

# THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST



Omnipotent and Irresistable  
POWER to the Believer

**THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST: OMNIPOTENT AND  
IRRESISTIBLE POWER TO THE BELIEVER  
AND OTHER MESSAGES**

By: Ray S. Pringle, Sr.

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## FOREWORD

The message of this book is dedicated to God's people everywhere who love the Word of God and are striving to live a holy life as the Bible teaches. To all those who are sick and tired of dead churches, blind preachers, and worldly church members who do not respect the Holiness of God nor of His Word, I pledge my eternal opposition to what the devil is doing in the churches of this nation, and as a PROPHET of the Lord, to cry out against the abominations that are being committed among God's people.

These are the messages of a prophet. They are from the Lord, to help "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

These messages are the results of years of fasting and prayer, and waiting upon the Lord. God called and anointed me to be a prophet to this generation – not man. God has shown me that severe persecution is coming shortly upon the people of God, and commanded me to lift up my voice "like a trumpet" and show His people their sins, and warn them of the coming judgments of God. I believe with all my heart that this great persecution and tribulation is coming upon this generation and this nation before the coming of The Lord.

Please read the message of this book carefully and prayerfully – then share it with a relative or friend. Better yet, order other copies of this book from the address below and spread the message. Time is of essence. We must warn the church and nation within the next four years. God says, "Blow the trumpet in Zion." Much of the church of today is dead or asleep – may God anoint us greatly to go in the power of the Holy Ghost, proclaiming liberty to those who will listen to God's warning and end-time message, and will fear the Lord. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7.

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Ray S. Pringle, Sr.

## THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST: OMNIPOTENT AND IRRESISTIBLE POWER TO THE BELIEVER

We have cried loud and long enough about what God has done in times past, and what we believe Him able to do today for those in desperate need spiritually, physically, and financially – but people NOW are beginning to insist that we show them. As in the days of old we need to question our position with God as Gideon, “Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this (bondage by the Midianites) befallen us? and where be all his MIRACLES which our fathers told us of . . . ?” Judges 6:13. God’s people of this generation need desperately to evaluate their true spiritual condition, and examine the consequences of a weakened position before their deadly enemies – the world and the devil.

The prophecy of the scriptures declare that “In the last days, God will pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh.” This does not mean, and God never intended it to even insinuate that every believer would receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as in Acts 2:4. The Spirit of God IS doing just what Jesus said it would do (John 16:7-14): “Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: . . . Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” Thus the scripture explains very vividly that the Holy Ghost was sent into the world to convince (or convict) men of their sins, point them to the right paths of God, and warn us of judgment if we rejected his direction. He leads us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and repent of our sins.

Secondly, however, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is given to those who are truly born again and sanctified by the blood of



Jesus Christ. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy." Acts 2:17-18. The prophecies of the scripture declare that the end of this age will reach a climax with spiritual awakening of tremendous proportions, brought about by the Holy Ghost outpouring we are now witnessing. What is this mighty visitation of the Holy Ghost all about? Jesus, before departing the world to return to heaven, gave his followers the following commandment: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with POWER from on high." Luke 24:49. Also similar instructions with this commandment are found in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Oh, that believers could see that the Holy Ghost was sent to give us POWER – omnipotent and irresistible power over the enemies of our souls – the flesh, sin, and the devil. The best witness for the Lord is not just a loud mouth, but a victorious life over every work of the devil. The harvest is ripe, and the laborers are few – and God is visiting men and women of this generation as never before in all history – visiting them to bring them into partnership with himself – giving them irresistible power by the Holy Ghost to help bring the world back into harmony with Himself. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7-8.

Paralleling this mighty visitation and outpouring of Pentecostal power in this end-time age, there is an apostasy and a backsliding from the faith in the most alarming proportions as foretold by the Spirit. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." II Thessalonians 2:3. Also in I Timothy 4:1-2,

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” Also in II Timothy 3:1, 7, 13: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, . . . Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the TRUTH. . . . But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” The Holy Ghost is being given to us who have yielded ourselves to him so that we may have power to “escape these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” Luke 21:36.

Finding the Lord or getting saved is NOT being filled with the Holy Ghost. The disciples of the Lord were saved men and women that were commanded to go to Jerusalem “and tarry until ye be endued with power from on high.” As they tarried the scripture declares they were “continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.” Luke 24:53. These were genuinely born again disciples – sanctified men and women who loved their blessed Lord – but they needed POWER to carry out the great commission, and they closed down operations UNTIL they received the power they would so desperately need in the days ahead. The early church members were characterized by the power of the Holy Ghost in their lives – power to do the works of Christ – and their lives were aflame with this power. And that power – Holy Ghost power from on high – made them irresistible in WORD and DEED. The Holy Ghost baptism gave to the believers of the early church irresistible words, irresistible power, irresistible faith, an irresistible mind, and an irresistible nature – because they were wholly yielded to him. And the power of the Holy Ghost is just as irresistible today in the life of a truly yielded believer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Being filled with the Holy Ghost is being filled with deity, for He is the third person of the Trinity, empowering the lives of the truly, wholly-yielded believer to do the works of Christ. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will



do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.” John 14:12-18. Praise the Lord! Through fasting and prayer, the FOLLOWERS of the Lord will attain unto “the measure of the statute of the fullness of Christ”, and will become complete in HIM through the mighty Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Ephesians 4:13.

The power of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost in a totally yielded disciple of the Lord, is omnipotent and irresistible against the power of sin, sickness, discouragement, weakness, and bondage of every nature. Jesus said, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” John 7:37-39.

God never intended for his people to be slaves to the flesh, the sins of the flesh and to the devil – but to be free in body, mind and spirit. It is not enough to be “just saved.” The scripture commands us “to be strong in the Lord and in the power of HIS might.” Oh, how the church of today needs God-called, Holy Ghost-anointed men, with a heaven-sent vision, and a red hot message from the Word of God, to be “the voice of one crying in the wilderness” as was John the Baptist, to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord – men of God, not an echo, but a VOICE! The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is not given just to make us happy or to be filled with joy, but to give us power to be laborers in the harvest. The mighty Baptism of the Holy Ghost is not a trickle, but a resistless river of living water within the yielded believer. Jesus indicated the mighty irresistible power of the Spirit when he said it was like a river of living water flowing from the innermost part of the Holy Ghost baptized believer. Think of it, A RIVER! IRRESISTIBLE!

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8. Jesus came to set men free from the power of the devil. In the great commission Jesus commanded his disciples to “Go into all

the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” He also commanded his followers who are true believers “to heal the sick, cast out devils, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead.” These things can only be done by men who are “filled with the Holy Ghost” and truly anointed by the same Spirit. The apostles and ministers of the early church in the Books of Acts did these works through the mighty power of the Spirit upon them – and even Phillip and Stephen who were deacons, had the same power and anointing. “Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost . . . And Stephen, full of faith and POWER did great wonders and miracles among the people.” Acts 6:5, 8. The Holy Ghost Baptism will give genuine compassion to the yielded believer and empower him to minister to the poor, the blind, the maimed and the halt that are in the streets and lanes, the highways and byways of life. Jesus commands us to minister to those in desperate need in His name – those who are maimed and broken not only in body but in their spirits. Great gifts and resources of the Kingdom of God are at our disposal, and we CAN meet the need of those crying for deliverance. For Jesus said, “Freely ye have received, freely give!” Matthew 10:8.

Oh, how every true believer of Jesus Christ needs to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Oh, how every true believer needs omnipotent and irresistible power in their lives that they can defeat every work of Satan. We can live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit, daily. We can have power in our lives DAILY to think like God, talk like God, and act like God through the gifts of the Spirit. The scripture says, “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.” Romans 16:20. We can have peace and live a life free from torment by the devil. We CAN have God’s anointing upon our lives to speak words that defeat the devil and set others free from his bondage. The Holy Ghost was given to make us conquerors in a warfare from which there is no furlough, no vacation, no holiday, no retirement. When the people of God learn to release this mighty power of God in their lives, they will overcome every opposition of Satan.

Men of God who are truly FILLED and Baptized with the Holy Ghost, visited by God, and have cleansed their lives from all the works of the flesh, are receiving a powerful, new, and



fresh anointing from the Lord to do the irresistible works of God through the omnipotence of the Spirit in their lives. However, you CANNOT be filled with the Holy Ghost and with the world at the same time – that is, unclean habits, sins of the flesh, lustful appetites and pride. To have a life filled with the power of the Spirit, the believer must live a holy life, and there are no exceptions. The Holy Ghost was not given to make story book heroes and heroines out of men and women of God, nor legendary characters possessing some mysterious power – but God makes us who are flesh and blood, men and women of faith and power by His Spirit. The mystery of Holy Ghost power and how to possess it can be fully understood from the knowledge of God's Word. Elias was a man (James 5:17) subject to like passions as we are – just a plain MAN who was fully yielded to God – and God used him to deliver His message and perform great miracles of deliverance. The Apostle Peter was a man of varying passions, but after being filled with the Holy Ghost he conquered and overcame all the opposition of Satan in his own life, and delivered those who were in bondage to sin, sickness, fear, and oppression of the devil. You CAN have the mind of Christ and be completely free from every form of spiritual bondage, in your body, and in your spirit. “Glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.” I Corinthians 6:20. Well did the poet express this true liberty which the Spirit of God can give us:

Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage;  
Minds innocent and quiet take them for an hermitage;  
If I have freedom in my thoughts and in my soul am free;  
Angels alone that soar above, enjoy such liberty.

