, then it has made us like the Christ. It has made us like Him in purpose. It has made us like Him in fact. His Spirit is imparted to us. Bless God for that same unquenchable fidelity that characterised the Son of God.

“BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND  
I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE”

### **CONSECRATION PRAYER**

My God and Father,

In Jesus Name I come to You. Take me as I am. Make me what I ought to be, in SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY. Give me power to do right. If I have wronged anyone, empower me to CONFESS, REPENT, and RESTORE, no matter what it costs. Wash me in the BLOOD of Jesus that I may now become Your child and manifest You in a perfect SPIRIT, a holy MIND, and a SICKLESS BODY, to the glory of God. Amen.

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Successful Christian life rests on three essentials:

Firstly, a knowledge of the teaching of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose words are the final authority, the bar where every question must be brought for final decision. The words of every other must be measured, and their value determined, by the statements of Jesus Christ. “In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

Secondly, consecration to do all the will of God as declared by the Lord Jesus.

Thirdly, recognition of the Holy Spirit as revealer, guide, interpreter, teacher and empowerer. Without the presence of the Spirit of God in our hearts, our consecration would be valueless. We would not be able to live it. Without a knowledge of the teaching of Jesus our consecration would be non-intelligent.

## **22. THE MINISTRY OF HEALING AND MIRACLES**

Divine healing is scientific.

Atonement through the grace of God is scientific in its application. Jesus used many methods of healing the sick. All were scientific. Science is the discovery of how God does things.

Jesus laid His hands upon the sick in obedience to the law of contact and transmission. Contact of His hands with the sick one permitted the Spirit of God in Him to flow into the sick person.

The sick woman who touched His clothes found that the Spirit emanated from his person. She touched the “hem of His garment” and the Spirit flashed into her. She was made whole. This is a scientific process.

Paul, knowing this law, laid his hands upon handkerchiefs and aprons. The Bible says that when they were laid upon the sick they were healed and the demons went out of those who were possessed. Materialists have said this was superstition. It is entirely scientific.

The Spirit of God emanating from Paul transformed the handkerchiefs into “storage batteries” of the Holy Spirit’s power. When they were laid upon the sick they surcharged the body and healing was the result. (Read Acts 19:12)

This demonstrates firstly that the Spirit of God is a tangible substance, a heavenly materiality. Secondly, He is capable of being stored in the substance of cloth as demonstrated in the garments of Jesus or the handkerchiefs of Paul. Thirdly, He will transmit power from the handkerchiefs to the sick person. Fourthly, His action in the sick man was so powerful the disease departed. The demonised were also delivered. Fifthly, both the sick and the insane were delivered and healed by this method.

We receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as one receives a lover. It is an affectionate relationship. We obey Him because we have received Him affectionately. He has become our soul’s lover.

His love and power in us redeems us from sin and sickness and eventually, we are promised in His Word, He will redeem us from death also. Redemption from sin, sickness and death constitutes man’s deliverance from bondage to Satan and his kingdom, and establishes the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **THE POWER OF THE NAME**

Jesus called his twelve disciples and commanded upon them power and authority to cast out devils and heal diseases (Luke 9). He then superseded this by declaring, “If ye shall ask ANYTHING in My name it shall be done.” (John 14:14)

The first was a limited “power of attorney.” The second was unlimited. This unlimited “power of attorney” was authorised before His crucifixion. It was to become effective when the Holy Ghost came. (Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8)

On the day of Pentecost this “power of attorney” was made fully operative when the Spirit came. Beforehand, they held the position legally - they had His Word. At Pentecost it became vital when He sent His Spirit.

Peter and John instantly grasped the significance of the Name. Passing into the temple they met a beggar-cripple. He was 40 years old and had been crippled from birth. Peter commanded, “In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” Heaven’s lightning struck the man and he leaped to his feet, whole.

A multitude rushed up. They demanded, “In what name, by what name, by what power have ye done this?” Peter and John replied, “In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye slew, whom God raised up.”

Matchless name! The secret of power is in it. When they used the name, power struck. The dynamite of heaven exploded.

Peter and John were hustled to jail. The church prayed for them in “the name.” The entire church prayed that signs and wonders might be done. How did they pray? In “the name.” They used it legally. The vital response was instantaneous. The place was shaken as by an earthquake. Tremendous name!

Jesus commanded, “Go into all the world.” What for? To proclaim that name, to use that name, to baptise believers. How? In the name (His authority, what He commanded). Amazing name! In it was concentrated all the authority resident in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Almighty name!

The apostles used the name and it worked. The deacons at Samaria used the name and the fire flashed. Believers everywhere, forever, were commanded to use it. The name detonated around the world.

More Bibles are sold today than any other book. Why? The name is in it. The final outcome is that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess!

Prayer in this name gets answers. The Moravians prayed. The greatest revival, up until that time, hit the world.

The grace and love of God in the soul opens the nature to God. They asked of the blind man, “What do you think of Him?” He replied, “He is a Prophet.”

Later, Jesus found him and said to him, “Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” The man asked, “Who is He Lord, that I might believe on Him?” Jesus answered, “I that speak unto thee am He.”

The struggle of the centuries has been to free the soul from narrow interpretations. Jesus has sometimes been made to appear as a bigot, sometimes as an impostor. The

world is still waiting to see Him as He is - Jesus the magnificent, Jesus the giant, Jesus the compassionate, Jesus the dynamic, the wonder of the centuries.

Take the shackles off God. Let Him have a chance to bless mankind without limitations.

As a missionary I have seen the healing of thousands of heathens. Thus was Christ's love and compassion for a lost world revealed.

And so I was assisted into the larger vision of a world Redeemer whose hand and heart extends to His big world, to every man, saint and sinner, who is invited to behold and love Him.

In one of the letters received from readers, this question was asked: "Why are not all persons healed instantly, as Jesus healed?"

The writer of this letter is mistaken in thinking that Jesus always healed instantly. A case in point was the healing of the ten lepers, "as they went they were cleansed." The healing virtue was administered. The healing process became evident later.

Again, Jesus laid His hands on a blind man then inquired, "What do you see?" The man replied, "I see men as trees walking." His sight was still imperfect. Then Jesus laid His hands on him the second time "and he saw clearly."

Healing is by degrees based on two conditions. Firstly, the degree of healing virtue administered, and secondly, the degree of faith that gives action and power to the virtue administered. "The word did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." (Hebrews 4:2)

The miracles of Jesus have been the battleground of the centuries. Men have devoted their lives in an endeavour to break down faith in miracles. More believe in miracles today than ever before.

Pseudo-science declares miracles impossible. However the biggest men in the scientific world are believers in the supernatural and know that miracles are a discovery, the use of which, the material scientist knows nothing.

The miracle realm is man's natural realm. He is, by creation, the companion of the miracle-working God. Sin dethroned man from the miracle-working realm, but through grace he is coming into his own.

It has been hard for us to grasp the principles of the life of faith. In the beginning man's spirit was the dominant force in the world. When he sinned his mind became dominant. Sin dethroned the spirit and crowned the intellect. But grace is restoring the spirit to its place of dominion. When man comes to realise this, he will live in the realm of the supernatural without effort.

No longer will faith be a struggle, but a normal way of life in the realm of God. The spiritual realm places man where communion with God is a normal experience.

Miracles are then his native breath. No-one knows to what extent the mind and the spirit can be developed.

We have been slow to come to a realisation that man is a spirit and his spirit nature is his basic nature. We have sought to educate him along intellectual lines, utterly ignoring the spiritual, so man has become a self-centred, self-seeking being.

Man has lost his sense of relationship and responsibility toward God and man. This makes him lawless. We cannot ignore the spiritual side of man without magnifying the intellectual and the physical. To do this without the restraint of the spirit is to unleash sin and give it dominance over the whole man.

There must be a culture and development of the spiritual nature to a point where it can enjoy fellowship with the Father-God. It is above mind, as God is above nature.

Man's intellect is ever conscious of supernatural forces that he cannot understand. He senses the spirit realm and longs for its freedom and creative power but cannot enter until changed from self and sin. The spirit must be enthroned and in action rather than the intellect. The spirit is above BOTH MIND AND MATTER.

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The Life of God, the Spirit of God, the nature of God, are sufficient for every need of man. In the highest sense of the word, the real Christian is one whose body, soul and spirit alike are filled with the Life of God.

Healing in any department of the nature, whether spirit, soul or body, is but a means to an end. The object of healing is health, abiding health of body, soul and spirit. The healing of the spirit unites the spirit of man to God forever. The healing of the soul corrects psychic disorder and brings the soul processes into harmony with the mind of God. The healing of the body completes the union of man with God when the Holy Spirit possesses all.

## 23. THE SECRET OF POWER

Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8

He is risen, He is risen! Hear the cry  
Ringing through the land, and sea and sky.  
'Tis the shout of victory, triumph is proclaimed  
Heralds of God announce it, Death's disdained.

Shout the tidings! Shout the tidings! Raise the cry.  
Christ's victorious, Christ's victorious cannot die,  
For the bars of death He sundered, Satan sees that he has blundered,  
As the shouts of angels thundered, "He's alive!"

Catch the shout, ye earth-born mortals, let it roll,  
Till it echoes o'er the mountains from the centre to the poles  
That the Christ of earth and Glory death has conquered.  
Tell the story, He's the Victor! He's the Victor! So am I.

For this reason that my ransom He has paid,  
I've accepted His atonement on Him laid,  
He, the Lamb of God that suffered all for me,  
Bore my sins, my griefs, my sickness on the tree.

I am risen, I am risen from the grave,  
Of my sins, my griefs, my sickness, and the waves  
Of the resurrection life, and holy power  
Thrill my being with His new life every hour.

Now the lightnings of God's Spirit burn my soul,  
Flames of His divine compassion o'er me roll,  
Lightning power of God's own Spirit strikes the power of hell.  
God in man, Oh Glory! Glory! all the story tell.

I have proved Him, I have proved Him. It is true,  
Christ's dominion yet remaineth, 'tis for you,  
Let the fires of holy passion sweep your soul.  
Let the Christ who death has conquered take control.  
He will use you, He will use you. Zion yet has Saviours still,  
Christ the Conqueror only waiteth for the action of your will.

Given in tongues by the Holy Ghost to John G. Lake,  
at 2 a.m. June 18th, 1910. Cookhouse C. C. South Africa

## 24. SIN IN THE FLESH

I want to bring you tonight a message taken from Romans 8:3. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 and Matthew 15:16-20) I will read you the first verse:

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”*

For a long time I have wondered what these two expressions mean - “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”, and then what it means when it says God “condemned sin in the flesh.”

In the first place, we know that the physical body does not commit sin. It may be the instrument or weapon that does the thing, but there is no sin in the physical body itself. Sin lies in the will. If you choose to sin then you can make your body do it. Now according to law, there isn't any sin except it is performed by a physical act. You can think murder as much as you like, but you are not a murderer in the sight of the law simply because you thought about it. If you speak murder, that makes you liable, but the law recognises nothing that has not been translated into conduct, into an act.

Now understand that there isn't any sin in your physical body. There is nothing wrong with your body. Your body is all right. It is you, the hidden man of the heart, that makes the body do things that are unseemly and are wrong. So, what does He mean by sin in the flesh? For a long time that bothered me. I think I have found a key to it in the 11th verse of this chapter, because it is all one argument.

“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

He is not talking about the resurrection. He is talking about giving life, healing life, to our physical bodies. Our physical bodies don't need life unless they are sick, do they? That is the conclusion of the argument of Romans 8:1-11. It is a progressive, single argument. What is he talking about? He is talking about disease and sickness and the sin that is in the flesh is the sin of a broken law in your body.

Now sin is breaking the law, some kind of law, and sin in the body is breaking a law of the body. Disease then is dis-ease isn't it? Make it two words - dis-ease, broken law, wrecked ease, ease that has been destroyed. Ease is health. Dis-ease is sickness. There are three kinds of sickness - sickness in the body, sickness in the soul, and sickness in the spirit. The basic sickness is spirit sickness. I venture this - that if you could be healed in your spirit every last one of you would be well in your bodies. The whole problem is cleaning a man up in his spirit. Let me change it to business. If you can

become a successful salesman in the spirit, you will put your bodies over. Do you know that the place you are defeated first is not your mind or your body. You say, "Oh, my body is so tired." Your body is tired the moment the spirit is discouraged. Your body breaks down under it. As long as your spirit is triumphant you are a victor and go right on. A man is defeated only when he is defeated in his spirit. Let a man lose courage (which is not a product of the intellect) and he is defeated. The only way to put the man on his feet again is to renew a right spirit within him. That isn't the Holy Spirit. It is to renew the spirit of a man that has been defeated, conquered or whipped.

