

Getting

Acquainted

With

GOD



Likewise, knowing God is not enough. The important question is DOES GOD KNOW US?

Paul, writing to the Galatians, says: "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are KNOWN OF GOD, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage."

Did you notice how the Spirit of God checked Paul as he wrote? How important to know God, but more important that God knows us!

Our Lord said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them..." Does the Lord know you?

Again we read, "The Lord knoweth them that are his, and let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity!" 2 Tim. 2:19.

Our Lord reminds us in the day of his coming "many will say in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from me ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21-23

Is it not obvious that our Lord doesn't know us until we truly repent of sin? We may say we believe in him, that we know him, and proceed to cast out devils, even working wonders. But if we have never departed from iniquity, he will say to us in that day, I NEVER KNEW YOU. Indeed, how sad!

Does God know you?

In the parable of the Ten Virgins, all were looking for the return of the bridegroom, all had lamps burning signifying their profession of belief, but when the bridegroom came, they were left behind. And though they cried, 'Lord, Lord,' our Lord replies, "Verily, I say unto you, I KNOW YOU NOT."

How important it is to know Christ, not only as our Saviour but as our Lord as we repent of sin and acknowledge him as sovereign master of our lives. It is only then that we can truly come to know Him.

May the prayer of Paul ever be our prayer, "That I may KNOW him." And when He comes, we pray that He will know us. Amen.

Paul is praying that the Ephesians might come to know: "what is the exceeding greatness of His power (Gr. dunameos) to usward who believe, according to the working (Gr. energeian-energy) of His mighty power (Gr. Kratous tas ischuuous-super abundant strength), which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power (Gr. exousias-aughority), and might (Gr. dunameos), and dominion..." (Eph. 1:19-21a) Do you see how the Greek as used in the original Scriptures conveys the full impact, majesty and greatness of God's divine power?

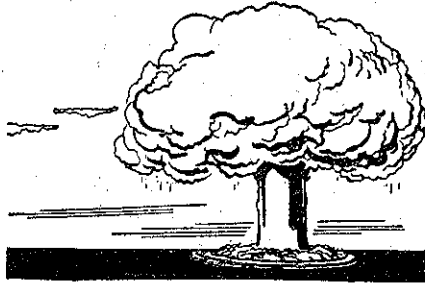
First, there is SAVING POWER! Paul refers to the "exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe." This Greek word for "power" used here is the word "dunameos" from which we get our English word, Dynamite! As used here, the word speaks of the great saving power of God - power to break the stoniest heart; convert a sinner into a saint; and transform the vilest of men. Drunkards are made sober, the harlot made pure, thieves stop stealing, because of this wondrous power. Mel Trotter, a hopeless drunkard who sold his baby's shoes to buy liquor, was converted to Christ by this transforming power to become the director of one of America's famous rescue missions. No wonder Paul exclaims: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power (dunameos, dynamite) of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. Rom. 1:16

Second, there is the KEEPING POWER of God! The Apostle refers to the "working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead." We might call this 'resurrection power', the supernatural, super abundant power of God which brought forth the lifeless, bruised and mutilated body of our Lord, out of which the blood had flowed, and raised Him back to life, nevermore to die! Friends, the Bible tells us we can have that 'resurrection power' in us now to keep us physically well and spiritually sound. Writes Paul: "If the Spirit of Him that raised Christ from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Jesus from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Rom. 8:11) HALLELUJAH!

The Apostle knew whereof he wrote. Think of the times when he was thrown into dark, damp dungeons, his back bleeding from beatings received. Paul, no doubt, looked up to Jesus for healing medicine, and the Spirit of God would release this power like a spiritual injection. Were we to sit in a draft for a few minutes, we would suffer from neuritis or pneumonia, perhaps, but Paul was fortified with spiritual vitamins this world knows nothing about!

FILLED WITH THE FULNESS OF GOD!

Our world today is filled with fear! Here at home there is fear of a depression which, if it comes, will be the worst we have ever known. Again there is the fear of ultimate extinction from weapons man himself has created--missiles and moons--rockets and bombs, capable of destroying all of us. Finally, there is the threat of godless, communistic forces seen barn-storming their way into Southeast Asia, Africa and particularly the Middle East. Whether they wage a cold or hot war--the Soviets are working cleverly, and energetically, in a relentless campaign aimed at world conquest.