Richard Lovelace, the author of this poem, wrote from prison where he was jailed as a political offender of the King of England. The Holy Ghost gives us complete power over all circumstances; that is, we live above them through being completely yielded to him. “God hath not given us the Spirit of fear; but of POWER, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7. The Holy Ghost is called the Comforter in John 14:26, indicating that in distress and trouble we can have peace and comfort.

The Holy Ghost came to give us a mind of faith, that is, power to understand and believe the Word of God in the face of

every sense evidence to the contrary. The only fruit of the Spirit and gift of the Spirit alike, is Faith. We can have the Gift of Faith, and the Fruit of Faith in our lives through the power of the Holy Ghost. Through these enablements of the Spirit we stand upon the promises of God without wavering, and in believing all things become possible to you and me. "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:22-24.

The Holy Ghost Baptism was not given to the believers to keep them from persecution and from trouble. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have TRIBULATION: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Paul and Barnabas were full of the Holy Ghost and Power (Acts 16), but during a prayer meeting, the devil was cast out of a young girl present, for which they were promptly beaten unmercifully by the Roman magistrates and thrown into a Philippian jail. The Prophet Elijah was mightily anointed of the Holy Ghost to rebuke the King of Israel, Ahab, which resulted in his banishment for three and one-half years. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." II Timothy 3:12. The closer we live to God, stay filled with the Holy Ghost, and cling to the cross of Christ, the more severe our persecution will be. The Holy Ghost will not live in an unclean temple. The mighty Comforter will give us power to live holy in this present world, presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

EVERY believer who is truly baptized with the Holy Ghost will speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. And you don't have to be afraid of those unknown "tongues" as many are; it is those tongues that speak in English that are raising the devil and taking God's name in vain. "And they were



all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4. Those people were all Jews. "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Acts 10:44-46. Here these people were all Gentiles who were Baptized with the Holy Ghost. The Prophet Isaiah prophesied that God would speak to people in these last days through stammering lips and other tongues (Isaiah 28:11). The Apostle Paul quoted the same scripture in I Corinthians 14:21: "In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord." "Tongues" means languages; "Unknown tongues" means unknown languages. The Holy Spirit could not have put the explanation any simpler. There is confusion only because of blind clergymen who do not understand the doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues, and they are just simply filled with unbelief. We must be filled and baptized with the Holy Ghost to understand the Bible and the doctrines of tongues and the Holy Ghost Baptism.

There are four different reasons the Bible sets forth for the speaking of tongues by the Spirit-filled believer. First, so that we can speak unto God. "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." I Corinthians 14:2. Secondly, to edify one's own self. "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." I Corinthians 14:4. Thirdly, tongues are for a sign to unbelievers. "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe." I Corinthians 14:22. Fourthly, tongues may be given to require an interpretation. "If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God." I

Corinthians 14:27-28. Like Paul the Apostle, I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all!

It is a tragedy to get our eyes upon some weak, stumbling, and lustful professing Christian, claiming to be baptized with the mighty Holy Ghost, and emulate the fruit of their experience. The scripture commands us to be “filled with the Spirit” in Ephesians 5:18, and it takes a valiant and consistent effort to remain filled. There is a counterfeit Holy Ghost which the devil is imposing upon this untoward generation. Thousands are claiming to be filled with the Holy Ghost, and they are NOT filled with the Holy Ghost. You cannot live like the world and be filled with the Holy Ghost. The prophets and the apostles prophesied that there would be “mockers” of the blessed Holy Ghost in these last days who would not have the true Spirit of God. The word “mockers” means “mimickers” or “imitators.” “But beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be MOCKERS in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, HAVING NOT THE SPIRIT.” Jude 17-19. There is a clever counterfeit of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost being received by millions in these last days – a gift of the devil and hell itself. What are so many receiving in reality, you may say? “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” I Timothy 4:1-2. Seducing spirits are religious spirits or religious demons that are mimicking the work of the Holy Ghost – speaking in tongues, prephesying, etc. – through many who do not obey the Word of God.

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Holiness. Romans 1:4. Most of the speaking in tongues we hear about today among the neo-pentecostals and way-out charismatic groups are as counterfeit as a three dollar bill. The Holy Ghost will guide you into ALL truth. He is Holy, and He will make the Spirit-baptized believer as holy as Jesus is – NOW, in this present world. These long-haired men and boys, and mini-skirted girls and women are NOT filled with the blessed Holy Ghost. These professors, women claiming to be filled with the Holy Ghost, painted up



like a Jezebel, decked with earrings and jewelry, are not filled with the Holy Ghost. Professors of all creeds and doctrines – tobacco users, cocktail sippers, filled with pride and selfishness; lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God – these are not filled with the Holy Ghost. They may speak in other tongues and prophesy and shout – but they are only mimickers of the real Baptized believers in the blessed Holy Ghost. “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” Matthew 3:11. Praise God! The fire of the Holy Ghost baptism will burn out all the love for the world, the flesh, pride, lust, and sin of every form from our lives, and give us complete and total victory over the devil on every hand.

Oh, how the people of God need to be filled with the POWER of the mighty Holy Ghost. Weakness and lethargy would be banished; darkness and unbelief would be dispelled; pride and haughtiness would be conquered; every spirit of rebellion against the Word of God would be put to flight; every ill and division among God’s people would be healed; every hindering spirit would be overcome. My friend, don’t settle for an experience that you may have received, and were told that you had the Baptism of the Holy Ghost – but your experience does NOT harmonize with the Word of God. Do NOT doubt the Word of God – doubt your experience! “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they SHALL be filled.” Matthew 5:6. “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that OBEY him.” Acts 5:32. God gives the Baptism of the Holy Ghost to those that hunger and thirst for him, and to those who obey HIM.

God commands us to be filled with the Spirit – and we MUST be filled with the Holy Ghost and fire, or we will be filled with something. Jesus spoke this sober warning about this matter: “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places (that is, the unclean spirit) seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return unto my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it EMPTY, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than

himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.” Matthew 12:43-45. When we are truly saved from our sins, and accept the Lord Jesus Christ, the unclean spirit of the world goes out of us. But in this scripture, Jesus warns that unless we are filled and remain filled with power to overcome the devil, he will return and enter into us again – and the latter end is worse than the first. The only safe course is to be filled with the Holy Ghost – not just be forgiven. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the POWER of his might.” Ephesians 6:10. The only way to be completely victorious over sin, the flesh, and the devil is to be FILLED with the Holy Ghost!

My friend, seek earnestly to be filled with this irresistible faith and power of the Holy Ghost. Don't seek tongues – seek to be baptized and filled with the Spirit, and when He comes in, He will speak with other tongues. You will know for yourself; you will not need for someone else to tell you “now you've got it!” “Having therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” II Corinthians 7:1. Clean your life up! Seek to be sanctified by the blood of Christ. God seeks to use your body as the temple of the Holy Ghost. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” II Corinthians 3:16-17. Now, tarry until you are endued with power from on high, and you will receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and be filled with omnipotent and irresistible power.



## THIS COMPELLING HOUR

I have had several unusual experiences with the Lord, but the most impressive one, I believe, is a revelation of the end-time revival which is right at hand. I will not speak of all the wonders of this revelation, but the Lord showed me that we are moving into a revival such as the world has never known. It will not be the old-type church revival as we have known in the past, nor a nice, formal, invitational, or card-signing revival – but of those who are in the lanes and hedges and byways of life; a revival among the maimed, the halt, and the blind – a revival that will meet the needs of the body, soul, and spirit.

The hour is too late for men of God to spend their time in coaxing, begging, and entreating a few folks to come and play church while all the millions of this nation and of the whole world have ripened to the harvest. In my own spirit I have witnessed this end-time revival, and I feel it moving mightily even now in my soul. I have seen the multitudes coming, not just to fill a few empty pews, but coming to be ministered to – coming by every conceivable means – coming to hear the Word of God, and be ministered to for the needs of soul and body.

This is the irresistible “compelling” revival that is spoken of in Luke 14:23 by Our Lord Jesus Christ. But we need to notice the time element that Jesus emphasized in this scene. Jesus had been invited to the home of a Pharisee, and as they sat at meat Jesus noticed a man afflicted with dropsy, and promptly healed him. Then he instructed them as to how they should conduct themselves when invited to a feast. Continuing on the subject of feasts, Jesus spoke on this wise: “When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors, lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind; and thou shalt be blessed: for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” Luke 14:12-14.

