

The Pentecostal Evangel

Weekly Voice of the Assemblies of God

Revival Issue
Number 2091

June 6, 1954

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD

Official government photograph of the world's first hydrogen bomb explosion.



Signs before the last day

ST. LUKE 21

22 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days; for there shall be great tribulation upon the earth, and wrath upon the people.

24 And ye shall desire to flee to the mountains, and to the hills, and to the rocks, saying, If we have but a hole in the rock, we will enter in, and we will hide from the wrath of the Lord, and from his anger.

25 * And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

29 And he spake to them a parable, saying, Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 when they now begin to bud, ye shall see, and so shall ye know the summer is nigh.

31 Even so shall ye, when these things shall begin to come to pass, know that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

32 Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

33 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come upon them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things, and stand before the Son of man.

ARE YOU READY FOR CHRIST'S RETURN?



The General Superintendent SPEAKS

It is a pleasure to greet you and welcome you to our circle of readers this week. In addition to the thousands who regularly read the EVANGEL, this issue is being read by other thousands. To these new friends we say that we are happy indeed to have this opportunity to introduce you to the teachings and experiences of Assemblies of God people.

As you read through this entire paper you will get a well-rounded conception of who we are and what we believe. It will remain for you then to visit one of our churches and listen to one of our preachers so that you may see and hear for yourself just how these doctrines and experiences find expression in the lives of present-day Pentecostal believers. We cordially invite you to "come and see."

We are old-fashioned enough to believe and teach that every individual should be "born again" to be saved. We share with others a firm conviction that the Lord Jesus will soon return to the earth. Like a number of other denominations we believe that Christ died for our sicknesses as well as for our sins. But it is none of these doctrines, nor our insistence upon personal sanctification, that distinguishes us from most other denominations. Our distinctive doctrine concerns the baptism in the Holy Ghost. We believe that the Lord wants to give every born-again Christian a great endowment of Power with which to witness and work for Him.

This endowment with Power is similar to that which came to the first disciples on the Day of Pentecost and shortly thereafter. Notice that we write the word "Power" with a capital "P" for it is a reference to Deity, the blessed Holy Spirit, the third Person in the heavenly Trinity. "Ye shall receive Power, the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto Me," Jesus said (Acts 1:8, literal).

It is true that the Holy Spirit officiates at the New Birth. He convicts the sinner and draws him to Christ. At the proper point of conviction and faith, He breathes eternal life into the penitent soul. Thus a

new creation is instituted in the individual by the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. The believer is baptized into the body of Christ and becomes a part of that mystical body. This is the work of the Holy Ghost and it is effected at the time of conversion or New Birth. This is vital. "Except a man be born of water AND OF THE SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

But after one has received eternal life he needs the endowment with Power. Jesus Christ, though He was the Son of God, needed to be anointed with the Holy Ghost and with Power. The Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove and lighted upon Him (Matthew 3:16). From this time He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38).

In His water baptism, He said, "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). He has left us an example that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21). In His Holy Spirit Baptism it is the same. He said, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with Power from on High" (Luke 24:49). HE had awaited God's time and was mightily anointed with the Holy Ghost. YE, too, shall receive Power, the Holy Ghost coming upon you (Acts 1:8). If the Lord Jesus needed this Power, how can we do without it, especially when He has provided that Power for us and has commanded us to receive it (Acts 2:38, 39; Ephesians 5:18)?

The apostle Paul said, "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offense of the cross ceased" (Galatians 5:11). All Jews preached and practised circumcision. To fail to do so marked a man; other Jews persecuted him for it. Paul believed that the Cross was sufficient for salvation. Paul's preaching of the Cross and his refraining from preaching circumcision constituted the offense of the Cross. But he created that offense and bore the persecution which resulted, because he knew he was right. The gospel today is founded on Paul's teaching, and not on the teaching of the Jews

who persecuted him. Preaching the Cross was an offense but he preached it anyhow!

There is an offense of the Cross today. It does not lie in failing to preach circumcision. It lies in believing in and practising the Full Gospel, including speaking in other tongues. This is the stumbling block that keeps many people from embracing the faith of the Assemblies of God. We tell you this frankly and plainly. If it were not for this speaking in other tongues, our faith would be accepted in many more places than it is today. But then the present-day offense of the Cross would cease. God has ordained that there be a touchstone by which men's determination to go all the way with Him should be tested. The Biblical truth of "speaking with other tongues" is that touchstone today. To many people it is a stumbling block. But Christ said, "Who-soever does not bear his cross and come after Me, he cannot be My disciple." "Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach" (Hebrews 13:13).

The Assemblies of God believe in speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, as the first Christians did on the Day of Pentecost. We believe that, when a waiting disciple receives the infilling of the Holy Spirit, he will speak in tongues he never has learned. Peter, James, John, and scores of other disciples, including Mary the mother of Jesus, spoke in tongues on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:13, 14; 2:4). Paul the apostle said, "I speak in tongues more than ye all" (1 Corinthians 14:18). The Gentile believers at Cornelius' house spoke in tongues and magnified God (Acts 10:46). Down at Ephesus they likewise spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6). Why then should it be thought strange that God should do the same wonderful thing today? We have found to our great joy and inexpressible delight that the Lord still baptizes believers in His Spirit just as He did in the early apostolic days.

About a million people in the United States have experienced this marvelous endowment with Power from on high. We believe it, we love it, we live it, we preach it. It is Scriptural, it is genuine, it is beneficial. It unctonizes for Christian service, it emboldens for testimony, it stimulates for sacrifice, it strengthens for persecution. In its purity and power, it does today what it did nineteen hundred years ago and what it was meant to do throughout all this dispensation.

We heartily commend and recommend this mighty baptism in the Holy Ghost to you.

Are you ready for Christ's return?

Martin Luther Davidson

CHRIST, WHO IS NOW IN HEAVEN, IS going to return to earth in the immediate future. Are you ready for His return?

The apostle John was given a vision of Christ's second coming. On the lonely isle of Patmos he penned the following words, upon which we shall base this article: "Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen" (Revelation 1:7).

The Bible says that Christ is the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending" of all things (Revelation 1:8). There is nothing of which it may be said that His sovereignty is not the commencement and the consummation. This unalterable chain of Divine begetting and completing is everywhere evident in the Scriptures. He whose incarnate advent was an "alpha" of humility and sorrow must have His second advent in an "omega" of power and great glory. Our Lord must certainly come again.

I

I want you to notice, first of all, the clear unmistakable statement of the Bible—"Behold, He cometh." The indisputable and irrefutable evidence of Christ's second coming lies in the Scriptures alone. Here in the only absolutely inerrant Book on earth, God has foretold the second coming of His Son from glory. This revelation was made to man; and since it treats of such a momentous event, it is revealed clearly, and with

a frequency and repetition proportionate to its importance. In expounding the



M. L. Davidson

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glorious truth of the second coming of Christ, the Holy Spirit made sparing use of metaphorical and figurative expressions. He chose only the plainest and simplest language—language that all can understand unless they are given to the most willful and violent distortion of truth.

There are no less than 1,845 references to the second coming of Christ in the Scriptures. Of these, 1,527 are in the Old Testament, while 318 are in the New. Whole chapters and books are given to this thrilling theme. An average of one in every twenty-five verses of the Bible refers directly or indirectly to this future event. For every mention of His first advent there are eight mentions of His second coming. The second coming of Christ is a pre-eminent doctrine of the Scriptures.

The message is proclaimed through the pen of divinely inspired men, through the explicit testimony of angels, and through the exact words of Jesus Himself. The universe knows no higher authority than these.

II

This verse also suggests the imminence of Christ's second coming. To this writer, it is almost unbelievable that any discerning person could read the New Testament record of the apostolic church and fail to realize that the early Christians were ever looking for and expectantly awaiting the promised coming of the

Lord. The soon return of the Master was then, as now, the glorious hope of the Church.

