



The days of Heaven on the Earth.

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EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS

Ezekiel's Pentecostal Vision

Seven Characteristics of the Four Living Creatures

Delivered by Charles F. Hettiaratchy, Cotta, Ceylon, in Chicago, March 6, 1910



LET us read from the first chapter of the book of the prophet Ezekiel. "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God." It seems an unlikely place

for him to have visions of God, away in a heathen land, away from all Christian privileges, in the time of dire calamity and distress of nations. They had been taken away from their country into Babylon, their holy places had been desecrated and their holy vessels had been carried away with these captives. Paul when he was within the prison wrote those wonderful epistles and those walls turned to be a house of God. God gave visions of Himself there. Sometimes the devil is permitted to put a high wall around us, and sometimes he may build the walls very high, but there is one thing certain; the Lord never allows him to put on a roof, and the blessings of God come in a perpendicular line from the throne, and when we are hedged in we are to look up. Do not be discouraged, dear brother, if you are hedged in so that you do not know which way to turn. I have often been like that, but that was just the time when God gave visions of Himself. He brings us into a place of captivity with Himself. "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I need fear no evil for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over."

Do not be discouraged with the hard places. Do not be discouraged when things get dark, for the Lord dwells in the thick darkness. The Lord shall be a light unto you. He is going to give you visions of Himself. We have had blessings before, but *now* we want *Himself*. "The heavens were opened and I saw visions of God."

We read further that "The hand of the Lord was there upon him." May God's hand be upon us today. "And I looked and behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire unfolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man."

I want to call your attention this afternoon to these four living creatures. He had first a vision of God; then he had another vision. So we read that when Isaiah had a vision he saw his train fill the temple, then he saw the cherubim, those who were in God's presence, so after his first vision he had another. Ezekiel saw the vision of

four living creatures. Who are these four living creatures? I just pass on to you some thoughts the Lord gave me one day as I was on my knees studying the scriptures; I was waiting for a message to deliver at a Bible reading, and the Lord gave me these thoughts. These four living creatures were under the throne of God. Upon the throne there was a Man, that Man is our Elder Brother. He is on the throne. These four living creatures were under the throne. We read of them again in the fourth chapter of the book of Revelation; there we read they were in the midst of the throne and round about the throne. The sixth verse says, "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures." There is not a word in scripture that is not given for a purpose. So let us see what God has to teach us in these scriptures. Ezekiel saw them under the throne while John saw them on the throne. We have first to be ruled then we become rulers. First we suffer with Him, then we reign with Him. First we are ruled and then He chooses us as rulers. In Revelation 3:21 we read, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father on His throne." The overcomers shall sit on the throne, and we are looking forward to the day when the Lord Jesus Christ will come in the glory of the Father and His holy angels, and on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. He is coming as King of kings, and somebody will reign with Him in His kingdom. When King Edward was crowned king, Queen Alexandria was crowned too. She was by his side and the coronet was placed on her head too. And when the Lord Jesus comes to reign, the queen, His bride, the Lamb's wife, will reign with Him. The Holy Ghost is going about now in the world gathering out a Bride. Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify it with the washing of the water of the Word, that it might be a glorious church, holy, not having spot or wrinkle.

We find these overcomers sat on the throne, and we find these four living creatures were on the throne; so to me the logical conclusion is that the four living creatures would be those who are the Bride of Christ, and it seems to me Ezekiel had a vision of Pentecost. We read there was a storm, a wind came out of the north, and out of the midst of the storm, a fire the color of amber. I believe the prophet saw a vision of Pentecost, the fire of God. On the day of Pentecost there was a rushing mighty wind, cloven tongues of fire rested upon each one of them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. And the four living creatures came out of the wind and out of

the fire, fire-baptized sons of God. There is another thought I want to call your attention to, Ezek. 10:20, says, "This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubim." We read in the description of the cherubim that they were made of the same piece of gold. The mercy seat was made of solid gold and of the same gold were the two cherubim made which stood at each end of the mercy seat and between these dwelt the Shekinah glory. These two cherubim typify those who are in the presence of God. We read that Elijah when he was speaking said, "The Lord, before whom I stand." Elisha said the same thing. Men of olden times were men who stood in God's presence. The Psalmist said, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple." And the Apostle Paul tells us, "We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

So these two cherubim are made of the same piece of gold, and I pointed out to you in the book of Revelation that this bride is the Lamb's wife, and therefore must have the nature of the Lamb. That mercy seat was typical of Jesus Christ, and as the cherubim were made of the same piece of gold, so the Bride must partake of the very nature of the Bridegroom, of the nature of the slain Lamb. We also read that the cherubim are made of *beaten* gold. These are all types and there is teaching in them; *we* must be of beaten gold. We must have that love that is without dissimulation, the love of God shed abroad in our hearts, not merely the outer coating, the gold plating, but through and through gold. The Holy Ghost is purifying the gold now. Who shall stand when He appeareth; He is like a refiner's fire. He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver and purify the sons of Levi. The Holy Ghost is to purify us until we become like beaten gold, to be shapened and fashioned unto his image, so that when the Bridegroom comes the Bride may be prepared to meet Him.

Now of these four living creatures there are seven characteristics given. There are many things that appear to be like gold; in this age of advanced knowledge we find people *manufacturing* imitations of gold. In our country there is an American gentleman who had some diamonds but they were imitation diamonds. Oh how they glittered! It took a keen eye to detect that they were imitation. There are a lot of imitation diamonds and imitation gold. When a good article is manufactured the manufacturers say, "*Beware of imitation*," When God manufactures an article, there is apt also to be an imitation. Imitation gold is something that appears to be gold but isn't. There must be a testing of it, a proving of it; the gold must be beaten, and so in our own Christian life if we are to bear the qualities of Jesus Christ we must be tested. We have had

blessing; the Lord has met with us, the Spirit has been poured out upon many of God's children. Let us be sure in this age that we have the genuine article, that we measure up to God's standard. Let us test ourselves by the touchstone of God's Word; prove the spirits whether they are of God, because many spirits have gone into the world. Let us prove them not in a spirit of criticism or unkindness, but let us in a spirit of all humility and love prove the blessing.

Now there are certain characteristics given of these four living creatures. We read the first thing, "This was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man." I believe that signifies they were human beings; they were not angelic beings; they were men redeemed from amongst men. Then we read "every one had four faces," and further down we read a description of these four faces; then we read every one had four wings, and the uses of these wings are given later. In the seventh verse we read their feet were "straight feet." That signifies that there is no crooked walk with them. Christ spoke of the Comforter who was the Spirit of truth. "Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts, and thou shalt make me to know wisdom in the hidden parts." He is the Spirit of truth. You know we are all crooked by nature, and the crooked can not be made straight; there is a passage of scripture which says that. What is the remedy then? He gives us a straight line. The Holy Spirit comes and works the very life of Jesus Christ in us. He is the Truth, and when He comes He works all the sham out of our lives. Oh dear friends, there is a great deal that will not abide the fire of God's judgment; a great deal that will not stand God's test. We think we are wonderful Christians; I thought so myself until three and a half years ago, when the Lord gave me a glimpse of myself. I had been used of God, was much in His service, but when the Lord put judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet, oh what crooked places there were! God asked me the question one day, "Can God trust you?" Well He could not trust me so He had to get rid of me. That is what God is doing when the Holy Ghost comes. The real presence of the Holy Ghost means He gets rid of us. There are people who try to build up their Christian life. You cannot build up your life. It has to go, that Christ may be fully formed in you. Everything will have to go through the fire, and that which will not go through the fire will be destroyed. He will make things straight in our lives. When Christ's life is formed in our lives it will be righteousness to the core. That is the reason the churches do not want Pentecost. You think these things are hidden away; when the Holy Ghost comes He will bring them out in the daylight, and they cannot bear it. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. They don't want the righteousness of Jesus Christ to come and dig up the evil and unearth the hidden things so they oppose the Holy Ghost. Their feet were straight feet. Oh for straight feet! "He that saith he abideth in Him ought

himself also so to walk, even as He walked." Nothing short of that; we will measure up to God's standard. Then we read that the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot. I believe this signifies that the calf's foot is made hard so that he may walk in the rough places of the earth without being hurt. How do you get on in the rough places of the earth? How do you get on with those who rub you the wrong way? How do you get on with those crotchety and fidgety people with whom the Lord in His providence brought you in contact? You thought when you got the Holy Ghost everything would be smooth, and you became disappointed. He put you right among some people who were hard to get on with, and they are constantly rubbing you the wrong way; there are a lot of corners to be rubbed off, and people who rub you the wrong way take the corners off; the Lord has to polish us and take the corners off. I said these creatures had feet like calf's feet; that is they do not get hurt in the rough places. Do you have the joy of the Lord in tribulation? Do you glory in tribulation or do you growl? Do you get impatient? How do you get on with those people who malign you, who misrepresent you and misunderstand you and say your blessing is of the devil? Do you get hurt? have a bitter feeling against them? What did the Lord Jesus Christ say when such things happened? "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake;" not for our foolishness, but for His sake. There are many people persecuted for their foolishness' sake. Then He said, "Rejoice and be exceeding glad; and leap for joy." Did you leap for joy when you were prosecuted? When the Holy Ghost came into my life, the news spread everywhere that I got the devil. I said, "praise the Lord, I am getting near the mark." For a long time I was dissatisfied. I often thought, surely I was preaching a full salvation, holiness and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but I was a popular preacher. Well, I felt there surely must be something wrong, because when you follow Christ you cannot be a popular man. Then when they said I had a devil I felt I was getting near the mark. "If they have called the Master of the house of Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of His household?" My master was called Beelzebub, and I felt I was nearing the mark. We need grace not to get hurt.

When I was in Germany the other day I met Pastor Paul, a dear sweet man of God. I saw the glory of God shine in his face; there is opposition to Pentecostal work there, but he says he doesn't feel it, he is dead. When you are dead, if a man runs you down you can't feel it. A dead man cannot feel. We are baptized into His death. There are many people who say they are baptized but they are not dead. There is something wrong with their baptism. If you are really baptized, you are a dead man.