How inclined we are to extend hospitality with the idea of making sure we get value received in return for our efforts. Our custom today is to give a feast and invite guests who will add to



our prestige, our pleasure or our profit. Few ever give a feast in the light of the Kingdom where we serve without thought of reward in this world. It comes as a shock to us at times how debased our ideals really are when they are analyzed in the light of the teachings of Jesus. The closer we come to the Kingdom, the more we realize how much we come short of the spirit of true hospitality.

One of the guests sitting at the table with Jesus caught a glimpse of the wonder of that kind of social order and under the impulse of the Spirit cried out, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God." This brought forth from Jesus the remarkable story of a man who made a great supper and invited many. In this parable Jesus was talking about the Kingdom of God. He told it this way according to Luke 14:16-24: "A certain man made a great supper and bade many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come, for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things; Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."

The Lord bade many with the invitation to come, "All things are **NOW** ready!" In other words there was a time element in this. The feast was not ready yesterday or the day before — it wasn't ready last week or last month, but **NOW** it is ready. Come to the feast!

Now notice, that the people who made excuses did not question the ideal of the feast — but cattle, lands, and social obligations were more important, so "they all with one consent

began to make excuses.” This parable has a very peculiar application to the people of the day in which we live – other things are more important than God’s invitation.

Thousands of people today recognize the ideal of the Kingdom – they stand aloof and applaud its wonders – but they will miserably fail God and go into judgment because other things are more important to them. They will continue on in their old religious routines – criticizing and scandalizing those who will go on with God – having beams in their own eyes, and trying to find a mote in someone else’s eye; applauding the ideals of the Kingdom of God, but saying, “It can never be done.” So they with one consent began to make excuse. It is amazing that so many inconsistent excuses are used by so many of God’s people today, relative to entering into the things of God. Well, we won’t take the time to go into the inconsistencies of unbelief. The people of this story did not see the imperative nature of the feast. The truth is, they thought there would be another day.

For the last six or seven years the invitation has been going out everywhere – to all the children of God: “Come, the feast is ready.” But everywhere we see God’s people in the grip of worldly cares, business cares, and family cares being presented as an excuse for not accepting the invitation of God to enter into the good things of the Kingdom. “But the servant came and shewed his lord these things.” I wonder what excuse the Holy Spirit has had to carry back to the Lord for you and me. Here is the table loaded – all things we need to make us successful in the work of the Kingdom. Oh, how our hearts were caused to overflow with joy when we first heard the message of this visitation and we encouraged each other to enter in and partake of the good things of God, but since, other matters have entered in and many have excused themselves from the great feast – the great overflow of heaven.

Believe me people, God is not trying to unify us merely because He does not like division. He doesn’t equip His people with the gifts of the Spirit just to make successful evangelists and pastors – but for bringing in the ripened harvest of souls. Harvest time has come – there must be no delay – so God has invited His people to come and receive enablements for the harvest. “And they all with one consent began to make excuse.”



And so the servant returned and showed his lord these things, and the Lord became angry with the Church as He was in days of old. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. When the Lord came and tried to bring the church of His day into the Kingdom, they were so blind to the truths of God that they rejected His invitation, and brought down judgment on their unbelieving heads. God was angry at their lack of concern – here an individual excused himself – there a preacher excused himself – there a whole congregation excused itself. The outlook of the Kingdom of God looked dark, but **THE LORD BECAME ANGRY**. It is well to take heed when God becomes angry. He will plead and plead with people to accept His invitations to the feast, but when they continually and consistently offer excuses, God becomes angry. The result was that He said to His servants: “Go out and bring in those who have no **EXCUSE** – they have no cattle, they have no land, they have no social standing, and they will be glad to come and partake of the good things of God.”

God says, “My house must be filled!” “Compel them to come in!” There is an imperative nature to this feast that contains divine things that men of God in yesterdays only dreamed of. God said to go out and find the maimed, the halt, and the blind. These are not just needs of the body, but God is speaking of people maimed in their spirits – crippled in their spirits – they have no excuse, and they are hungry for the good things of this feast.

Now the Lord said, “Compel them to come in”, and He is leaving the compelling to you and to me. This is not an invitational feast any longer. The time of invitation has past – now is the time for the compelling aspects of this visitation. We can talk about the greatness of God, but the marvelous thing about this visitation is that God has brought us into partnership with Himself. He said to the servant, **YOU** go out and compel them to come in. The hour of invitation and solicitation has past for people to come for healing and salvation – this is the time for us to go out and **COMPEL THEM TO COME IN**. That work “compel” speaks of taking drastic action – of revolutionary measures.

In this parable Jesus spoke of the maimed, the halt, and the blind – about people in desperate need with no one prepared to

meet that need. I believe God means for us to go out and minister to those people on such a revolutionary level that it will compel them to come in – forgive, heal, bless, and meet their needs until they become acutely aware of their obligation to God – until they recognize His sovereign goodness, and their age-old resistance will be broken down by an overflow of divine mercy manifested through us, the children of God.

So many times we pray, “Oh God, do something.” But the Lord says, “**YOU** do something! . . . **YOU** loose them! . . . **YOU** deliver them! . . . **YOU** set them free! . . . so they can come.” They will never come otherwise. This is what the Lord is calling the church to do **NOW**. The maimed, the halt, and the blind are everywhere around us and in our midst. The Church is sitting in her air conditioned auditoriums with soft cushioned pews, listening to nice pleasing sermons with everything possible being done to make her comfortable and contented – but **WOE** to the preacher who dares to disturb her tranquillity. They are little interested in the things of the Kingdom of God, with little hope it will ever be established on the earth.

The story, however, doesn't end with the people's and preacher's lack of interest. God's house must be filled! God is calling men and women to the kingdom for such a time as this. I tell you with all my soul, that men who can be visited by God today and filled with His Spirit are going to become revolutionary in their actions toward a dying and lost world, and a backsliding church. God is calling us to the place that the power of God will be so manifested through us that it will cause men to rush into the Kingdom. They will see its blessings and benefits to such a degree that they will not stop to debate and argue about theology, but flee to the altar and sanctuary of God. I don't know what others may read into this Bible scene, but I see men being driven, compelled – compelled by something outside and beyond themselves – beyond their reason – beyond their comprehension – caught in the grip – in the sweep of divine power and persuasion. This is the time to quit debating the Bible, and start preaching it from cover to cover – quit arguing over creeds and start casting out devils – quit talking about the impossibilities of man and begin to realize that when a man is linked up with God and moving in God's time, that man becomes omnipotent.



*The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*

This is a revolutionary hour, for God said, "My house must be filled", and it shall! If men sit and excuse themselves from the great feast of God, the enablements of power for the harvest – if men sit in apathy, blind to the time element, the urgency of this hour – and continue to put it off with their excuses, they will find their places in the Kingdom of God taken by the maimed, the halt, and the blind.

God is calling the Church to a new responsibility – the responsibility of compelling men to come into the Kingdom, not merely to join the church – but to see and demonstrate the overflow and outflow of the Kingdom for people in desperate need of soul, body, and spirit. "Go QUICKLY into the hedges and highways and COMPEL them to come in, that my house may be filled."

## GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37. We know this scripture is emphatically true at all times and in every situation – but that is not enough to know. We must discover that “nothing shall be impossible” to ME. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6. We can have a faith that moves mountains, and all things become possible unto US. Caleb of old said to Joshua, “Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day: for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims (giants) were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.’. Joshua 14:12. Well, Joshua didn’t just hand the deed to the mountain filled with fierce giants to Caleb, but replied, “If you are able to drive out the giants – if you are willing to fight for it – you can have it! FIGHT! God has told us that if we can overcome the devil that is holding back the answer to our prayer, we can have anything we desire – for Jesus said, “If thou canst believe, ALL things are possible to him that believeth.” Mark 9:23. ALL THINGS!

We must fight the devil to win the victory and move the mountain that is hindering us. “Fight the good fight of faith . . .” I Timothy 6:12. The Apostle Paul warns again and again that we are always in warfare against the devil. “If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not?” I Corinthians 15:32. “. . . and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” II Timothy 4:17. Paul won the victory and was delivered because he was willing to fight. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we WRESTLE not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.’. Ephesians 6:10-12. My friend, the word “wrestle” means physical and spiritual combat – a constant conflict.

Nothing shall be impossible unto YOU. Jesus taught his disciples how to have a faith that makes all things possible by delivering the young son of a certain father, possessed with a demon. "And Jesus rebuked the devil: and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Howbeit this kind goeth not out BUT BY PRAYER AND FASTING." Matthew 17:18-21. Now Jesus didn't say here that nothing is impossible with God — but, nothing is impossible unto you!

Mountain moving faith comes only through PRAYER AND FASTING. Here Jesus points out the reason for failure on the part of so many who claim to be His disciples, but just won't pay the price for this kind of faith. I want to speak to you about this matter of fasting and prayer, very sincerely, from the Word of God.