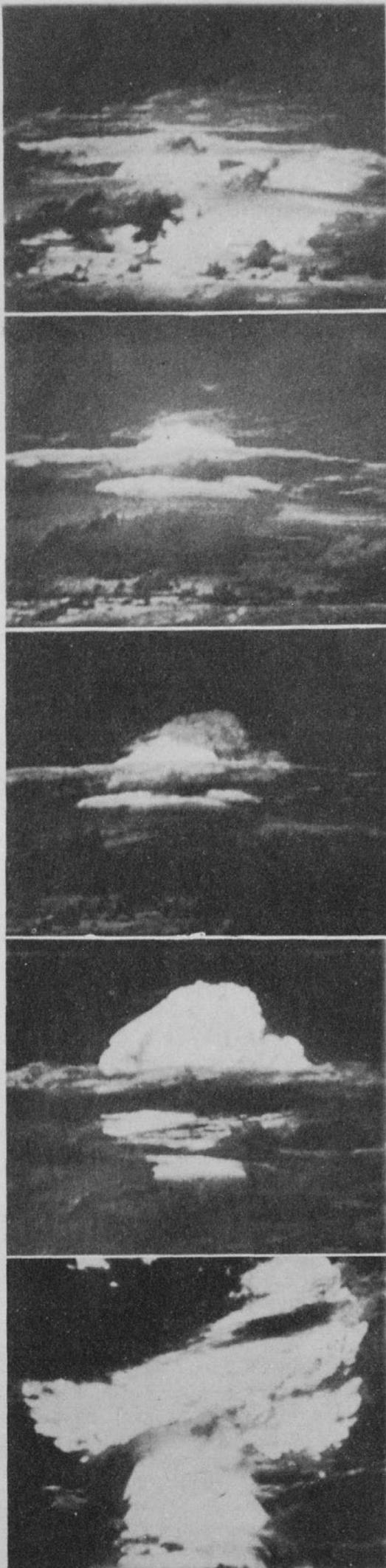
Paul commended the Thessalonians because they had turned from idols to God and were waiting "for his Son from heaven" (1 Thess. 1:10). This word "wait" is a present infinitive, and means to be constantly watching for the return of a person who went away. Precisely this is what the apostle Paul tells us the Thessalonian Christians were doing. We should be doing likewise. Albert Barnes says in his *Notes on the New Testament* at this point, "They lived as if they were waiting for His return... not knowing when it might occur, and as if it might occur at any moment."

The grace of God, says the apostle Paul, teaches us to look "for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of... our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). The original text indicates that we should be constantly living for, and constantly looking for the Lord to appear.

Still another text supporting the momentary expectancy of Christ's return is Phil. 3:20: "For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour." Here again is the word "look." The Greek word for "look" here is in the present tense and means to watch constantly. The eminent New Testament Greek scholar, H. A. W. Meyer, says that this word "denotes the patient, attentive waiting, which never slackens until realized." A. T. Robertson, another noted Greek scholar, explains the meaning of "look" in Phil. 3:20 like this: "The picture is like that of a wife who watches at evening for her husband who tarries. She steps out of the door, down the steps, finally out of the gate and looks away down the street with longing for his coming." Even those who are not so conversant with doctrinal



Seek ye the Lord while
He may be found.



These pictures of the world's first hydrogen explosion were taken from the official motion pictures of the blast. Sequence is from top to bottom, showing first the blinding flash and then the formation of the mushroom cloud—twenty miles high and a hundred miles across. Men's hearts grow faint with fear at the thought of what destruction another war may bring—as Jesus foretold (Luke 22:28)—but born-again Christians are not afraid. To them the terrors of the times merely signal the near return of their Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall punish the wicked and rule the world in righteousness and peace.

reasons can shout from an inborn knowledge imparted by the Holy Spirit, "Behold, he cometh!"

III

"Behold, he cometh!" Do not these words provoke one to ask, "Will there be signs to proclaim His return?" It would seem inconsistent with the whole tenor of Scripture and an unprecedented departure from His revealed character as the God of "signs and wonders" if this most heralded event of Scripture should transpire without any divine omen. He who in primeval creation hung the lights in the firmament for signs, who called on heaven and earth to testify to the birth of His Son, and who provoked the greatest array of phenomenal wonders in the region of cosmos at His death, and beckoned a cloud of angels to receive Him into heaven, will surely call for the greatest exhibition of signs and wonders when the Lord of lords approaches His footstool again.

However, we must be reminded that no one sign or groups of signs will reveal the exact day or hour of His advent. Else how could Jesus say, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man"? Or how could Paul emphasize, "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night"? All these signs of His second coming reveal the imminence of His return. They flash the signal, "Your redemption draweth nigh."

This generation is witnessing the most phenomenal happenings in the world's history! These are days of signs—strange signs! World rulers, statesmen, intellectuals, and common men are all seeing signs! Both Christians and non-Christians are seeing them. No sane person will dismiss them as mass hysteria, for that would not explain nature's behavior.

The frequency and violence of nature's fury has shattered all records. Beneath man's feet the earth is constantly shaking like a bowl of jelly. Over a million geological disturbances are recorded each year at the California Institute of Technology. Volcanologists have been forced to revise their science.

Some time ago a vast blanket of fog strangely covered thousands of square miles of the Pacific Ocean. Meteorologists are wondering if the wind currents of the atmosphere are not being altered. Our mean temperature is rising. Ice at the North Pole is melting too fast. The equilibrium of our globe may be dis-

turbed. Our atmosphere may be courting an invasion of death from outer space. Strange objects appear in the heavens, and for want of knowledge man has dubbed them "flying saucers."

More than a third of the world's populace lies beneath the brutal hand of atheism. Man holds within his hand the material power to annihilate himself. More rulers have been assassinated since World War II than during any similar period in history. Do you ask, "What is the meaning of these things?" There can be but one answer: "Behold, he cometh!"

"Every eye shall see him!" The righteous and the wicked may see Christ at separate times, but it cannot be denied that "every eye shall see him!" Eventually, whether he is a saint or a sinner, either dead or alive, and whether it is here or hereafter, everyone will see Him. How soberly and honestly each of us should ponder our imminent destiny. Each of us must stand before Him whose eyes of judgment are as flames of fire. No one may offer a substitute. Let each mortal of this earth say to himself, "I shall see Him. I shall stand before this God-man, this heaven-sent Saviour, the Judge of the universe—perhaps today."

If the supreme event of all time should occur today, could you shout exultantly with Job, "I shall see [Him] for myself"? Or would your terror-stricken heart have to cry out with the lamenting wicked, "Mountains and rocks, fall on us; hide us from the One who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand"? **BEHOLD, HE COMETH!**

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

Number 2091

June 6, 1954

Published weekly by the Gospel Publishing House, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Mo., U.S.A.

SINGLE COPIES, 5 cents; 50 copies for \$1.50. In quarterly bundle orders, 4 or more copies to one address, 3 cents each in U.S.A., 4 cents outside.

BY SUBSCRIPTION: In U.S.A., \$1.00 for 8 months, \$1.50 for a year, \$3.00 for 2 years, \$5.00 for 4 years. Outside U.S.A., \$2.00 per year.

Entered as second-class matter June 25, 1918, at the Post Office in Springfield, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. Accepted for mailing at special rate provided in Sec. 1103 of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized July 3, 1918.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Lost in the Arctic, she and her two children were on the verge of freezing to death when...



A True Story by Arthur H. Townsend

MARY KAGLIK IS AN ESKIMO LADY. AT the time of the incident she lived in Aklavik, in Canada's Northwest Territory. She had lived in sin but through the consecrated efforts of the missionaries she had passed from death to life—and, like Mary Magdalene, she to whom much had been forgiven had much love for her Saviour. Her devotion to Christ and her simple trust in Him caused many to marvel at the transforming grace of God.

A great windstorm had swept the Arctic bringing bitter cold and huge snowdrifts to Aklavik. Mary, living in a tent on the river bank with her brother and her two children (she has no husband), was stricken down with flu.

Then her brother went away, leaving Mary alone with her fourteen-year-old daughter Jessie and her two-year-old son. Her brother said that if she ran out of fuel she should go across the river to her father's hut and live there.

There was not much fuel on hand. Aklavik Eskimos never cut a winter's supply of wood; neither do they store much food. If they did, their relatives and friends would come and live off them—so why try to get ahead? They merely cut wood as they need it—enough for a day of two at a time—and Mary soon ran out of fuel.

They covered themselves with blankets and tried to keep warm, hoping the brother would return in time with some fuel, but the hours dragged on and he did not appear. It was deathly cold in the tent. Mary feared that if they remained there another night they would all perish. At length, in spite of her illness, she decided to go to her father's home.

It was half a mile across the river to his hut. Jessie, the fourteen-year-old, put her little brother on her back, and Mary summoned all her strength for the journey. The snow was blowing. They kept looking back to the town lights, using them as a guide to make sure they were walking in the proper direction. But after a while they lost sight of the town lights. The trail became increasingly hard to follow due to the drifting snow. Suddenly Mary and her daughter realized that they were lost in the Arctic blizzard!

They had lost all sense of direction. They were only walking in circles.