Something else is said of these four living creatures: their feet "sparkled like the color of burnished brass." When John saw the glorified

Jesus His feet were like the color of burnished brass, and we read in the prophecy of Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bringeth good tidings." Shining feet! That means they were shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. They were witnesses for God. The Lord took the big preacher out of me twenty years ago when He sanctified me; he took the parson out of me, and then I thought I was a big evangelist, but when the Holy Ghost came He took out the big evangelist. A missionary asked me what I was doing. I said, "I am the Lord's errand boy, now, just witnessing." Shining feet! everywhere you go you spread the glory of God. You do not try to exert yourself to be a witness for Christ; you are not trying to preach, it is just spontaneous. I heard a lady say the other day, somebody heard a man preach, and told her he was a man of God. She said, "It is not necessary to hear him to say that; I saw it in his face." Oh let us be such witnesses for God.

We read in the eighth verse, "And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides." The hands of a man, what did it signify? I have understood since coming into this country there are some people who are supposed to have received the Holy Ghost, they have given up all worldly avocations and all worldly business, they have called it carnal. I do not know what they are doing; they are just having a time with God. Well I find in my Bible a true Christian is a man who is diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. There are many people who rush away as soon as they get the Holy Ghost, and think they must give up their business and rush into the field. I do not think God calls us like that. There are men whom God calls for His work, there is no question about it, but there are others whom He calls to be in business. These four living creatures had the hands of a man under their wings; that means they used their hands, but those hands are covered with wings; wings signify a heavenly nature, and whatever they did with their hands they were covered with a heavenly nature and they did all to the glory of God. So, dear friends, you can do your business to the glory of God. The mother in the house when she looks after her children and sees to her household duties, will be rewarded. My good wife in Ceylon is looking after the children, and I believe she will have a great reward. They that abide by the stuff have the same reward as those who go to war. There are godly mothers who are doing their best in the house, and it is a hard place, but if they do it for God's glory they are going to get the same share as those who are in the thickest of the fight, and the man who is in the shop who is consecrated to God and doing that service for God, will share equally in the reward with those in the front of the battle.

Then we read another thing said about them: "Their wings were joined one to another." *They kept together.* That is a sign of real unity among the saints of God. The fire comes, and you know

what the fire of God will do; it will melt us into one. There are a lot of associations, a lot of unions trying to unify the body of Christ, but all have failed; they are just props. We do our best; God puts up with us; He lets us go on and shows us our failures, but when the Holy Ghost comes we will be one. If you have the real fire you are melted into one. Their wings are joined one to another. Dear friends, it is a very important point, this unity of the members of the body, and the Apostle Paul tells us to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit. It does not require any grace to cause division. It is very easy to separate, but it is very hard to keep together. We need the grace of God, we need the fire of God; we need the mighty love of God to put up with people who are unlovable. Sometimes we may not see eye to eye with them. We read here their faces were separate but their wings were joined in the unity of the Spirit; endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Dear friends, why is it that the Lord seems to be withholding the showers of blessing? The showers haven't come yet; we have only had the droppings. Why is it? Because there are divisions among God's people "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

On the day of Pentecost when the disciples were of one accord and one mind, they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. When the real fire comes there will be unity, but there will be the endeavor that we will have to make to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We can only keep together *in the Spirit; not by any rules and regulations*. You may try to work it out, but it must come from above, from the heavenly nature; it doesn't come from beneath. "Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward." They were going on with the Lord; I thank God that twenty years ago He brought me out of a horrible pit and out of the miry clay; He set my feet upon a rock and established my goings, not sittings, *my goings*, and since I have been going on with the Lord the path has been getting brighter and brighter. I say, going on *with the Lord*, not with any creed, not with any *ism*. The Lord brought me out of isms nineteen or twenty years ago, and He told me to go on with Him, to have my eyes fixed on Him. His Word was my creed, the Holy Ghost was my teacher.

I heard a story some time ago of a young boy who got saved; he came and told his father he had gotten saved and exhorted his father also to get saved. The father was an old established Christian, and he said, "My son, we are established." The following morning they were driving a wagon and one of the wheels got into a rut. They tried to pull it out but they could not, and the son said, "Father, it is established." There are many Christians established in a rut, in a creed, in an *ism*. There are some *established* churches. They say, "It doesn't tally with our

church doctrine." Glory to God, He didn't put us into that rut, He put us on the rock Christ Jesus, and there is no finality in Christ.

Then we read in the tenth verse, "As for the likeness of these living creatures, they had the face of a man; they had four faces, the first face was the face of a man, signifying again their humanity." I have heard it said among some people that they have tried to be angels at once, they get so superhuman, they want to live right away in the heavens, and they think they have gotten rid of their human natures; there are certain teachings that are current that we must get rid of our human natures, but we are not rid of our human natures. We read of Enoch that he walked with God, but he begat sons and daughters. Let us not get into fanaticisms, let us ask God to regulate our desires. We have natural desires and they have to be regulated into the right channel; they are necessary for the propagation of the human race, and there are certain things necessary in our human life.

Then they had the face of a lion. The characteristics of a lion are that he is king of beasts, and that he is bold and fearless. The Holy Spirit makes us bold as a lion. The disciples on the day of Pentecost were bold and fearless, so that those who heard marvelled, and they took knowledge that they had been with Jesus. But before that they were weak cowards. Peter denied before a woman that he knew Jesus of Nazareth, but what a marvelous transformation! "The fear of man bringeth a snare."

Then we read, the four had the face of an ox. An ox is a beast of burden, and carries heavy loads and yet moreover they are patient and forbearing. The Apostle Paul tells us to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Pastor Paul was speaking in London, and said when he was a military officer he used to drill his men, and that if a wasp stung a man, it was in accord with military discipline that he must bear the sting of the wasp.

We read of those men and women in the eleventh of Hebrews they were imprisoned, they were tortured, not accepting deliverance. I believe, dear friends, we have as yet very little understood what this real fellowship of Christ's sufferings is. The day the power of God came on me I had a measure of the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. Then we read the four had the face of an eagle. We read in Isa. 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles," that means the eagle is never weary of life. It is a delight for an eagle to be flying up into the heavens; they say he is trying to reach the sun, and when the Holy Ghost comes we are never weary of flying upward. "If ye be risen with Christ seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth." Though we live down here on the earth, yet we shall live up there. I heard the other day of one who was asked how things were going on in the world. He said he

didn't know, for thirteen years he hadn't been down there, he was up in the heavenlies. Though we are in the world, yet we are not of the world. Our affections are set on things on high. We are like the balloon which goes contrary to the law of gravity. The balloon is kept down by the ropes, and we are just here because we are kept down by this bit of humiliation. The moment the last rope is cut, we will fly up into the presence of God. Our hearts affections are set on things on high. We are never weary communing with God.

Do you get weary of digging into the mysteries of God's revelation? Is the Bible sweet as honey and sweeter than the honeycomb? There was a time when I used to read the Bible just like taking castor-oil; we had to take it; we needed it, but oh what a difference when you gave a child a honeycomb, he would eat it until it was all gone. The word of God must be as sweet as honey to us and sweeter than the honeycomb, and worth more than gold and silver. I have really not much time to read other things; the time I have to spare I read the word of God. People may call me narrowminded, but I do not care; I find nuggets of gold in it. I mean to stick to it; I mean to follow it. I know there is much good literature but I believe in this age it is safe to stick to the Bible, and never to be weary of it. There are many people wanting revelations from God, but there are plenty of revelations in this Word which we do not yet understand. Let us take time to sit at His feet and learn of Him. It is safe to find the meaning of these revelations. Sometimes in your seeking for revelations your own spirit may speak. Many people have revelations, and afterwards we find they are not by God's Spirit; not necessarily of the devil, but a lot of things have been produced by our own spirit. So it is safe to go by this Word of God. May He help us to stick to it and abide by it, and make it the rule of our faith, and get to know what God has to teach us. The Spirit will teach us if we are humble enough, but it will agree with the Word, for no scripture is of any private interpretation.

Then we have another characteristic of these four living creatures: *their wings covered their bodies*; that means *they* were not seen; their bodies were covered with wings. We should not put ourselves forward. We don't want to advertise ourselves; it is our business to advertise Christ. O what a difference it makes when the Holy Ghost comes; we get out of the way, and our one desire is that He may be seen and known.

We further read in the thirteenth verse, "appearance was like burning coals of fire;" our hearts aglow with the love of God. Dear friends, the great need is men and women who are burnt out for God. We may be like the dirty bit of coal that is put into the fire, the dark, black dirty bit of coal changes its color in a few moments. You can get the fire of God's presence and your whole being will be changed. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among

us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? Oh our hearts get aglow. In our country there are beautiful gems dug out of the earth, and I have heard that around these gems there are white stones, and these also begin to shine because they are in touch with the gems. If you dwell in the eternal burnings, the devouring fire, you begin to shine, your hearts become aglow with the love of God. Men feel the divine love; this is a magnificent proof of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. "He that dwelleth in God dwelleth in love, for God is love." Baptism in the Spirit means baptism into God, and the baptism of the Spirit means baptism of love, for God is love. If you haven't this divine love, there is something radically wrong with your baptism. Seek for the fulness, stir it up into a flame. You may have had the Spirit's grace upon you but you must be stirred into a flame until you are burnt out. If you had a spark of fire, that is not enough. We need the flame of fire. Get into the flame of fire, and get burnt out, so Christ may be burned in, and we become burning coals of fire. We need a big flame. Don't be satisfied with a mere spark.

Then we read they had "the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures, and the fire was bright and out of the fire went forth lightning." It is the lightning that kills the people, it is not the thunder. The lightning doesn't make much noise, but the power is in the lightning. You see the electric light, but you do not see the electricity that generates the light; that is an unseen power. Oh to be electrified by the power of God that when we come in touch with people they are set aflame.