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:6-11. God's instructions and advice are always best, but we've heard so many expositors tell us that prayer and meditation are the same



— that fasting a meal or so is going to help us move a mountain, or teaching us to drink liquids when we fast and that we can expect miracles. ALL THIS IS NOT TRUE. Real prayer is hard work and is real combat with the powers of darkness. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16. The work “fervent” means hot and burning — and God honors red hot prayer. If you desire mountain moving faith, you must spend much time in prayer and fasting. God’s people in this generation have too many distractions for the church to have many prayer warriors. Our hearts are overcharged with surfeiting (eating and drinking), drunkenness (sleepiness and blindness-vertigo), and cares of this life, as Jesus warned us in Luke 21:34. Our churches are full of the world — characterized by revelling, banqueting, hootenannies, entertainment, singing — but woefully lacking in real prayer, and a fiery message from the Word of God that convicts God’s people of their sins.

We pray for God to do something — but God says, YOU do something. The power to move mountains, heal the sick, cast out devils, loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke is given to God’s people who will pay the price in fasting and prayer. “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard see, YE shall say unto this mountina, Remove hence to yonder place; and it SHALL remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” This power belongs to you — don’t let the devil steal it from you — it is your gift from the Lord — “Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

The rewards of great prayer and fasting are tremendous. Look at what God promises if we fast and pray by his directions, not by the directions of some book or misguided preacher — Isaiah 58: “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning”; “thine health shall spring forth speedily”. Praise the Lord, God will heal you! “Thy righteousness shall go before thee”; “the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward.” “Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer;” . . . “And the Lord shall guide thee continually,” — “the Lord shall satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones:” — “And thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” — “And they that shall be of thee shall build the old

waste places:” – “And thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” These great spiritual and physical rewards come only to those who are willing to pay the price in prayer and fasting. This can be our constant and consistent manner of life – a life of power over the flesh, sin, and the devil, for nothing is impossible unto those that believe.

Men and women in days of old wrought great victories over the enemy, moved mountains, obtained promises through seeking God by long periods of fasting and prayer. Esther and her maidens fasted three days and nights without food or water, and the nation of Israel was saved. Esther 4:16. Hannah, the barren wife of Elkannah a righteous Jew, conceived, and bare a son named Samuel the prophet, through fasting and much prayer with weeping. I Samuel 1:7. Cornelius, a devout centurion in the Roman army, sought God earnestly with fasting and prayer for his family to be saved. The Lord sent the Apostle Peter to his house with a message which resulted in his friends, his near kinsmen, and his whole family being saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 10. Saul of Tarsus, after being stricken on the road to Damascus and seeing Jesus, fasted three days without eating or drinking, received his sight and was filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 9:9. After Jesus had fasted and was tempted by the devil for forty days and nights, he returned in the power of the Spirit saying, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19. “And the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.” Isaiah 10:27. The anointing of the Holy Ghost comes through much fasting and prayer, and the yoke of the devil is destroyed and broken only through the Spirit’s anointing.

Fasting a meal or two is not enough. Praying a few minutes each day is not enough – to have victory over the bondage of the devil. You will never have power with God through the Spirit if you only partially fast, or become occupied with other things when you are fasting. “Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast



YE FIND PLEASURE, AND EXACT ALL YOUR LABOURS . . . wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?" Isaiah 58:3-5. We must turn to God with all our hearts to have the faith and anointing to break the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free. "Therefore also NOW, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with ALL YOUR HEART, and WITH FASTING, and WITH WEeping, and WITH MOURNING: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil . . . Blow the trumpet in Zion (the church), sanctify a FAST, call a solemn assembly: . . . Let the priests, the MINISTERS of the Lord, WEEP between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" Joel 2:12-17. God says to turn to me with ALL your heart – all the way back. Have you ever seen a preacher on his face before his congregation weeping, confessing his own sins, and beseeching God's people to do likewise? Have you ever seen a preacher stand in the pulpit after days of fasting and prayer, mourning before the people of God, and crying out to God "to spare thy people O Lord, and give them deliverance from being a reproach among the heathens of this nation? My friend, Oh that God will give us such a revival should be our prayer. Real revival must begin in the pulpit with the minister as the prophet declares. Then the results of such a revival are these: "Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen." Joel 12:18-19.

There is no excuse for failure or weakness among God's people. The preacher can blame the dead condition of the church on the members if he wants to – but it just is not true – he should look in the mirror and he will see the cause of failure. The members can blame the pastor for their miseries and failure if they wish – but each of us is our own best friend or our own worst enemy. We have God's directions for possessing POWER over every mountain and opposition of the devil. Let's pay the



price in time – in fasting and prayer before the Lord. You can be healed without having a terrible operation. “And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the lord, but to the physicians . . . and he died.” II Chronicles 17:12-13. Trusting a doctor no matter how skilled he is just simply is not faith and trust in God. We don’t have to resort to second best – we can have God’s complete fulfillment of his promises if we believe – we can speak to the mountain of doubt, the giants that roar against us – and we can win the victory thought impossible. God wants to save your family, meet your needs for body, soul, and spirit. Seek Him. Trust Him completely. Fear not, for nothing shall be impossible unto you.

## FAITH OR FATALISM

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” There is no substitute for real faith in God and in His Word. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” James 1:6-7.

Because God moved in sovereign power at certain appointed times, many people have taken a fatalistic position and resigned themselves to what they consider the inevitable regarding their own state. Usually this is done very piously by adopting a martyr spirit and saying, “Thy will be done.” It is good to be determined to do God’s will, but let us make sure that it IS God’s will. FAITH, NOT FATALISM, is the medium that will bring men into a true relationship with God. The sovereign acts of God move on dispensational lines, rarely on personal lines. It is our own faith that projects us into the realm of impossibilities – not the sovereign act of God. I want to repeat that – there is a sovereign act of God that moves at the junction of dispensations – but anytime, anywhere, any place in those dispensations the individual can lay hold of God’s promise and do the impossible.

We have come to that place and time in the history of God’s dealings with mankind where God is commanding us to rise up and take a commanding position in all things. All humanity is reeling under the impact of Satanic power. The whole world lieth in the wicked one. (I John 5:19). He is the prince of the power of the air and it is time that his power was broken. Centuries ago God made provision for the deliverance of men – but men, because of lack of faith, have failed to put these provisions into operation except on a limited scale. But the time has come when God wants us to enforce all the claims of Calvary even to the degree that God’s people everywhere can be brought under the power and sway of the LIVING Word of God, but this requires living faith in the unlimited power of the

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Word and Gospel of the Lord. God must raise up a veritable army among His people who will truly manifest themselves the Sons of God, as lights in a darkening world.

One of the characteristics of faith is perseverance, and it is amazing what it will accomplish. Feelings operate largely on the level of impulse but faith operates on a definite positive determined position. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." II Corinthians 5:7. Faith always takes the initiative and operates in the offensive – never in the defensive, passive realm. It is so easy to find excuses for failures, but faith accepts only a complete victory. Faith provides a resource that does not even need the mechanics of religion. It is always easier to compromise and rest upon defeated theology than it is to exercise a faith that claims and possesses its objective.

In the 10th chapter of the book of Joshua, the children of Israel had been led into a fierce and decisive battle. It developed into a long hot battle. It seemed impossible to achieve a real victory over the enemy – but in the midst of the battle Joshua showed the tremendous initiative of faith when he commanded the sun to stand still, holding back the darkness until Israel could defeat the enemy. Now God had not told Joshua to do this thing, but faith took the initiative in response to the desperate need of the hour – and the Lord wrought a great victory that day.

In this battle five kings had conspired to overthrow Israel, but under the leadership of Joshua, Israel prevailed, and these five kings fled and hid themselves in a cave. Joshua said, "Roll great stones upon the mouth of the cave and set men by it for to keep them: And stay ye not, but pursue after your enemies, and smite the hindmost of them; suffer them not to enter into their cities: for the Lord your God hath delivered them into your hand." This is the spirit of all who become more than conquerors – PURSUE AFTER THE ENEMY until you destroy him. Don't relax in the battle with only a partial victory. "And Joshua commanded them to bring the five kings out of the cave and caused his men to put their feet on the enemies necks. Then he prophesied, "Thus shall God do unto all your enemies!" Johsua 10:24-25.

They could have left the enemy in the cave to starve to death. Most people would be satisfied if they could bind the



devil and shut him up somewhere, but not so with Joshua. There is more to victory than chasing the enemy into a theological cave and leaving him there. God's people must have faith generated in their hearts for complete victory, and this was what Joshua was doing. He brought the enemy kings forth and staked them out on the ground – then he said to his men, “In the past you have been afraid of these kings, but come now and put your feet on their necks.” And this is what God wants you and wants me to do. He wants us to demonstrate the weakness of the enemy in the presence of God's people – show the people that they need not be afraid. “Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.” God is calling us out to battle – real decisive battle – and regardless of what turn the battle may take, there are divine resources at our disposal. Joshua did not have access to any resources that you and I do not have access to – not only that, but he wanted his followers to know how weak the enemy really is when faith goes into action – put your foot on the neck of the enemy!