Healing then is in three planes, isn't it? Spirit healing, soul healing and body healing. Basically, the person who is sick in body has been sick in spirit probably for quite a while. After a while it has gotten down into the soul and passed through the soul into the body.

I cannot tell you, brethren, what this truth I am telling you now, has meant to my life. I now can trace every physical change in my body to a spiritual condition. My body responds to my spirit.

Now beloved, I want to give you something that is of infinite value. Let me illustrate it. I was called to a house two days ago, to see a man who was 82 or 83 years of age. He had been sick for two years. He had blood poisoning in his teeth and it went through his whole body, and when a man is past 80, this is a bad thing. I went into his presence with a well spirit, a conquering spirit. I didn't think of this when I went there, but when I went back today I saw the effect. I was there with a triumphant, victorious spirit. His spirit caught the contagion from me. He had been defeated. He had sat there in that chair until he was defeated. Well, I sat down by his side and began to open the Scriptures and something in me went out from my spirit. It was healing for his spirit.

This is perfectly Scriptural. Out from your inner life, your spirit, your inner being, "shall flow rivers of living water." I didn't see it immediately because he is a Scotsman. He was very reticent and didn't respond much. Nevertheless, I knew inside me that it had gone into him. I talked to him a little while and opened the Word, then prayed for him and left. This afternoon his beautiful, lovely, motherly wife, a woman along in years, called me up and said, "He wants to see you again. He is going to come down to the hotel to see you because he doesn't think it is right to ask you to come way up here." Think of that, will you. I said, "No, I will go up." When I went into his presence this afternoon I carried into his presence health in my own mind, in my spirit. I discovered it in myself immediately after I left the house. I had carried a dominating, victorious spirit, and that man responded to it. Do you know what happened? Before I left the house I saw the reactions in his physical body. Things had happened in his body. While I sat there and prayed for him his spirit had become adjusted. The spirit in me received its health from the Lord and I communicated something to his spirit and his spirit made contact. Just as you press the button and turn on light, you make contact with God's Spirit, and when he did, healing came down into his body. Why, he changed. His whole outward demeanour changed. Everything about him changed.

When I have been defeated, when I am full of defeat and that corroding defeat has come down over me and I have lost out, I have broken connection. Have you seen a

battery in a car corroded with something which had eaten off the wires and the starter didn't move? What is the matter? Something corroded there. You should have kept it clean.

Corroding cares come and get in around your spirit life and they cover you and break your connection with the Lord. This is true. The first healing is the healing of your spirit, getting your spirit adjusted to the Lord. The spirit is the part that contacts the Lord. If the spirit is out of harmony and out of condition and is sort of broken down, you can't get faith for healing, can you? No, you must become adjusted to the Lord.

I said to a young man a little while ago who was in a desperate condition and required a first-class miracle to touch his life, "If you will accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and confess Him as your lord, and you receive eternal life, you are healed." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "The moment you are born again you are healed." I have never been afraid to promise that to any unsaved person. I didn't know that for years. Now I tell you. It's the simplest thing in the world. The moment they are born again eternal life comes into their spirit. That spirit then can come into the closest relationship with the Father, the great Healer, and the life of God then pours down into their spirit, soul, and body, and they are immediately touched and made whole.

You cannot get healing for the body, as far as you are personally concerned, somebody else's faith may, but until your spirit is right you cannot get healing for your body. May I call your attention to another thing? Faith is a product of your spirit, not of your intellect. Your intellect does not produce faith. Your knowledge may give you grounds for faith, but faith is resident in your spirit.

Joy is something in your spirit. Happiness is something connected with your surroundings. You are happy because of your surroundings. You are joyful because you are in right relation with the Father. Now faith, love, joy, hope, all spring from your spirit being, the hidden man of the heart. All are products of your spiritual life. The reason people do not have rich, beautiful faith is because their spirit is denied the privilege of communion and fellowship with the Father. You understand me? You don't read your bible, you don't pour over it and you don't live in it. You don't spend any time in fellowship with the Father. Consequently, your spirit is depleted and weakened. Faith springs out of it and the faith that grows out of it is a sickly plant. On the other hand, your spirit life is made fruitful and built up and enriched by communion with the Father and by reading His Word. Your spirit becomes strong and vigorous and there issues from it a faith that is triumphant and creative. I venture to say this. The men and women who are weak in faith, who were once mighty in faith, are so because they have stopped feeding on the Word of God and stopped close intimate fellowship with the Father.

Let me say to you with all frankness that you cannot lose your faith until you have broken your fellowship. Just as long as your fellowship is rich and your spiritual life is at flood tide, faith is triumphant. I have followed that in my own life. For years I did not understand the law that governs it. I see it now. You see, here is the thing that is mightily important. The spirit life in man is kept healthy and vigorous by three exercises. There are more ways, but there are three in particular.

One is FEEDING ON THE WORD. Another is a CONTINUAL PUBLIC CONFESSION of what you are and what Jesus is to you. I am not talking of confessing sin. I mean confession of your faith in Christ, of what Christ is to you, of His fullness, His completeness and His redemption. The third thing is COMMUNION WITH HIM. Feeding on the word, confession, and communion. Three simple things aren't they? Yet they are the things that produce great spiritual life. You do not have it without them.

There are three planes of healing. They are spiritual, mental and physical. Now, for a moment, I want to call your attention to another very important fact, that is, the relation of your body to your spiritual life. Paul said in the 9th chapter of 1st Corinthians that he kept his body under lest haply, after he preached to others, he himself would be laid aside - not lost, but laid aside, no longer useable. Why? Because his body had gained the ascendancy over his spiritual life. If you become a glutton and just live to gratify your appetite by eating and drinking, you will lose out spiritually. However, if you keep your appetite under control and your body under, like Paul says he did, your spirit will have a chance to evidence itself.

Now let me state it again. You may be or have been a great spiritual athlete, but somewhere you have stopped feeding on the word. The word lost its taste and flavour for you. You say, "How can it be?" It can be. I know of preacher after preacher that had great power at one time, but now they have lost all joy in the Scripture. How do I know? Well, I know by the way they act. When a man loves a woman he wants her with him doesn't he? He doesn't want to go off and spend evenings alone. Similarly, when a man loves his bible you will find the bible with him, in his arms, somewhere near. He has gotten hold of the thing. He is holding it.

When I find a man getting on in years and his hair is growing grey, and I find he loves his bible, I know that man is fresh in his spirit life. One of the mightiest men I ever fellowshiped with in my life greatly loved his bible. When he and I would be together in prayer, sometimes I would open my eyes and look at him, and he would be on his knees with his bible and kissing it. He didn't want anyone to see him. He thought my eyes were closed. He was holding it just like a man holds his wife in his arms and kisses and embraces her and loves her.

When I reach a place where I lose my appetite for that book and rather talk with people than read the bible, or rather read books about the bible than to read the bible, then I know I am backslidden in my spirit.

I can trace the downfall of every spiritual giant that I have ever known in my life to these three things. One of the greatest men this country ever produced, I heard him when that book was in his hand. When he preached like this he drove me to my knees. Every time I heard him I would go out and get alone and pray if I could possibly do it. He just battered me and hammered me and drove me into my hole, so to speak. Other times he filled me and thrilled me and lifted me. I saw him 20 years later, when his name was on the lips of every man, and I heard him preach. I noticed that he quoted a good many scriptures but he never picked up his bible. I also noticed he had a theory and philosophy of redemption instead of the simple, old-time exposition of the Word. I saw that man, whose name was known in every part of the world with something like

60 Churches back of him, in a building that seated 3500 but the building was not half full. He had the greatest gospel soloist that this country has ever produced, but the meetings were as dry and dead as any formal service imaginable. They utterly failed. I asked the singer, who left that field and came with me for a campaign or two, "Charley, what is the matter with him?" "Well," he said, "I do not know, but he is no more like the man he used to be than anything in the world." No sin had come into that man's life. He was just as clean as he had ever been. Here is how it had happened. Somehow or other he had broken in his spiritual life with the food of the Spirit, the bible. The second thing was, he used to have the most marvellous prayer life. He didn't have it any more. The third thing was that in that whole sermon I didn't hear one personal confession. He was preaching in a place where personal confession was taboo. People criticised it. If you said anything about yourself and your own experience, the ministers would immediately say, "He is bragging about his own life, isn't he?"

You will brag about your own life if you have power with God. You can't help this bragging. You have something to brag about, you really have. You walk in the fullness of the life and fellowship of your spirit with His Spirit and you have something to talk about, haven't you? Fresh new experiences are coming into you all the time. You are walking in the realm of miracles. I knew that man when he walked in the creative realm of faith and I knew him when he moved down into the purely intellectual realm.

Healing is basically a spiritual thing. The power that heals the sick comes down from God through your spirit, out through your hands, into that man or woman. If you are having the right kind of spiritual fellowship you will have power with God. There is no escaping it. Listen, you can't get a powerful current of divine life from a little impoverished wire, can you? You can't get it when the wire, where it connects with you, is corroded with worldly cares either. We should call in the electrician and say to him, "I want you to wire my spirit up to God. I want fresh equipment all the way through." Hallelujah!

You say, I will tell you what I want. I want to be able to stand about 10,000 volts. I want to be wired up to God so that the fullness of His power can pour down through me, through my soul, and out through my hands and voice to the people.

How does that come to you? It's the simplest thing in the world. Your spirit interlocks with His Spirit without any foreign substance intervening. One day my Reo car stopped right in traffic. A young lady sat with Mrs Lake and she said, "Let me try it." She worked the accelerator but it wouldn't work. Then she said, "Wait a moment." I jumped out of the car and I raised the hood. She said, "I can tell you where it is." She just opened up the distributor, and said, "One of those points has got a fleck of dirt on it." She brushed it off with her handkerchief and put it on again. The car started right off. That point of the distributor had some little dust, something under it, some little corroding, something that broke the current. It was a delicate little thing and it didn't take much.

It doesn't take much to break the connection of your spirit and His. God is a Spirit. You are a spirit. When something breaks the connection the power no longer flows through. You say you want me to pray for you and I pray for you. There is no power.

What is the matter? Something has broken the connection. The power comes down through the one who prays, but it can't get through your spirit and touch you. Or there may be something in my spirit and His Spirit wants to communicate with your spirit, but is hindered by something in my spirit. But suppose you and I are both right in our spirits. You will get your healing as sure as God sits on His throne. "And if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead" shall send healing through your spirit into your mortal flesh as sure as God is on His throne.

The second thing that must be done continually is, after you have fed on the Word and your spirit is open to the truth of confession you must speak out. You can't bottle God up. You can't lock Him up. It has been God's method throughout all the ages to speak to people through those that are in right relation with Himself. When you are in right relation with Him the most normal and natural thing is that He will use you to communicate Himself to others. You act as the medium through which He pours out His message, by song or by testimony or prayer or some other means. You are His medium. You are His testifier. You are His spokesman, His instrument through which He is going to work. Beautiful, isn't it?

You are kept in perfect communion because you have to continually get new messages all the time from Him. You live in perfect fellowship with Him, feeding on His Word and telling out the things He does for you. No Christian is safe that hasn't a NOW experience with the Lord because sickness can come on you and you have no power to throw it off. You have your NOW experience in your spirit and you are continually in contact and the spiritual power is going back and forth continually. Things are coming down from Him to you and things are going up from you to Him, through your spirit. You have a beautiful picture. Angels ascending and descending. It is the thoughts of God coming down and your thoughts going back. He is feeding on you, and you are feeding on Him.

The relation of your body to your spiritual life is almost an unexplored tableland of possibilities. In Romans 6:12, Paul says, "Let not sin therefore reign as God in your death-doomed body." Let not sin reign. What is sin? It is disease. He is not talking about sin, because if there is any sin in you it is not in your body. If there is any sin, it is in your spirit or in your soul, isn't it? It is somewhere active in your thinking processes. He says, "Let not sin reign as God in that death-doomed body." Sin is a broken physical law in your body. That is sickness.