They kept walking as long as they could, just to keep warm, but eventually their strength gave out. They decided to give up. Weary and stiff with cold, they sat down to die. Already Mary's hands had lost all feeling. They could not fight the blizzard any longer and there seemed to be no way out of their plight. Mary drew the blanket around her children, huddled helplessly together.

Then Mary said to Jessie, "We have been saved through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and we believe in God. He will help us now and show us where to go from here. I am going to pray and ask Him."

Throwing aside the blanket and rubbing her cold face with numbed hands, Mary stood up to pray. She asked the Lord to show her the way to her father's hut.

Suddenly—so suddenly that it was appalling—the blizzard "held its breath." Like the wind-lashed waves of Galilee, the snow-lashed wastes of Aklavik became obedient to the voice of the Lord. When Mary Kaglik opened her eyes she saw a miracle. The snow had ceased to blow and the town lights were visible in the distance!

Hope revived in their hearts, and with new hope came new strength. Soon Jessie had the little boy on her back again, and the three were heading across the frozen river once more—but this time sure of their direction.

They reached their destination in time.

In one of J. Wilbur Chapman's meetings, a man stood and gave this remarkable testimony:

"I got off at the Pennsylvania depot one day as a tramp, and for a year I begged on the streets for a living. One day I touched a man on the shoulder and said, 'Mister, please give me a dime.' As soon as I saw his face I recognized my old father. 'Father, don't you know me?' I asked.

"Throwing his arms around me he cried, 'I have found you, I have found you; all I have is yours.'

"Men, think of it, that I, a tramp, stood begging my father for ten cents, when for eighteen years he had been looking for me, to give me all he was worth." Such is the love of the heavenly Father for His sinning children.

Soon Mary was safely sheltered in her father's hut, and she recovered from her sickness and exposure with no after-effects. The little family had been saved from certain death because Mary, with real faith in her Lord, stood up to pray.

There is a lesson in this story for every reader. Are you in trouble? Are you wandering aimlessly through life? Do you seem hopelessly lost? Is your heart breaking? Do not give up hope. There is help for you, if you will stand up to pray. The Psalmist said, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, whence cometh my help." Lift up your eyes to God's hills, especially to the hill called Calvary. You will see a light shining through the darkness of sin and despair. It will light the way to your Heavenly Father who can solve every one of your problems and supply whatever you need.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." Accept Him as your personal Saviour. Then let others know that He is your Lord and Master. Believe that God has raised Him from the dead. If you will do this, the Bible says, you shall be saved (Romans 10:9).

Who Are the Assemblies of God?

The Assemblies of God are an evangelical Christian body having several thousands of churches in the U.S.A. and several hundreds of missionaries in foreign lands.

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations.

WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

Two Questions at Pentecost

Ernest S. Williams

THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS ACCOMPANIED by many unprecedented events; and these unusual happenings caused two definite questions, bringing to each its answer. Multitudes had come to Jerusalem to worship. Imagine their amazement when they saw the disciples of the rejected Jesus reeling under the power of the Spirit and heard them speaking in other tongues the wonderful works of God!



E. S. Williams

We should not expect less of God than to see Pentecost repeated in our day. One of the great faults of the present-day Church is that she has satisfied herself with activities of a purely human nature, in her efforts to further the gospel. Thus she has come to believe that God's workings are a thing of the past. But the work of the Spirit is still necessary if the purpose of God is to be fulfilled.

* * *

The spectators on the Day of Pentecost were both amazed and bewildered. They asked, "What meaneth this?" Their minds were confused, and they did not know what to think. There were those who, knowing that the recipients of the Pentecostal blessing were disciples of Jesus, used their influence against them. "These men are full of new wine," was their explanation for this phenomenon. Satan always has some who are ready to give a scurrilous answer concerning the work of God.

But the opinion advanced by the scoffers was not the only answer received by the crowd that day; for Peter, standing up with the eleven, said, "These are not drunken, as ye suppose. . . . But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." The disciples cleansed by the blood of Jesus, were above such intemperance; their behavior was due to a work of God which was entirely the fulfillment of the Scriptures—the fulfillment which removed the cloud that had been hanging over the crucified Saviour, for it testified to His resurrection and ascension to the Father where His atonement was accepted at the eternal throne (Acts 2:32-36).

Residents of Jerusalem had failed to avail themselves of numerous opportunities to accept Jesus. But those who had come on long pilgrimages were pricked in their hearts and they accepted His

salvation. What a warning to those who trust in the externals of religion! The people at Jerusalem had access to the sacred Scriptures, the Temple, and its priests. Sabbath after Sabbath they could go to the Temple. But they had become worshipers in form only. It was left for the devout pilgrims from afar, not thus hardened, to feel the Spirit's power and to sense their need of a Saviour's love. The arrows which fell lifeless from the breastplates of hardened unbelief worn by men of the Holy City, pierced the hearts of those less callous who had come to that sacred place to worship their Lord. Surely there is a reason why Jesus prayed, "O Father, . . . thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

* * *

Pierced with the truth of the gospel, the receptive souls cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" "Men!"—that was a sudden word of appreciation! Until now only disrespect had been shown for either Jesus or His disciples; but now disrespect gave way to honor. The disciples had been hounded like beasts and derided with contempt; but when conviction came there was a great change. This designation of the disciples as "men" put them on an equality with others. The fact that they had come from the humbler walks of life was forgotten. They were men, God's men. No one finds the Lord Jesus so long as contempt for Christ's followers fills his heart. Some would like to enjoy the blessings which the gospel affords, but are unwilling to classify themselves with those upon whom the blessing rests.

But those whose hearts were pricked at Pentecost were not content with classifying the lowly disciples as men, their equal. They went yet further. "Brethren!" they exclaimed. Here is an acknowledging of relationship and a willingness to join them. To

those inquiring hearts it was not, "How little can I confess, and how much may I receive through these humble channels without loss of my own prestige?" Instead it was wholehearted surrender, a willingness to yield all, that they might become fellow heirs with these Galileans. With Ruth of old they could have said, "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

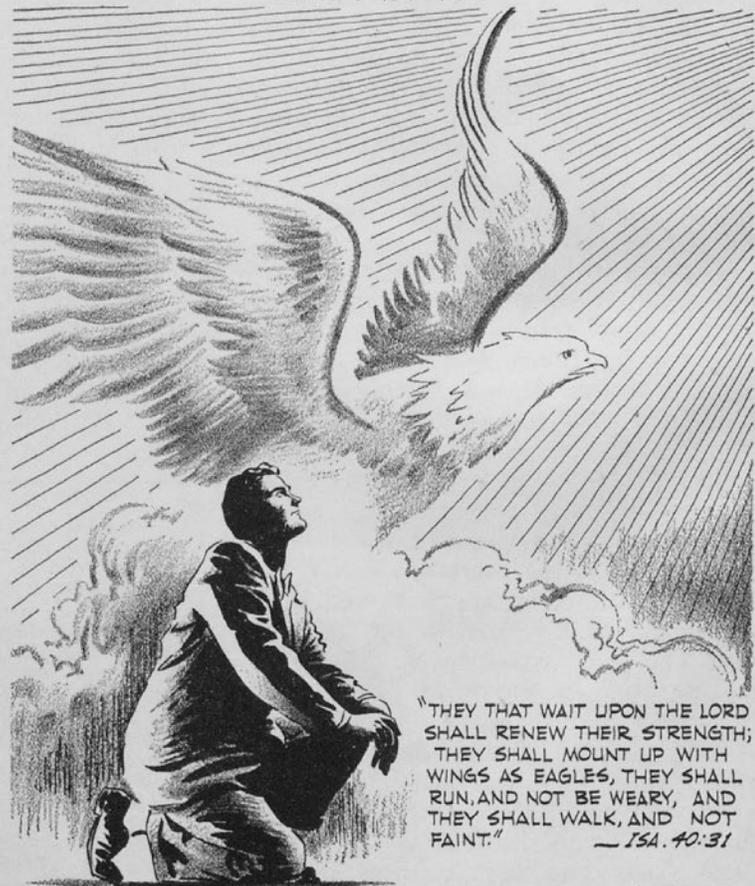
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After this acknowledgment—an acknowledgment which surrender to conviction always brings—we find them asking, "What shall we do?" They believed that in spiritual things the disciples knew more than they, and they were willing to learn. These honest souls were not left without an answer.

The Church has no answer, however, for the critical and unbelieving inquirer. It is not the purpose of God to satisfy the whims of the depraved heart. The Church is not required to explain all mysteries and reply to "What is the good of this, or that?" She is called upon only to bear positive witness to the truth and to let her light shine. Our duty to the unbelieving world is primarily to proclaim the gospel, not to defend it. "Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you" (Acts 13:40, 41).