So, let's face it, neighbor...our world is filled with fear. And the future grows darker. For our Lord himself described vividly the days of his return saying: "Men's heart shall fail them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..."

These are days, however, when the Christian need not be filled with fear. In fact, said Jesus, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:26 & 28)

These are days, friends, when we need to be filled with the Holy Ghost! Of all the messages I have ever preached, this one today is the most important! The Apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesians, desires for them that they might be "filled with all the fulness of God." Later, he gives this command--"Be filled with the Spirit."

A. J. Gordon, the noted Bible Expositor, has stated; "It seems clear from the Scriptures that it is still the duty and privilege of believers to receive the Holy Spirit by a conscious, definite act of appropriating faith, just as they received Christ." This is what Moody and Torrey both taught and believed.

Now, many teach that when you receive Christ as your Saviour, you also receive the Holy Spirit! But we would point out--that even before a person is saved, he received the Holy Spirit--in conviction! At the time of conversion the Holy Spirit again assists the believer to receive Christ. but this does not mean that the Holy Spirit comes to the believer in his indwelling fulness! (Note, if you will, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as THE COMFORTER. The word comforter is a Greek word--paracletos--meaning "one called alongside to help!") The very meaning of the word thus implies the Holy Spirit is one called along side to assist every believer.

Now, of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." It is this experience of receiving the Holy Spirit as an indwelling, controlling power in our lives that puts us into this "better class" of Christians of which Moody speaks. Moody goes on to assert--"the secret of the Holy Spirit's coming in power to the believer is the individual's complete surrender to the Saviour. And, (declares Mr. Moody) we do not have to wait upon God to do something for us. He is waiting for us to yield ourselves to Him."

Among other things, we discover in time a new victory over the dominion of sin in our lives. Not that we won't ever sin again! But we won't be controlled by sin...so long as we continue to yield to the indwelling Spirit, sustained daily by prayer, and strengthened by the Word. We will discover a new power in our lives giving us a desire to tell others about Christ; to witness and win others to him. We will also find a new love for souls, for one another, a love for the Word, and things spiritual.

Finally, Mr. Moody points out there is still a higher goal for the believer to attain. Referring to John, chapter 7, where we read of those out of whose "innermost being (belly) shall flow rivers of living water," Moody says: "This is the best class; this is the kind of Christian we ought to be."

Today don't be misled into thinking that when you came to Christ and got saved you received all God has for you. Potentially, all is yours, but don't be satisfied until the Holy Spirit comes in to fill you with his lovely presence, making Christ real in your life--making your life fruitful. And, there are others to whom God is speaking today that He himself may pour out a blessing upon your life so that you might be filled with the fulness of God.

Don't be like the Pharisees and reject Scriptural truth! Don't be like Esau and carelessly toss aside your birthright to the privileges and blessings of this fulness of God! Don't join the crowd who ignorantly declares, "God doesn't work miracles today!" or who say, "the gifts of the Spirit ceased."

Rather, believe God! Get in on the blessing! The flood-tide of God's Spirit is yours for the asking! Simply surrender, believe and obey! These are the Last Days! GOD'S SPIRIT has been promised--not in driplets, not a mere trickle...but in an outpouring!

May God pour out His Spirit upon you, and may you be filled with all the fulness of God, and be ready for Jesus when he comes. Amen.

Getting Acquainted with God

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Introduction



THE HOLY SPIRIT (#884)

CHRISTIAN LIFE magazine reports on the first international Lutheran Conference on the Holy Spirit conducted in Minneapolis recently.

Declared a Miami pastor: "The churches that are alive have discovered the reality of the Holy Spirit."

The Rev. K.H.B.Meyer, a missionary, observes that most Christians today are unaware of the ministry of the Spirit. He notes: "When the Apostle Paul visited a group of Christians in the city of Ephesus, he asked whether they had received the Holy Spirit when they came to believe in Jesus Christ. "No," they replied, "We don't know what you mean. What is the Holy Spirit? "

Says Meyer: "Today, most Christians respond in much the same way as the Ephesian Christians did when asked whether or not they have received the Holy Spirit. Most of us have little, if any, understanding of the Holy Spirit and the deeper personal encounter with Jesus Christ with which each believer can be blessed by the Holy Spirit."