If I have a boil, and that boil gains dominion and runs my body, my mind and my spirit, all I do is nurse that miserable, throbbing, aching enemy that is in there raising the devil. That is sin in my flesh, and sin has been condemned in the flesh. God condemned the thing and now it has broken out in there. What is rheumatism? It is sin in the flesh. Sin shall not have dominion over you, in your body, for you are no longer under law, but under grace, when your body became the temple of God. Know ye not that your body has become a member of Christ? Shall a member of Christ be made the member of a harlot? That does not necessarily mean a woman who is a harlot as we commonly use the word. It may mean money, it may mean gluttony, it may be a thousand things. What it means is that I have taken my body away from the Lord and the Lord's use and I have committed it to some other use that should not be. "Let not sin reign in

your mortal body as king.” Hallelujah! “Neither present your members as instruments of unrighteousness.” You turn your body over to be used by doctors to make money out of and surgeons chop you up for a splendid fee.

A woman said to me recently, “My daughter has determined that she will have an operation.” I said, “What is the matter with her?” She replied, “The doctor doesn’t know but he thinks he ought to explore in there.” Did you ever hear of it? He is going to cut her open and send a Livingstone in there to explore. Great, isn’t it? Then the daughter will turn, after she is all wrecked and ruined and can’t get any healing, to the lord. She will probably expect to get her healing without asking the Lord’s forgiveness for turning her body over to some man for examination and experimentation. “Know ye not that your body is the temple of God?” Shall I take the temple of God, then, and turn it over to idols and to demons?

That body of yours is God’s holy house, God’s holy dwelling place. It is the most sacred thing on earth. The temple that God designed and gave to Israel in the wilderness contained the Holy of Holies, the inner place, didn’t it? And in the temple that Solomon was permitted to build for God was the Holy of Holies. The Shekinah Presence dwelt there. The Shekinah Presence now dwells in your body.

Imagine a beautiful church which cost half a million dollars. Everything is in perfect harmony. It has wonderful carpets and rugs, wonderful furniture, wonderful decorations and the most up-to-date lighting scheme. Everything is perfectly beautiful and artistic. It is a dream of architectural beauty. They dedicate it to the Lord on Saturday and go home. Sunday they are going to hold their first service in it, but when they open the door that morning they make the most awful discovery. A horrible stench rushes out to meet them. What has happened? I will tell you. A sacrilegious man opened the door the previous night and drove a herd of hogs into the sanctuary. They were in that beautiful edifice all night.

That is just what we do with these bodies of ours. We dedicate them to God and then we let a flock of unclean thoughts come in and we let disease come in. We let them settle in until these precious bodies that belong to God are filled with the children of these unclean things. Tuberculosis is the child of a thought. It is the product of a mental and spiritual condition. It is true that when we are in right communion and fellowship with the Lord there is not enough power in all hell to put disease upon your little finger.

We have permitted that herd of dirty, devilish swine to come into our bodies and fill them with disease.

Now beloved, let us go into the thing a little bit further. The real healing of your life begins in your spirit, doesn’t it? Hebrews 7:25; “Wherefore He is able to heal (save) to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for us.”

If God is able to heal to the uttermost, then there are no healings that are impossible, are there? Absolutely none. It doesn’t make any difference how sick you are. There is healing for you if you are in contact with the Healer. I don’t care how beautiful your

fixtures are. If one of the fuses is blown, you won't get any light. The fuse that lets the light of God into you is your spirit and if that thing is diseased and weak and sickly, you can't get much of a current through it, can you?

A man had a vision. He saw a strange sight. He saw a piece of desert land with sickly flowers and trees growing on it. He awakened and the picture persisted in following him. The next night the same picture came before him again and it persisted for three nights. Finally he said, "Lord, what is this?" A voice answered, "Don't you know what it is?" He said, "No, Lord, I don't know that I do." He sat looking carefully at it again and he could see it, very vividly. He said, "Lord, that is me, myself. That desert is myself." He said, "I can see that faith and love and peace and joy that should grow there are those weak sickly plants. The Lord said, "What would you do if your garden was like that?" He replied, "I'd hoe it and cultivate it and irrigate it." The Lord left him to think it over.

If your faith is weak and sickly it is because your spiritual connection with the Lord is faulty. Maybe there is a fuse blown. Maybe a switch is out. There it is. Now there must be a right adjustment of the soul to the body and of soul and body and spirit. I am a threefold being. To get the highest results my spirit must be dominant. My soul must be subservient to my spirit. My body must be under the control of my soul. When my body and soul and spirit are in rapport, when they are in perfect fellowship with each other, they can bring forth real results, can't they?

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of God? When that comes to pass there comes two spirits. There are two spirits in your body now. There was one before. It was a renewed spirit, then the great mighty Holy Spirit came in. Now you have two spirits in your body, and one soul.

The Holy Spirit wants to dominate your spirit. He wants, through your spirit, to communicate the unveilings of the Father, through the word, to your intellect and bring your intellect and your affections up into perfect harmony with His will. As you yield yourself to Him and you pour over the Book you take it as your own. You read it, you feed upon it, you eat it. It becomes more necessary than your daily food. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word." You pour over the word and meditate on it and you get at the heart of the thing. Your spiritual nature grows and develops until it dominates your intellect. If you read intellectual things, novels, and cheap stories, your sickly intellect will absolutely dominate your whole life and break your communion with the Lord and leave your spirit life in darkness.

The way to health is back again to where we belong, isn't it? I put to you that it is possible to re-build your spiritual life as you can re-build a broken body. I have told you how many of the great athletes grow strong. One of them I met years ago, a wrestler, was given up to die of tuberculosis at 18. He went on to become one of the outstanding wrestlers in America. What a man can do in his physical body he can do in his spirit and with his intellect. There is absolutely no reason why our spiritual life should not be up to 100% efficiency.

I wish I was keen enough in my spiritual senses. I'd have a blackboard put behind us and I'd have some one come that could draw. I would look over the audience one at a

time and I'd say to the artist, draw that man's spirit and let me show his spiritual condition. You would see your spirit up there. If it was a weak, sickly, puny thing, you would see it. When some people come in the meeting, their spirits are on a stretcher, emaciated, tubercular, with no flesh on them. They are skinny, horrible looking living corpses with great big husky bodies. Their spirits are shrinking, feeble, emaciated things, and they come up and say, "What is the matter with me? I don't seem to have any joy with the Lord." Well, a tubercular spirit will have no special joy. I know. I have spiritual discernment. Imagine me saying, "Brother, you have spiritual tuberculosis. Your spirit is emaciated. I don't know whether it will survive the night."

Someone else comes to me and says, "What is the matter with me?" I look at him carefully for a moment. "Do you want me to diagnose it?" "Yes sir" "You have cancer. Yes sir. It is on your spirit. It is laying siege to the jugular vein of your spirit, and I don't think it will be long before it will finish your spiritual life. It will kill you outright."

Another man says, "I will tell you what ails me." He says, "I will illustrate it. My little boy used to take his money to buy his lunch at the school. Instead of buying lunch he bought candy and cheap soda water to drink, and he ate pie and cake and candy until they found out." The man said, "I found out he would not eat meat, and he wouldn't eat vegetables. We thought there was something desperately wrong with him, and there was. So we put a spy on his track and we found out he was buying candy and eating it."

Now if your spirit has reached the place where it has no appetite for the things of God, you have been playing hooky. You have been feeding on things that you ought not to eat. You have compelled your poor spirit to feed on trash and cheap scandal, cheap and useless talk, wise cracking and everything. You have never given your spirit any real, healthy food for a long time and the poor thing is dying of hunger.

Do you understand me now? You can't get your healing until you get your spiritual healing. If you get your healing you will get it through the doctor's faith. Do you understand? And you will lose it again. But if you get it through your own spirit being in perfect fellowship with the Lord, and somebody praying for you, or you praying for your self, or nobody praying for you at all, you will be able to keep it.

The doctor told of an experience he had in Texas where nearly a whole congregation had come for healing. He told them, "You just sit here and listen to me preach and I won't pray for you at all." He said most of that congregation were perfectly healed in just a little while. They came every day for 30 days and at the end of the 30 days there was only about 7% of the whole congregation that was not healed. All they did was to get spiritually healed and when you get spiritually healed, the chances are a hundred to one you will be healed physically. I want to tell you this. I don't want to hurt your feelings. God bless you, but I have discovered that there are quite a number of folks that come to be prayed for who are healed over and over again. The healing you want is not physical but spiritual. If you get right and get adjusted so you are feeding on the Word and giving public testimony you will be well, or in a condition to get well.

## 25. THE STRONG MAN'S WAY TO GOD

Musicians talk of an ultimate note. It is not a note you will find on any keyboard. It is a peculiar note. A man sits down to tune a piano, or any fine instrument without a guide to the proper key, and yet he has a guide. That guide is the note in his soul. The nearer he can bring his instrument into harmony with that note in his soul, the nearer perfection he has attained.

There is an ultimate note in the heart of the Christian. It is the note of conscious victory through Jesus Christ. The nearer our life is tuned to that note of conscious victory, the greater the victory that will be evidenced in our life.

In my ministry in South Africa there was a young lady, one of the most beautiful souls I have ever known, who was baptised in the Spirit when perhaps only seventeen or eighteen years old. One of the remarkable developments in her, after her baptism in the Spirit, was that the Spirit of God would come powerfully upon her and she would sit down at the piano and translate the music her soul heard. Other times the Spirit would come upon her so powerfully that she would be caused to sing the heavenly music in some angelic language.

God gave her the gift of interpretation so that quite frequently, when the Spirit came upon her, she would re-sing the song in English, or Dutch as the case might be. Her father and mother were both musicians. They soon learned that when the Spirit thus came upon her, they could record the music. The father would stand at one side and take the words of the song as she sang them. The mother stood at the other side and recorded the music as she played on the instrument. In this way a great deal of the music was preserved.

Some years later, Clara Butts, the great Prima Dona came to Africa. She was singing at the Wanderers Hall in Johannesburg. One evening after the concert, while being entertained at the hotel, I was introduced to her. She said to me, "Mr Lake, I have been very anxious to meet you. I have heard that among your people is a remarkable woman who receives music from the Spirit, apparently of a different realm than ours." I said, "Yes, that is a fact." She inquired if it would be possible to meet her and so a meeting was arranged.

We went to her hotel one evening and, as we sat down, Clara Butts said to the young lady, "I wish you would sit down and play some of the music I have heard about." She did not understand that the music only came at such times as the Spirit came powerfully upon the woman. However, the young lady sat down at the piano. I said to the company, "Let us bow our heads in prayer." As we did and waited, soon the Spirit of God descended upon her and then there poured through her soul some of that wondrous, beautiful, heavenly music. I waited to note the affect on the company. When the song was finished I looked particularly at Clara Butts who was weeping silently. She arose to her feet and, coming forward to the piano, she reached out her hands saying, "Young lady, that music belongs to a world that my soul knows little about. I pray every day of my life that God may permit me to enter. In that realm is the ultimate which my soul sometimes hears, but which I have never been able to touch myself."

Beloved, in the Christian life, in the heart of God, there is an ultimate note. That note, which is so fine and sweet and true and pure and good, causes all our nature to respond to it, and it rejoices the soul with a joy unspeakable.

All down through the ages some have touched God and heard that ultimate note. I believe that as David sat on the mountainside as a boy, caring for his father's sheep, God, by the Spirit, taught him the power and blessing of that ultimate note. I believe that at times his soul ascended into God so that many of his Psalms are the real soul note of that blessed expression of heavenly music and heaven-consciousness which came into the soul of the shepherd boy.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, understood that note. I remember when I was a young man in a Methodist bible class that I taught, we were discussing the subject of the Magnificat. It was that glorified expression which burst from the soul of Mary as she met Elizabeth, when the Spirit came upon her and revealed to her friend that she was to be the Mother of Jesus. In our worldly wisdom we decided of course that Jewish women must have been educated to compose that character of poetry spontaneously.

Many times afterwards, when I saw the Spirit of God descend upon a soul and that soul break forth into a song of God, the song of the angels, in a note so high and sweet and pure and clear as no human voice ever had produced perhaps without it, I understood the marvel that took place in the soul of Mary when she broke forth into the heavenly expression of that holy song.

*“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour,”* and so on.