To the honest heart the answers of God are sufficient and clear. The answer of Peter was definite: "Repent, and be

PAUSE FOR POWER



"THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES, THEY SHALL RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY, AND THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT FAINT."
—ISA. 40:31

JACK HANNA

Crippled Boy Healed in Answer to Prayer

All of his life our twelve-year-old son Merdy ("Bud") Steele had been crippled in his right arm and leg. From birth he had not been able to use his arm, except to move it slightly or to raise it a few inches. Because of this condition, Bud's undeveloped shoulder sagged. His wrist always remained in a crooked position, and the knuckles and finger joints of his right hand were in the palm rather than on the back of his hand.

Bud's right leg was noticeably shorter than his left one. Also, his foot was twisted sidewise, so that it was impossible for him to walk without dragging it. Never was he able to raise his leg fully, or run, or kick normally. All the muscles of his right leg were undeveloped.

For several years, at the advice of doctors, Bud slept in braces, hoping for some help. We took him to many doctors and specialists, including those in the Cincinnati Clinic, and the famous Hopkins Clinic in Baltimore, Md., but with little or no results.

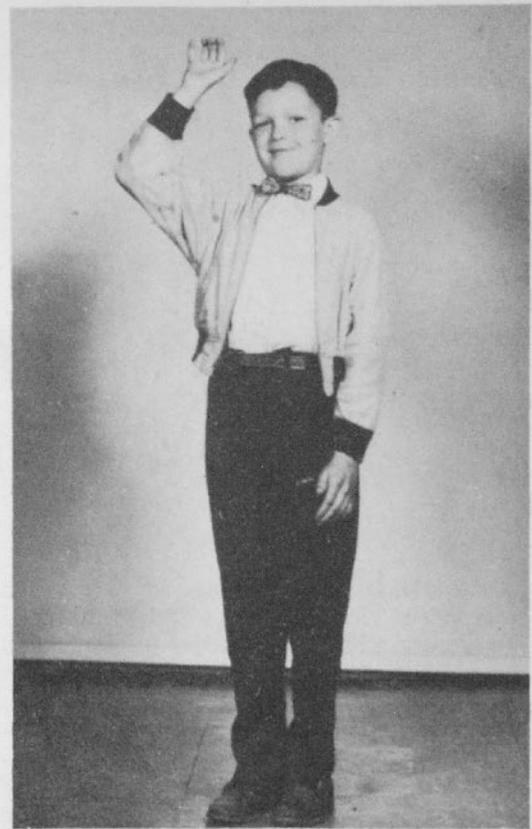
On Sunday night, March 14, 1954, Bud was taken to an evangelistic meeting at Glad Tidings Assembly of God in Cleveland. As Evangelist L. C. Robie

and Pastor Clyde I. Bowman prayed for him, the power of God instantly touched his arm and leg—and healing began! Bud discovered that for the first time in his life he could walk normally.

Soon his crippled arm received strength and he could raise it above his head; this he had never done before. Since then his hand has been healed, and the joints and knuckles are now in their proper place. The fingers and sagged shoulder are perfectly healed. He now has 75% normal usage of his arm and hand, and his whole leg is practically normal. Both of his legs are now exactly the same length. He is now able to run, play, kick, and jump like other boys.

We are deeply thankful to God for so graciously healing the crippled body of our boy. No one else could help him, but Jesus did. And we are thankful most of all that Bud is changed in heart. Jesus has saved him, and he is living for the Lord.—Harry Steele, father of "Bud," 4501 Douse St., Cleveland 27, Ohio.

(Endorsed by Clyde I. Bowman, Pastor, Glad Tidings Assembly of God, Cleveland, Ohio.)



This is "Bud" Steele, the boy who was crippled. Before the Lord healed him he could not lift his right arm more than a few inches, and he had no use of it in any way. Now "Bud" could give you a hearty handshake.

baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Some tell us that Pentecost was a collective affair, and that it was not conditioned upon personal seeking; but the Scriptures teach differently. After His resurrection, our Lord Jesus was seen by more than five hundred brethren at once. Why, then, did not the same number receive the promise of the Father at Pentecost? If there were no human conditions to be met—such as tarrying, prayer, supplication, praise, and worship—why were only one hundred and twenty filled with the Spirit?

The fact is that, although it was the appointment of God that the Spirit should be poured forth on that day, the individual's receiving of the blessing was conditioned upon meeting Scriptural conditions. Be not deceived; the promise of the Father is personal. Peter had to receive for himself, as did the other disciples, and so also must we. The teaching that the Spirit came at Pentecost and since then has been in the world operating in and through the Church, without any subsequent personal experiences of the infilling of the Spirit, is a mistake. Just as repentance is personal, so also is the promise of the Spirit; therefore, "be filled with the Spirit"—"for the promise is unto you."

HEALED OF STOMACH DISORDER

For several years I had been troubled with a stomach disorder. Because my food did not digest properly, I suffered much discomfort and pain. As time went on, my condition grew worse until I could hardly eat anything except bread and milk.

On the night of December 8, 1953, my pastor, C. D. Howze, and Evangelist Robert R. Fairchild anointed me with oil in the name of the Lord. They prayed the prayer of faith, as prescribed in the Bible (James 5:15), and the Lord healed me according to His promise. From that night until now I have eaten anything I wanted, without having any ill effects. I praise the Lord because He heals today, just as He did long ago. He has made my stomach perfectly normal.—Jewel Walling, Rt. 2, St. Matthews, S. C.

(Endorsed by Pastor C. D. Howze, St. Matthews, S. C.)

PROSTATITIS HEALED

When C. E. Hess came to pastor the Commerce Assembly of God in May, 1953, I was suffering from what the doctors described as *prostatic hypertrophy*, or *prostatitis*. My condition was so serious the doctors said that it would require an

operation to correct it, and they doubted if even that would cure it. Further, I was told that if this condition were neglected for long it would eventually become very cancerous. This diagnosis was made in October, 1952.

Having known the power of God to heal since my youth, I was determined to trust God. However, as time passed I gradually grew worse until the suffering became almost unbearable. I was unable to sit through an entire church service because of the pain. I was in this condition until September, 1953, when I realized that I must have someone to get hold of God for me. I asked my beloved pastor, Brother Hess, to lay his hands on me and to anoint me with oil according to Mark 16:18 and James 5:14.

Instantly God met our faith, and I felt the thing begin to move from my body. In less than a week every symptom of the disease was gone. Thanks be to God who heals all our diseases, and for men of God who can pray the prayer of faith. In February, 1954, I went back to the doctor for a check-up, and after a thorough examination he stated that not a trace of the affliction remained. Today I am still perfectly free from it.—Paul S. Roberts, City Clerk, Commerce, Okla.

(Endorsed by C. E. Hess, Pastor, Assembly of God, Commerce, Okla.)

PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL FIRES SW

CROWDS WITNESS MIRACLES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Verne and Hazel Warner

ANOTHER LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLIC has been visited with a great spiritual awakening. The instruments in the hands of God to promote this revival are two Puerto Rican evangelists, David Garcia, and his co-worker, Jaime Cardona. They opened their campaign in Ciudad Trujillo and continued for two weeks. The meeting began in the open air in one of the public parks of the city. According to newspaper reports, the crowds reached 30,000.

Mrs. Verne Warner gives an eye-witness account of the services:

"God mightily manifested His power by healing all manner of sicknesses. After a few nights when the crowds had reached large proportions, the authorities revoked the privilege of using the park; however, they gave permission for the meetings to continue in another location. Meanwhile we held the services in the new church. A dozen policemen were present to help handle the crowd which began to gather by early afternoon. Folks came from all over the island."

Brother Warner gave the following report:

"Reports of the campaign claimed more newspaper space than the Inter-

American Conference in Caracas. The press is not sympathetic to Evangelicals, and yet these facts were recorded in the headlines: *Thousands profess salvation. . . . 30,000 attend evangelistic services. . . . 20,000 stand in rain to hear sermon. . . . Assembly of God Evangelistic Center filled at 5 p.m. waiting for services announced for 8 p.m. Thousands turned away.*

"The last night of the meeting there were 30,000 persons in attendance. This revival eclipsed the news of the Pan-American Baseball Tournament in Central America. The topic of conversation on the streets, in the busses, stores, and everywhere was the great revival of salvation, miracles and healing.

"The medical profession was divided upon its opinions of current healings, but had to admit the reality, since there were so many definite cases of healing. Many people were healed of blindness, deafness, lameness, asthma, kidney trouble, T. B., and other diseases.