“He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Revelation 2:26-29. These are challenging words but they will work wonders when men believe them. Personally, I am committing myself to a course of action from which there can be no retreat. That is the only course by which God's will can or will be done. When “they loved not their lives unto the death,” then they overcame the enemy by the “blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.” Revelation 12:11.

There is no peace for the man who is afraid. The fearful man is always a captive – a slave. But men can have peace and be free, for the Apostle Paul said in Romans 16:20, “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly!” Your Feet! YOUR feet! Joshua called to his captains and said, “Come, lift up your foot and put it on the neck of these enemy kings who have had power and authority over you – put your foot on their necks and don't be afraid!”

When Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, He made an open show of His victory over the devil. (Colossians 2:15) He bruised the devil beyond hope of recovery and now it remains for you and me to put our feet on his neck and manifest our authority and power over him. God wants to move in your life and create an initiative that will make it possible for you to become a partner with him in the performance of a miracle. Faith must be raised to the level where it won't be necessary to run people through the old religious routine of healing lines. Only too often these healing routines and ceremonies become thyobjective of the people when instead they are intended to be only a means to the end, that they be delivered. Faith in the right objective will produce the right initiative, and that initiative will have to do with your particular bondage. The lame man must have the initiative to rise up and walk – the blind man must “go wash in the pool of Siloam” – the man with the withered arm must stretch forth his hand.

That is why Joshua had each of his captains put his foot on the neck of the enemy – so they would see their own individual responsibility. They could have said, “Now, Joshua, you are a great leader – you put your foot on their necks and we will applaud.” But he said, “I want you to take some responsibility. I want you to know it can be done and the only way you will ever know is for you to come and do it.”

In these harvest days God must be able to bring up an army – a host of people with individual initiative to produce miracles in their own lives, and this will give them courage to produce miracles in the lives of other people. Our greatest difficulty is to bring the people out of their old religious routines. They will cling to them even though they speak only of defeat and death.

I see a world of three billion, five hundred million people sitting in the shadow of death, in defeat and disillusionment, and I know that routine religion will not win the day. Some way we must impress people with the necessity of initiating individual faith. “Every place you put the sole of your foot it shall be yours.” We go from faith to faith. God is calling us to an open conflict with Satan. We must take the initiative. God wants you to take the initiative for your own deliverance. Your testimony of deliverance could start up a chain reaction for victory in a million people. God is requiring you as an individual

to rise to this new level of faith whereby a world may be brought into the consciousness of a miracle-working God. Take your position before God, the church, and the world. Put your foot on the neck of the enemy that has been binding and tormenting you. The Scriptures speak of deliverance as already being accomplished – in the past tense – “By whose stripes ye were healed.” I Peter 2:24. Claim your deliverance as already accomplished. As long as you question the outcome, faith cannot work. “The word of faith is in your heart and in your mouth.” Romans 10:8. Fear not to speak! Fear not to act! Victory is assured for it is HIS WILL!





## A MAID WITH A VISION

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. The Apostle Paul boldly related his heavenly vision to King Agrippa and his court while on trial for his life – "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision . . ." And this great apostle, driven relentlessly by the effect of his vision, shook the Roman Empire to its foundations by a ministry of faith and power of the Holy Ghost unequalled in the history of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, how the church of the living God needs men of vision with a mighty anointing of the Spirit to preach the Word of God and shake the foundations of Hell today. A preacher without a vision is just as useless as a car without gas. Most preachers today are without vision, that is, a heaven-sent vision, and have become as the prophet Isaiah foretold – "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter." Isaiah 56:10-11. Isaiah was moved exceedingly by a great vision from the Lord (Isaiah 6) to cry out – "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Then in the vision, a seraphim put a live coal of fire from off the altar of God upon his lips, and the sins of the prophet were purged. Then the Lord cried out, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." The Spirit of God is searching for men and women of this untoward (difficult to manage) generation who can be visited by God, stirred and driven by a heaven-sent vision, to lead God's people and the church back to the Word of God and to His true Holiness – out of the wilderness and into the promised land of Victory over the flesh, sin, and the devil.

## *The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*

In Rouen, France, over 500 years ago a 19-year old girl was chained to a post and burned to death because of a heaven-sent vision. Her death was ordered by the religious and political leaders of her day. The forty-eight men who sat as her judge, jury, and prosecutors, represented the intellectuals (in the University of Paris), the military (in the armed forces of England), and the ecclesiastical (in the church). These men condemned her to die. The intellectuals wanted her to die because, as an illiterate farm girl, she defied and questioned their book knowledge. The English military wanted her to die because she had brought defeat to their forces over and over again. And the religious leaders wanted her to die because she was not "orthodox." They particularly wanted her burned at the stake, with the hypocritical pretense that her soul might be purged if her body was burned.

Joan of Arc was born about 1412 in a small village called Doremy on the border of Lorraine, France. Her parents were farmers and she grew up as an ordinary farm girl. There were no schools for the poor in those days, so she never learned to read or write. At that time France was hopelessly divided among the feudal kings and lords, and much of the country was overrun by the English troops.

In the midst of these troublesome days, Joan of Arc had reached her thirteenth birthday, and she began to hear a voice which she claimed to be from God sent to guide her. During the next four years, voices and also visions continued to come to her, preparing her for the unprecedented work she would be called upon to do in the immediate future. Finally, she declared that an angel appeared to her in her father's orchard and gave her instructions as to what she must do in the limited time of the next few months.

Looking in the natural at this heavenly commission to liberate France, it would have appeared impossible for even an experienced general with a large army ready for immediate action to accomplish. But here was a young, ignorant peasant girl, with no knowledge of the world or of military tactics – no money, no friends, and no influence, directed of God to do the impossible! Despite all these handicaps she left home and began to present her cause. She dressed only in a homespun calico dress, had no shoes on her feet, and was unable to read or even



write her name. However, she was fired up with a vision from heaven and a consuming passion for the people, and by this she overcame every obstacle and finally reached, through the uncrowned king of France, her beloved nation. In the presence of this weak and defeated king, with a determination that could not be denied, she prevailed, until he finally raised an army and sent her forth with it.

In spite of all the treachery and double-crossing of many of her officers, she began to win victory after victory until even the English soldiers began to panic when she began to march in their direction. She refused to recognize the old, orthodox methods of warfare. She rejected the counsel of her own military staff, declaring that she had better counsel with her heavenly advisors. And step by step every prediction came to pass. The common people hailed her as the “savior of France”, but the leaders gave her grudging cooperation part of the time, and no cooperation most of the time.

She began this great adventure on February 23, 1429, when she was 17 years old, and in 15 months she had won recognition throughout all France, raised an army, and riding at the head of her troops had driven the enemy from one stronghold unto another until all of France became endued with something of the same sublime faith and enthusiasm. Twice she was wounded in battle, but always she rode ahead of her troops – inspiring them to deeds of daring against which no enemy could stand.

In rising to this commanding position it was necessary to overcome all the obstacles of both the Church and the State. She was questioned over and over again concerning the voices and visions. She was compelled to undergo examinations to determine her virginity. She suffered many abuses and insults but persisted until she was placed in a position where her vision could be carried out. However, her period of success was short-lived, for in May 1430 she was captured by the enemy as a result of the stampeding fear of the people in Compeyne, whom she had come to deliver.

We will not go into detail concerning the many months of imprisonment, of the long, drawn out trail, of the abuse by her guards, or of the unjust accusations continually hurled at her by the most learned and by the most “spiritual” men of that day. Among the many names they called her at the trial, here are a

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few: a limb of Satan, sorceress, blasphemer, an invoker of demons, an opostate, sacriligious, seditious, indecent, immodest, pressumptuous, guilty of bloodshed, and a seducer of innocent souls. They declared that at the age of 15 she was the inmate of a brothel; that she had become the mistress of some of her officers. They declared that she consulted demons and cast spells upon people – of using witchcraft and using her so-called visions and voices to make possible the unbridled vices of the flesh. All these accusations were later proved to be false, but her prosecutors used them to put her to a shameful and painful death.

All this was over 500 years ago, and what have we learned from this and other martyrdoms? We may have changed our methods of punishment, but the accusations remain the same. When inspiration outruns intellect – when political tyranny is jeopardized by prophets with a message of deliverance – and when religious orthodoxy is breached by those with a heaven-sent vision – then comes the accusation of heresy and immorality. The purpose, of course, is to destroy faith in the person of the prophet and his message.

The wonder of the story does not rest alone in the faith and courage of this peasant maid of France, but the greater wonder lies in the intervention of God to bring deliverance to the poor and needy of the land – in the fact that God could not find a man in all the religious ranks who would fully listen and obey Him. Among all the bishops and ministers, all the professors of religion, God couldn't find one man to whom he could impart the message. God couldn't find a man in all the political and military system – not a statesman, not a general, not one to whom He could speak His purpose. Among all the intellectuals, among all the church leaders, not one was able to hear from heaven – so God was compelled to go among the poor and ignorant of the land and finally in His searching find a 13-year old girl whose heart and mind were open to a message from heaven.