It was the Spirit of the Lord. Her spirit had ascended into the heavenlies. Her spirit had touched heaven's note. Her spirit was receiving and reproducing the song of joy that she heard, possibly from the angels, or intuitively from the heart of God.

There is a Christianity that has that high note in it. Indeed, Christianity in itself, real Christianity, is in that high note of God. It is of heaven, not of earth and it is not natural. It is more than natural. It is the note of heaven that comes to the earth and fills the soul of man. Man's soul rises into heaven to touch God, and in touching God, receives that glorified expression and experience into his own soul and it is reproduced in his own life and nature.

Beloved, there is a victory in God that characterises the common walk of a high-born Christian. It is the strong man's salvation. It is the salvation that comes from God. The spirit of man touches the Spirit of God and receives the experience that we commonly speak of as the blessing of salvation, from God.

Beloved, the soul that receives from God into their spirit that heavenly touch, knows. He does not have to be told by man. He knows by the Spirit of God that he has become the possessor of the consciousness of union with the Spirit of God. It has enlightened his heart, filled his soul with holy joy and caused his very being to radiate with God's glory and presence.

The hunger of my soul, for a long time, has been that I might be able to so present that high true note of God that souls of men will rise up in God and take that place of power, purity, and strength where the presence and character and works of Christ are evidenced in and through them. There can be no distinction between the exercise of the real power of God, as seen in Jesus, and its reproduction in a Christian soul. There is a purity of heaven so high, so holy, so pure, so sweet that it makes the life of the possessor radiant with the glory and praise of God.

During one of the periods of extreme necessity in our great work in South Africa our finances became cut off for various reasons. I was anxious that there should be no cutting back of the work we were then doing. I was trusting that it would not be necessary to withdraw our men who had laboured and suffered to get the work established on the frontier.

However, not being able to supply funds to those on the front, I deemed it the only wise thing to do to get them all together in a general conference and decide what our future action was to be. By great sacrifice, a sacrifice too great for me to tell you about, we succeeded in bringing in our missionaries from the front for a council. I told them the existing conditions and we sat down that night to decide what our future policy would be. After a while I was invited by the committee to leave the room for a minute or two. While I was in the vestry the brethren in the body of the tabernacle continued their conference and went on discussing the general question. When I returned, they said to me, "Brother Lake, we have arrived at a decision." Old Father Van de Wall spoke for the company. He said, "We have reached this conclusion. There is to be no withdrawal of any man from any position. We feel that the time has come when your soul ought to be relieved of responsibility for us. We feel we have weighed on your life long enough. Now, by the grace of God, we return to our stations to carry on our work. We live or die depending on God. If our wives die, they die. If our families die, they die. If we survive we survive, but we are going back to our stations. This work will never be withdrawn. We have one request. Come and serve the communion of the Lord's supper to us once more while we stand together."

As I took the cup they arose and stood in a large circle. I took the bread and passed it. It went from hand to hand around the circle. When it came time to pass the wine I took the cup in my hand, and with the usual statement that Jesus gave in the committal of Himself to God, "My blood in the New Testament," I passed it on. The next one, looking up to God, said too, "My blood in the New Testament." And so it passed from hand to hand, all the way around the circle.

Within a few months I was compelled to bury twelve out of that company. Every one of them might have lived if we had been able to supply the ordinary, essential things they should have received. But beloved, we had made our pledge to God. We had declared by the love of God in our souls and because of what Christ had done for us, that we would be true to Him. We declared that, in the name of Christ, His gospel should be spread abroad as far as it was in our power to do.

Men have said that the cross of Christ was not a heroic thing, but I want to tell you that the cross of Jesus Christ has put more heroism in the souls of men than any other event in human history. Men have lived and rejoiced and died, believing in the living

God, in the Christ of God whose blood cleansed their hearts from sin. They realised the real, high spirit of His holy sacrifice. They manifested to mankind that same measure of sacrifice and endured all that human beings could endure and, when endurance was no longer possible, they passed on to be with God. They left the world blessed through the evidence of a consecration deep and true and pure and good, like the Son of God Himself.

We see the note that was in the soul of Paul, which characterised his message, when he made the splendid declaration which I read from Romans 1:16:

*“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”*

You can see the note that touched the souls of men, the note that rang down through the centuries and which rings in your heart and mine today. Christianity WAS NEVER DESIGNED BY GOD TO MAKE A LOT OF WEAKLINGS. It was designed to bring forth a race of men who were bold and strong and pure and good. The greatest and the strongest and the noblest is always the humblest.

The beautiful thing about the gospel is that it eliminates from the life of man that which is of himself, that which is natural and fleshly and earthly. It brings forth the beautiful things within the soul of man - the unselfishness, the life of purity, the peace, the strength and the power of the Son of God. How beautiful it is to have the privilege of looking into the face of one whose nature has been refined by the Spirit of the living God. How beautiful it is when we look into the soul of one whom we realise God has purged by the blood of Christ until the very characteristics of the life and attitudes of the mind of Christ are manifest and evident in him to the glory of God.

Christianity is a strong man's gospel. Christianity, by the grace of God, is calculated to take the weak and fallen, the erring and suffering and dying and, by applying the grace and power of God to the soul of man and his need, lift him up to the “Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” Blessed be God.

“Down in the human heart,  
Crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore,  
Touched by a loving heart,  
Wakened by kindness,  
Chords that were broken  
Will vibrate once more.”

I care not how crushed the soul, how bestialised the nature. I care not how sensual. If touched by the Spirit of the living God, a man will shed off that which is earthly and sensual and give forth, once again, the pure note of the living God. He will give forth heaven's high message, heaven's triumphant song, heaven's high note of living praise to the living God. Blessed be His Name.

God is endeavouring by His Spirit, in these days, to exalt the souls of men into that high place, that holy life, that heavenly state whereby they walk in the heavenly consciousness of the presence of Christ in their hearts every hour of every day.

The presence of Christ in the souls of men produces the purity that is in Him. For the "wisdom that cometh from above is first pure." Purity is of God. Purity is of the nature of Christ. Purity is heaven's highborn instinct that fills the souls of men, making them in their nature like the Son of God. Upon the purified soul there comes from God that blessed measure of the Holy Spirit. He not only purifies his nature, but empowers him by the Spirit so that the activities of God, the gift of His mind and the power of His Spirit, is evident by the grace of God in that man's soul and life. It lifts him, by the grace of God, into that place of holy and heavenly dominion in the consciousness of which Jesus lived and moved and always accomplished the will of God. Not the earth-consciousness, born of the earth and earthy, but the heaven-consciousness. It was that high, holy consciousness of the living God, of His union with Him, which caused the Christ to walk as a prince indeed.

Jesus was not bowed down and overcome by conditions and circumstances about Him. He realised that in the soul of man was creative power. He knew that creativity was within his soul, and common to His and every man's nature, to protect, accumulate and possess, as sons of God. It was through the creative faculty of His soul the desires of His heart might be brought to pass.

That is the reason God dared to talk as He did to Moses. That is the reason God dared to rebuke a man when he stopped to pray. That is the reason God said, "Why standst thou here and criest unto me? Lift up the rod that is in thy hand, and divide the waters."

Beloved, your soul will never demonstrate the power of God in any appreciable degree until you understand the real vision of the Christ of God whereby He knew that, through His union with the living God, His soul became the creative power through which He took possession of the power of God and applied it to the needs of his own soul and the needs of other lives.

"I am the resurrection and the life," He said. Lazarus was dead. His friends were weeping, but the Christ was there. He opened His soul to God in a cry of prayer and the Spirit of God so moved within Him and the consciousness of His high dominion in God so possessed Him, that He gave forth that wondrous command, "Lazarus, come forth!" The dead obeyed the call and the spirit that had gone on into the regions of the dead returned again and was joined to the body. Lazarus was restored by the power of God. Blessed be His Holy Name.

As a boy I received my religious training in a little Methodist class meeting. I wish there were some old time Methodist class meetings in these modern days, the kind that had the power of God. The needs of men's souls were met in them. People could open their hearts and tell of their temptations and their trials and victories and receive council from the one who guided the class.

I owe a great deal of the development that God has brought forth in my life to those class meetings.

In one meeting, as I sat listening to the testimonies, I observed that there was a kind of weakening trend. People were saying, "I am having such a hard time." "I am feeling the temptations of the world so much," and so forth. At that time I was not able to tell people what the difficulty was. I was only a young Christian. However, when they got through I observed the old class leader, a grey headed man, say something like this, "Brethren, the reason we are feeling the temptations so much and the reason there is a lack of the sense of victory is because we are too far away from the Son of God. Our souls have descended. They are not in the high place where Christ is. Let our souls ascend. When they ascend into the realm of the Christ we will have a new note. It will be the note of victory."

Beloved, that is the difficulty with us all. We have come down out of the heavenlies into the natural and we are trying to live a heavenly life in the natural state. We are overburdened by the weights and cares of the flesh and life all about us. Bless God, there is deliverance. There is victory. There is a place in God where the flesh no longer is a bondage. A place where, by the grace God, every sensuous state of human nature is brought into subjection to the living God. This place is where Christ reigns and glorifies the very activities of a man's nature, making him sweet and pure and clean and good and true. Bless His Holy Name.

I call you today, beloved, by the grace of God, to that high life, to that holy walk, to that heavenly atmosphere, to that life in God where the grace and Spirit and power of God permeates your whole being. Not only your whole being is in subjection to His power, but it flows from your nature, as a holy stream of heavenly life, to bless other souls everywhere by the grace of God.

There was a period in my life when God lifted my soul to a wondrous place of divine power. Indeed, I speak conservatively when I say that I believe God gave me such an anointing of power as has seldom been manifested in modern life. That anointing remained with me for a period of eight months. One of the evidences of the power of God at that period was such a consciousness of dominion to cast out evil spirits that the insane were brought from all quarters of the land, some slobbering idiots. In many instances, as I approached them, the Spirit of Christ would rise up in me in such dominion that I could take hold of them and, looking into their faces, I would realise that God had given me power to cast them out. Hundreds of times the insane were healed instantly right on the spot.

I have been a student all my life. Not just a student of letters, but of the things of the soul. God helped me by His grace to take note of and analyse the conditions of my own soul. I noted that when that high consciousness of heavenly dominion rested upon my life, there was one thing that stood uppermost in all my consciousness. It was the vision of the triumphant Christ, the Son of God, as pictured by John in the first chapter of Revelation. There He stands forth in the mighty dignity of an overcomer, declaring, "I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Beloved, I want to tell you that the soul joined to Christ, who exercises the power of God, ascends into the high consciousness of heavenly dominion that is in the heart of Jesus Christ today, for He is the Overcomer, the only Overcomer. When my soul is joined to His soul, when His Spirit flows like a heavenly stream through my spirit and my whole nature is in-filled and inspired by the life from God, I too, being joined with Him, become an overcomer, in deed and in truth. Glory be to God.

I am glad that God has permitted man, even at intervals, to rise into that place of high dominion in God, for it demonstrates the purpose of God. It demonstrates that He purposes that we should not only rise into the high place at intervals, but that this should be the normal, everyday life of the Christian who is joined to God.

Christianity is not a thing to be apologised for. Christianity is the conscious life and power of God transmitted into man until his nature is transformed by the living touch and his spirit, soul and being is energised and filled by His life. Thus you become indeed, as Christ intended, a veritable Christ.

That startles some people. But the ultimate of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the ultimate of the redemption of the Son of God is to make every man, who is bound by sin and sensuousness and enslaved by the flesh, like Himself in deed and in truth, sons of God. Not sons of God on a lower order, but sons of God as Jesus was.

Paul declares, "He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and some teachers." What for? "Till we ALL come into the likeness of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Not a limited life, but an unlimited life. The idea of Christ, the idea of God was that every man, through being joined to Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, should be transformed into Christ's perfect image. Glory be to God! Christ within and Christ without. Christ in your Spirit, Christ in your soul and Christ in your body. Not only living His life, but performing His works by the grace of God. That is the gospel of the Son of God. That is the thing that Paul was not ashamed of. He said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. To the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

If any man has a question within his soul about the reality of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as it has been poured out upon the world in these last ten years, that question ought to be settled in your soul forever by one common test. That test is, has it raised the consciousness of Christianity to realise what real Christianity is?