"And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning." They ran and returned, *prompt obedience*. They ran on errands and returned back for a fresh supply; they waited on God to get His orders and went forth. Another blessing we need is the spirit of obedience, prompt obedience to the Holy Ghost. "The Holy Spirit is given to them that obey Him," and we will enjoy the fulness of the Holy Ghost by a life of obedience. Disobedience brings darkness, and if you would be continually in the light you must obey.

Then we read they went on wheels, and there were wheels within wheels. I believe that signifies that the wheel is the will, and the spirit of the living creatures was in the will. Dear friends, that is the pivot on which the whole machinery turns. That wheel is the will of God, and there was a wheel within a wheel; that small wheel is your will, and the big wheel is God's will. The work of the Holy Ghost is to blend our wills with the will of God, and as the big wheel turns, the small wheel will turn along with it, and the four living creatures were in the wheels, moving right along in the center of God's will. In the twenty-second verse we read that above their heads was the firmament, and the firmament was as clear as crystal, there were no clouds nor mists, and above the firmament was the throne, and upon the throne

was "the likeness as the appearance of a man above it, and I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it." That Man is our Elder Brother on the throne, in the place of majesty and place of glory at the right hand of God. He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

Did you ever think of the High Priestly ministry of our blessed Lord? He said, "I pray not for the world, but I pray for them whom Thou hast given me." He is praying for you and me. When Satan was going to tempt Peter, the Lord said, "Satan hath desired to sift thee as wheat, but I have prayed that thy faith fail not." Have you ever thought when in the midst of temptation when the enemy comes in like a flood that the Lord Jesus is praying for you? And before the temptation comes He is praying for you. Then what is the need of fear? "God hath not given us a spirit of fear." All fear comes from the devil.

Under this throne was the firmament, clear as crystal, that means no clouds of doubts and fears, and unbelief and discouragement; all these things come from the devil, and when the devil comes we must resist him. Some one said the other day, "The spirit of fear is the visiting card of the devil." When the devil sends his visiting card you send him word you have no time to see him. Take the Word of God the Spirit's Sword and stand on God's promises. Has He not said, He has not given us a spirit of fear, but of a sound mind?

I have seen a great deal of fear in many of these so-called Pentecostal workers. They give too much credit to the devil. He is a defeated foe. He cannot tempt us above what God would permit, and God will make a way for our escape,

if your eyes are fixed on Jesus. He is at the right hand of God, in the place of majesty, and He has all power. "Cast not away therefore your confidence." The revised version reads, "Cast not away your boldness." Should we not be a bold people, and talk boldly?

"Cast not away therefore your boldness which hath great recompense of reward. The just shall live by faith, and if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Without faith it is impossible to please God." Faith in the Almighty God! Faith in Him unto whom all power in heaven and earth is given. Faith in Him who is our Elder Brother, in the place of majesty and glory.

"Nothing between, Lord, nothing between,
Let me Thy glory see,
Draw my soul close to Thee,
Then speak Thy love to me,
Nothing between, Lord, nothing between."

The mists do not come from heaven, they are from out of the earth, they come from beneath. Oh may God bring us above it all and give us a clear firmament, clear as crystal.

"Nothing between, Lord, nothing between,
Shine with unclouded ray,
Chasing each mist away,
O'er my whole life bear sway,
Nothing between, Lord, nothing between."

And when the prophet saw this vision he fell upon his face. Dear friends, it is necessary for us to fall upon our faces. Let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt us in due time. May God help us to do it, is my humble prayer.

The Name of Jesus Honored in the Land of the Pharaohs

Natives Are Eager for the Gospel

Told by G. S. Brelsford, Missionary from Egypt, July 22, 1910



I AM glad to be here in the precious name of Jesus; that Name has become more precious to us since going to the land of Egypt than ever before. It is only as we learn to trust God look to Him and Him alone, when apparently every other source to which we might look is cut off, that He becomes more precious to us than ever.

Egypt is a land in which very little is really known about Jesus; it is almost exclusively Mohammedan, that means it is anti-christ, completely against Christ as the Son of God. He is recognized in the Koran, and mentioned as a prophet; they are willing to acknowledge Him as a prophet,

as a man, but not as the Son of the living God. That makes a great difference, takes away the divinity of Christ and of the atonement through that precious blood. So it becomes necessary to preach Jesus in that land as the Son of God.

I want to read a part of a verse in the 50th Psalm: "God, the Lord, hath spoken." I wish we could realize in our hearts how God hath spoken. He has spoken all down through the ages in a marvelous manner, but it has gotten into the hearts of only some of us that God has been speaking. He spoke concerning nations, and those nations were wiped out of existence. God spoke concerning countries and those countries were visited and the people perished; God spoke

concerning cities and those cities were destroyed according to His Word.

I never realized the fulfillment of some of the prophecies of God concerning nations and countries until I got over to Egypt, and found out how God literally fulfilled those prophecies in that land, spoken centuries and centuries ago.

One thing God spoke concerning Egypt was that it was to become one of the basest of nations. At the time it was spoken Egypt was in all its glory, in all its grandeur, in all its magnificence, in all its learning; and it was reputed for its learning, but God said it was to become one of the basest of nations, and it has sunk until its people were in the very dregs of degradation, until it became a question of whether existence would not become impossible, because they died by multiplied millions of starvation and of the plagues. They were swept off until entire villages were left without a single inhabitant, but it had to come. God had spoken!

At the time of her glory it was said Egypt had a population of fifty million people, and at the time Napoleon entered Egypt in 1798 she had become diminished until her people only numbered about two million five hundred thousand. God said she was to become one of the basest of nations. And then He said something more. In Ezek. 30:13 we read: "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols." From its earliest history it had been an idolatrous country. They worshipped idols in the time of Christ. Mark, the writer of one of the Gospels was dragged to death in the city of Alexandria by the idolatrous worshippers of that land; they built great temples for their heathen gods, and that continued for centuries after Christ, but God had spoken and there are no more idols worshipped in the land of Egypt. Oh that we would learn to put prophecy and history side by side, and see prophecy fulfilled; we would then pay more attention to this Book. "I will cause their images to cease out of Noph;" not only did God say He would destroy their idols, but He would cause their images to cease. You know how it is in the Roman Catholic churches, they have their images and bow down to those images. There is the Catholic church in the land of Egypt; the Roman Catholic Church is not the only catholic church, there is also the Greek Catholic, the Russo-Greek Catholic, the Coptic and the Abyssinian churches; they all embrace Catholicism, and in the Coptic church they all had their images, and bowed down to those

images, but the time had come when one of their patriarchs, which means a pope of the Coptic church, decreed the images had to go out of the churches, and they went. "And there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt:" that has some signification too. Here king after king followed each other and ruled over that land of Egypt, but God said, "there shall be no more." He fulfilled it, and no more does a ruler ascend that throne and rule that land. "And I will put a fear in the land of Egypt." You won't have to be in Egypt very long until you realize the fear is there. They stand in fear of everything. If we went back from the railroad some few miles distant, and hired some man to take us we would have to return before night, or we would not be able to get back that night. Fear! Why is it? God said it was to be there. The horrors that Egypt has passed through for multiplied centuries has implanted a fear there. Oh if we had time to tell you of some of the awful things they have passed through in that land! Horror upon horror; bloodshed and crime. God allowed a fear to come upon them.

Now there is another remarkable prophecy mentioned here in Isa. 11:15, "And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea;" at one time they had a language in that country as universal as the English language in this country; they all spoke the one language; it is the language that is now known as the Coptic language, but Coptic comes to us from a loose pronunciation of the Greek word which sounded almost like that. It is a corruption of that. The Arabians in attempting to say Gouptic pronounced it like Coptic, and consequently it has come to be called the Coptic language which really means the Egyptian language. Here was the Egyptian language and God said He would utterly destroy it, and centuries after that prophecy was given, the Coptic language went, and the Arabic language came in its stead, and today the Arabic is the language of that land as universally as English is of this.

If we will take these examples and see how God has fulfilled His Word we will get in earnest about His work as never before. The fig tree is beginning to bud; the Jews are gathering back to Palestine. There was a time when the Jews were prohibited, but only last year a new Turkish party came into existence and that new Turkish party ousted the old Sultan, which was the same as if the American people would rise up and re-

volt against their president and put in another. The Sultan of Turkey is the ruling power over the whole Mohammedan world. A party rose up there and he was put out, and a new man put in his place, and the new Turkish party threw open its doors to the Jews, and said, "Come in, we want you; you can buy these lands and put them under cultivation," and they are doing it, and that is very significant in these days.

Isa. 19:10 (R. V.) reads, "And her pillars shall be broken in pieces,"—in the time of the glory of that land they built great temples, and the ruins are there yet. People come from hundreds and thousands of miles to travel up and down the river Nile and see the ruins. It is claimed tourists spend five millions dollars each year in that land of Egypt seeing the ruins, and two and a half millions of it comes from the United States.

And here is something else: "all they that work for hire shall be grieved in soul." This means, those who work for wages will get such small wages they will be grieved in their souls. For centuries if a ruler of that land wanted laborers he would simply make a draft on them; he would call out as many as he wanted to work, whether it was fifty or a hundred thousand, or two or three hundred thousand, and work them just as long as he wanted to, and pay them no wages at all; those who did receive wages, received almost nothing. Until recently you could get an able-bodied man to work all day for fifteen or seventeen cents a day. Under improved conditions since the English got control in 1882 they get about twenty-five or thirty cents a day. A night watchman over there, working a whole month, walking up and down the streets all night long, will get only six dollars a month; a clerk in a bank, one who is qualified and educated, gets fifteen or twenty dollars a month; teachers, able and capable men, get from twenty to thirty dollars a month. God said, "all they that work for hire shall be grieved in soul," and it is true. You can get a woman to work for a whole month for \$1.25 and \$1.50, five cents a day.