When they brought Joan of Arc forth to be put to death, they placed a dunce cap on her head with these words written upon it: “Heretic, relapsed, apostate, idolatress.” Then she was compelled to sit on a stool while her funeral sermon was preached. Her career was cut off quickly, but her consecration



to a heaven-sent cause started a mighty current that swept the enemy from her beloved land and started France back on her way of becoming one of the great nations of the world. She, with her vision and faith, broke the darkness of a long, long night, and ushered in a new way for a hopelessly divided and defeated nation. The church of our day is in a similar condition, and, oh, how we need to pray for God to raise up men whom God can visit and impart his vision to repair the breaches, and heal the divisions that are tragically weakening to all of God's people and our nation.

It might be interesting to note that twenty-five years after her death, the Church and the French government, after six years of investigation, declared her trial a miscarriage of justice, that her judges were corrupt and unjust, and that Joan of Arc was innocent of all the charges. An outraged public opened the grave of the man who was the moving figure in her prosecution and threw his corpse in the sewer.

So ended the story of Joan of Arc, but this story has a peculiar application to the hour in which we live. The eternal warfare continues between static religion and a God that marches on. The spirit of vision and liberation still challenges the forces of entrenched bigotry and intolerance, but the spirit of the accuser is still in the land, and men with a heaven-sent vision still walk the blood-stained way to a cross of shame — ostracized by the accusations of shriveled, pygmy souls who cannot understand how the demands of the CROSS and the demands of a Holy God for one to bear a designated cross, sets a higher standard than is contained in all the arbitrary rules and regulations of men and systems of religion.

What God did for France in that day, He is trying desperately to do for a world today — a world that is torn by dissension, distrust, intolerance, unbelief and sectarianism even as France was divided under feudal kings and lords, and trodden under foot by the enemy. And, as He used a little maid in that day to do what He could not find statesmen, generals, intellectuals, and theologians to do, even so is He speaking to the hearts of men and women in this hour — common men and women who will believe, and in believing all things become possible.



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On a recent missionary tour, we visited a number of other lands and people – and we could see that the whole of creation is groaning for God’s day of deliverance. God is moving again in the earth – moving to bring all the blessings and benefits of the overflow of the Kingdom of God – moving to restore “all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” – moving to bring this world back into harmony with Himself.

BY THIS



CONQUER

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the CROSS of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Galatians 6:14. Thus was the power of the cross of Christ in the life of the Apostle Paul, and thus shall our victory be. Our victory over the devil and sin is altogether through cross-bearing. “And he (Jesus) said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his CROSS DAILY, and follow me.” Luke 9:23. The cross means persecution and conflict to those who forsake all to follow the Lord. One’s own self must go to the cross first for the flesh to be subdued, and then the world is next to be crucified. The Apostle Paul experienced the subduing of the flesh and the world on the cross of Christ, and proceeded to subdue the Roman Empire through a life lived as Christ “lived through him.” “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20. “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)”. II Corinthians 10:4. So, by the power of the Cross of Christ, stronghold after stronghold was conquered as Christ worked mightily through the Apostle Paul – and the mighty Roman Empire was brought under the power and sway of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Through the midst of the City of Rome flows the ancient Tiber River. This historic river is spanned by an ancient bridge called Ponte Molle. This ageless bridge has sounded and resounded with the tramp of untold legions of both defeated and victorious troops of the Caesars as the power of the Roman Empire rose and fell with the victories and defeats of its iron-clad warriors. Across this famous bridge on the north banks of the Tiber River, two centuries after the mighty conquests of the Apostle Paul, another mighty battle was fought to its bitter end. Here, the soil has been soaked with the blood of men who fought in hand to hand combat in a fierce struggle involving the cross of Christ. Here the screams of agony and the moan of

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dying men were mingled with the exultant shouts of victory as one army swept another to defeat and death – some dying by the edge of the sword, while others were driven down the bank into the river, which was a powerful ally to the invading army by swallowing up thousands of the defending Roman soldiers in its muddy resistless waters.

The time of this historic battle was October 312 A.D. Before this battle the Apostle Paul had come to Rome and was met with martyrdom, but he planted the seeds of Christianity in this pagan stronghold that never died. These Roman pagans had persecuted the Christians by every conceivable form of torture, from the days of Paul to the day of this battle. But despite the fact that they were thrown to wild beasts which tore them limb from limb and devoured them while 100,000 spectators celebrated another Roman holiday, and countless others were saturated with oil, fastened on high poles and burned as torches to light the gardens of the emperors – yet Christianity grew. Men and women became Christians, knowing full well it would cost them their lives, and that, by the most brutal methods of torture. In those days all Christians were “one” because they all lived a consistent, consecrated life.

The city of Rome was a pagan city with all those in authority lending their power and influence to stamp out this new religion of Christianity. Maxentius the Emperor had reigned for six years when Constantine brought his army over the Alps from Western Europe and in due time came within striking distance of Rome.

It is recorded that as Constantine came to the summit of the hills just north of the Ponte Molle bridge on the Tiber River, it was noonday – and as he looked out over the valley and the Roman capital before him gripped in paganism – a flaming cross appeared in the sky with these challenging words, “BY THIS CONQUER.”

Constantine at this time was a pagan himself, and although moved by the vision he did not understand its full significance. That night his army of 30,000 men encamped along the hillside overlooking the valley while they waited for the dawn of the day of battle.

During the night Constantine lay down to rest. It had been a long, hard march – and tomorrow either he or Maxentius  
*thirty-eight*



would be dead, or worse, a captive doomed to die by torture. He knew his army was outnumbered three to one – and they were weary with weeks of marching. They were also in a strange land and pitted against his 30,000 tired soldiers was the cream of the Roman army – 100,000 strong, rested, and on home territory.

That night as Constantine slept, a vision of the cross again appeared in the sky with these words blazoned beneath, “By this conquer.” He arose and commanded every soldier to paint the sign of the cross upon his shield. The battle standards were likewise painted. All through the night the work went on until as dawn broke over the Tiber Valley, every soldier was carrying the sign of the cross with these words, “By this conquer.” During the night the Roman army had come across the river over the famous Ponte Molle bridge – and when the morning came they were stationed with their backs to the river. Now the two armies faced one another ready for battle.

Constantine gave the order to charge. His 30,000 men leaped forward to do battle with 100,000 first-line soldiers, fighting like inspired men. With the sign of the cross on their shields, they attacked with such fury that they literally swept a part of the opposing force into the river, and with them their leader, Maxentius. By the sign of the cross Constantine conquered and when he became Emperor of Rome he immediately stopped the persecution of the Christians and was later baptized himself.

Here was the man Constantine, a pagan general, yet God was able to reveal to him the conquering power of the cross of Christ. “BY THIS CONQUER!” By the power of the cross paganism must go – heathenism and modernism must go – darkness and superstition must flee before the light of Calvary. Oh, that the Church and every believer would see the vision and “by this conquer!” Every division would be healed – every schism would lose its power and God’s people would conquer every foe by employing the power of the cross.

In the first two centuries, persecution followed the Christians everywhere, but in the midst of all their persecutions they were “one.” But after the persecution ended by a decree of Constantine, the Christians began to quarrel among

themselves over doctrines, and the quarrel became so bitter that Constantine called a council of all the leaders in 325 A.D. in an effort to establish peace and fellowship among the followers of Christ. Think of it. For two centuries of fierce persecution the Christians were “one” in everything, but it took only 13 years of popularity to hopelessly divide them. When men are facing fiery furnaces, lions’ dens, dungeons and galling chains, they think in terms of a living, personal Christ – but let them grow rich, popular, and respected and then they substitute a creed for Christ, a doctrine for Deity, formality for faith, politics for power, and man-made organization for divine unity.

The ceaseless war of Christian against Christian has been the tragedy of the church age. The Church can never be destroyed from without. Whenever and wherever Christianity has suffered loss it has come from the civil wars within her own ranks.

I personally have suffered from persecution and at times the cross of reproach has been almost too heavy to bear, but I thank God for all the persecution, all the falsehoods, all the trials – for they have caused me to think in terms of Jesus and Him alone. He is my Rock, my only hope. I am not leaning on my church organization, creed, doctrine or ceremony – Jesus is my life. In Him I live and move and have my being. With my whole heart I echo the words of the Apostle Paul, “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me.”

It is time for the enemy to be put to flight. It is time for every believer to go forth in the spirit and power of the cross of Calvary. It is time to strike a blow for the deliverance of those in bondage to the powers of darkness. This is the hour God is calling the weak to say, “I am strong.” This is the hour when a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. This is the hour to “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:1.

Let us unite our hearts against the common foe – let us not turn to destroy one another as the Christians did after they were liberated by Constantine, but let us stand together with a consciousness that by the mercy of God have we been saved – that it has not been by our wisdom or our righteousness.