An American Lutheran pastor from Van Nuys, California similarly declares: "If we acknowledge that by the Holy Spirit this same Jesus now lives and works in the daily lives of those who give way to Him in the surrender of faith; if we confess with the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews that He "is the same yesterday and today and forever," then must we not also acknowledge that He is able to do today what He did in "Bible times"? Believing in Jesus, must we not also say that we believe in miracles?"

GETTING ACQUAINTED



How nice it is to meet new friends. This is one of the delightful aspects of evangelistic ministry - that of meeting people, and particularly, radio listeners.

Meeting God is like meeting people. It takes more than a 'hello' or a 'handshake' to really become acquainted. The best way to meet someone is to live with them, eat at their table, and fellowship with them in their home.

Some Christians have come to know God only by a friendly 'hello.' They have never come to meet him intimately. They know him only as a remote being upon whom they can call in time of sickness, or trouble, or death.

If only we could become really acquainted with God - to have an intimate knowledge of Him as revealed in His Word, to know him in the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Dr. E.B. Bancroft in *CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY* says: "The Trinity of God is His tri-personal existence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the nature of the one God, there are three eternal distinctions..." Bancroft goes on to say that it is impossible to fully explain the trinity "because there are no analogies to it in our finite experience. For this reason all attempts to adequately represent it are vain."

Were we to try to illustrate God's revelation of himself to man we might refer to water which can take on various dimensions. Water is a liquid so satisfying to the thirst. When frozen, it appears as a solid substance we call ice. And when boiled, it becomes a vapor or steam.

So it is with God. Although He is one, He exists in three separate and distinct personalities. And to the extent that we come to know Him he comes to dwell to that degree in our lives.

It is with the hope that we come to know Him in His fulness that this book is written.

DO YOU KNOW GOD?

TIME magazine (May 3, 1969) notes that a few years ago the "GOD IS DEAD" controversy was the "most fiercely debated issue in American theology."

Noted TIME: "Scholarly journals were thick with discussions of it. No sermon topic was more popular; pulpits rang with denunciations from righteous clergymen."

Today, though the issue is largely dead, to those who know God he is very much alive! For one cannot be saved and not know God! For John would remind us: "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

What blasphemous utterances have been made by some modern-day theologians who contend not only that God is dead, but stinketh. How sad for these confused and mislead men.

We contend that God not only lives, but the closer we come to the end of this age the greater will be God's manifestation to mankind of himself. We base our assumption on Peter's message at Pentecost. On that occasion, you'll remember, he quoted the Prophet Joel saying: "And it shall come to pass in the LAST DAYS, saith GOD, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams, etc."

Whatever might be our personal conviction or private interpretation of these verses, it is as plain as the nose on your face that this final outpouring of the spirit of God is linked to that 'great and notable day of the Lord' when the sun shall be darkened, and the moon turn to blood.

As Moody declared, Pentecost was only a specimen day!

Dean Alford, noted Bible commentator says of these verses: "It is not the first coming of Christ, which interpretation would run counter to the whole tenor of the Apostle's application of the prophecy; but clearly his second coming."

D. M. Panton observes: "Throughout the Prophets, no prediction of the Spirit's action is more precise, more positive, than Joel's forecast of a double Pentecost, the Christian dispensation clasped at both ends, like a jewel, in a bracelet of miracle."

Personally, I am convinced that the coming of Christ will find many Christians asleep and indifferent instead of alert and watchful.

In 2 John 8-9 we read, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ hath both the Father and the Son."

Beloved, ponder the message of those words. For John says: "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

Is it possible to claim to know Christ, and yet not have God's fullness in our lives. This Scripture indicates that if we continue to sin, and don't go on with God that He is sadly lacking from our lives. Whereas, to continue in the doctrine of Christ we have both the Father and the Son.

Just a word for you who wonder - what is the doctrine of Christ.