It was on the 26th of January, 1906, God first gave His call for us to go to that land. He first spoke to us on our knees asking us whether we would be willing to do certain things if He required them. As he showed me one thing after another I said, "Yes, Lord." Then He said, "I want you to go to Egypt as a missionary." I was astonished; I had never heard of Egypt as a mission field, never heard of a missionary going

there, and didn't know Egypt needed any missionaries, but I said, "Yes, Lord, if that is your will." Then I began trying to find out something about it, its conditions, and whether there were any missionaries there. I wrote to two or three and I remember one of the replies that came back was, "Egypt is one of the hardest of mission fields." Then I got a letter from another brother there and he wrote me about the country being so exclusively Mohammedan, and he said, "You can talk to them about Jesus but just as soon as you mention Him as the Son of God, they fly into a rage." It wasn't encouraging, but we trusted it all in the Lord's hands. I believe God has a divine way in sending out missionaries, and He wants us to obey Him. I believe God's way of sending out His missionaries is according to Matt. 10:7-10.

We proposed taking with us about four of our children, and with them we started from Colorado Springs. Just a short time before we were to start there wasn't a dollar in sight for the trip; here were trunks, suit cases, clothing and many things to be supplied, and money for at least the beginning of the journey, but when the time came for us to start we started. God showed us we were to spend some time in this country before sailing. When I left the Missionary Home at Alliance, Ohio, sometime in November, I wrote in my note book, "It seems a new era has dawned for us, and really now has began our start for Egypt," but we had only \$4.40 in our pockets. We journeyed eastward and came up to the water's edge. You know the priests had to take up the ark at the Jordan and their feet actually touched the water before the waters separated.

We stayed there a month and the way didn't open, and as I went to God in prayer He showed me we were to go back to Philadelphia, and as we did that and asked Him for further direction, He told us to go to housekeeping. I thought that meant we must give up Egypt for a time at least. We went to housekeeping, furnished our rooms like the chamber on the wall you read about, and by that time a brother wrote to us from New York City saying they had a certain amount of money deposited in a New York bank for our trip to Egypt. Then the Lord said, "I want you to leave your children here and go to Egypt." That was a test, but it wasn't so hard for me as it was for my wife. When God called me to the ministry I had to die to my wife and my children. I had gone through the test, but would

my wife go through it? That was the question. I prayed and put it in God's hands. My wife said she would go with me as far as New York City, anyhow. I praised God and knew if she went that far she would go the rest of the way. We bade the children good-bye with tears streaming down our faces, and a week later we sailed for Egypt. We did as well as we could for the children, divided what was on hand, and went third-class over to Egypt, but I cannot recommend that way of traveling.

We landed in Egypt March 22, 1909, at Alexandria. We thought we would have at least ten or fifteen dollars when we reached Assiout, three hundred and fifteen miles up the river, but we had some extra expense we hadn't counted on. When we reached Alexandria we had \$2.25, but God took care of us. That \$2.25 got down to 4½ cents. A native brother handed us a dollar, and when that was gone a native sister gave us two dollars, and a sister in Iowa sent us twenty dollars; so God provided.

Our test on financial lines came in September of last year. The time had come when the last cent was gone. We had already suffered the pangs of hunger; not one single thing in the house in the shape of anything to eat, but we pled the promises of God. The postman came on Monday morning and brought a letter containing ten dollars; from that time on God supplied very graciously, for which we praise Him. I am satisfied to go out because if we are in the divine order God will fulfill His word. The laborer is worthy of his food and he will get it.

Jesus said when He sent out His disciples, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, etc., and I believe that command comes down to us now. We have nothing to boast of, we are not college professors, or in the graduating class even, but praise God while we were in the land of Egypt we got some precious lessons in the kindergarten. We saw the possibilities of this glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, if we will obey it and go out in His way. We had been told that was one of the hardest of missionary fields, but God went before and He opened the way.

We landed there 2:45 in the morning, got a little rest and went right into service. There was a mission already open for this truth and we began preaching Jesus Christ as the Healer. People soon began getting saved and sanctified, and a sister came who had been suffering fearfully for months with rheumatism; the doctors and the

hospital had failed, but in answer to prayer God healed her instantly, and she arose and walked. That was something that convinced. Oh how doors flew open! We had read about woman seclusion in that land, and were wondering how we were going to get entrance but this was the means of opening the doors. We were kept so busy we were stopped sometimes two or three times while eating breakfast; would start out after breakfast, enter a home and perhaps fifteen or thirty were there to be prayed for; then go to another home and pray for those, and so on, get back to our own home and find a number waiting at the door. Oh if we can only get into God's way of doing things, He can work. He worked some precious miracles, and it gave an entrance to the Gospel in that land. They came forty, fifty, seventy-five and a hundred miles bringing the sick, and then they would beg us to come to their towns and villages. This Gospel in its primitive power will open the doors. If God had had a better way to reach the heathen nations He would have given it. If we will take His way the doors will open. Man has tried to improve upon God's plan and they have had a hard time of it. While we were over in Egypt I remember seeing a book which was written by missionaries, telling how to reach the people over in those lands, and I thought I'd like to have it. One of the things I saw in that book was that one way to reach the people and get the prejudice broken down was to educate them, and another way was to take the medicine chest, but God doesn't say anything about either one in the Bible as His way.

I can not go into details in telling you about the different miracles God wrought, but we give Him all the glory. We did not have the power; the power was His. We could not go out to the villages as we would have liked, as we had to speak through an interpreter. God gave us three interpreters at Assiout but they could not go with us during the day as they had their business. Occasionally the way was opened for us to go out to the villages and how God would meet us. We went seventy-five miles up the river Nile and it wasn't long after it was announced that the crowd began gathering and we held our first service in that city on the house tops. The next night we held a service in a building, but it would not accommodate the crowds that came, and the night following we went to the street, and it was estimated we had an audience of eight hundred. Cer-

tainly that night God gave us a message on full Gospel lines. The postmaster came up after the service and said: "We accept the message; when I speak for myself I speak for this people." We were told the next morning something like three hundred had accepted the message. We never were able to go back to that village after that. Brother Moll and Sister Smith who were laboring with us there went out to a village, where they opened the Coptic church to them, and they had some precious meetings there; in another place the Presbyterian church was opened to them.

We went to a village one night but our interpreter who usually went with us missed the train, but the chief man of the town could speak a little English and volunteered to interpret for us. I only talked a little while as I saw he could not handle the subject, but we told them about Jesus the Healer and then we made a call, and you should have seen them come. The women are supposed to keep secluded but they didn't pay any attention to custom. We were so thronged we could hardly stand on our feet. We prayed and anointed, but the chief man was so worried about the way they crowded around us that he wanted us to stop. We didn't want to stop, so he finally said, "We will leave this building and go to another." "We went across the street to a school building and admitted a few at a time, but the door was forced open before we were through praying and we were thronged as before. They were so anxious to be prayed for and anointed that they would take a little oil off our fingers and anoint themselves. That shows how this glorious Gospel can get an entrance in that land. They are open to it.

Mohammedanism is the greatest issue the Christian church has to face today. Some people think they cannot reach a Mohammedan, but

praise God we had the joy of seeing Mohammedans come and beg us to pray for them; I know of two cases among the Mohammedans that God healed, so if we will stand for this Gospel we have something that is going to break into Mohammedanism; they see the power of God through the Name of Jesus.

God gave us a precious work at Assiout. Many were saved and sanctified and some received their Pentecost. Then just before we left, we opened another station about twenty miles distant. Egypt is an open field; pray for that field. They are a people who know nothing about this Gospel. They cannot understand the English; we cannot put English Pentecostal literature there, but God opened the way for us to begin the publication of a little message in Arabic, called "The Message of God;" so far as we know it is the only little message in the Arabic that tells anything about this glorious Pentecostal Gospel that is so dear to us.

Pray for Egypt. I told you there was something good God had promised for Egypt. In Isa. 19:21 we read: "And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord and perform it. And the Lord shall smite Egypt: He shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and He shall be entreated of them and shall heal them. . . . In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel mine inheritance."

There were some hard prophecies against Egypt, God has fulfilled them, but He will fulfill these too. He says, "Blessed be Egypt, my people."

Conventions

The Fourth Annual Convention will be held in Selkirk Hall, Stanley St. and Logan Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Dec 2-12, 1910. For particulars, write to A. H. Argue, 299 St. Johns Ave., Winnipeg, Man.

A Pentecostal Convention will be held at 264 Broad St., Conneaut, Ohio, beginning Saturday night, Dec. 31, and continuing as long as the Lord directs.

Free entertainment for all evangelists and

teachers and as many more as can be accommodated.

For further information, write C. W. Pelton, 359 Main St.

A brother who is doing Christian work among a large number of old soldiers wishes rolls of Pentecostal literature sent him for free distribution. Those having extra papers on hand can make good use of them by sending them to M. B. Hinsdale, Soldiers' Home, California.

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Notes

Missionaries Enroute to India

ON Oct. 22, 1910, Miss Minnie F. Abrams and her party of six left New York City for India. Miss Edith Baugh had gone several weeks ahead, stopping a short time in England, and with Miss MacDonald is expected to meet the party at Marseilles, France, making eight in the company. They are now on their journey and many trials await them, especially the new missionaries, so we must pray much for them. We ask our readers to pray especially for Miss Abrams, for while each missionary is going out on her own responsibility, yet the burden of direction and counsel will rest heavily on her, and she will need much prayer.

The passage money has been received for the brother about whom we wrote in last issue, W. W. Bruere, and he is expecting to sail shortly.

It was while Miss Abrams was in Bethel at our last May Convention that the Lord definitely made plain to her the work she was to do when she returned to India, and that she was to take others with her, and while she was praying over it the Lord gave her the scripture, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain." God

showed her that He who had stirred up a heathen king to build His house in Jerusalem could provide the means for their going forth, and He enabled her to stand in faith for it, and her heart is full of praise for the wonderful way in which He has made the mountain a plain.