If any one wants to analyse the development of Christian consciousness during the last two hundred years, all they have to do is to follow the preaching of the great evangelists who have moved the world. Think of Jonathan Edwards who thundered the terrors of God and told what hell was like until men grasped their seats and hung on to them, fearing they were falling into hell itself. Men were moved by FEAR to escape damnation. That was believed to be Christianity. Any coward wanted to keep out of hell. He might not have had one idea in his soul of what the real true earmark of Christianity was.

After a while, others went a step further and you can note the ascending consciousness. They said, "No, saving yourself from hell and punishment is not the ideal of the gospel. The ideal is to get saved so as you can go to heaven." Thus men were saved in order to get to heaven when they died. I have always had a feeling in my soul of wanting to weep when I hear men pleading with others to become Christians so they will go up to heaven when they die. My God, is there no appeal outside of something that is absolutely selfish?

Beloved, don't you see that Christianity is unselfishness itself? It has no consideration for the selfish individual. The thing held up above everything else in the world, and the only ideal worthy of a Christian, is the demonstration to mankind of one holy, high beautiful thing, in which the world is deficient. It is a knowledge of God. Jesus said, "Unto all righteousness" and He wrote it on the souls of men and branded it on their conscience, and stamped it on their heart until the world began to realise the ideal that was in the soul of Jesus.

"Unto all righteousness." Becoming like Christ Himself. A demonstration of the righteousness of the living God. That alone is Christianity for that was the consecration of the Christ Himself.

The only test of the Spirit that Jesus ever gave is the ultimate and final test. He said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." That is the absolute and final test. "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

So I say to you, if you want to test whether this present outpouring of the Spirit of God is the real thing, the real pure baptism of the Holy Ghost or not, test it by the fruit that it produces. If it is producing in the world, as we believe it is, a consciousness of God so high, so pure, so acceptable, so true, so good, so like Christ, then it is the Holy Ghost Himself. No other test is of any value whatsoever.

The ultimate test for yourself of the value of the thing that you have in you heart is the common test that Jesus gave, "By their fruits ye shall know them." "By their FRUITS ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

Men tell us in these days that SIN is what you think it is. Well, it is not. Sin is what God thinks it is. You may think according to your own conscience. God thinks according to His. God thinks in accordance with the heavenly purity of His own nature. Man thinks in accordance with that degree of purity that his soul realises. But the ultimate note is in God. The finality is in God.

When men rise up in their souls' aspirations to the place of God's thought, then the character of Jesus Christ will be evident in their life. The sweetness of His nature, the holiness of His character, the beauty of the crowning glory that overshadowed Him and radiated from Him, will be evident. The real life of the real Christian is the inner life, the life of the soul.

"Out of the heart," said Jesus, "proceedeth evil thoughts, fornications, adulteries" and so forth. These are the things common to the flesh of man. Likewise, out of the soul of

man proceeds, by the same common law, the beauty, virtue, peace, power and truth of Jesus, as the soul knows it.

He whose soul is joined to Christ may now, today, this hour, shed forth as a benediction upon the world, the glory and blessing and peace and power of God, even as Jesus shed it forth to all men to the praise of God.

### **PRAYER**

My God, we bless You for the ideal of the gospel of Christ that You have established in the souls of men through the blessed Holy Ghost. God, we pray to You this afternoon that if we have thought lightly of the Spirit of God, if we have had our eyes fixed on outward evidences instead of the inward life, You will sweep it away from our souls.

May we, this day, see indeed that the life of God, His inner life, the true life, God's holy life, His practical purpose, the Christ-life, is to be revealed to a race of sinful men saved through the blood of Christ, cleansed by the power of God, cleansed in the inner soul, in every department of their nature, so that through them the Lord Jesus is shed forth in His glory and life and benediction and peace and power upon the world. Blessed be Thy precious Name.

We open our nature to heaven today, asking that the Spirit of the living God will thus move in our own souls. That by His grace we shall be so perfectly, so truly cleansed by God that our nature will be sweet and pure and heavenly and true, so that we can receive from God indeed the blessed sweetness of His pure, holy, heavenly Spirit, to reign in us, to rule in us, control us and guide us for ever more. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

## 26. SPIRITUAL HUNGER

My text tonight is:

*“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6*

Hunger is a mighty good thing. It is the greatest persuader I know of. It is a marvellous mover. Nations have learned that you can do most anything to a populace until they get hungry. However, when they get hungry you want to watch out. There is a certain spirit of desperation that accompanies hunger.

I wish we all had it spiritually. I wish to God we were desperately hungry for God. Wouldn't it be glorious? Somebody would get filled before this meeting is over. It would be a strange thing, if we were all desperately hungry, for only one or two to get filled in a service.

*“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.”*

Righteousness is the rightness of God in your spirit, the rightness of God in your soul, the rightness of God in your body, the rightness of God in your affairs, in your home, in your business, everywhere.

God is an all-round God. His power operates from every side. The artists paint a halo around the head of Jesus to show that there is a radiation of glory from His person. They might just as well put it around his feet or any part of His person. It is the radiant glory of the indwelling God, radiating out through the personality. There is nothing more wonderful than the indwelling of God in the human life. The most supreme marvel that God ever performed was when He took possession of those who are hungry.

*“Blessed are they which do hunger.”*

I guarantee you that after the crucifixion of Jesus there was a hundred and twenty mighty hungry folks at Jerusalem. I do not believe if they had not been mightily hungry they would have gotten so gloriously filled. It was because they were hungry that they were filled.

We are sometimes inclined to think of God as mechanical, as though God set a date for this or that event to occur. My opinion is that one of the works of the Holy Ghost is that of preparer. He comes and prepares the heart of men in advance by putting a strange hunger for that event that has been promised by God, until it comes to pass.

The more I study history and prophecy, the more I am convinced that when Jesus Christ was born into the world, He was born in answer to a tremendous heart-cry on the part of the world. The world needed God desperately. They wanted a manifestation of God tremendously and Jesus Christ, the deliverer and saviour, came in answer to their soul cry.

Daniel said that he was convinced by the study of the books of prophecy, especially that of Jeremiah, that the time had come when they ought to be delivered from their captivity in Babylon. The seventy years was fulfilled but there was no deliverance. So he diligently set his face to pray it into being. (Daniel 9)

Here is what I want you to get. If it was going to come to pass mechanically on a certain date, there would not have been any necessity for Daniel to get that awful hunger in his soul, causing him to fast and pray in sackcloth and ashes, so that the deliverance might come.

No sir. God's purposes come to pass when your heart and mine gets the real God-cry in it and the real God-prayer comes into our spirit and the real God-yearning gets hold of our nature. Something is going to happen then.

It makes no difference what your soul is coveting or desiring if it becomes in your life the supreme cry. Not the secondary matter, or the third, or the fourth, or fifth or tenth, but the FIRST thing. If it is the supreme desire of your soul, the paramount issue, all the powers and energies of your spirit, of your soul, of your body are reaching out and crying to God for the answer, it is going to come, it is going to come, it is going to come!

I lived in a family where, for thirty-two years, they were never without an invalid in the home. Before I was twenty-four years of age we had buried four brothers and four sisters and four other members of the family were dying, hopeless, helpless invalids. I married a beautiful woman and set up my own home. Our first son was born. It was only a short time before I saw the same devilish train of sickness that had followed father's family come into mine. My wife became an invalid and my son was a sickly child. Out of it all one thing developed in my nature - a cry for deliverance. I did not know anything about the subject of healing, even though I was a Methodist evangelist, but my heart was crying for deliverance. My soul had come to the place where I had vomited up dependence on man. My father had spent a fortune on the family to no avail, as if there was no stopping the train of hell. Let me tell you. There IS NO HUMAN STOPPAGE because the thing is settled deep in the nature of man. It is too deep for any material remedy to get at it. It takes the Almighty God and the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ to get down into the depth of man's nature and find the real difficulty that is there and destroy it.

My brother, I want to tell you. If you are a sinner tonight and away from God and your heart is longing and your spirit asking and your soul crying for God's deliverance, He will be on hand to deliver. You will not have to cry very long before you see that the mountains are being moved and the angel of deliverance will be there.

I finally got to that place where my supreme cry was for deliverance. Tears were shed for deliverance for three years before the healing of God came to us. I could hear the cries and groans and sobs and feel the wretchedness of our family's soul. My heart cried, my soul sobbed, my spirit wept tears. I wanted help. I did not know enough to call directly on God for it. Isn't it a strange thing that men do not have sense enough to have faith in God for all their needs? That they do not know enough to call directly on God for physical difficulties as well as for spiritual ones? But I did not.

Bless God! One thing matured in my heart - a real hunger. The hunger of a man's soul must be satisfied. It MUST be satisfied. It is a law of God that is in the depth of the spirit. God will answer the heart that cries. God will answer the soul that asks. Christ Jesus comes to us with divine assurance and invites us, when we are hungry, to PRAY, to BELIEVE; to take from the Lord that which our soul covets and our heart asks for.

So one day the Lord of heaven came our way and in a little while the cloud of darkness, that midnight of hell, that curse of death, was lifted. The light of God shone into our lives and into our home, just the same as it existed in other men's lives and other men's homes. We learned the truth of Jesus and were able to apply the divine power of God. We were healed by the Lord.

*“Blessed are they which do hunger.”*

Brethren, begin to pray to get hungry.

I want to tell you a story. I was out on a snowshoe trip at Sault St Marie, Michigan where they used to have four or five feet of snow. I tramped for thirty miles on my snowshoes. I was tired and weary. I arrived home to find my wife had gone out to visit so I went over to my sister's home. I found they were out also. I went into the house and began to look for something to eat. I was so hungry I was nearly starving. I found a great big sort of cake that looked like corn bread. It was still quite warm and it smelled good so I ate it all. I thought it was awful funny stuff and it seemed to have lumps in it. I did not understand the combination and I was not much of a cook. About the time I had finished it my sister and her husband came in. She said, “My you must be awful tired and hungry.” I said, “I was, but I just found a corn cake and ate the whole thing.” She said, “My goodness, John, you did not eat that?” I said, “What was it, Irene?” “Why that was cow bread. We grind up the cobs and all.” You see, it depends on the character and degree of your hunger. Things taste mighty good to a hungry man.

If you wanted to confer a peculiar blessing on men at large, it would not be to give it to them, but to make them hungry, then every thing that came their way would taste everlastingly good.

I love to tell this story because it is the story of a hungry man. A short time after I went to South Africa, and God had begun to work very marvellously in the city of Johannesburg, a butcher who lived in the suburbs was advised by his physicians that he had developed such a tubercular state he might not live more than nine months. He wanted to make provision for his family to be cared for after he was gone, so he bought a farm and undertook to develop it so that when he died his family would have a means of existence.

One day he received a letter from friends at Johannesburg, telling of the coming of what they called “the American Brethren,” and of the wonderful things that were taking place. It told of how so-and-so, a terrible drunkard, had been converted and how his niece, who had been an invalid in a wheelchair for five years, had been healed of God. It mentioned how one of his other relatives had been baptised in the Holy Ghost and was speaking in tongues and other friends and neighbours who had been

baptised and healed and of the powerful change that had come in the community. All the marvels a vigorous work for God produces.

Dan VonVuuren took the letter and crawled under an African thorn tree. He spread the letter out before God and began to discuss it with the Lord. He said, "God in heaven, if You could come to Mr so-and-so, a drunkard, and deliver him from his sin and save his soul and put the joy of God in him, if You could come to this niece of mine, save her soul and heal her body and send her out to be a blessing instead of a weight and burden upon her friends, if You could come to so-and-so, so that they were baptised in the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues, Lord, if You can do these things at Johannesburg, You can do something for me too." He knelt down, put his face to the ground, and cried to God that He would do something for him. Don't forget it, friends. I have a conviction that that morning Dan VonVuuren was so stirred by the reading of that letter, his desire to be made whole got bigger than anything else in his consciousness. His heart reached for God and that morning his prayer went through to heaven and God came down into his life. In ten minutes he took all the breath he wanted. The pain was gone. The tuberculosis had disappeared and he was a whole man.