"A bootblack who for years had crawled daily around the streets of the capital city was instantly healed and straightened by the power of God. This caused a great stir in the city. A deaf-



"...and the lame are healed"

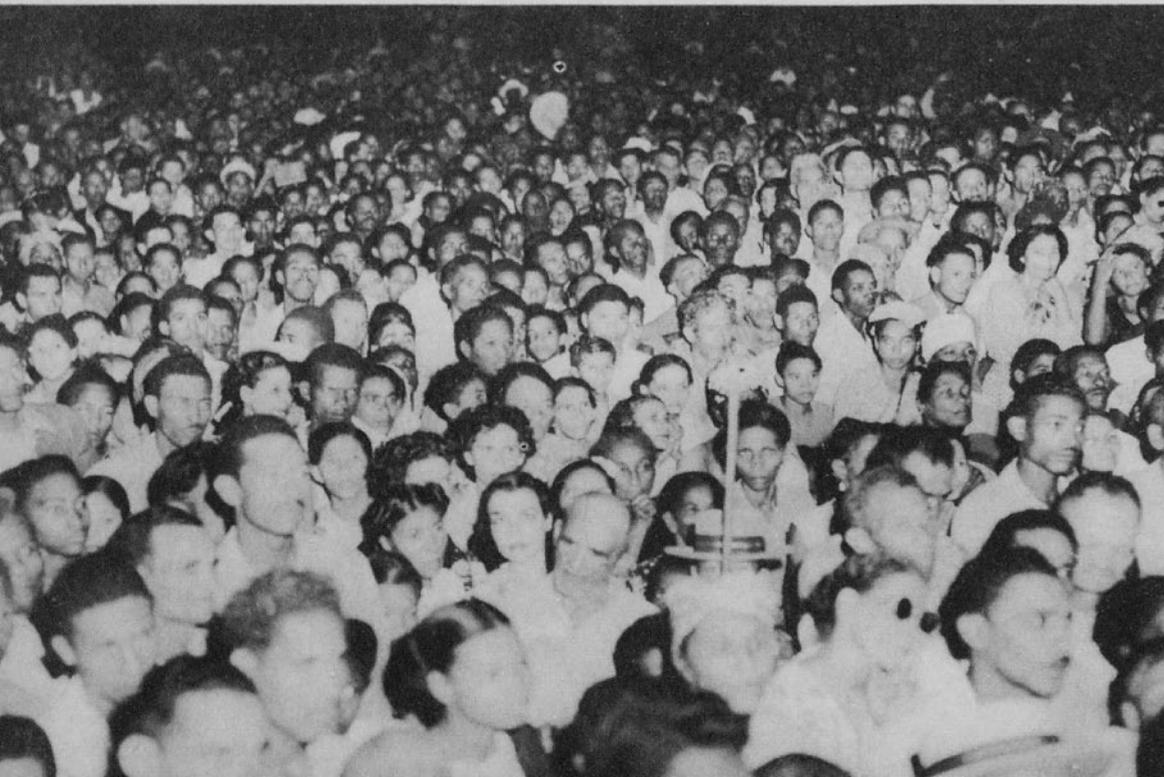
mute who carried a passport to visit the U.S. to seek medical aid, was instantly healed. A government official who worked in the treasury department for twenty-eight years was healed of a hernia. A paralytic who had been in that condition for sixteen years was healed. Blind people were healed, proving the fact by reading or identifying certain objects.

"Demon-possessed people were freed by the power of God. One young lady exclaimed, 'At last I am delivered from the evil spirit that has tortured me for four years!' In many cases, the demons cried out before being cast out.

"The sick, afflicted, lame, blind and demon-possessed poured into the capital city from the four corners of the country. They came by car, cart, wagon, bus, plane, or any other means of conveyance possible. We feared a riot in the hospitals, since many patients wanted to get to the services. Large numbers of officers and servicemen filled the reserved section each night. Thousands raised their hands for prayer as the invitation was given. Great times of repentance followed, with a mighty volume of voices asking God to forgive their sin and make them new creatures in Christ.

"It is difficult to assess just how far-reaching the results of this great revival may be, but it is evident that God is beginning a genuine work that may spread throughout the entire Dominican Republic."

Part of the crowd of 30,000 attending the Dominican Republic Revival



WEEP OVER MANY COUNTRIES!

REVIVALS ON MANY ASSEMBLIES OF GOD MISSION FIELDS

ASSIOUT, EGYPT

We are having a wonderful revival in the nearby town of Nakhela. It has been going on for about six weeks. About 140 men and women have accepted the Lord and about 80 have received the Baptism. This has been one of the best revivals we have seen. There are 600 or 700 in every meeting, and there is a real depth, a real moving of the Spirit upon the people. There are two extra ladies' meetings a week. Friday I spoke to about 200 in a service that lasted three hours. It seemed that everyone wanted to testify in that service.—Mrs. J. I. Brown.

* * *

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

The Center has just witnessed an outpouring of God's Spirit such as it has never seen before. Quite a number were saved. There were some remarkable healings. One young man who was about to lose his eyesight testified that God had made his eyes perfect. A demon-possessed man was delivered and is now in his right mind serving God.

Many have been gloriously filled with the Holy Spirit. Some became so hungry for the Baptism that they spent days fasting and praying. We are thanking God for His mighty visitation in this revival and are believing that this is only the beginning. Pray with us!—John and Maxine Hurston.

* * *

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

During the Erickson revival in Manila, the miracles of salvation and healing were numerous. Multiplied thousands decided to follow Christ. The healing testimonies were innumerable. Many blind, crippled and lame were healed. The platform was decorated with crutches left behind by those instantly delivered.

Following the Erickson revival we moved into our new church, Bethel Temple. Our Sunday morning services and afternoon services are packed beyond comfort with 500 to 600 standing after every available seat is taken. There were over 7,000 in our morning services last Sunday. The Sunday School numbered 2,393. The Lord is wonderful!—Lester Sumrall.

EAST PAKISTAN EXPRESSES GREAT HUNGER FOR GOD

Glenna L. Lillibridge

OUR 1954 EAST PAKISTAN CONVENTION was held in February in the beautiful little town of Gopalganj on the river front. We pitched our tents for six blessed days of waiting on the Lord. Our waiting was not in vain as God poured forth His power from the very beginning. As a result, many sick bodies were healed, souls were saved, and the Christians were encouraged in the Lord.

A certain woman in the neighborhood gave birth to a baby which the doctor pronounced dead. The doctor laid the baby aside and ministered to the mother in the hope of saving her. While this was going on the father went into another room and prayed out to God, "Lord, I don't believe You are going to allow this baby to die. Please undertake for her, Lord!"

After fifteen minutes the child, which had been pronounced dead, began to cry and soon it was very much alive.

The father went to the tarrying service that night, and his testimony was the means of bringing about a real break in the service. People who were afflicted with various diseases came for prayer and were definitely healed.

There is a great hunger for God in East Pakistan. Churches are calling for pastors. Hindu villagers are coming en masse and asking for Christian teaching. God is pouring forth His Spirit in churches of various denominations and the people are entreating us to come and give them further teaching about the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

At present there are six Assemblies of God missionaries and only a small band of national workers to carry on the work amongst 30,000,000 people. Our hearts

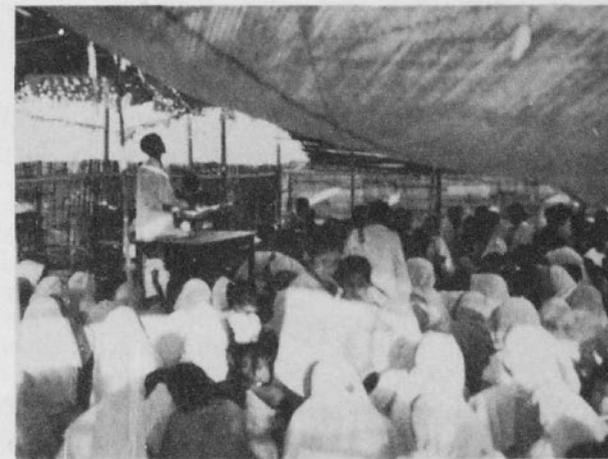
SOUTH AMERICA

Buenos Aires, Argentina, has recently witnessed a Pentecostal revival of great proportions. Following extensive advertising throughout the city, crowds of 12,000 people gathered in the Atlanta Football Club Stadium. The Evangelical churches co-operated in this great united effort. Hundreds of people accepted Christ in each service, and many received miraculous healings during the revival.—Louie W. Stokes.

are crying to God and asking Him to raise up more laborers for this needy field.