But the going forth is only a little part. We must not lose sight of them after they are on the field. We must hold them up with our prayers and means. Our enthusiasm rises high as we get people ready for the foreign field, and we send them off with joy and trust and strong hope, but we must stand with them daily in faith and prayer as they battle against the awful powers of ignorance and superstition, and darkness of heathenism.

India is in a state of transition, religiously as well as socially and educationally, and now is the time for us to be alert to pour in the Gospel. The wretched caste system which has been so deeply rooted is being broken in pieces and losing its grip. For *this* godly men and women have long prayed, and it is being brought about by the native government giving all castes equal rights in school and government service.

It is said that recently three boys were seen going down a street in Madras leaning together and looking over the same book. The middle one was a native Christian and the other two high caste Hindus. The leaders of Hinduism are seeing the unrest among many of their people and that it does not satisfy them and they are revising it and bringing out the best there is in it. They see caste being broken to pieces and that idolatry must go, but they are trying to keep Christianity out.

A great lawyer of India said, recently, "My brethren, it were madness to shut our eyes to the fact that Christianity—that religion which marched from Bethlehem to the steps of Imperial Rome, and has since dominated all the Western World—has come to India. It is not a passing episode, it is a mighty, conquering and permanent spiritual power come to stay and repeat its victories in India."

As the youths of India are turning away from the religion of their fathers the doors of this nation are open as never before to Christianity and we must arouse ourselves to put the Gospel in their hands, for Satan will not be slow to transplant one false religion with another, and as Hinduism is rejected the enemy will be on hand with other false religions, clad in the new garb

of Christian Science, Theosophy, and other similar false teachings that are supplanting the true Gospel to such an alarming extent here.

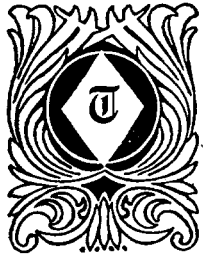
If the missionary goes forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and lives a consistent Christian life before those whose hearts are reaching out

after the living God, and the native Christians show that they have something to be sought after, God will do mighty things for India and greatly transform her from a heathen to a Christian nation. Let us pray and work with the Great Intercessor to this end.

Mountain Peaks of Prophecy and Sacred History

The Coming of the King! The Overthrow of Antichrist!

Eighth Lecture by W. H. Cossum, 2535 Melrose Ave., Norwood, Ohio



HE Coming of the King! What a restful thought! What a happy prospect! The "blessed hope," as the Word calls it, of His coming! You may think of the Jews with profit, but there is a heartache in it all. The prospect is bright for them in a way, but they must pass through such terrible sorrows before that time. We may think of the Antichrist and other prophetic themes, but there is a vein of sorrow in it as we think of the final scenes and the apostasy and all that, but when we look up and think that Jesus is coming again it fills our hearts with great joy.

The Word tells us the Spirit He sent is a Spirit of love and of power and of a sound mind. He is to rule when He Himself comes. His Spirit is simply His Other Self; He is to rule over this world in power and in love, and in soundness of wisdom. We either go to one extreme or the other; we are full of love and sentiment and joy and all these things, and bury our reason and rather look askance at those who would counsel self-control, and say, "Let us be happy; I want to have a good time." But Christ is soon coming to rule us in wisdom, and the Holy Spirit wants to rule us that way now. Of course, He is supposed to give power and love, but with it all a *sound mind*. I want the gentlest and tenderest love, and I want His power to rest upon me and flow through me, but at the same time I want to be steady and to have a sound mind.

Tonight, as we think of Christ, my mind has somehow or other chosen another order, the order of power, of soundness of mind, and of love. I will read a few scriptures and talk upon them as I read, and let us pray that the Lord will give us a good time.

I do not know what the Lord will say to you through me tonight. No matter who talks or what is said, if you are in the right relationship with Jesus He will talk with you. Let us all trust the Lord tonight and be in fellowship with Him, and be happy and restful, and have a sweet, holy time with Him.

We will let our minds rest upon thoughts in the

first chapter of Acts. Let us rest our feet upon the solid rock of His truth.

"And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

Praise the Lord! That is the "blessed hope!" He is coming again as they saw Him going. He is coming again to this old earth, which is mixed up in confusion and sorrow; in sin and misrule and everything else that is sad. He is coming again to straighten things out, and make things sweet and true and right. This is the thought which we let rest in our hearts with peace and blessing: First, as He left the earth they said, "He is coming back again." Before they had time to be very much troubled over His absence or have a very heavy heart, they were told, "He is coming again."

I want to turn your thought first back to a verse or two in the second chapter of Daniel. He tells us about these kingdoms, about this image which Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream and which was interpreted by Daniel to represent Babylon, Medo-Persia, power in heaven and on earth will rule the nations Greece and Rome. Those of you who are acquainted with history know the terrific conflicts which that represented. When Babylon passed off the field there was bloodshed, and when Alexander the Great swept through the world with his forces, and the mighty Medo-Persian empire passed away and Greece replaced it, there were terrible conflicts. Thousands and thousands of men were involved in an awful turmoil and strife. When Rome came on the field and absorbed the world, she was the iron kingdom and stamped and tore as a beast with iron teeth and brazen feet. She was a terrific power. Then the second chapter also speaks of the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands, and adds at verse

44: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. For as much as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Here is a statement with reference to the kingdom Christ is to set up. He is to come as King.

In Revelation 19 He is represented as going forth with the name upon Him, King of kings and Lord of lords, and while in the terrible conflict and bloodshed to which we have referred, one world nation displaces another, the expression describing that is mild compared to the expression used in describing the passing away of the kingdoms of the earth under the impact of the "stone cut out of the mountain." When Medo-Persia conquers Babylon amid great carnage the Word says, "another kingdom shall arise," but when the stone strikes the kingdoms they are "broken to pieces together and become as the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them. And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Dan. 2:35. Here we have a picture of the authority and power accompanying the setting up of the Kingdom of Christ. The wonderful power, the pride, the pageants and the great armies, and the utter confusion of nations Christ is coming to displace by His authority, and by righteousness and peace.

Follow down the lines of kings: England herself has had but two really respectable rulers, and one of them was a queen. When you think of the nations of the earth in their misrule and confusion, and then think that the time is coming when the Christ is to sweep this earth and rule all nations as with a rod of iron and dash them to pieces if they resist, as a potter's vessel, it gives you peace.

I am glad it is not going to be England's king. I am glad it is not going to be Theodore Roosevelt, or President Taft, and the Senators and Representatives of this great and glorious nation of ours. I am glad it is not going to be they or any other nation that I know anything about. Think of China, and think of Japan, with its ruthless ambition, and the Emperor of Germany with wrath stirring in his heart because his plans are interfered with, and think of England striving to keep up with Germany lest she be smitten unawares! It gives you a headache to think of it, but they will all be swept off the field, and One who

is Almighty, One to whom is given all authority and power in heaven and on earth will rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Turn with me now to the second Psalm:

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. Yet have I set My King upon thy holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, oh ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are they that put their trust in Him."

This is a Covenant of Jehovah with His Son, His Anointed. He is going to give Him the nations and they are going to be ruled by Him. His heart is strong in righteousness and strong with the Spirit of peace and love, and He is going to rule. That promise gives me comfort. We look at Him as He went up into the heavens after dying on the cross and rising from the dead, and appearing and reappearing in the forty days; we think of Him as disappearing as a risen Savior, as the Head of the Church and the loving Lord who is going to save us, but there is something besides sentiment in Christ; something besides beautiful self-sacrifice, and all this pomp and power among the nations is going to be replaced by His power, His Almightyness, His capacity to rule.

You may remember in the old age of David, before his son, Solomon, was declared king, Adonijah set up his kingdom first, and called the people to come over east of the river Jordan to him, and there they were having a grand time. They had a wonderful feast, but word was sent in to David the father, "Adonijah has declared himself king, and you promised the kingdom to Solomon." David immediately said, "Bring Solomon in," and he made him king to whom the promise had been given. But the other one had stolen in and while they were having a happy time east of the river, suddenly they heard a great shout on the other side of the river, and they said, "What is that?" The carrier came and said,

"Your father David has proclaimed your brother king," and Solomon, the one who had a right to reign, was king by the edict of the father, David, and Adonijah and those who had been following a false king, scattered.

We were talking the other night about another ruler who will be having a time of glory, and will be ruling a great empire and having kings under and around him. These, too, will have their time of jubilation and all that, but the Father will say to the Son, "Now is the time to go," and the *One whom the Father has chosen will be king*. Yes, and when that shout of those hosts that go forth with Him is heard upon this earth, the antitype of Adonijah and his forces will slink away to the four corners of the earth, away from Him whose right it is to reign. Adonijah usurped the kingdom for a little while, but his shout had not died away until the true king came to the front, and that is the way it will be with Antichrist. The nations are misruled now and they will be governed in a great world-wide empire under the Antichrist, but Christ has entered into a covenant with God and God has entered into a covenant with His Son. Beloved, let us rejoice! Oh we are little folks; yes, we do not know very much; we are just little weaklings on this earth, one by one, each one of us, but we believe in Jesus, and bless His Name He has the power, and it says in the end of that verse that I read, "Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him."

Let us rest now, no matter what goes on around us; whether we go through the tribulation or whether we do not—let us leave incidental things with Him—whether we are raptured before or whether we are raptured afterwards we do not care; whatever God's will is, is best, but let us rest confident and quiet and sweet in this wonderful thought that we belong to Him who has all power, and who is coming to rule, and the Antichrist cannot harm us if we rest under the blood and abide in confidence in Christ. I am happy tonight because I believe that there is a company of people here, and other companies scattered around this world, thousands and thousands of them, who rest content in the thought that Jesus Christ is our King, and it fills our hearts with joy. May God keep us pure.