How wonderfully the Scriptures unfold for us as we are told in Hebrews 6 just what are the principles of the doctrine of Christ... repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection and judgment. (Heb. 6:1-2)

In other words, if a person is truly saved he has repented of sin, believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and then will desire baptism by immersion as well as desire the baptism of the Spirit. (Note: the word 'baptisms' is plural). Finally, for such a one, is promised 'resurrection' and 'eternal judgment' when we shall be rewarded for the life lived on earth.

Do you know God? You do if you are walking in obedience to his word, and adhering to the principles of the doctrine of Christ.

But we would point out that the message of Hebrews is that we leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and go on unto perfection! Instead of swallowing milk we need to start digesting meat!

If you can eat meat, the next chapter is for you. Let's get acquainted with GOD!

DOES GOD KNOW YOU?

I once had the privilege of almost meeting President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He passed by within a few feet of where I stood. I recognized him and in a way you might say I knew him. And yet I never actually met him or conversed with him. And if he were asked if he knew me, he would probably admit that he didn't know me from Adam.

So it is with knowing God for some know him only remotely. They recognize him as the creator of the universe, but have never come to know him intimately.

The ways whereby we know God include nature. For the heavens truly declare the glory of God, the firmament showeth his handiwork.

In this way even the heathen know there is a God. And since the Lord Jesus Christ was truly the creator of all things, they could come to know the God who died to save them. As we are reminded in Romans 1, however, "when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful...and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image...so that they are without excuse."

This does not mean that we need not preach the Gospel to the heathen. For how shall they hear without a preacher? The heathen need to be told of the Lord Jesus Christ who left heaven's glory to die on the cross for their sins, was buried, and rose again.

Actually, we can't know God without coming to know Christ. For our Lord declared, "no man cometh unto the Father but by me." And we are reminded, "there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

So we recognize Jesus Christ as the divine revelation of God to man. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. In him dwelt the fulness of the Godhead bodily. So our Lord could say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

How many answer, "I believe in God," when you ask them if they are true Christians. Why, my friends, the devils believe in God. They even tremble, the Scriptures tell us. But they are not saved! Believing in God is important, but it is not enough. We need to personally receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord.

Beloved, when the Lord comes, he is looking for a spotless bride. His desire is to find "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:27)

As D. M. Panton asserts: "The Holy Son of God cannot present unto Himself a trifling, indifferent, unsanctified body of nominal church members. His church must be made like unto Himself, the fairest and noblest expression of redeemed humanity that only His sufferings and death could ever produce."

Alexander Whyte, eminent preacher of the last century, said: "I may not live to see it, but the day will come when there will be a great revival in the whole world."

That revival needs to come now! The church of Jesus Christ needs to arise, shake itself of spiritual drowsiness, and be ever prayerful and alert. As our Lord warned, saying: "Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." For he noted, "as a snare (trap) shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth." (Luke 21:35-36)

Concerning the Philadelphia church, we are told they will escape this coming tribulation for they are obedient, and value the rapture as a crown to gain which is promised to all them that love our Lord's appearing. These believers are told, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (tribulation) which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth."

Did you hear it?

Herein lies the secret of knowing God. It is by keeping His Word. Jesus taught, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my FATHER will love him, and WE will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23)

DON'T MISS IT! Here is truth neglected in the church today. For many hear of Christ, but know not that God's fullness is related to obedience. Many know not the Holy Ghost "whom God hath given to them that obey him." (Acts 5:32)

Our Lord in commissioning his disciples said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..."

This verse was taught to me by my mother when I was just a lad and it has stayed with me. When I went to Bible School I was told that the word 'baptize' does not always relate to water. Actually, the greek word BAPTIZO means "to introduce into a vital relationship with"; according to my Greek professor.

So, what our Lord was telling his disciples was that they were to introduce men to God. They were to introduce them into a vital relationship with the Father, into a vital relationship with the Son, and into a vital relationship with the Holy Ghost.

As we are introduced to Christ we are given LIFE. For he that "believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

As we are introduced to the Holy Spirit we find the key to POWER. For we're told, "ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you;" Acts 1:8.