As the work grows the financial burden becomes heavier. Local churches are being encouraged to become self-supporting. However, there is a great need for the support of evangelists to launch out in new fields.

If you would like to share in this great work, please send your offerings to the Foreign Missions Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri, marked "For support of native workers in East Pakistan." Only \$15.00 a month will support a single man, and \$25.00 to \$30.00 will support a married man with a family.



East Pakistan Convention groups seek God



SUNDAY'S LESSON

A PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S LESSON BY E. S. WILLIAMS

THE GOLDEN CALF

Exodus 32:1-4, 15, 19, 20, 26-28

Moses twice spent forty days on Mount Sinai in the presence of the Lord. Each time, God gave him the law on tables of stone. When he came down the first time, he found the people worshipping a golden calf. It had not been more than forty days since the children of Israel had pledged themselves to obey the law of the Lord. But now, to their shame, they were dancing around an idol. This shows how unreliable our decisions may prove if they are induced by emotions alone. Character results from decisions which are based on calculated reason and deliberate choice.

1. THE SIN OF ISRAEL

a. *Desire for a Visible God.* When Moses did not soon return to the camp from the mount, the people became impatient. Aaron later said they were even set on mischief (v. 22). They were restless and asked for visible deities, which they could put before them and follow (v. 1). Some think they wished to return to Egypt. At least they wished to return to Egyptian ways.

b. *Contempt for Moses.* When the people asked for gods to lead them, they spoke with much irreverence concerning Moses, whom the Lord had so used in their behalf—"as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt." They had lost sight of the fact that it was God who had brought them out; they would therefore show disrespect for His servant, and blame their condition upon him.

c. *Building of an Idol.* Through the influence of the Lord, the Israelites had received favor of the Egyptians and had borrowed jewelry and other valuables from them before leaving the land. Aaron asked the people to bring their golden earrings and other ornaments, so that they could be molded into a god. When people get away from God, they are often more zealous for the false than they ever were for God. The action of the Israelites would have been in keeping with Bible teaching if they had simply removed their ornaments, or had contributed them to God's service, but in seeking to make them into an idol they violated all the law of God.

d. *False Worship of the True God.* Aaron accepted the material as it was brought to him, and fashioned it into a golden calf. Then the people said blas-

phemously, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." They wanted some visible representation of Jehovah to use in their worship of Him. In addition, they proclaimed "a feast to the Lord" for the next day. "And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings, and brought peace-offerings." This people's conception of God seems to have been little higher than that of the heathen, who recognized various deities which they could worship through their idols.

The burnt-offering was supposed to be wholly burnt to the Lord. But when the people had shed the blood and offered the Lord His portion of the peace-offering, they held a religious holiday. "They sat down to eat and to drink." They ate of the peace-offering as if eating to the Lord. Then they "rose up to play." Much idolatry is accompanied by immoral orgies. It is believed this is the meaning of "rose up to play." This belief is further strengthened by the fact that Moses found them naked when he returned (v. 25). Where there is false religion, there is likely to be impurity.

2. THE ANGER OF MOSES

a. *God's Knowledge.* God saw what was happening at the foot of the mountain and sent Moses to the people saying, "Thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves." Thus God as much as said, "They are your people, not Mine; I have repudiated them because of their evils." Poor Moses—the people had repudiated him, and now God seemed to thrust upon him the responsibility for them. To be a leader may sound wonderful, but to carry the burdens that faithful leadership requires is often a source of much heartache.

b. *Deliberate Rebellion.* The dissatisfaction of the people and their demand for gods probably began long before Moses' forty days on the mount were finished. First there had to be agitation sufficient to arouse all the people, then it took time to collect the earrings and make the calf. So this apostasy was a deliberate, planned rebellion against the law of the Lord.

c. *Justifiable Anger.* When Moses saw the people shamefully dancing before the calf, he became very angry. He threw down the tables and broke them (v. 19). There is an anger which God commends—the stirring of

the soul against evil, causing one to act vigorously in defense of truth. Such was the feeling of Jesus as He looked about Him in anger at the hard-hearted Pharisees (Mark 3:5).

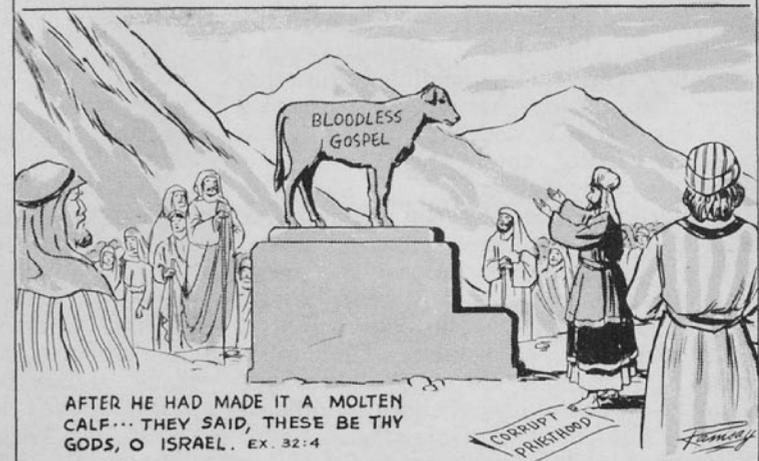
3. THE DESTRUCTION OF IDOLATRY

a. *The Reproof of Aaron.* The first thing Moses did was to destroy the calf, the work of his brother. Aaron may have been a better speaker than Moses, but he certainly lacked the character of his brother. It is to be feared that we as a nation are seriously weakening ourselves by requiring for public office good radio speakers and television actors rather than able statesmen. The most qualified are not necessarily the best public speakers. Aaron sought to excuse himself by blaming the people and by talking as if the calf were an accident. "I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf," was his ridiculous plea of innocence. Actually he had made it with a graving tool (v. 4).

b. *The Judgment on Sin.* Moses called for those who would consecrate themselves to the vindication of God. He commanded these to "go in and out from gate to gate through the camp" with their swords, killing the idolaters, so that the children of Israel might know that sin against God cannot go unpunished (vv. 26-28).

Henry Drummond was asked one day, "What does it cost to be a Christian?" His reply was, "The entrance fee is nothing, but the annual subscription is everything." Jesus set the price and it never has been reduced (Luke 18:22).

GOD'S WAY VERSUS MAN'S WAY



Oak Chapel Comes to Life

Hundred-Year-Old Chapel Resounds with Songs of Worship
Once Again, After Thirty-Nine Years of Silence

DRIVE ACROSS AMERICA, AND WHEREVER you go you will find abandoned chapels. In town and countryside alike the land is dotted with them—buildings large and small—some of them well preserved but only used for special occasions, such as weddings and funerals—while others are totally neglected and falling into disrepair.

On the Lord's Day you will find no clusters of cars parked around these church buildings. There is no buzz of cordial conversation from church members congregating in little groups outside the doors. There are no shouts from the pulpit—no songs in the pews. These buildings are sad, lonely places. They stand like marble monuments in a graveyard—silent memorials of a spiritual life that once was but which is no more.

But in hundreds of these "dead" churches there has been a "resurrection." The community has felt the warm sweet breath of a heaven-sent revival, and the once-abandoned church house has become an Assembly of God. Once again the Saviour's gospel is thundering forth from the platform. Once again the rafters ring with happy song as old and young gather in to worship God and to study His Word.

Oak Chapel is one such church. For more than thirty-nine years it had been closed. The sturdy old building had stood at Bridgewater Center, Vermont, for nearly a hundred years. Once it had been a beehive of gospel activity. Its

walls resounded with shouts of joy as sinners found Christ, and as Christians felt the moving of the Spirit. But gradually the congregation had dwindled, interest had waned, and eventually the church was closed. The one anniversary service held each year in Oak Chapel was the extent of the religious activity in the community.

About three years ago a meeting was held to decide on a sale price—a nearby farmer wanted the chapel for a barn. But one old gentleman had protested. "I believe God will send us someone to preach," he had said. "Let's not sell it yet." So the church was saved.

Today, as in Bible days, God has a messenger for every earnest heart that is waiting for the message. He has a Peter for every Cornelius. In the busy metropolis of Boston, some 160 miles away, He laid a burden for Bridgewater Center upon two servants of His, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Snook. They began to pray that a gospel witness might be sent to this community. Then God said to them, "You go."