What a tragedy if we fail to grasp this golden opportunity to teach and preach true discipleship and reap the harvest of the earth. If we continue to be at ease in Zion and loll in the lap of luxury – if we continue to place respectability above reaping – if we cling to creeds more than we do to Christ – if we emphasize doctrines, ceremonies, and systems of religion more than we do revival, then fierce PERSECUTION must come to drive us to a consciousness that salvation is of the Lord and not of ourselves – that God meant every word He spoke, and that the Bible is His Word and He will require every word of you and me. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8. He came into the world to set men free and He issues this earth-shaking challenge to every son of Adam, “Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” John 14:12.

As I think of that old battleground and how men shed their blood and fought that the power of the cross might conquer, it makes me feel ashamed and humiliated to think that so many Christians today just take Christianity for granted. There is little contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints – there is no real concern for the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth – no real concern for a Church that is either backslidden or at least backsliding – little or no concern that is real for a judgment bound generation. Men everywhere “PLAY SAFE AND SECURE,” occupied with selfish interests while a world has ripened to judgment. Oh, may God alert our lives to the consciousness of the late hour in which we live – that we might go forth with the blood-stained banner of the cross and “BY THIS CONQUER.”





## IS AMERICA A FOOL'S PARADISE?

Luke: 12:15-21. "And he (Jesus) said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

In relating this remarkable parable to the company in His presence, Jesus boldly enters in the field of economics and talks about money, grain and barns in relation to spiritual values and physical survival. He sets forth the tragic predicament of a man or a nation that becomes rich in material things while impoverished spiritually. In a very real way, Jesus is saying that money and wealth is the worst master a man can have. But on the other hand, the Lord teaches that money can become a very good servant to a man of great dedication to the work of God.

This generation, although living in the lap of luxury, is actually faced with the problem of survival, living in constant danger of devastating judgment from the skies in this atomic age. This threat hangs over every home, farm, and factory of America like a dark spectre. While leisure and pleasure increase daily in our lives, the day of decision and judgment will surely come upon us as it did the rich man of the Bible, as we continue to base our future security on full barns and material wealth.

When I refer to barns and grain and money, I realize there are those who will say that these things have no place in religion; but, judgment and disaster will always come to the man or nation who lose the balance between that which is in the hand and that which is in the heart. Oliver Goldsmith

expressed this so well in “The Deserted Village”, “Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey; where wealth accumulates, and men decay.” How True!

Jesus was neither economist nor politician, but he spoke again and again about the subject of material possessions and their relationship to our spiritual condition. The one great theme of the New and Old Testaments alike, is that we are our brother’s keeper; and, that we are only stewards of God’s inheritance to us-ward, for sharing with others. Jesus said, “Fear not little flock; for it is your Fathers’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will you heart be also.” Luke 12:32-34.

When the rich young ruler of Mark 10:17 came to Jesus, He told him, “One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross , and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” What a paradox! A young man, very rich, and sorrowful. He was sorrowful because he feared to face the challenge of bringing a balance between his spiritual poverty and his material wealth. We cannot separate our material wealth from our spiritual experience. God does not mean for us to separate our social responsibility to minister to those in need, from our spiritual experience. Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the soul-saving gospel to all men, everywhere – but also to be a “Good Samaritan” to all those along life’s highway who are hungry, naked, and bleeding – victims of the devil’s oppression. We are responsible to our brethren in need, and we will not escape the judgments of God as a person or nation if we seek to escape this responsibility. This is a moral universe, and it is ruled by moral law. The magnetic forces of cause and effect move like the mighty tides of the ocean; and men and nations that store money and food with no concern for the cries of the hungry, will be judged as fools.

Throughout the world today we can hear the distant rumbling of the judgment of nations. Americans loll in the lap of luxury, while a world that is lost has ripened to the harvest.



The have-nots are rising up all over the world, and their cries will not be ignored. Communism is embracing the emerging new countries of Africa. And in these new nations, Christians are enduring blood baths aimed at their extermination. We in America are becoming a ripe prize for Communism or a repressive dictatorship as our nation becomes a land of cursing kids and two-timing parents.

In the mid-1950's, our barns and storehouses were filled with over one billion, two hundred million bushels of wheat – enough to feed us and our livestock, together with our exports for two years. In 1974 we have barely enough for 23 days, and the surplus is diminishing. In the 50's we had in surpluses over seven billion dollars worth, in wheat, rice, corn and cotton. Now, in 1974 we have only a few million dollars worth of surplus commodities in our national food banks. The spectre of famine, which is gripping many nations of the world, is beginning to appear in America, and prospects of severe food shortages and hunger are close at hand. And why should not God severely judge us?

Americans spend five times as much on cards, toys, and trees at Christmas than is given for missions in an entire year. We are failing miserably to “give the hungry the Word of life.” Americans also spend more money on one brand of dog food, than all that is given to the cause of Christ annually. America is ripe for judgments because we are worse than Sodom and Gomorrah at the time of their destruction by God. This nation has over twelve million homosexuals – and that is enough reason to be destroyed by God's judgments. Over four million illegitimate babies are born annually. There are more bar maids than college girls in the United States. Over thirty million sex magazines are published, and read by over one-half of the American people. Where is the Bible?

When a nation so unanimously rejects the True Word of God as America has done, and the Bible is the object of scorn and ridicule in our schools, colleges, on television, and in the market place as a popular pastime, no other provocation is necessary to stir up the wrath of God and invite his severe judgments. This generation has sorely polluted this good land which the Lord God gave to our forefathers for an inheritance in which to be free to serve and worship Him. God has always

judged nations in the past when they defiled the land with their wickedness and abominations. As in Jeremiah 2:7-9: "And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination. The priests said not, Where is the Lord? and they that handle the law knew me not; the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit. Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the Lord, and with your children's children will I plead." Preachers of this generation are guilty of contributing to America's terrible spiritual plight, by not showing people the "difference between the clean and the unclean, the holy and the profane." Ezekiel 22:26.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by the judgments of God because of the same terrible moral corruption that is prevalent in this nation today. What has led us to this terrible spiritual decay that causes millions of our youth and young couples to live like alley cats and not like human beings created in the image of God? Here is the cause God gives: Ezekiel 16:48-50: "As I live, saith the Lord God, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, **pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness** was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good." These conditions always lead an individual or nation into moral decay.

Here is another warning of God that judgment will swiftly come to an entire nation when the moral and spiritual condition reaches the immoral and polluted nature of America today: "Hear the Word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be



taken away.” Hosea 4:1-3. These prevailing conditions all over America are making our homes, streets, and countryside increasingly unsafe, and even terrifying in many of our cities. The days of Noah are upon us; the darkness of the storm of God’s judgments are hovering ever lower, and the day in which many Americans will be judged by God as being fools will surely come.

Our people spend over ten billion dollars a year on alcoholic drinks. Drinking is a problem in the American military forces to such a degree it’s epidemic. A survey (1974) of 9,910 servicemen indicates that 35 percent of the officers and 70 percent of the enlisted men are heavy or problem drinkers. Venereal disease costs our government over four million dollars an hour to treat our infected youth. Four hundred thousand girls disappear into white slavery every year. Our nation harbors three times more criminals than college students. One hundred thirty policemen are gunned down every year on our streets and highways. A major crime is committed every twenty seconds; a murder every 25 minutes. There are almost one hundred suicides daily. Women are smoking as much as men, and drinking as much. Woe to motherhood!

It has been said wisely, “The hand that rocks the cradle, is the hand that moves the world.” Our homes are disintegrating under the impact of the Woman’s Liberation Movement. Permissiveness in Sexual morality, Drinking, Dope Addiction, Smoking, and other ungodliness, have defiled the Womanhood of America until virtue is mocked at. Psalms 9:17: “The wicked shall be cast into hell, and **all nations that forget God.**”

The latest statistics show that during the last decade, Americans smoked more, drank intoxicating beverages more, watched television more, and traveled more than ever. Also we might add – they committed more immorality than ever, and have told God, “LEAVE US ALONE” more. Galatians 6:7-8: “Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man (or nation) soweth, that shall it also reap . . .” We can expect more frequent disasters of storms, earthquakes, pestilences, and famine very soon.

The spiritual condition of America is graphically described in the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, “How shall I pardon thee



for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Jeremiah 5:7-9.

The spiritual plight of our nation is soberly set forth by the prophet in this one statement – "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that **my fear is not in thee**, saith the Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 2:19. The Fear of God has practically left this nation, and young people and adults alike become demon-inspired and demon-filled without the fear of God. As in Romans 3:18, "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES." What is the condition of a person or nation where the Fear of God has left? God declares these conditions to be existent, shamefully: "There is none that doeth good, no not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known." Romans 3:12-17. Also in verse 11 for emphasis: "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."

Thus is the wretched and miserable condition of America before the Judge of all the earth. America must turn back to the old paths of the Lord, and God has raised up prophets "to lift up their voice like a trumpet, and SHOW GOD'S PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION, and the House of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1. As the Lord said in the book of the prophet, "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7. Amen.