The devil will rob you of that faith, beloved, if he can, and when his time is shorter than it is now, he will fight with even more desperation. Hell will be opened and the demons will pour forth thicker than they are now in the earth, and they will do their worst to break us down, but let us abide in simple faith; let us not try to be great or wise above the world; let us not try to have any big experience; oh let us keep

down under the blood and join in humble fellowship with Christ, and the day will come just as sure as God keeps His covenants, when you and I will be with the blessed Lord in His rulership over the earth, and whether the forces of the Antichrist rage around us in the tribulation or not, we are safe with Jesus if we keep trusting. Praise the Lord, He is coming to reign over the earth then with power, with a rod of iron controlling things, and having things at last going the way God wants them to go, and where He wants them to go.

Furthermore, the reign of Jesus is to be not only in power but in soundness of mind. In St. John's Gospel, 18:33-37, we read: "Then Pilate entered unto Him, Art Thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of Me? Pilate answered, Am I into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto Him, Art Thou the King of the Jews? Jesus delivered Thee unto me: what hast Thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from thence."

What did He mean by that? He meant, "It is not like this Roman kingdom you are thinking about. The people of this world exercise control over one another with a domineering authority, but it will not be so in My kingdom. You can rule if you will, but you have to be humble; you have to give your life a ransom." So He replied, "My kingdom is not of this world." "Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born."

The wise men asked, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" He was born to be King but He had to be born as a man before He could be King, and He had to go through His human life of humiliation, humbling Himself unto death, even the death of the cross, before He could be King. With Him it was "no cross, no crown," and it will be the same with you and me. He says, "To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice."

You notice the strange turn Jesus gave that conversation. He didn't say, "For this cause came I into the world that I might be King over everybody," but "that I should bear witness to the truth." He is to be King of truth, King of power? Yes, He is to rule over all the nations with a rod of iron and displace all this perverted power and rule. But apart from straightening out the governments of the earth and ruling people in righteousness and peace, apart

from controlling great masses of men, holding them with a steady hand, with far-reaching power and authority He is going to be a King of truth. Now that comforts me. Wouldn't you just like to know tonight what is truth? Some of you people who have been studying your Bible, wouldn't you like to know just exactly what is truth? Don't you puzzle sometimes in your study and ask the Lord, "Dear Lord, do show me—is this man right, or is that one right? Please show me what is truth." Well, just as He is going to sweep all the kingdoms out of the way and rule men according to the laws of heaven, so He is going to put in our hearts *truth*; He is going to tell us what the truth is, and He Himself will be the embodiment of truth, and all error in thought, in heart, and in government will be swept aside.

We think of the rulers of the nations with power and authority, and we think of people who say, "Well, our politics are best; our way of doing things is best; our truth in the scriptures is best," but the Lord is going to show us the truth, and when He comes there will be peace in your mind, quiet and rest, because you realize that He is the King of truth, and that error and wrong conceptions, and partial conceptions, are swept away. It is not to be a question of the limitations of man, of some of the kings of this old world, of Theodore Roosevelt or President Taft or his counsellors, but of the King of truth, the Lord Jesus Christ. He says, "I was born for this purpose, to bear witness of the truth," and it was His answer to the question as to whether He was King. He didn't deny it. "I came to bear witness of the truth."

So I am so glad in my own heart tonight as I think of the Christ ruling over the earth, that all the false philosophies and all the false religions which are leading men and women aside into wrong paths which are a part of the Babylon life, are to be swept out. These are to be swept aside and there is to be one great mass of people who will serve Him in truth, and beloved, it may not be very far off. That rests me tonight. It may be just a little ways ahead of us when these glorious things will be true, and of course, while there was a good deal of turmoil and battle and struggle and strife and bloodshed when one of these kingdoms was replaced by another, surely there will be tremendous crashes and changes when the Lord comes, and the Lord of truth will be here to rule over us.

Now let us turn to another phase of the Lord's coming. Rev. 19:5 says, "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of

mighty thunderings, saying, Allelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And He said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

Now here is the marriage, and in Matt. 25 you read how the Bridegroom comes. We do not need to be mixed up on these two figures; they are both consistent. You say, "Are we to be the five wise virgins or the Bride? How can we be the attendants of the Bride and the Bride, too? You can be many things if you will just keep still and not be too particular. The Lord can use any illustrations about us He likes. I don't care whether they call me a servant or a son; the Book says we are both. The Apostle calls himself a slave and then goes on to prove that we are not slaves any more, we are sons. He doesn't say that in the same sermon. I can use one figure today and another tomorrow. The Lord uses the figure of virgins in Matthew, and in Revelation He says something else. Don't try to make an illustration go on all fours and get mixed up. The thought is the same. The Bridegroom is coming, and the Book speaks of His coming in terms of a wedding. Here again we read, "His wife hath made herself ready." The marriage supper of the Lamb is come.

When the Lord comes back, it is true He is coming back with power and authority from God to rule over the nations of the earth and displace all other kingdoms and false systems of religion and philosophy. But while it is comforting to know that you will have a great authority over you that is powerful and strong, and comforting to know that the one who is ruling over you knows what He is doing, and is a real embodiment of truth, this is only a *part* of the blessed truth. He is powerful and wise and true, and free from all error, but when He comes with the great heart of God's *love* to greet a company of people that *love Him* it makes it still better, and so the power of it and the truth of it will not interfere with the *love*. A woman might say to her husband, "I am glad you are wise and rich and powerful, but best of all is your tender love." Now I am glad that Christ is powerful, big enough, strong enough, perfect enough to rule, but I am also glad it is all to be done in great love. I rejoice in His truth, but I am so glad He loves me, and that we will have, not a mere cold embodiment of authority and truth with no Father, as will be the case with the Antichrist

for instance, and as authority is manifested in many of the kings and rulers of the earth, but that He is coming with the tenderness of a Bridegroom, with the tenderness of the heart of God, and not alone as a great Ruler. He is the Bridegroom of our souls; He is looking for a people who love Him for His love, who love Him because He first loved them. Doesn't that go down deeper into your soul tonight, beloved friends, that the glorious King who is coming soon, a King whose glory you can see, is not going to stand you afar off, but is going down into the very depths of your life, and His tenderness is going to be embodied there, and is going to control your life as a husband who loves his wife and whose love and forbearance dominates the life of the wife? Oh bless the Lord tonight for our glorious King of power, of truth and of love.

There are other phases of His love that might be spoken of, but these are enough to comfort me that He will be a King of power without error, the Bridegroom of His Bride. Now dear friends, it says here, "His wife hath made herself ready." Oh, as I stand here this minute before you there is such a cry comes up from my heart, and I feel the sweetness and the fullness of the power and the beauty of this thought of being ready, but He is not here yet, friends, and the devil can play havoc with us unless we are humble and faithful. The devil can separate you from that hope, and he will do it if he can, by throwing confusion into your hearts, but let us be simple and not ground our hope of seeing Him, the King of power and the King of truth and of love, on anything but His precious Word. Let us not be carried away by false experiences, let us be willing to test everything by the Word of God, be willing to listen to our pastors or our friends. It is a beautiful thing to be able to correct yourself when you find yourself going in a wrong way. Even when you cannot understand yourself you can say, "I don't know what this experience is I am going through, but You do, Lord, and I know You have died for me and I rest in Your arms tonight." Your past may

have been very sad, your life may be full of bumps and trials, and today you may be under the very fires of God's providences, but you can still rest in His arms of love. May God help us to remember that when the Bridegroom comes five will be ready and five not ready, and when He comes He wants us to be ready. There is such a thing as not being ready, and when I read Matthew 25, and I do read it often, and come to the words, "And the door was shut," a sadness comes into my heart that is almost unendurable. They went in with the Bridegroom and the door was shut. God's mercy endures forever, but when Jesus comes, whether I am dead or alive I want to meet Him. Let us so live, in these days of awful peril from all sorts of temptations within and without, let us so live that we shall meet Him in peace. Now it is ours to overcome. The blessed Christ Himself said, "He that endureth to the end the same shall be saved."

There is your King. He is very near. You can call it twenty-five years if you like, or five or ten. Even if it is fifty years it is very near. If it is ten years it is nearer yet, but it is near, and we must walk softly and carefully before Him that when He comes we shall be sure to be ready. And when the great jubilee day comes what a glorious time it will be when millions upon millions will be singing His praises with great joy in their hearts, and all the trouble gone, the tears wiped away from our faces, and death and sorrow and sighing taken out of our hearts because we are lifted up into that heavenly kingdom with Him, and the sorrows and trials of earth are over. Praise the Lord, it is worth the fight! It is worth the prayer! Let us not be diverted by anything, sorrow, trials, trouble or anything of the kind, but let us hold firm and strong in the straight pathway that leads on to Him. Let money and prosperity go if it will; let this or that which allures, go, but let us walk humbly with Jesus that we may be able to meet Him in peace when He comes and be with Him as our King of power, our King of truth, and our King of love.

Some Illuminations Given by the Holy Spirit

To C. Barnette Fockler, 793 Island Ave, Milwaukee, Wis.

GOD is spirit. No man hath seen God, yet God can clothe Himself with a body, or with a cloud, with light, or He can reveal Himself as He wills, and as He sees the times or occasions require.

Christ Jesus was the visible manifestation of the ever-present God. He took upon Himself the form of man that we might better grasp and un-

derstand God. He was *the Sacrifice* to which all other sacrifices pointed; therefore came to satisfy the thought of the necessity of sacrifice which is so deeply imbedded in the human mind. He was God, giving Himself as a sacrifice.

When His body became spiritualized after His resurrection He could come and go at will (or

thought) from an unseen (to the natural eye) condition, to a tangible body. "Touch Me:" "Give Me to eat;" "Thrust thy hand into My side," etc.

While yet without this highly spiritualized condition, when in His human body, He taught us by word and demonstration the *supremacy of the Spirit over all matter*, and awoke within mankind this latent power, declaring that they too had dominion over all things. "All things are possible to him that believeth," i. e. that believeth that he is *one* with the infinite, ever-present, and all-powerful God. "I and the Father are one." "I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you." "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on Me the works that I do shall he do also." "As He is, so are we in this world."