Finally, we discover that God himself wants to anoint our lives for ministry and service, filling us with love, and overshadowing us with his fulness... "that we might be filled with all the fulness of God," Eph. 3:19.

This is all a great mystery. But as Dr. A.W. Tozer writes: "The doctrine of the divine indwelling is one of the most important in the New Testament, and its meaning for the individual Christian is precious beyond description. To neglect it is to suffer serious loss."

Through the pages of this book we hope you will become better acquainted with God!

That God is pouring out of His Spirit upon all flesh, prophesied by Joel, who among us can deny?

Mark Hillmer, associate professor of Old Testament at Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, points out--this Endtime moving of God's Spirit must be related to the long-awaited second coming of Christ.

While the exact time of the end is the best kept secret in the universe," he notes, "we are told to watch for signs of the end." "....earthshaking signs, including the charismatic movement, are unavoidable signs that something unprecedented is about to take place. While the believer may share a fear inherent in human nature, deep down he cannot but rejoice at the prospect of being alive when Jesus returns."

Indeed, what a blessed hope is ours, and the way to be ready is to be looking for our Lord's coming with longing and with expectancy, realizing our Lord may come today.

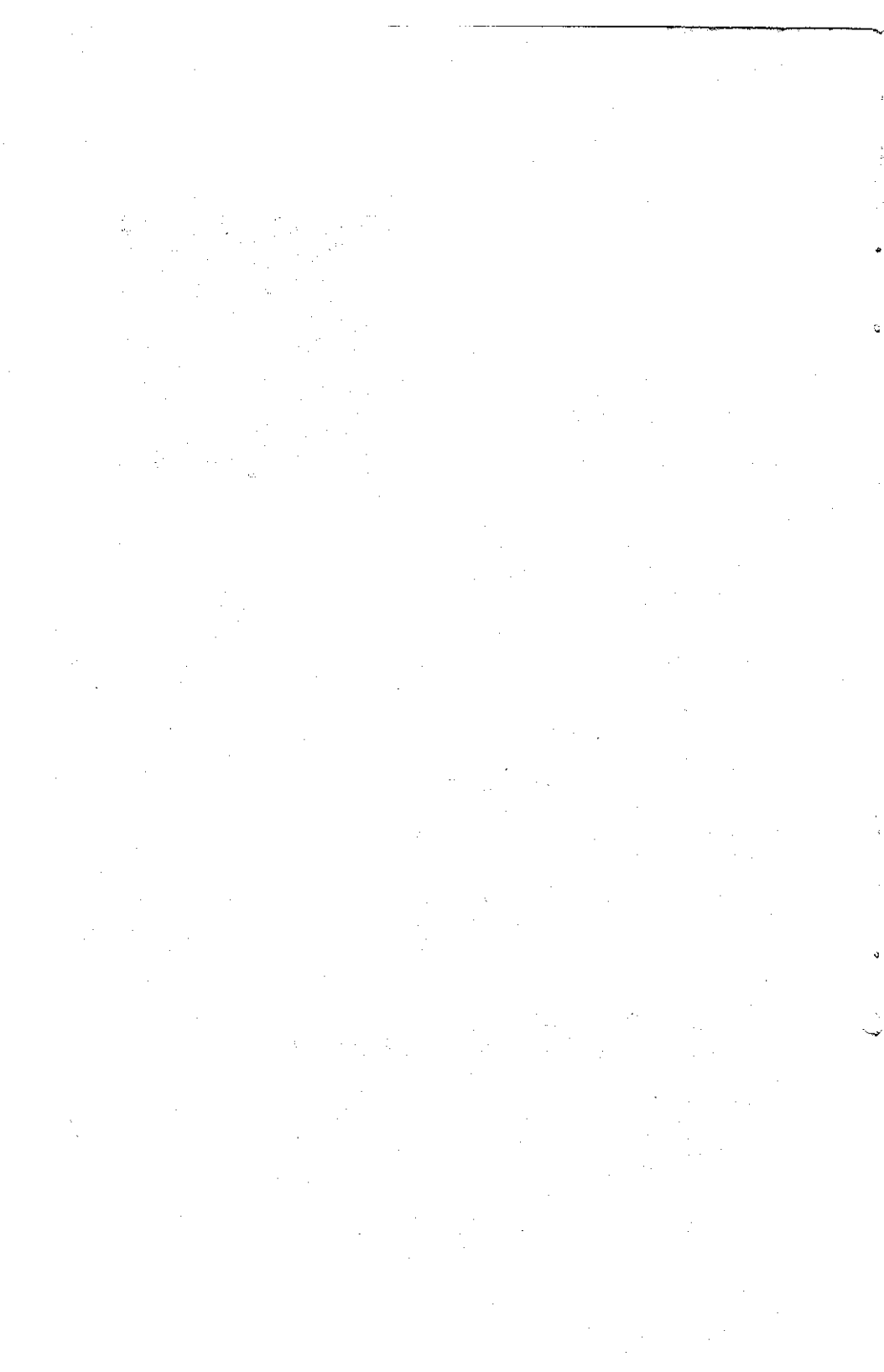
It is in view of our Lord's coming that men are urging consideration be given to a deeper life commitment which is referred to as the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