## THE RUIN OF SIN

Ezekiel 18:29-31. "Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. **REPENT AND TURN YOURSELVES FROM ALL YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS: SO INIQUITY SHALL NOT BE YOUR RUIN.** Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." God says, "You must destroy sin or sin will destroy you." Sin has caused more tears, broken up more homes, filled more jails, destroyed more lives, filled more prisons, insane asylums, and hospital beds! Sin has dug more graves prematurely and caused more poverty and suffering than anything you can mention. Let me repeat, God says, Unless you destroy sin – **SIN WILL DESTROY YOU!** This is evidenced in tragedies, heartache, suffering, fear, poverty and lawlessness on every hand – and knowing this dear reader, why will you allow sin to be your ruin?

The New Testament equivalent to this Old Testament text is found in Romans 6:22-23: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Also in John 5:14 Jesus warned, "Go, and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." In God's Book of Wisdom the Bible warns, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. Also in verse 9, "Fools make a mock at sin". And again in verse 16, "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident." Another sober warning God gives in Proverbs 28:13: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." In the greatest message Jesus ever preached, He soberly warns: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the

gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13-14.

God's warning is frank and clear enough; not confusing or distorted in the least. If you choose to continue in sin, you automatically choose ruin, because sin invites ruin. Unless you get rid of your sin, **YOUR SIN WILL GET RID OF YOU**. Sin will ruin you physically; sin will ruin you financially; and sin will ruin you spiritually, sending you into judgment and hell.

First, I wish to show you the physical destruction of sin. In Deuteronomy 28:15 God says, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." Verse 22: "The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning . . ." Verses 27-28: "The Lord will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. The Lord shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart." Verse 35: "The Lord shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head." Also in Deuteronomy 28:59-61: "Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed."

The cause of sickness today is the same as it was in 1451 B.C. when this scripture of warning was written. The curse of sin and its effects are as destructible upon the people of today as it was in 1451 B.C. Jesus Christ came into this world to bring a cure for sin and its effects. Acts 10:38: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power, who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him." Also Galatians 3:13: "Christ hath  
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redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." Sin, sickness and disease are curses – and they came upon the human family because of rebellion and disobedience to God's Word; therefore disobedience and sin are the primary causes of disease. God said in Psalms 107:11-20, "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour: they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder . . . Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death . . . He sent his Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."

God warns of the physical destruction of the sins of the flesh in Galatians 6:7-8: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." The word "corruption" means rotten flesh. God is warning every cigarette smoker, every dope addict, every sex pervert, every winebibber, and every glutton, that these things will bring disease and sorrow and regret. These sins and every perverted appetite can only bring heartbreak and ruin to young and old alike. In the giving of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:5, God says: "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Thus the only way to God's love is through the keeping of His commandments; or we hate God. Lamentations 5:7 God says, "Our fathers have sinned and are not; and we have borne their iniquities." Many people are suffering today because of the sins of their fathers and mothers; Sins of immorality, smoking, drinking, dope addiction and every form of debauchery. Terrible diseases come upon millions of parents who commit these sins and perversions, and consequently these diseases are transmitted to their children and children's children through heredity. Our hospitals and asylums are filled with unhappy

## *The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*

tens of thousands with case histories that bear record of this truth. God says in Proverbs 5:11-13: "And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, and say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me." God says, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God . . . that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee." We don't have to look for these terrible curses of disease to come upon us – only rebel against God and they will appear. To the man Jesus had healed, He also warned, "Go, and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

Secondly, let us consider the financial ruin that sin can bring to a person's life. Jesus said in Luke 11:41-41: "But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. But woe unto you, Pharisees: for ye tithe the mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." God says in James 4:17: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." The Lord would have us to be enlightened on a subject that becomes such a tragic failure to so many of His people. "Ye are cursed with a curse for you have robbed me, saith the Lord." Malachi 3:9. That curse will come on every individual who robs God of the tenth or tithe which belongs to the Lord. Someone asked me once after I had preached rather persuasively on tithing, "How will the curse come?" Well, let me answer that searching question to one and all – The curse can come in the form of sickness and disease, a broken home, a fire, a storm, an accident, a wrecked automobile, a failing business, insanity or a nervous breakdown. The Bible says that we are God's sheep, and whoever owns the sheep, owns the wool (Luke 12:32-34) but too often we use God's part of the wool for our own selfish designs and desires. Deuteronomy 8:18: "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth . . ." God gives us the opportunity, the health, the mind, the sun, the rain, and the energy to obtain money and possessions; and as a partner with us in the accumulation of material things, God demands the tithe and offerings. The tithe or tenth is for the ministers of the



Lord who preach the Word of God faithfully. Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house . . ." Hebrews 7:8: "Here men that die receive your tithes: but there He receiveth them of whom it is witnessed that he liveth." Christ is the High Priest of the New Covenant that receives tithes in this age of grace. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." You just cannot afford to rob God and invite the curse to come unto you and your family – and at the same time be missing the great blessing God promises in "Prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts. If I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes . . ." Malachi 3:10-11. Giving to God is like shoveling out one door, while God uses a bigger shovel and loads us with blessings through another door. Jesus says that God gives to us with the same measure that we use to give to Him. If we use a spoon to give to God, He will use a spoon to return a blessing to us. If we use a bucket to measure in our giving to the Lord, He uses the same measure in returning to us a blessing. If we use a barrell to measure our giving, the Lord in return gives us a blessing by the same measure. I had a very unusual experience in Arkansas several years ago after preaching on the subject – "When God Laughs Last." At the invitation to come for salvation, a young man and his wife came to the altar while under conviction, and was wonderfully saved that night. A few nights later I preached on Tithing and Giving to God and the same young man, his wife and family were there. After the service was over, the young convert approached me and asked, "What is tithes?" I explained very carefully to him that the tithe is the tenth of one's net income. He replied, "I'm a farmer, a sharecropper that raises cotton – I'd sure like to give God a tenth of what I make on my crop, but the boll weevils are destroying my cotton, and it looks as if neither God nor I will make anything." I instructed him then to take his Bible, go out into the midst of his cotton field and read Malacai 3:10-11, tell God that you want Him to be your partner, then rebuke the boll weevils in the name of Jesus.



Well, what do you think? He looked me straight in the eyes with a big smile and said, "If you believe it will work, you come do it!" Brother, was that a challenge! I asked him where he lived and he told me. I drove down that highway the next morning looking for that new convert, and found him waiting for me, leaning on his mail box in that hot July sun. I said, "Brother, show me the boll weevils", and was I curious, because I'd never seen that pestilence before. Well, they were there by the thousands; the curse was devouring his very livelihood. Then I opened my Bible and read Malachi 3:10-11 to those pestilences and to the new brother in the Lord, "Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse . . . AND PROVE ME NOW: AND I WILL REBUKE THE DEVOURER FOR YOUR SAKES, AND HE SHALL NOT DESTROY THE FRUITS OF YOUR GROUND . . ." I said, "Brother, will you let God be your partner . . . you know He demands at least ten percent?" He replied tearfully, "Brother Pringle, I will give God at least twenty percent!" Then we prayed, and I rebuked the boll weevils in the name of Jesus, and left. Two nights later at the revival the young brother came up to me with a big grin and said, "Brother Pringle, I thank you for praying about the boll weevils; there is not a one left in my cotton patch." Praise God! That same brother today is not a sharecropper, but God has poured him out a blessing and now he owns his farm, his combines and other equipment, a big brick home, plus money for God's work, as well as his own and his family's needs. Sin had almost broken up this young man's family and home, but just in the nick of time he was brought to the Lord, and escaped the terrible ruin that sin was bringing him into. "Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." Malachi 3:9.

Thirdly, sin will ruin you spiritually, and send your soul to hell. Sin is like a cancer. It eats slowly but surely. The devil never says to anyone, "I want you to die a dope fiend, or with some horrible disease or injury." He says at first, "Just take a sleeping pill," or "you need a strong tranquilizer to give you some rest or peace." The devil never shows you the finished product of the brewers art — he says "Just have a beer or cocktail to be with the crowd." The devil never shows you what you will do while intoxicated — that indecent jesture, that

immorality, that crime that will be committed, that untimely death. He only wants you to commit that sin, and to invite the ruin to your life that will follow. The devil doesn't say to that young man or woman, boy or girl, "I want you to die with a hacking cough and lung cancer." He says, "Just smoke one cigarette to prove to your friends that you're not a sissy." The devil doesn't say "don't give to God's work at all"; he says, "You need your money to pay your bills this week, or you need to take a vacation . . . you need the tithe more than the church or God does." The devil knows that sin and rebellion against God's Word will bring ruin to your life. Sin will ruin your soul. Sin will invite the judgment of God upon you. Sin will open the gates of hell to you. Sin will bring down God's wrath and fury on you, suddenly. **NOW** is the time to turn from every sin in your life. Back to the text of this message in Ezekiel 18:30-32, "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die . . . I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: Wherefore turn yourselves and live ye." Fall on your knees in repentance now!