They made an exploratory trip into Vermont and talked with some villagers of Bridgewater Center. Varying degrees of interest were shown. Some were quite indifferent; others felt it would be a waste of time and effort to try to reopen the church. But when they drove into the yard of the old man who had pleaded for the preservation of the church, he came out of his house weeping for joy.



Oak Chapel in Bridgewater Center, Vermont (note acorn on top of steeple). This church was closed for thirty-nine years. Now an Assemblies of God minister is holding gospel services here regularly.

"Young man, you don't have to tell me," he said. "I know why you're here. God sent you to open our church."

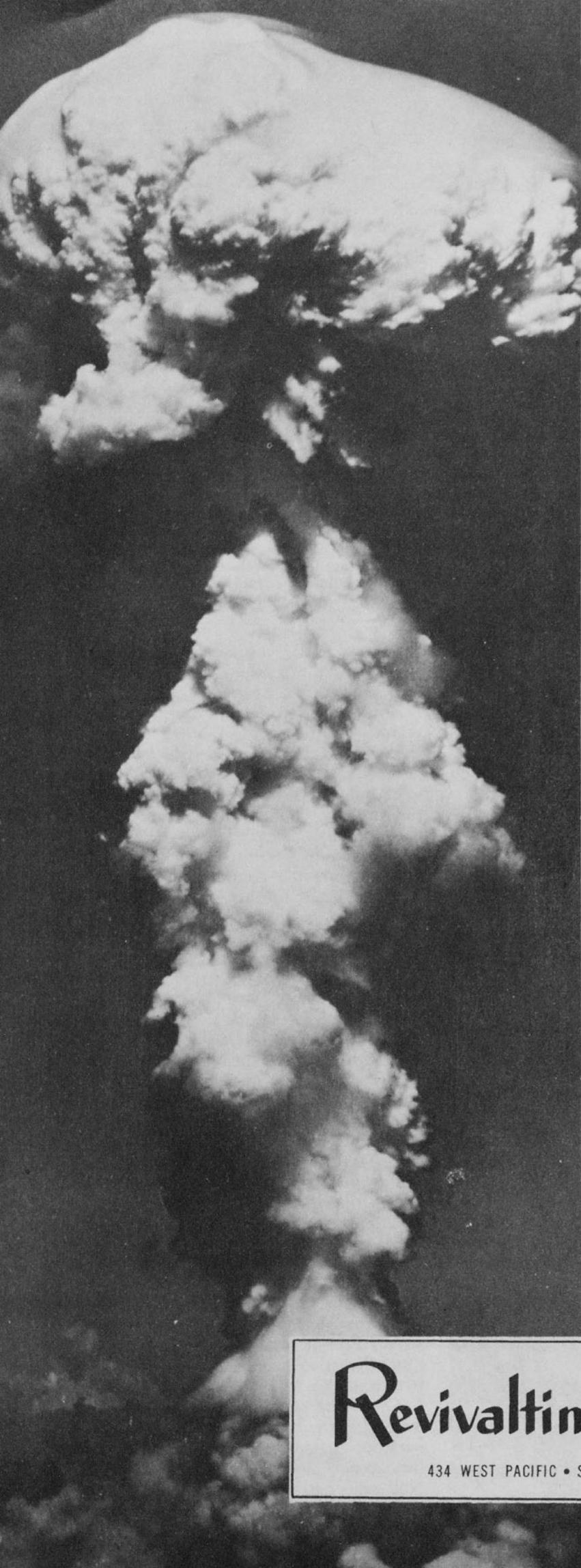
Thus God led His servants and marvelously confirmed His will for them. The Snooks began by driving the long distance from Boston to Bridgewater each week-end for their meetings. After doing this for six months they turned their backs upon a lucrative field of business and moved to a farm near Oak Chapel. By this time the community was beginning to awake to the fact that the old church had come to life. The meetings, which had begun with a congregation of four people, now were well attended. Adults as well as children were coming to Sunday School.

God has sent a revival to Bridgewater Center. At first there were very few "born-again" Christians. Then there were conversions, one by one, to swell the number. God's Spirit moved mightily among the young people. In this place where two generations had grown up without the benefit of an open church and gospel services, the teen-agers started calling upon the Lord and received real salvation. Special services are held for the young people on Friday nights. Here they learn to witness for Christ, and here they study God's Word—and it is bearing fruit in their lives. About six of the young people have expressed a desire to attend Bible school and prepare for full-time Christian service. Of this number, four want to be foreign missionaries.

The young people's leader had previously considered making a career of engineering, but now he says he wants to carry the gospel to the people of Vermont. Not long ago this young man was in-



Some of the happy members of the Sunday School at Oak Chapel. Last Easter the building was packed out with 140 present.



LESS time than yesterday...

"None of us liveth to himself... for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ... So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:7, 10, 12

ALL LIFE is a race, according to the Scriptures, and the Church of Jesus Christ is racing against three principal factors:

POPULATION INCREASE: Worldwide there are 30 million more births than deaths every year!

FALSE CULTS: Communism, Mohammedanism, and the like are spreading more rapidly than Christianity! But our *fifth column* is the many organizations that masquerade as Christian!

TIME: Every sign points toward the close of the Age of Grace. Armageddon seems to lie squarely ahead!

There is no time to waste! Help spread the gospel now by the fastest effective means—radio.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

Thousands of letters reach the Revivaltime office every week, filled with abundant testimony of the anointing of the Holy Spirit on this broadcast. However, to date we are receiving only a little over half the financial support required for Revivaltime to continue its soul-saving ministry. We must have pledges from 1,000 more churches and from 10,000 more born-again believers. This is your work—your privilege—your responsibility. *Please send us your pledge today, and ask your friends to listen in, too.*

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vited to address a group of young people in another community. He preached the gospel, using many of the scriptures he had learned in a personal workers' course, and after he had spoken the young people were greatly moved. Two of them later came to Oak Chapel and accepted Christ.

The showers of blessing that are falling at Bridgewater Center are overflowing to neighboring communities, some of which are without an open church. One such village has been opened to the gospel through the Snooks' weekly radio broadcast, "Road to Heaven." A large family in Barnard heard the broadcast and began attending the meetings at Oak Chapel. They accepted Christ as their Saviour and afterward invited the Snooks to come

to their village. As a result, regular services are being conducted in Barnard. That village has only two churches—one which is closed ten months of the year, and the other which the Snooks have reopened.

In another community, a woman who had never been in church before invited the Snooks to come to her home. When they arrived they found several women seated around a table reading their Bibles. The women asked for an explanation of some Bible passages. Now this group has a regular Bible study time.

Not only laymen, but ministers too are seeking God for His highest and best. In one nearby community two ministers of another denomination are waiting upon God for the Baptism of the Holy

Spirit. One of them is fasting and praying that the Lord will give him this New Testament experience, and one of his deacons has expressed a similar desire.

Thus New England, "the land of closed churches," is seeing the beginning of a new religious awakening. The story is being repeated in various parts of America. The fact that there are no less than ten thousand villages in the United States that are still without religious services of any kind is challenging the people of God to greater effort in spreading the gospel. They are moved with the same spirit that caused the Master Himself to say, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth" (Mark 1:38).

This Is the Hour of Deliverance

Evangelist Lorne F. Fox

ALL WAS EXCITEMENT IN THE LITTLE town of Nazareth. The Master had come home once again. Ever since He had left, His fame had been spreading far and wide. On this momentous occasion a large multitude assembled in the synagogue and waited with bated breath to hear the Master speak. As Jesus' fellow citizens listened, this inspired message fell from His lips: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18, 19).

As the people heard the Son of God speak, some accepted but others refused to believe. Those who rejected His message did not realize that it was an HOUR OF DIVINE PROCLAMATION, and that the kingdom of God was at hand. Yes, man's HOUR OF DELIVERANCE was approaching. The Lord Jesus Christ had come to open the door to the spiritual kingdom of God, deep within the hearts of men.

Human nature is the same today as when Jesus visited the city of Nazareth. Some who hear the gospel receive it gladly, but there are multitudes who reject it. We live in an hour when it is popular to believe that the day of miracles is past. Many ministers are no longer teaching that men and women can be miraculously born again; modernists claim that Christ no longer heals the sick and afflicted.

* * *

When I lived in Edmonton, Canada, I was a member of the largest Protestant

church in the city, a church which boasted a membership of 3,000. We were very proud of our church, but unfortunately the pastor was a modernist. He wasn't at all certain that there was a valid, born-again experience; and if such a thing existed, he knew little or nothing about it. As for healing, he had a "very good scientific explanation" (as he thought) for the healings of Jesus. And he did not believe in the second coming of Christ.