While this terminology may frighten some people, we would be reminded of what Dr. R.A. Torrey said about this expression of the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." Dr. Torrey quotes Moody as saying: "Why will they split hairs? Why don't they see that the baptism with the Holy Ghost is just the one touch that they themselves need?"

Well, we can testify that there are many unsatisfied believers today. They are not satisfied with their worldly way of living, not happy and not victorious. And yet, there is power available through the Spirit for witnessing, and there are fruits of the Spirit for enjoying, and gifts of the Spirit for serving.

As another conference speaker declared: "Don't be satisfied unless this becomes an experience in your life. If you are not experiencing the gifts of the Spirit, power to witness, the guidance of the Spirit, victory over temptation, etc., you need to appropriate by faith what is yours by virtue of your relationship with Christ. You need to actualize in your life the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

And to this we say "Amen."



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Concerning Jesus himself, Moody calls attention to the fact that for thirty years he lived in obscurity in Nazareth. Then there came a day when, we read, Jesus was "full of the Holy Ghost." Coming back to Nazareth from Jordan, and after his encounter with Satan in the wilderness, we read where he went into the temple and read from Isaiah--"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me." From thence, declares Moody, "for three years we find him preaching the kingdom of God, casting out devils, and raising the dead..."

Moody thus observes: "If the Son of God has got to be anointed, do not his disciples need it, and shall we not seek it, and shall we barely rest with conversion?"

From a study of the Scriptures I see where Moody is right in observing there are these classes of Christians. For instance, there are believers who bear fruit; there are those who bear more fruit; and there are those who bear much fruit. Again our Lord refers to those who bear fruit....some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (Mt. 13:23)

Notice carefully, if you will, to have Christ (as Moody asserted) is to have life and be saved; whereas the Holy Spirit gives power--power over the dominion of sin in the life; and to have the fulness of God himself is to receive the anointing for service.

My friends, there is nothing clearer in all the Scripture than this--that prior to the return of Christ...GOD WANTS TO POUR OUT OF HIS SPIRIT. Pentecost was just a preview--a foreshadowing of spiritual blessings forecast for the last days.

Indeed, these verily are the last days. And God is wanting to pour out of His Spirit! He wants to save souls! He desires to transform lives! He wants to prove Himself real to every believer! He wants to perform the miraculous! He wants to heal the sick! And one of these days, praise God, he'll even raise the dead when believers will come forth from their graves, and the SPIRIT OF GOD who took Elijah home, and who removed Philip to Azotus, will take those of us who are the bride of Christ back to Heaven.

You know, Moody diagnosed Christians as falling into separate groups. "The first class," declared the great evangelist, "are those who got to Calvary and there got life. They believed on the Son and were saved, and there they rested satisfied. They did not seek anything higher!" (Incidentally, Moody concluded the majority of Christians were in this category.) In his own words he declares, "you might say safely, I think, without exaggeration, that 19 out of 20 Christians"...are in this class..."they have just got life and have settled down, and have not sought for power."

Now, Moody goes on to relate that it's possible to become what he calls "a better class of Christian."