Mankind was created in the image of God, but by wrong thoughts, leading to wrong actions, which are called sin, man largely smothered his spiritual possibilities. Nevertheless, the smoking flax (seed of life) is there, waiting to be fanned into a living flame of faith through regeneration and by correct thoughts and understanding of our created ONENESS WITH GOD. Hence, Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand, is nigh thee, even within thee.

To repent is to correct our erroneous thoughts and actions, first, towards God, second, towards our fellow-beings; and to abhor and turn away from the control of the thoughts of the fleshly mind, which have kept us out of our rightful inheritance, and to turn to God through the knowledge of Jesus Christ, accepting His will or mind to be our absolute control forever more.

We show our submission to His will by the obedience to His words and commandments, and then and there the smoking flax bursts forth into a flame; the slumbering germ of life is set in motion and we are born from above, "Born again," and thereafter live in the Spirit.

In our daily transactions from henceforth we are controlled by the mind of the Spirit, as revealed in the teachings of Jesus Christ, whose right to rule over us we acknowledge. Now, we will not permit a thought of fear, or malice, or evil, or any of these things that the fleshly mind formerly dwelt upon, to enter into us and control us. We will know that *we are one with God*, who is love, life, goodness, health, happiness, and righteousness evermore. We will joyfully de-

clare this union by our thoughts and words and actions, and reject every tramp-thought or temptation that may come to us, such as thoughts of sin in any form, thoughts and suggestions of pain, sickness, fear, poverty, calamity, grief, or any of the train of miseries that come under the head of evil, ever remembering that we are *one with God*, from whom comes *every good and perfect gift*, even as Jesus said: "If ye being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give *good things* to them that ask Him," and "Every-one that asketh receiveth," i. e., asks with this correct understanding that *we are one with God*. Hence, all good things are ours by inheritance (spiritual birth).

Then as we live in unison with God in our thoughts and actions, and resist the evil one, we shall be delivered from all these temptations and they will find no lodgment or entrance into our beings, and we shall go down life's journey filled with love, joy, peace, praise, purity, health and happiness. Sorrow and sighing will flee away, and we shall realize that we are in tune with the Infinite, and from our lips will burst forth the words of the Psalmist, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy."

Oftimes when this true, and apparently new, revelation of God's love to us, (that through Christ we are ONE WITH GOD, "heirs of God," hence heirs to everything that is good and perfect), is first unfolded to our understanding, faith instantly bursts forth, and we are then and there set free from all evil, whether sin, pain, sickness, or any other kind of infirmity. Even so it is the mind of God, as Jesus revealed by His demonstration, and has made provision that through those who have been set free and to whom He gives this precious ministry, others shall be taught and ministered to by prayer and laying on of hands, by which they are brought into touch and contact with His living words, thereby coming into spiritual understanding which at once sets them free. Oh the heights and depths of God's love! Who can fathom it?

May this love draw thee closer to His bosom, so that thou wilt joyfully take from Him the "good things" that He freely gives to all.

A New Lesson in the Beatitudes

The Way Down Is the Way Up

Pastor G. E. Fisher, 51 Lippincott St., Toronto, Can., May 17, 1910



HIS Word of God has three important phases: it is dispensational, it is doctrinal and it is experimental. I want to speak to you about some of its experimental phases, which is perhaps to us the most important, for doctrine is of little value unless it is put into practice.

Before I take up the scripture I have in mind, let me tell you of a few things in the life of an old lady called "Holy Ann," who lived in our city of Toronto. Perhaps many of you have heard of her. She lived to be about one hundred years old, and was taught of the Lord in a marvelous way. God Himself taught her to read the scriptures, and many precious lessons did He teach me through her. I was glad to sit at her feet. She could talk to you about a real, personal knowledge, and fellowship with God, and tell you things that unless you were very credulous indeed you would be apt to discount, but they are real and true, and as you got to know her you found out they were true. I will give you one or two illustrations.

She went to visit a family in whose home we had held some meetings, a farmer and his wife. They had met "Ann" and wanted her to come, and she went. She was telling them about her wonderful answers to prayer, and they discredited what she said. You could not hide anything from her, and God let her see that they were doubting her testimony, so one day she said to them: "Do you ever take anything down to the Salvation Army?" They lived some miles from the city. They said, "Yes, we used to take down a few dozen of eggs occasionally, but the hens have quit laying, and we haven't had any to take lately." "Well," she said, "My Father tells me you are to take something to them; they are in need." They didn't know what to take, and she said to them, "If I ask my Father to make the hens lay will you take the eggs down?" They said they would. "Ann" went away to her room and she stayed there in prayer before God for some time. By and by she came out, and though an old woman, she could skip and jump like a little girl. She would often say, "I am just 'sweet sixteen'." She went skipping down to the barn and came back with a lot of eggs in her apron.

They marvelled. They had not been able to find any eggs. They took these eggs and some bread and went down to the officers of the Army and found they were destitute, had no food nor money to buy any.

During Ann's stay there those hens laid every day, but do their best they could never find the nests. "Ann" was going to tell them one day where the nest was, but the Lord wouldn't let her; they went down again and again and hunted but to no avail. But the day before she went away she asked the Father if she could tell them, and she took them and showed them where the nest was. One of the strange things in connection with it was that all those hens laid in one nest. Anybody who knows anything about a farm knows they have their preference, but the Lord made those hens all lay in one nest.

"Holy Ann" had an experience with God that enabled her to touch God. I remember I was in a home of a brother in an eastern town where "Ann" was staying, and we were conversing about a passage of scripture. None of us could locate it, and "Ann" said, "Give me your Bible." She took it and went off out in the hall and said, "Father, show it to me." "Ann" herself couldn't find any passage like that; she wouldn't know one passage from another, didn't understand the chapters, or couldn't locate the books, but she asked her Father, and came back with her finger on the passage.

God met that woman in her simplicity and in her ignorance, and taught her in a way that was perfectly marvelous and even miraculous. He said to her one day, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward." So she sought to carry that out, but one day there was something happened. "Oh, Father," she said, "I cannot rejoice at that. What will I do?" So she was mourning over it, and the Father said, "Ann, you go out to the well." She went out, and it was one of those old fashioned wells with a windlass and a bucket and at the top was a chain, and on the top of the chain were three big links, and she said, "Well, Father, what do you want me here for?" "Well, Ann, do you see those three big links? The first one is 'Rejoice evermore,' and the next, 'Pray

without ceasing,' and the next, 'In everything give thanks.' Now Ann, if you break that top link can you draw water out of the well?" "No, Father." "Well, the first link in your life is to 'Rejoice evermore,' and if you break that link you cannot draw water out of the wells of salvation, for it is *with joy* that we are to do this." "Well," she said, "Father, I cannot rejoice at *that*." He said, "I did not ask you to rejoice at *everything that happens*, but I say, 'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.'" "Ann" saw it, and she said, "Thank you, Father."

God talked to her in these ways. So the Word of God is doctrinal, dispensational and experimental, but if I were to make choice I would sooner have an experience like "Ann's" than to know a great deal about dispensational or doctrinal truths. We want to speak this afternoon along the line of experimental truth.

Take Peter for an example; though he had gone out of one dispensation into another his old prejudices stuck to him, and he never would have gone down to the household of Cornelius if God had not given him that wonderful vision, but God was so gracious that when Peter didn't understand the truth dispensationally, the Lord undertook to show him experimentally and so He will with us.

Now from the Beatitudes let us draw some experimental lessons. Matthew 5:1 says: "When Jesus saw the multitude, He went up into the mountain and taught His disciples." The lessons He then taught were for *His disciples*; not for the World. Jesus' disciples had been brought up under the Jewish order of things and they didn't understand, but Jesus is now going to instruct them in the new dispensational truths.

There are many converted people today that are worshipping God under the law. I say it without any hesitancy; their life is a life of bondage; they know nothing about worshipping God in spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness. They go to church, worship God, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and would sooner die than deny Him, and yet their religion makes them very uncomfortable. They would like to go to the theater, but they belong to church; they would like to play cards, but they belong to church; they don't want to dishonor the Lord and disgrace the organization, and yet there is a hankering in them for the things of the world.

There are three fields of battle in a converted life; the first is the battlefield of the world, the

spirit of the world still clings to us, but we can get through with that so that we are perfectly indifferent about what they say or do. So we move out of that battlefield to find ourselves in another, the battlefield of the flesh where the Spirit wars against the flesh, and the flesh against the Spirit. True, the Book says: "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death," but it is one thing to *know* it and another to *experience* it. We see it in the Word of God and have a mental knowledge of it, but we may also get the actual experience of being made free. I would not unchristianize those who have not attained unto this. I would not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax, but oh, I know God wants to lead them into a life of victory and triumph, and it can only be done as we get to realize the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

If I were to attempt to jump over the top of this church, I could not do it, the law of gravitation would hold me down; there is a law greater than I that holds me down, but bring along a balloon and say: "get in here," and I get into the balloon and the ropes are loosened and everything is in readiness, and up I go without an effort. The law of gravitation is not removed, but there is another law brought into operation that lifts me up in spite of the law of gravitation, and in the same way sin and evil in our lives have been overcome by another law. It is the law of the spirit of life, and as we get to know this we get victory over things that are so hard and difficult.

I know this by actual experience; for ten years after my conversion I lived an unsatisfactory life, although my conversion was definite and clear and I have never doubted it a day, but for ten years I had an awful battle largely because my teaching had all been along the line of works. Oh, how I struggled and talked to ministers and Christian workers and asked them if there was any way of deliverance. "No," they said, "that is the best you can do, you must just go on and fight." They called it "*fighting the good fight of faith*." I never heard during all that time a sermon on the sanctified life. I heard two men discussing sanctification when I was quite a young boy, and my conclusion from their argument was that sanctification is the outcome of a long life of devotion and service to God, and when one gets old and greyheaded he might get into a sanctified life. That was my conception of it, but ten years after God saved me I found out my theology was wrong.