But that was not all. He not only received a great physical healing, but God had literally come in and taken possession of the man's life until he did not understand himself any more. In telling me he said, "Brother, a new prayer from heaven was born in my spirit. I had prayed for my wife's salvation for eighteen years, but I could never pray through. That morning I prayed through. It was all done when I got to the house. She stood and looked at me for two minutes, until it dawned in her soul that I was gloriously healed of God. She never asked a question as to how it took place, but fell on her knees, threw her hands up to heaven, and said, "Pray for me. Dan, for God's sake, pray for me. I must find God today," and God came to that soul.

He has eleven children, splendid young folks. The mother and he went to praying and inside of a week the whole household of thirteen had been baptised in the Holy Ghost. He went to his brother's farm and told the wonder of what God has done. He prayed through and in a little while nineteen families were baptised in the Holy Ghost.

God so filled his life with His glory that one morning God said to him, "Go to Pretoria. I am going to send you to different members of Parliament." He was admitted into the presence of Premier Louis Botha. Botha told me about it afterwards. He said, "Lake, I had known VanVurren from the time he was a boy. I had known him as a reckless, rollicking fellow. He came into my office and stood ten feet from my desk. I looked up, and before he commenced to speak, I began to shake and rattle on my chair. I knelt down. I had to put my head under the desk and cry to God. Why he looked like God and talked like God. He had the majesty of God. He was superhumanly wonderful. Then he went to the office of the Secretary of State, and to the Secretary of the Treasury. Almost the same thing took place in every instance. For eighteen days God kept him going from this one to that one. Lawyers, judges and officials in the land, until every high official in the land knew there was a God and a Christ and a Saviour, and a baptism of the Holy Ghost, because Von Vuuren had really hungered after God.

*"Blessed are they which do hunger."*

I was sitting here tonight before the meeting reading an old sermon I preached to a men's club at Spokane, Washington eight years ago, entitled "The Calling of the Soul." In it I recounted the story of the original people who came to the Parham School in 1900 who, in answer to the cry of their souls, God came and baptised in the Holy Ghost. All the Apostolic Faith Churches, and Missions, and Assemblies of God, and other movements are the result.

I knew Brother Parham's wife and his sister-in-law, Lillian Thistleweight. She was the woman that brought the light of God for real sanctification to my heart. It was not her preaching or her words. I sat in Fred Bosworth's home one night before Fred thought of preaching the gospel. I listened to that woman telling of the Lord God and His love and sanctifying grace and power, and what real holiness was. It was not her arguments or logic. It was herself. It was the divine holiness that came from her soul. It was the living Spirit of God that came out of the woman's life. I sat way back in the room, as far way as I could get. I was self-satisfied, doing well in the world, prosperous with all the accompaniments that go with a successful life. But that night my heart got so hungry that I fell on my knees and those who were present will tell you that they had never heard anybody pray as I prayed. Bosworth said long afterward, "Lake, there is one instance that I shall always remember in your life. That was the night you prayed in my home until the rafters shook, until God came down, until the fire struck, until our souls melted, until God came in and sanctified our hearts." All the devils in hell and out of hell could not make me believe there is not a real sanctifying experience in Jesus Christ. When God comes in and makes your heart pure and takes self out of your nature and gives you divine triumph over sin and self. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*"Blessed are they which do hunger."*

Beloved, pray to get hungry.

Coming back to Dan VonVuuren. For several years before I left Africa he went up and down the land like a burning fire. Everywhere he went sinners were saved, sick were healed, men and women were baptised in the Holy Ghost until he set the outlying districts on fire with the power of God. He is still going.

Here is a point I want to bring to you. As I talked with Lillian Thistleweight I observed that the one supreme thing in that woman's soul was the consciousness of holiness. She said, "Brother, that is what we prayed for. That is what the baptism brought to us."

Later, Brother Parham was preaching in Texas. A coloured man by the name of Seymour came into his meeting. Later, in a hotel in Chicago, he related his experience to Brother Tom and myself. I want you to see the hunger in that coloured man's soul. He said he was a waiter in a restaurant and was also preaching to a church of coloured people. He knew God as Saviour and as sanctifier. He knew the power of God to heal. But as he listened to Parham he became convinced of a bigger thing - the baptism of Holy Ghost. He went on to Los Angeles without receiving it, but he said he was determined to preach all of God that he knew to the people. He said, "Brother, before I met Parham, such a hunger to have more of God was in my heart that I prayed for five hours a day for two and a half years. I got to Los Angeles and the hunger was

more, not less. I prayed, “God, what can I do?” The Spirit said, “pray more.” “But Lord, I am praying five hours a day now.” I increased my hours of prayer to seven and prayed on for a year and a half more. I prayed for God to give me what Parham preached, the real Holy Ghost and fire with tongues and love and power of God, like the apostles had.”

There are great things to be had in spiritual life but they must be sought out with faith and prayer. I want to tell you God Almighty put such a hunger in that man’s heart that when the fire of God came it glorified him. I do not believe that any other man in modern times had a more wonderful deluge of God in his life than what God gave to that dear fellow. Brother Seymour preached to my congregation, to ten thousand people. When the glory and power of God was upon his spirit men shook and trembled and cried to God. God was in him.

*“Blessed are they which do hunger for they shall be filled.”*

I wonder what we are hungering for? Have we a real divine hunger, something our soul is asking for? If you have, God will answer. God will answer. By every law of the Spirit that men know, the answer is due to come. It will come! Bless God, it will come. It will come in more ways than you ever dreamed of. God is not confined to manifesting himself in tongues and interpretation alone. His life in man is rounded.

When I was a lad I accompanied my father on a visit to the office of John A. McCall, the great insurance man. We were taken to McCall’s office in his private elevator. It was the first time I had ever been in a great office building and had ridden on an elevator and I remember holding my breath until the thing stopped. Then we stepped into the most beautiful office I had ever beheld. The rugs were so thick I was afraid I would go through the floor when I stepped on them. His desk was a marvel. It was pure mahogany and on the top of it, inlaid in mother of pearl, was his name written in script. It was so magnificent that in my boyish soul I said, “When I am a man I am going to have an office just like this and a desk like that with my name on it.”

I did not know how much of a desire was in my nature, and it seemed sometimes that it had drifted away, until I was in my thirtieth year. I was invited to come to Chicago to join an association of men who were establishing a Life Insurance Association. They said, “Lake, we want you to manage this Association.” We haggled about the matter for three weeks until they came to my terms and finally the president said, “Step into this office. We want to show you something. We have a surprise for you.” I stepped into an office exactly the duplicate of John A. McCall’s office and there in the centre was a desk of pure mahogany. Instead of the name of John A. McCall, it was John G. Lake, in mother of pearl. I had never spoken of that soul desire to a person in the world.

Friends, there is something in the call of the soul that is creative. It brings things to pass. Don’t you know that when the supreme desire of your heart goes out to God, all the spiritual energy of your nature and the powers of God that come to you begin to concentrate and work along that certain line. They begin to form and form and there comes into being, by the unconscious creative exercise of faith, that which your soul

calls for. That is the creative action of faith. You and God together working out and evidencing the power of creative desire.

## TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

Mrs Jas. Wilson - Brother Myreen

You shall receive the desire of your heart if you come before Me in prayer and supplication, for I am a God that answers my children. Go forward in the battle for I shall be with you and fulfil the desire of your heart. Yes, pray that you may become hungry.

Call and I shall answer, for I am a God that hears. I shall answer your call. Come before Me, humble yourselves before My feet and I shall answer your call.

Be diligent before Me and pray. Yes, be in prayer and supplication, for you are living in the last days and my Spirit shall not always strive with men. But you that humble yourselves before Me will know I shall be your God. I shall strengthen you on the right hand and on the left, and you shall understand and know that I am your living God.

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When Moses stood at the Red Sea he tried to back out of the relationship God was establishing and tried to throw the responsibility back on God. He was overwhelmed. It was too marvellous. Surely God must not have meant it. But God knew. When he began to recognise himself as an individual and God as another it was offensive to God. He thought he could back up and pray for God to do something for him the same as God used to do in the old relationship. He could not do it. When he got down to pray, in the mind of God the idea of Moses not backing water and getting out of that close place, that inner relationship, that divine symphony of Moses' soul and God's, it was offensive to Him. And God said,

*"Wherefore criest thou unto me?"*

In other words, shut up your praying. Get up out of there.

*"Lift thou up, thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and DIVIDE IT."* Exodus 14:15-16

God did not say, Moses you stretch forth your hand, and I will divide the sea. But He said,

*"Stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it."*

Moses, you and I are one. Stretch forth your hand and divide the sea. You have all there is of Me and I have all there is of you. We are one and indivisible. God and man becomes one. The heart, mind and soul of man enters into God and God into him. The divine fires of the eternal Christ, by the Holy Ghost, come from heaven and the

lightnings of Jesus flash through the life. The power of Christ invigorates and manifests and demonstrates through that relationship.

God revealed this to my soul in the days when I first went to Africa, within six weeks of my feet touching the soil, and before God had given me a white church to preach in. I said, "Lord, when you give me a church in which to preach the gospel, I will preach the highest and holiest thing God's Spirit reveals to my heart. I do not care if anybody else believes it or sees it. I am going to preach the vision the Son of God puts in my soul."

Bless God. He put in me the high vision of the glorified Christ and the glorified Christian - not a man simply saved from sin, but a man saved from his sins, sanctified by His power, in-filled. with His Spirit, re-created with and in Jesus Christ, one in nature, character and substance. My heart began to preach it, my mouth gave the message, my soul sent forth the word and my spirit called whoever wanted to be that character of man to come to the feet of the Son of God and receive His blessing and power. Beloved, I tell you that in all the modern world there never was another hundred and twenty-five preachers who went out of a church to proclaim the power of God with greater power than that first hundred and twenty-five men did. The thing that was in my soul fired Dan VonVuuren's soul and kindled the faith of the people. Wherever it spread it set men on fire for God.

Friends, we need a coming up into God. This church and the church around the world needs to come up into God. We have been travelling around in a circle and digging our noses in the ground. We have had our eyes on the ground instead of up in the clouds, up at the throne. Look up to the glorified One! If you want to see His bleeding hands look to heaven where He is to see them. Do not look back to Calvary to see them. He is the risen, regnant, glorified Son of God in heaven, with all power and all authority, with the keys of hell and of death! He is the divine authority, the eternal overcoming manifestation of God in Heaven. You and the regnant, glorified Christ as one, are the divine manifestation of God. Come up to the throne, dear ones. Let the throne life, the throne love, the throne power, the throne Spirit and the Holy Ghost in heaven possess you and you will be a new man in Christ Jesus! Your tread will be the march of the conqueror and your song the song of victory. Your crown will be the crown of glory and your power the power of God.

## 27. A TRUMPET CALL

The 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts tells us the story of the ordination and sending forth of the apostle Paul, his ordination to the apostleship. Paul never writes of himself as an apostle until after the 13th chapter of Acts. He had been an evangelist and teacher for thirteen years when the 13th of Acts was written and the ordination, recorded there, took place. Men who have a real call are not afraid of apprenticeships.

There is a growing up in experience in the ministry. When Paul started out in the ministry he was definitely called of God and was assured of God, through Ananias, that it would not be an easy service but a terrific one. God said to Ananias:

*“Arise and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus for, behold, he prayeth; He is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake.”*

That is what Jesus Christ, the crucified and glorified Son of God, told Ananias to say to the Apostle Paul. He was not going to live in a holy ecstasy and wear a beautiful halo and have a heavenly time and ride in a limousine. He was going to have a drastic time, a desperate struggle, a terrific experience. No man in biblical history ever had more dreadful things to endure than the Apostle Paul. He gives a list in his letter to the Corinthians of the things he had endured.

*“Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice I was beaten with rods. Once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”*

They stripped him of his clothing and the executioner lashed him with an awful scourge until bleeding, lacerated and broken, he fell helpless and unconscious and insensible. They doused him with a bucket of salt water to keep the maggots off and threw him into a cell to recover. That was the price of apostleship. That was the “price” of the call of God and His service. God said, “He shall bear my name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel.” He qualified as God’s messenger.

Beloved, we have lost the character of consecration here manifested. God is trying to restore it in our day. He has not been able to make much progress with the average preacher on that line. “Mrs so-and-so said so-and-so and I am just not going to take it.” That kind of preacher has another kind of call, not the heavenly call, not the God call, not the death call if necessary. That is not the kind of call the Apostle Paul had.