For instance, in the fourth chapter of John we read of those who had within them a well of living water springing up into everlasting life." (v. 14) These are Christians in whom the Spirit dwells.

I realize there is much misunderstanding concerning the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. It was William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, who declared, "twentieth century Christianity would be characterized by, among other things, a lack of the Holy Ghost." The Apostle Jude, writing of those who walk after their own ungodly lusts, characterizes them as "having not the Spirit."

Moody himself once was approached by an old gray-haired gentleman. As he was hurrying away to a meeting, this elderly man, his hair blowing to the wind, stopped Moody to say: "Moody, next time you speak, honour the Holy Ghost." And after Moody's triumphant experience of having received the Holy Ghost, his ministry was greatly changed. And he himself often preached on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. So did his associate, R.A. Torrey, who has written many helpful books on the subject.

Now there are those who take exception to such terminologies such as the receiving of the Spirit, or the Baptism or filling of the Spirit. Dr. Torrey quotes Moody as saying in a discussion on this very matter, "Oh, why will they split hairs? Why don't they see that this is just the one thing that they themselves need?"

Again, think of another occasion when the Apostle was mobbed at Lystra, stoned by rocks hurled at his body, then dragged forth from the city, and then left for dead. But suddenly this 'resurrection power' begins to mend broken bones and tissues, a new strength and vitality returns to his body, and he is seen to stand up and walk back into the city again! That, beloved, is God's almighty power available to us today!

Are you sick today? Then claim this power for the healing of your body. It was while Jesus was healing the sick, including Peter's wife's mother that we read: "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8:17)

Why should you bare sickness if Jesus already bore it for you? As Peter tells us, "by whose stripes ye were healed;" (1 Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:6) Sin and sickness are both traceable to Satan, and Christ has power over every tool and weapon that the devil wields, or dart that he hurls at the believer today.

For Jesus both died and rose again, "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." (Heb. 2:14). Satan is a defeated foe. Even his greatest weapon, death, cannot be hurled at the believer unless the Lord permits. For that reason the Lord can control circumstances and prevent accidents for He has all power in heaven and in earth!

O, that we might fathom this great power of God available to us today, to break the chains of sin and lust as well as to heal sickness and disease. For Jesus said to the palsied man: "whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?" seeing He has all power!

Last of all, we would observe that Christ is now seated...far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion.

Having defeated Satan, victor over death, hell and the grave, our Lord sits enthroned in the heavens. Men and nations, kings and princes, are likewise subject to him. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Greek word for power here is "exousia" and means authority. Although there is coming a day when every knee must bow in forced recognition of his divine authority, now our Lord invites all to freely accept His authority in their lives. How wonderful to surrender to His control, be filled with His Spirit, and recognize His loving authority in our lives. For truly He is above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion...Amen.

THE POWER OF GOD!

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT recently calls attention to the awesome fact that America has destructive atomic weapons equal in explosive power to more than one million atomic bombs such as were dropped on Hiroshima.

That this is an age of power no one can deny. The greatest symbol of power is the lowly atom - a particle of matter so small it cannot be observed with the naked eye, but when harnessed is powerful enough to destroy the world.

Man's inventive genius is likewise evidenced in the satellites he has flung into space; driven heavenward by tremendous rockets - a new symbol of our age of power.

The greatest power in all the world, however, is not related to any of man's scientific inventions as great as they may be. Take a blade of grass or a tree root that can lift a sidewalk. Or, explain a watermelon seed that can expand itself 200,000 times its size. Said William Jennings Bryan: "Until you can explain a watermelon, do not be too sure that you can set limits to the power of the Almighty." God's power remains the greatest force known to mankind today. And to think that when Jesus returned back to heaven, He declares: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He has all power today!

Peter, too, would remind us that God, "According to His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." (2 Pet. 1:3) This would indicate that all which we need in this life, as well as to live Godly, is available in and through the Lord Jesus. Thus, it is written: "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19)

The Apostle Paul sought to drive home to the Ephesians the full scope of God's power in using several different Greek words, all poorly translated into the one English word - "power", in seeking to convey to us the tremendous power available to the believer today.