There are conditions that are necessary and essential, but sanctification, as well as salvation and the other blessings, is as free as the air we breathe. They are all free, *not any of them obtained by works*. The law of the spirit of life brings us into the life of victory and triumph. I found after I got into the life of the sanctified, and the life of the sanctified got into me, that the past difficulties and besetments had no more hold on me, and I marveled; the Lord took me right past the things that hindered me before. I didn't know much about the law of the spirit of life, but I had the experience of it.

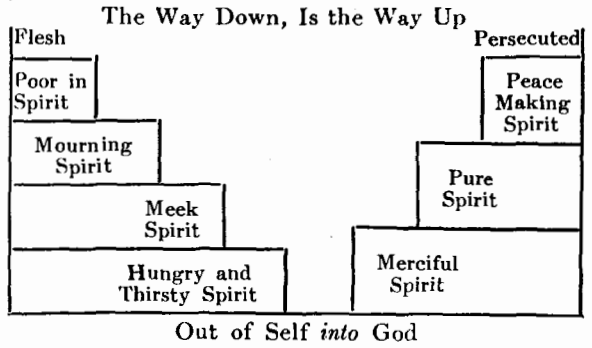
Now let us look at these Beatitudes: "Blessed are they who are *poor in spirit*." We want to be rich in spirit, but Jesus said they were blessed who were *poor* in spirit. In Revelation He tells them they are poor and do not know it. They didn't know their true condition. One of the most blessed things we can have is a knowledge of our spiritual poverty. If you are self-confident you think you are all right, and there is nothing the matter with you. The Lord can't do much with some people because they are unteachable; when you try to point out something for their improvement and benefit, they say: "Oh, I know, I know." They know everything. I thank God that so far as I know my own heart I am not in that condition. I told my congregation some years ago that with them I would enroll myself as a seeker for the baptism in the Holy Ghost, and I received it. As the Lord further led me, I said to them again: "Brothers and Sisters, *I am an eternal seeker after God*." Some people have the idea that to come out and seek the Lord you have to be a murderer or some other kind of a deep sinner, but the more I advance the more I see the need of continued advancement; the more I am open to God, the more I see the vision of God. I think it is a marvelous thing that God the Holy Ghost condescends to take up His abode in my heart and life, and I want Him to have His way with me.

These Beatitudes arrange themselves naturally into a descending and ascending stairway as the accompanying diagram shows. The first step down: "Blessed are the poor in spirit," is a realization of our spiritual poverty. What is the next one? "Blessed are they that mourn." The mournful spirit drops us down a little lower. What is the next one? "Blessed are the meek." We become meek, hence teachable.

I notice in connection with seeking for any blessing that those who get down low enough get

God's blessing quickly. They become conscious of their spiritual need, their poverty; then they begin to mourn over their condition and become meek and teachable. Beloved, every step down is blessed whether you realize it or not. It is so humiliating sometimes that you cannot realize it.

Seven Steps



Then the next is the lowest in this stairway; it is where we hear Jesus say: "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." It doesn't say: "Blessed are the *poor in spirit* for they shall be filled," although that may be true. The filling is not promised to you on condition of any of these beatitudes, for you haven't gotten low enough yet. What step are you on? Are you up in the flesh, or have you gone down? Remember the way *up* is *down*. It makes you see how little you are, beloved. I am thankful I am going down. What Jesus begins to do He continues to do. The order that He works, is the order that He continues to work. That you must go down in order to rise, is an eternal truth. The first thing the Lord did was to give His disciples an idea of their spiritual poverty. Peter who had said though all men forsook Him yet he wouldn't, when the test came found out there was a power over him that was greater than his; he found out his weakness, his insufficiency to do the things he desired to do, and there are many in this meeting this afternoon who have consecrated their lives to God, you have covenanted with God and are in earnest in what you said to God, but when you come to carry it out you find yourself paralyzed. Well, beloved, what is the matter? Has God given power? Yes, the difficulty is we are not really adjusted to God yet, but He is so patient with us, just as He was with Peter. You remember He said: "Go tell my disciples *and Peter*." Didn't want to leave him out. Peter would be apt to think he had failed and was shut out from God altogether. Many of God's children are honest in their conse-

cration, but they haven't strength to stand out against the enemy, and the devil says: "Now you have lost everything. I told you you couldn't stand." Now what does God want you to do? Roll along in the mud? Is that what you do when you get off the sidewalk? You know it is not. You get back on the sidewalk, stamp your feet and go on again. "If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous," and if you are forgiven and step off the track don't wait for a revival; don't wait for a prayer-meeting, but right there acknowledge and confess your sin to the Lord. Don't let the devil put you back. There is a power that is over you that is more than all that can be against you, and I believe God would tear the old world to pieces before He would let the weakest of His trusting children go down. So don't let go your confidence which has great recompense of reward.

We have gone down through poverty of spirit to the mourner's step, then through meekness to a hunger for the righteousness and now God begins to take us up the other side of the stairway. "Blessed are the merciful," for those who are filled with righteousness are merciful. I have seen in revival meetings people who had no mercy on each other, and one would be on one side of the church and one on another, but when God began to work on their hearts, they became reconciled. We need to tarry long on the next step: "Blessed are the pure in heart," for the promise is: "they shall see God," and we all want to do that. Do not forget that the bottom step is hunger for righteousness, and that such hunger must result in purity of heart.

"Blessed are the peacemakers." Yes, there are many people that used to be peace *breakers*, but when they got right with the Lord they became peace *makers*. Remember all the preceding steps, for only as you have gone through all of them can you be a successful peacemaker in the spiritual realm.

We have now gone down the four steps in the human side of the ladder, and up the three on the divine side, thus completing the number seven which makes the perfect number.

The next beatitude that of persecution is where Satan comes along to do his work after you have traveled over the two stairways; for not until you have gone over these seven steps will any persecution that comes to you be wholly for Jesus' sake. Many people have been persecuted because of some effort of their own to stir up oppo-

sition or because of some unwise act; this kind of persecution may come to a Christian on any one of the steps, but it is at best only partly, if indeed at all, for Jesus' sake. But after you have gone down the human side and up the divine you are then brought out to a broad plane where you become a special target for Satan. Some people are foolish enough to pray for persecution, but if you follow the stairway it will come soon enough and without effort on our part, and the more Christlike we become the more we will be persecuted. If we are Christlike we won't get many invitations to the ballroom and the card party; we will be let severely alone. When this kind of persecution comes then you dance, for the Master's command is to leap and rejoice and be exceedingly glad for now you are in the company of prophets for thus, says Jesus, were they persecuted.

The Presbyterian doctrine was that no mere man could live a life of purity and a life of holiness, but when a man is born of God, and dedicated to God and filled with God, he is not a mere man, he is a divine man, and what he could not do, God could do in him and through him. I ask again, What step are you on? You know where you are. You know whether you are frank and honest with God. You know whether you are meek and teachable.

Oh, the meekness of Jesus, when He laid aside His royal robe and the association and companionship of angels and came down to earth and took upon Him the nature of man! Down, down He went into poverty; He was so poor He had no place to lay His head; He was so poor He had no money to pay His taxes; He was so poor He had no horse to ride, no home in which to invite His friends. He went down into the very lowliest, and then he became obedient to death, even the death of the cross, and when I think of that picture of humiliation I see a great and mighty gulf between the humility of Jesus and the humility that is in my own life, and I say, "Oh Lord, give me more of the humility of Jesus." I am willing to be crushed and broken, to undergo whatever He says is necessary, that by the spirit of meekness I may be able to win the sinner. I tell you frankly that anything that was ever accomplished in me or through me was all of Him. I am nothing but an earthen vessel, but God has a treasure in the earthen vessel, and by it He is revealing Himself to me and working in me His own will.

Beloved, I am just taking the circuit of this

stairway around and around, again and again. For having traveled it once you see the necessity of a continual journey over it. Well, you say, if you have taken that circuit and are filled with these truths, and are persecuted because of righteousness, haven't you all?" Oh no, you can just go down again. I do not mean you can go back into the old experience, but there is a deeper death to die, a deeper and fuller elimination; there must be constantly that deeper spiritual death. I used to think that one death was sufficient, that one death completed it all, but that is utter folly. I see it now. We are to be living sacrifices. I have heard some people say you are to be like an old corpse, and be kicked about. I do not think that is the point. Beloved, God wants us to be living sacrifices, and if you are living sacrifices you feel these things. There is scarcely a day of my life but in some way there is something comes that I have to die to, and I cannot die to it until I come to it. Even Jesus had a will of His own. You say, "Do you mean to tell me that?" Yes, for we read that *Jesus learned obedience by the things that He suffered*. I have heard people tell me, "Now you are a Christian and you are sanctified you should have no will of your own." I used to think that was true and tried to get into the experience of it, but I could not, and after awhile I found out that Jesus had a will of His own. When in the Garden of Gethsemane you remember what He said, "Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from Me," but He didn't stop there. He died to it.

He said, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done." Oh beloved, the Apostle Paul knew what he was talking about when he said, "We which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." While I have died to sin and hate it with an intense hatred, yet I find there are many things that I have to die to. We have to die even to good things, our ideas, our plans, our ways, and all that.

I will just call your attention briefly to one other point. After all these beatitudes Jesus says, "Ye are the salt of the earth," and "ye are the light of the world." That doesn't apply to everybody. There are many Christians that are not lights in the world; their lives really bring discredit upon the cause of Christ. The pastor frequently has to call upon some of his spiritual members and ask them to help him with the indifferent Christians. These are spiritual cripples who have to be helped in walking. Do you belong to that class?

If you haven't a life of complete victory you may have it. If you have a life of complete victory, there is advancement for you. If you have the baptism in the Holy Ghost you haven't reached the goal. What did Paul mean when he said, "I press on?" That was one of the greatest decisions I ever came to in my life when I told God *I was an eternal seeker after Him*. I shall keep pressing on to the goal that lies before me.



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