In those days I was sick in bed, and the doctors said I would not live. Sometimes my pastor visited me. After speaking with me a few minutes, he would generally pray for me in such flowery language that I could scarcely understand him. One day, when he was leaving our home, he placed his hand on my shoulder and said, "Now, Brother Lorne, you must bear your pain and suffering with good Christian fortitude, and some day, in the sweet bye and bye, in the land that is fairer than day, there will be no more pain, sickness, or suffering." I began to weep, for I was a young man and I wanted to live. I had ambitions of becoming a great concert pianist. I wanted to thrill multitudes in concert halls and auditoriums. I did not want to believe that all of my fond dreams would come crashing down like a broken castle around my feet. Therefore, my pastor's visits, instead of being a comfort, were rather discouraging.

* * *

But one day something happened to our modernist pastor. He got saved! He was going to conduct an exposé of Charles S. Price's "fraudulent" divine healing ministry. He had gone to Dr. Price's

meeting in Calgary, Alberta, in order to gather information for his exposé—but while there he found the Lord as his personal Saviour! He came back a new person, a new creature in Christ; and I heard him say that he had a new theology and a new Jesus to preach.

Later, when Brother Price came to Edmonton, our pastor urged his congregation to attend the city-wide salvation and healing campaign. I was taken to those meetings; and within a few minutes after I was prayed for, my blessed Lord completely healed me of all the hopeless diseases for which the doctors had given me up to die.

There are many who say, "If I could see somebody healed, I would believe. Show me a miracle, and I am willing to believe that Christ heals today." But that is not so. Even if they did see a miracle, they would not believe so long as that is their attitude. God does not work on that basis. The Word of God says, "These signs shall follow them that believe." God's order is that you believe first and see afterwards. I have friends who knew how sick I was, and who knew me when I was healed, yet they do not believe.

* * *

Then I hear another voice objecting, "But is it really Scriptural to pray for the sick? Doesn't the Lord heal just on very rare occasions, when He has a special work for someone to perform?" I want you to know that healing has been provided by my Lord in the heart of His atoning grace. If the Word did not affirm this, I would not be in the ministry today.

In Exodus 15:26 God gave this won-

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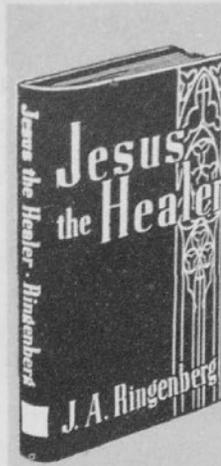
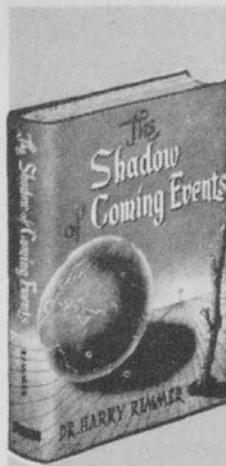
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derful assurance to His people: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." The prophet Isaiah, standing on a mountain peak of prophecy, looked down the centuries to another mountain called Calvary. In prophetic vision, he saw a Cross there, and He saw a Man hanging on that Cross with a lacerated, bruised, and bleeding back. In words of divinely inspired prophecy, he cried aloud, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED" (Isa. 53:5). And in the New Testament, the apostle Peter, standing on the other side of the Cross, gave utterance to these words, speaking of Jesus, "BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED." The apostle here is looking back to the finished work of Calvary.

* * *

When my Lord cried out, "It is finished," it was not a cry of defeat. It was the cry of a Man who had consummated the mission He had come to perform. According to God's plan, Jesus had brought salvation to man in the fullness of time. And as I look back to Calvary, I realize that the work of the Cross has been completed. Our redemption is purchased. Thank God, salvation for the whole man—body, mind, and spirit—is provided in the fountain of life that was opened wide on Mt. Calvary.

James 5:14, 15 contains the ringing commission to the Church of Jesus Christ: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." As soon as we refer to this scripture there are those who protest that the Book of James belongs only to the Jews, and not to the Church at all. Wait a minute, my brother! Whenever we start blue-penciling passages from the Bible, we are as bad as the agnostics and unbelievers. Moreover, if we cannot accept one portion of the Word as belonging to us, how can we know with any measure of assurance that another passage is ours? As far as I'm concerned, it is all or none—and I have taken it all!

* * *

It is the will of God that His children be healed. By inspiration the apostle John wrote, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2). This is the will and desire of God for every member of His blood-bought Church today.

As I already mentioned, I was once an incurable invalid—many doctors had given me up to die. But under the Spirit-

anointed ministry of Charles S. Price in Edmonton, Canada, I was gloriously healed. In his ministry there was a phenomenon which accompanied his prayer for the sick—nearly all of the people he anointed and prayed over were prostrated on their backs under the power of God. Some time after my sister and I went out into full-time ministry, Dr. Price called us to him and said, "I feel that God would have me pray that this same phenomenon might follow your ministry." He laid his hands upon me and prayed that this might be.

After this occasion, the phenomenon was present in our services without our saying anything about it publicly. People were "slain" under the power of God as we ministered to the sick. For a number of years God blessed our meetings and there were some outstanding miracles of healing.

But after a while, criticism began to mount higher and higher like a rushing flood. It came from ministerial circles and laity alike. Many folk told us that they liked our music, our evangelistic appeal, and even our healing testimony and prayer for the sick—but they did not like to see people fall prostrate under the power of God. Why did I allow it? they wanted to know.

* * *

At first I was determined to ignore these remarks, but eventually they began to wear me down. So we asked our workers to stand behind each person we prayed over and to keep them from falling. As a result, this particular phenomenon became less and less apparent in our meetings until it ceased entirely; and to a large extent the healings disappeared too. I have only the deepest regret in my heart for those years of compromise, and I would give anything if I could relieve them.

One afternoon I was alone in the house, discouraged. I felt weary in body, depressed in spirit, and sick at heart, because I knew that I was grieving my Lord. With aching heart, I cried aloud to God, "Lord, tonight is healing service again, and I do not feel that I can face another healing line. I'm all through—I cannot face a crowd of sick people again. Lord, it all seems like a farce to me. I cannot go any farther. Please, Lord, won't You do something for me?"

* * *

As I prayed on in earnest, the tears began to stream down my cheeks. Then a miracle took place. It is one of the rarest and most treasured occasions of my whole Christian experience. Jesus of Nazareth literally walked into my bedroom. His presence was so real that I found myself moving over on the bed to make a place for Him to sit beside me. He reached out His hand and placed

it on mine, and said, "My son, it is now or never. Which will it be?"

As I waited in His presence, He spoke to me further, telling me that there would be one last great outpouring of His Spirit and an ingathering of souls. He told me that once again multitudes would hear the gospel. Once again there would be a day of mass evangelism, and multitudes would be saved. It would be a time of signs, wonders, and miracles. It would be a final outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the world to bring sinners to repentance and to get God's people ready to meet the Lord in the clouds of glory.

I closed my eyes, and God gave me a vision. It seemed that I was standing on a pivot, being slowly turned until I made a complete circle. In this vision, everywhere I looked I saw throngs and throngs of people prostrate under divine power.

"Lord, what does this mean?" I asked.

"These, my son, are the men and women on whom you are yet to lay your hands to pray for their healing, and for their anointing for service, if you will give yourself completely to Me."

I knew what it would mean if I said "yes" to God. I could almost hear people saying, "Have you heard about Brother Fox? He's back at it again." But disregarding the criticism which I felt I would receive, I yielded to the Lord. Tears rushed down my face, and from the depths of my heart I cried, "I will do it, Lord, if You will go with me." God knew I meant it.

God was in the service that evening! I preached with a broken spirit, with tears streaming down my face. I don't know where all the sick people came from, but when we invited them to form a healing line that night, they were standing all across the front of that arena, which was almost 200 feet wide. People of almost every denomination came forward to be prayed for. We began to pray for the sick, and God's power came upon them. Many were prostrated and later arose with radiant faces and shouts of joy. One lady whose arm had been paralyzed from birth was waving it about, completely healed. Another said, "My goiter's gone!" There were many marvelous healings that night. Since that time we have seen hundreds healed and hundreds saved as we have let the Lord have His way.

By the grace of God, I will never again be guilty of laying my hands upon the operation of the Spirit. I will never permit fanaticism or the work of the flesh in my meetings; but anything that is Scriptural and that leads the people into the presence of Jesus, I desire with all my heart. God is moving once again in the midst of His people. Truly, this is THE HOUR OF DELIVERANCE.

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