Do you want to know why God poured out His Spirit in South Africa like He did nowhere else in the world? There was a reason. This example will illustrate. We had one hundred and twenty-five men out on the field at one time. We were a very young institution that was not known in the world. South Africa is seven thousand miles from any European country. It is ten thousand miles from England to the United States. Our finances got so low under the awful assault we were compelled to endure, that there came a time I could not even mail a \$10 bill to these workers at the end of the month. It got so I could not send them \$12. The situation was desperate. What was I to do? Under these circumstances I did not want to take the responsibility of leaving men and their families on the frontier without real knowledge of what the conditions were.

Some of us at headquarters sold our clothes. Some sold certain pieces of furniture out of their houses. We sold anything we could to bring those hundred and twenty-five workers off the field for a conference.

One night in the progress of the conference I was invited by a committee to leave the room for a minute or two. The conference wanted to have a word by themselves, so I stepped out to a restaurant for a cup of coffee and came back. When I came in I found they had rearranged the chairs in an oval, with a little table at one end. On the table was the bread and the wine. Old Father Van der Wall, speaking for the company, said, "Brother Lake, during your absence we have come to a conclusion. We have made our decision. We want you to serve the Lord's supper. We are going back to our fields. We are going back if we have to walk back. We are going back if we have to starve. We are going back if our wives die. We are going back if our children die. We are going back if we die ourselves. We have but one request. If we die, we want you to come and bury us."

The next year I buried twelve men, sixteen wives and children. In my judgment not one of the twelve, if they had had a few of things a white man needs to eat, would have died. Friends, when you want to find out why the power of God came down from heaven in South Africa like has not been experienced since the times of the apostles, there is your answer.

Jesus Christ put the spirit of martyrdom in the ministry. Jesus instituted his ministry with a pledge unto death. When He was with the disciples on the last night He took the cup, "when He drank, saying..." Beloved, the SAYING was the significant thing. It was Jesus Christ's pledge to the twelve who stood with Him, "...This cup is the New Testament in my blood." Then He said, "Drink ye all of it."

Friends, those who were there and drank to that pledge, of Jesus Christ, entered into the same covenant and purpose that He did. That is what all pledges mean. Men have pledged themselves in the wine cup from time immemorial. Generals have pledged their armies unto death. It has been a custom in the human race. Jesus Christ sanctified it to the church forever, bless God.

"My blood in the New Testament." "Drink ye all of it." Let us become one. Let us become one in our purpose to die for the world. Your blood and mine, together. "My blood in the New Testament." It is my demand from you. It is your high privilege.

There is not an authentic history that can tell us whether any one of them died a natural death. We know that at least nine of them were martyrs, possibly all. Peter died on a cross, James was beheaded. For Thomas they did not even wait to make a cross. They nailed him to an olive tree. John was sentenced to be executed at Ephesus by putting him in a cauldron of boiling oil. God delivered him and his executioners refused to repeat the operation so he was banished to the Isle of Patmos. John thought so little about it that he never even tells of the incident. He says, "I was in the Isle called Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." That was explanation enough. He had committed himself to Jesus Christ for life or death.

Friends, the group of missionaries that followed me went without food and without clothes. Once, when one of my preachers was sunstruck and had wandered away, I tracked him by the blood marks of his feet. Another time I was hunting for one of my missionaries, a young Englishman, 22 years of age. He had come from a line of Church of England preachers for five hundred years. When I arrived at the native village the old native chief said, "He is not here. He went over the mountains and you know Mr, he is a white man and he has not learned to walk bare footed."

That is the kind of consecration that established Pentecost in South Africa. That is the reason we have a hundred thousand native Christians in South Africa. That is the reason we have 1250 native preachers. That is the reason we have 350 white churches in South Africa. That is the reason that today we are the most rapid growing church in South Africa.

I am not persuading you, dear friends, by holding out a hope that the way is going to be easy. I am calling you in the name of Jesus Christ. You dear ones who expect to be ordained to the gospel of Jesus Christ tonight, take the route that Jesus took, the route the apostles took, the route that the early church took. It is the victory route, whether by life or death. Historians declare, "The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church." Beloved, that is what the difficulty is in our day. We have so little seed. The Church needs more martyrs blood.

If I were pledging men and women to the gospel of the Son of God, as I am endeavouring to do tonight, it would not be to have a nice church and harmonious surroundings and a sweet, do-nothing time. I would invite them to be ready to die. That was the spirit of early Methodism. John Wesley established a heroic call. He demanded every preacher to be "ready to pray, ready to preach, ready to die." That is always the spirit of Christianity. When there is any other spirit that comes into the church, it is not the spirit of Christianity. It is a foreign spirit. It is asissified substitute.

I lived on corn meal mush many a period with my family and we did not growl. I preached to thousands of people, not coloured people, but white people. While my missionaries were on the field existing on corn meal mush, I could not eat pie. My heart was joined to them. That is the reason we never had splits in our work in South Africa. This is one country where Pentecost never split. The split business began to develop years afterward, when pumpkin pie eating Pentecostal missionaries began infesting the country. Men who are ready to die for the Son of God do not split. They do not holler the first time they get the stomach ache. Bud Robinson tells a story of himself. He went to preach in the southern mountains. It was the first time in his life

that no one invited him to go home and eat with them. So he slept on the floor that night and the next night and the next night. After five days and five nights had passed and his stomach began to growl for food terribly, every once in a while he would stop and say, "Lay down, you brute" and he went on with his sermon. That is what won. That is what will win every time. That is what we need today. We need men who are willing to get off the highway. When I started to preach the gospel I walked twenty miles on Sunday morning to my service and walked home twenty miles in the night when I got through. I did it for years, for Jesus and souls.

In early Methodism an old local preacher would start Saturday and walk all night to his meeting, and then walk all night Sunday night to get back to his work. It was the common custom. Peter Cartwright preached for sixty dollars per year and baptised ten thousand converts.

Friends, we talk about consecration and we preach about consecration but that is the kind of consecration that my heart is asking for tonight. That is the kind of consecration that will get answers from heaven. That is the kind God will honour. That is the consecration to which I would pledge Pentecost. I would strip Pentecost of its frills. Jesus Christ, through the Holy Ghost, calls us tonight not to an earthly mansion and a ten thousand dollar motorcar, but to put our lives, body, soul and spirit, on the altar of service. All hail, ye who are ready to die for Christ and this glorious Pentecostal gospel! We salute you! You are brothers with us and with your Lord.

### 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, it will 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 heavens;  
And thy soul is the soul that He died to save;  
And His blood is sufficient, His power eternal;  
Therefore rest in thy God, both today and always.

Given in the Spirit in tongues with interpretation  
to John G. Take at Johannesburg,  
South Africa, 1908.

## 28. SPIRITUAL DOMINION

The lesson that God seems to have put in my soul tonight is found in 2 Timothy, the first chapter. Do you know we do not read the scriptures like people read a textbook? Have you ever observed how a scientist reads his textbook? He weighs every single word and each word has a particular meaning. If we read the Word of God like that we would get the real vitality of what it says. I wonder if we have caught the force of this Scripture:

*“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, according to the promise of LIFE, which is IN Christ Jesus.” Verse 1.*

There is no life outside of Jesus Christ, no eternal life outside of Jesus Christ, by the declaration of Jesus Himself. John said:

*“God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” 1 John 5:11-12.*

All the scriptures are dear to my heart and bring their peculiar ministry and lesson, but the words of Jesus are the supreme words of the gospel. Jesus said:

*“It is the Spirit that quickeneth ... the words that I speak unto are you, they are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63.*

The difficulty in our day is that we have run away from Jesus. That is, the Church at large has. The world is in a great struggle at the present hour, and we are in the midst of it ourselves, to get back to Jesus. We have run into false theology. We have run into churchianity and human interpretations and a hundred other follies, but friends, it is a perfectly lovely and refreshing thing to get back to Jesus. Take the words of Jesus and let them become the Supreme Court of the gospel to you.

Consider all the word of God to be the Common Court of the gospel, but the words of Jesus are the Supreme Court of the gospel. If there is a question that is not clearly decided, according to your vision, in the Common Court of the gospel, then refer it to the Supreme Court, which is the words of Jesus. The words of Jesus will settle anything that is in your mind.

If your questions were settled by the words of Jesus, we would be out of all the confusion that the world is presently in. I do not see any other way for the world to come out of her confusion unless it is to accept the words of Jesus as final authority. Jesus must be accepted as the divine finality where all questions are finally adjudicated.

As an example on that line, I suppose there is not any question in the scripture that is more muddled and fuddled and slobbered over than the subject of water baptism. We have a dozen forms of baptismal practice, emphasising different phases of baptismal consecration. The words of Jesus would settle the whole controversy. Jesus' words

settle both the spirit and mind of baptism forever. All the damnation that the Christian world has been in over this question is because we have simply refused to take the words of Jesus and believe them and obey them. I am such an enthusiast on the words of Jesus that if I was compelled to choose between the practice of the apostles and the words of Jesus, I would stand by the words of Jesus. It is the only method that has kept my soul from the confusion I see in other lives.

Coming back to our lesson, observe these words:

*“According to the promise of life.”*

There is no promise of life outside of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the most emphatic teacher the world ever saw. He said:

*“Ye must be born again.”*

There is no arbitration by which you can get around the matter. There is no possibility of avoiding that truth. You have got to come straight to it and meet it.

*“According to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus.”*

*“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which first dwelt in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”*

Timothy had two generations of women of faith behind him.

*“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee BY THE PUTTING ON OF MY HANDS.”*

Paul had some faith in the value of the putting on of his hands. It was not a mere form. I want to call your attention to the word of God, especially on this line. Paul’s own convictions were that through laying hands on this young man an impartation of God to his life had been given. It was so real that even though Timothy was not aware of it and was not exercising the power of God thus bestowed, Paul’s conviction was that the power of God was present. Why? Because he had laid his hands on him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and he believed the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ had been imparted to him. Therefore the gift of God was in him. Therefore, the faith to exercise that gift ought to be present. He believed it was present because of the fact that the faith of God had already dwelt in his mother and grandmother and, he believed, in him also.

Beloved, it takes faith to exercise your gift of God. There are lots of people around who have gifts of God that are lying dormant in their lives. There is no value for the Kingdom of God through them because of the fact that they have no faith in God to put the gift in exercise and get the benefit of it.

Probably Timothy was a timid fellow and Paul is going to show him why he should be exercising this gift of God that he believed to be in him.

*“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”*

There are so many preachers who are afraid of the devil. They have no idea of how big God is who dwells in them. They have no idea of the power given to them because God dwells in them. They preach fear of the devil, fear of demons, fear of this influence and that influence and fear of some other power. If the Holy Ghost has come down from heaven into your soul, common sense teaches us that He has made YOU the master of every other power in the world. Otherwise the word of God is a blank falsehood, for it declares:

*“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* 1 John 4:4.

*“Behold, I give unto you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”* Luke 10:19

If we had faith to believe that the “greater than he” is in us we would be stepping out with boldness and majesty. The conscious supremacy of the Son of God would be manifest in our lives and, instead of being subservient and bowed down and broken beneath the weight of sin and the powers of darkness around us, **THEY** would flee from us and keep out of our way. I believe before God that there is not a devil that comes within a hundred feet of a real God-anointed Christian. That is the kind of vision God put in my soul.

When I went to South Africa years ago I attended a great missionary conference a short time after I arrived. It was a general conference of the Christian missions of the country. On account of our teaching the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the power of God to heal, we were a peculiar feature in the conference. We were bringing a new message and they wanted to hear us and get us sized up and classified.

One of the difficulties they discussed in that conference was the tremendous influence of the native medicine men over the people. They call them witch doctors. They are powerfully developed psychic type of men and, for generations and generations they have studied psychic things, until they understood the practice of psychic laws. It is marvellous to see the psychic manifestations they bring to pass. I have seen shocking things take place at the hands of witch doctors, things that nobody would believe unless you saw them.

I remember one occasion when two native chiefs had become extremely jealous of each other. They lived sixty miles from each other. I was in the kraal of one of them and I heard him discussing this difficulty with the other chief. He decided that the next Sunday morning he was going to set the other chief on fire. I wanted to see this phenomenon so I got a horse and went across the country to be there on Sunday morning.

