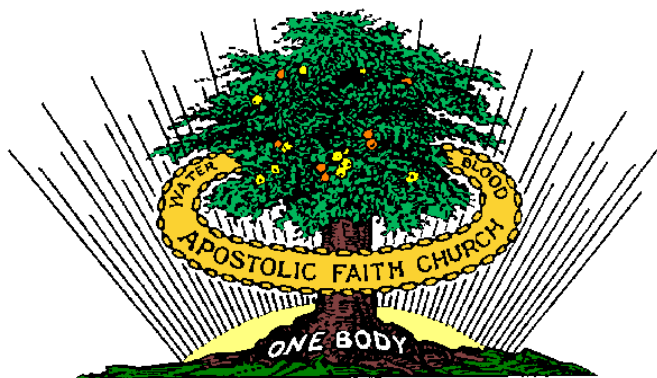


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Showers of Blessing

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Gifts of the Spirit

The following is part of an address given by the late Pastor Raymond Pain on Sunday morning 25/5/97.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them" (Psalm 145:18,19).

How close are we to the Lord in our understanding? Maybe much closer than we imagine, because He is not a God afar off, neither is His Son afar off, but He is nigh unto those that call upon Him. If we are in trouble, such as in a car accident, and we call on Him and are delivered miraculously, how near then are the heavenly hosts?

I believe that there are wonderful gifts and powers to come. I can recall being told that there are nine gifts of the Spirit, but that figure is not in the Bible, and one is able to identify at least 21. We are believing for wonderful gifts, some of which have never been seen on the earth before. Why should we desire them; why should the Lord proffer them. Is it just because He wants to indulge us? No, it is for a very solemn reason. To bring in the Kingdom of God it is necessary to have these extra territorial powers, as they may be called, because they have to overthrow the old order of things, which has already begun, in order to bring in the new, which is now progressing. So we look expectantly for the things which the Lord has promised in His written and Spoken Word, that we shall, if obedient, receive them, by praying and fasting if necessary.

I believe some of these gifts will be strange at first, as the Lord has told us; strange, because we will not understand them at first. Before there was a car made, and one stood in the road outside, what a strange object it would seem, but now there are many of them on either side of the road, but they do not appear strange in this day. The new gifts will be strange to our understanding until we get used to them, then they will not be strange at all. They may come to others throughout the world, for it is only in the last 30 years or so that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit has been accepted in the more orthodox churches; how much more in time to come will many of these gifts be accepted.

The Lord is in the day now when the heavens no longer retain Him, and He is taking His great powers unto Himself. New powers of the Holy Spirit must be distributed through those who believe, as we have just been told. "He that cometh unto God must believe that He is," and likewise, those who believe for these strange new powers must believe that they are there, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him for these things. No one is too old, and maybe the older ones will show the way to the younger. Whosoever will come and drink may inherit these things from God.

The Lord spoke the other day about 'the lot of our inheritance'. When the Children of Israel went into Canaan, they were given a lot in the land as their inheritance. I have often wondered,

as a shadow of things to come, what is the reality of the lot of the inheritance of the Christian Church in the saints. It is where there are spiritual anointings of different sorts. Isn't that wonderful? We are each ear-marked as it were, if faithful, to receive a lot in the heavenly Canaan, a lot as our individual inheritance. A spiritual possession that is ours. And one may think too, that as they were in natural families, how can we be in spiritual families; but we can. It has nothing to do with fleshly relationships, but those who are near each other in spiritual understanding may come to share in a particular lot of inheritance. What a privilege to have a lot in the City of the New Jerusalem. We believe that Pastor Hutchinson has an inheritance in that New Jerusalem and we who are of his family of Faith have our part in that inheritance. Remember, it is the Lord's come again inheritance in the saints, not apart from them, for He comes down through His Body Members to deliver. It is the Stone that smites the old order and breaks it into bits all over the earth, and brings in the new order of righteousness.

The Lord often told us in our gathering in London, "If the numbers be few, the greater will be the powers" - in us as individuals. Why? Because the Lord will have His plan carried out in every particular. So we do not have to look upon our numbers. If the Lord had no body, where would be His inheritance? It would be like a Will being given to you, written, without any land or possessions there, just a piece of paper. The Church of the Lord in the earth is not withered away, it is growing greatly, more so in the non-white countries than the white ones. The Lord is levelling things up as we might say. At the Calcutta Conference I attended, there were more non-white than white, for the first time. There were gathered 62 nations, all in harmony, all with their cultures, and I did not at any time see or hear anything that one could take exception to. So what a wonderful work the Lord is doing. Over that Campus of maybe 50 acres there was the anointing of the Lord revealed; you went in and bathed in it. From the early morning spontaneous singing broke out, like birds with their beaks in the air, praising God. You went in feeling jaded, and long before any meeting started; the Spirit of the Lord lifted you up and quickened you. Joy came welling up like the birds singing in the early morning. The Lord showed that over that Campus, all those different people with their individual cultures, was a foretaste of the glory of the Lord covering the earth as the waters cover the sea. Eden will be worldwide as the spirit of Eden was in that Campus. That is the way the Lord will bestow His inheritance. He had it in part in this Conference of 4600 people, who were all acceptable and free in the Lord.

The more these powers are bestowed, the quicker the changes will come about. Starting in the Upper Room in Jerusalem about 3000 were brought to the Lord in one day. What a quickening of the Spirit there must have been in that City and well beyond. It may well be that when these new powers are bestowed there will be a great quickening among Christians, wanting to know and believe much more than they did before. Righteousness is wonderful to enjoy. It is not an onerous thing to take His yoke upon us, but it is light. We are developing strong spiritual arms that we may seek God for these spiritual gifts, and inherit them. They are ours, because He cannot deny Himself and His precious promises are to those who value them. Some people will not value these spiritual gifts, perhaps if they were more valued there would be more people here this morning, but we have to make sacrifices to obtain them. To empty out the old ways in order to inherit the new.

Oh the joys of the Lord at the first Pentecost, and the tremendous furore it caused in Jerusalem. What about these coming things; His inheritance in the saints, our inheritance in Him. "The Lord is the strength of his anointed." On the other hand, His Anointed is the strength of the Lord in the earth. The more He can put His anointing upon those who believe, in this precious family of God, by faith, the children of Pastor Hutchinson, the stronger the Lord is to overthrow the old and bring in the new order of righteousness. Let us believe and prepare that we shall inherit Him, and that the Lord will inherit us in a greater way than we yet know, so that the greater works may be done.