It was a custom for the chiefs to go out and round up their cattle and herds and look over their flocks, and so on. It was a sort of Sunday exercise. I rode along. We had not ridden for more than an hour when I observed this fellow was becoming very hot. Within half an hour he was absolutely purple. I knew something of medicine. It looked like the man was likely to have a paralytic stroke from blood pressure. After a while he began to complain of terrible pain. Finally he became exhausted, got down and lay on the ground. He passed into a state of terrible exhaustion. I believe the man would have died. I had heard about these sorts of things, but this was taking place under my own eyes. I knew that unless the man got deliverance he would die. When it got to that point I said to the brethren, "It is time that we prayed." I stepped over and laid my hands on him and called on God to destroy that damning psychic power that was destroying the fellow and God shattered it.

I talked to the conference about this matter. I said, "It is a strange thing to me that in all the years of missions in this land, your hands are tied on account of witch doctors. Why don't you go out and cast the devil out of these fellows and get the people delivered from their power?" They took a long breath and said, "Cast the devil out? He will cast the devil out of you!" The secret of our work, the reason God gave us one hundred thousand people, the reason we have twelve hundred native preachers in our work in Africa is because we believed the promise of,

*"Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

We not only went to seek them, but challenged them separately and unitedly and, by the power of God, delivered the people from their power. When they were delivered the people appreciated their deliverance from the slavery in which they had been held through their superstitions, psychological, spirit control. It was a most terrible bondage.

*"God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7*

Whenever I got in the presence of one of these fellows and wanted to cast out the devil, I always felt I wanted to catch his eye. I searched to catch his eye. The eyes of a man are the windows of his soul. In teaching a class of children I asked them what the eyes were for. One little chap said, "Your eyes are for you to look out of." Do you get it? It is not a poetic expression. They are the windows through which you look out. It is wonderful the things you see when you look out. Sometimes you see fear and the spirit of darkness and you see the devil in the other life. Marvellous things can be seen with your inner eyes.

The world laughs at our Pentecostal people because they sometimes talk about seeing by the Spirit and sometimes we talk about seeing psychically! We see all the time naturally, as you and I do now.

God anoints your soul. God anoints your life. God comes to dwell in your person. God comes to make you a master. That is the purpose of His indwelling in a Christian. The real child of God was to be a master over every other power of darkness in the world.

It was meant to be subject TO HIM. He is to be God's representative in the world. The Holy Ghost in the Christian is to be as powerful as the Holy Ghost was in the Christ. Indeed, Jesus' words go to such an extreme that they declare:

*"Greater works than these shall ye do."* John 14:12

It indicates that the mighty Holy Ghost from heaven, in the lives of the Christian, is to be more powerful in you and me after Jesus got to heaven and ministered Him to our souls than He was in Jesus.

Beloved, who has the faith to believe it? Who has faith to exercise it? We cannot exercise anything beyond what we believe to be possible. Listen:

*"God hath not given us the spirit of fear."*

Fear of the devil is nonsense. Fear of demons is foolish. The Spirit of God anointing the Christian heart makes the soul impregnable to the powers of darkness. How I love to teach men that when the Lord Jesus Christ anoints your soul and baptises you in the Holy Ghost the almightiness of the Eternal God, the Father, by the Spirit, and Jesus Christ combined, has come into your soul. One of the thirty-six articles of the Church of England says, "The Holy Ghost which proceedeth from the Father and the Son." There is no truer thing in the whole world. Do you get it? "Which proceedeth from the Father and the Son." In the fourth and fifth chapters of Revelation you see the distinctive personalities of God the Father and Jesus Christ. God the Father occupies the throne and is holding the seven-sealed book in His hand. Jesus Christ, the silent Lamb, without an attendant, not even an angel to accompany Him, absolutely alone, in loneliness as the slain Lamb, presents Himself to the Father and the Father hands Him the seven-sealed book, as He whose right it is to unseal and open the seals.

What I want you to understand is that the Spirit of God, the divine Master, the eternal Power of God, the combined life and spiritual presence of the Father and the Son, is given to you, not to leave you a weakling, and subject to all kinds of powers of darkness, but to make you a MASTER, to give you dominion in God over every devilish force that ever was.

*"God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power,  
and of love, and of a sound mind."*

The Spirit of power is the Holy Ghost. Not only of power, but of LOVE and of a SOUND MIND. Not craziness and insanity, but a sound mind, by which you can look in the face of the devil and laugh.

Once I was called to come and pray for a blacksmith at Johannesburg, South Africa. He was in delirium tremens. When I got to the house they had him locked in a room with the windows barred. His wife said, "Mr Lake, you are not going into that room are you?" I said, "Yes, I would like to." "But, Brother, you do not understand. My sons are all more powerful than you are and four of them tried to overpower him and could not do it. He nearly killed them." I said, "Dear sister, I have the secret of power that I believe matches this case."

*“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*

“Sister, you just give me the key and go about your work and do not be troubled.” I unlocked the door, slipped into the room, turned the key again and put the key in my pocket. The man was reclining in a crouch like a lion ready to spring. I never heard any lips blaspheme as his did. He cursed me by every expression I ever heard and worse. He threatened me if I came near him he would tear me limb from limb and throw me out the window. He was as big as two of me. I never saw such an arm in my life.

I began to talk to him. I had the confidence that “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” I engaged him in conversation until the Holy Ghost in me got hold of that devil, or a legion, as the case might be. I approached the bed step by step, sometimes only three inches and in half hour I got up close enough where I could reach his hand. He was still reclining in a posture like a lion. I caught his hand and turned his wrists. I was not practicing any athletic tricks, but I unconsciously turned his wrists over and as I did it brought my eyes down near his. All at once I woke up. I could see the devil in that man beginning to crawl. He was trying to get away. God Almighty can look out of your eyes and every devil that was ever in hell could not look in the eyes of Jesus without crawling. The lightnings of God were there.

My spirit awoke and I could see the devil was in terror and was crawling and trying to get back away from my eyes as far as he could. I looked up to heaven and called on God to cast that devil out and lent Jesus Christ all the force of my nature, all the power of my spirit, all the power of my mind and all the power of my body. God had hold of me from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. The lightnings of God went through me and the next thing I knew he had collapsed in a heap and flopped down like a big fish. Then he turned out of the bed on his knees and began to weep and pray, because he had become human again, and the devil was gone.

Dear hearts, don't you see in a moment, that sort of education develops a certain confidence in God and it makes your soul sick when you see Christian men and women sneak around, afraid of the devil, teaching people the devil is going to jump on you and take possession of you. Not a bit of it! There never was a devil in the world that ever went through the blood of Jesus, if the individual was in Christ.

In the Jewish bible, among the listings of the covenants, is one that is known as the Threshold Covenant. That was the covenant by which the Israelites went out of the land of Egypt, when God told them to slay a lamb, and put the blood on the door posts and lintel. The Jewish bible adds that they put the blood on the threshold. A lot of people get the blood of Jesus on their head, but it seems to me they do not get it under their feet. The Word of God teaches us to get the blood under your feet and on the right hand and on the left hand and over your head. That is your protection. There was no angel of death in the land of Egypt, or in hell, that could go through that blood into that family. No Sir! He was absolutely barred.

Friends, do you believe it was the blood of the lamb that was barring the angel of death? Do you believe the red stains on the doors frightened him away? No Sir, the blood signified to me that there is one that goes through the blood. That is the Holy

Ghost. Beloved, the eternal God, by the Spirit, went through the blood to the inside, and stayed there and defended the house.

*“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*

All these little insignificant devils that came along in this sickness or that sickness or that temptation of sin, have no power over you. Dear friends, from heaven there comes to your heart and mine the dominion of Jesus by which the God-anointed soul walks through them, through myriads of demons and they can not touch you.

I was in Pretoria, South Africa, visiting with a friend and trying to keep out of the hot sun. I went to meditate and pray. As I meditated and prayed I seemed to be lifted up in the Spirit until I was a mile or more above the city and could see the city like you would from an aeroplane. When I got up there I made a discovery. There were myriads of spirits of darkness and myriads of spirits of light in the most awful conflict I ever saw. Naturally you think of a weapon when you see a fight. I thought, “If only I had a weapon I would get into that fight.”

Presently, the Spirit of God got hold of me and, when these demons came at me from all sides, I waded into them and began to knock them down. It continued until I had knocked so many down I had to climb over them to get at the rest.

When the vision lifted I prayed, “Dear Lord, what does it mean?” The Spirit of the Lord said to me, “This contest that you have seen in the upper air will exist among your own people on the earth in six months. This lesson is to teach you that there is a dominion in Jesus Christ and “greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world!”

Friends, it is time you and I, as the blood-washed in Jesus, awoke to our privilege whereby, in the name of the Lord, we cease to sin and let no unholy condemnation remain upon our life any longer.

Maybe I have come through a different school of the Spirit than others, but I am sure of one thing. If Christianity was to leave me a weakling, to be oppressed by the power of darkness, I would seek something else because it would not meet the need. It is that which meets the need that gives you living supremacy in Jesus Christ. Friends, when your heart is surcharged by that faith in God so that “greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world,” you will pray a new prayer.

Moses came to the Red Sea with impassable mountains on the right hand, impassable mountains on the left hand, the army of Pharaoh behind him and the sea in front of him. If any man had a right to stop and pray, surely you might say that man had.

Over and over and over again, when we get to the real ditch, we try to jump the thing and put the responsibility back on God. Just watch God make a real man. When Moses got his prayer nicely started, God rebuked him and said,

*“Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak. unto the children of Israel, that they go forward; But lift THOU up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and DIVIDE it.” Exodus 14:15-16.*

I want you Pentecostal Christians to get this. God did not say, “Moses, you stretch forth your hand, and I will divide the sea.” He said, “Stretch forth thine hand over the sea, and DIVIDE IT.” You have faith in Me, YOU stretch forth your hand and divide the sea. Jesus said practically the same thing to His disciples:

*“When He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He GAVE them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” Matthew 10:1 and Luke 9:1-6.*

Beloved He gives it to you. What is the Holy Ghost? It is the gift of God Himself to you. The Holy Spirit is not simply given that you may be a channel and always a channel. No sir! Instead of that, the most magnificent thing the Word of God portrays is Christ dwelling in you by the Holy Ghost to make you a son of God like Jesus Christ. God-anointed from heaven, with the recognised power of God in your spirit, to command the will of God.

It may not be that all souls have grown to that place where such a life as that is evident, but surely if the Son of God by the Holy Ghost has been born in our heart, it is time we began to let Him have some degree of sway in our heart, some degree of heavenly dominion of value and some degree of the lightnings of Jesus Christ breaking forth from our spirit.

That is what the word of God speaks to my soul tonight. That is why my spirit rejoices in this blessed Word.

*“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

The sanest man is the man that believes God and stands on His promises and knows the secret of His power. It is the one who receives the Holy Ghost and gives Him sway in his life and goes out in the name of the Lord Jesus to command the will of God and bring it to pass in the world.

At the end of the first three hundred years of the Christian era there were millions of Christians. Christianity was an aggressive power. Christianity went into the heart of heathendom to undo their superstitions, to break down their psychological forces, to leave the consciousness of Jesus Christ in the heart, to heal the sick, to raise the dead. Oh, God in heaven, bring our hearts back to it! Christianity was a conquering force.

But friends, there was a consecration secret in the life of the early Church. It was this: if they could not conquer, they could die. Dear friends, you will never exercise very much of the dominion of the Son of God in your spirit until your heart is ready to say, “if I cannot get the mastery, I can die.” The early Christians died, plenty of them,

millions of them. That is the reason people say the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church. They died for their faith.

Friends, you and I will never know or have the big ministry and the big victory until our souls have arrived at the place where we will die for our faith also. Lord God, help us. These days, if a man gets a stomach ache he is afraid he will die. Die if you have to die, but do not disgrace the cause of Christ and weaken in your faith and sell it to man or the devil. When that degree of consecration comes into your heart, when that degree of determination comes into your spirit, you will not have to die.

But I tell you, most of us will do our dying before we enter there. That is the life into which dead men enter. That is the resurrection life. You have to die to get it. You have to die to enter there. We die to our sin, we die to ourselves, we die to the opinions of men and we die to the old world. We die to fear of spooks and demons and devils and prove the truth of the text, "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." In My name they shall cast out devils. Rebuke the devil and he will flee from you. We live in Jesus Christ. Blessed be His name.

(Ephesians 4:27, 6:11, James 4:7, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 17:20, Luke 10:19)