

The Superlative Excellence of the Holy Spirit

by C.H. Spurgeon

The presence of the Holy Spirit is more beneficial to the church than the bodily presence of Christ, providing accessibility, faith, and spiritual refinement without the inconveniences.

Duration: 49:24

Scripture: Isaiah 11:2, Matthew 24:35, John 14:26, John 16:7, Acts 1:8, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Second Coming"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the anticipation and hope that Christians have for the return of Jesus Christ. The congregation is encouraged to eagerly await His appearance and to be ready for His coming. The preacher highlights the power of the Holy Spirit in converting hearts and emphasizes the need for the Spirit to be poured out on the church. The sermon concludes with a prayer for the church to be filled with men who are filled with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Transcript

The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit The Superlative Excellence of the Holy Spirit A sermon delivered on Sunday morning, June 12th, 1864 by the Reverend C. H.

Spurgeon of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington John 16, verse 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth It is expedient for you that I go away For if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you But if I depart, I will send him unto you The saints of God may very justly reckon their losses among their greatest gains The adversities of believers minister much to their prosperity Although we know this, yet through the infirmity of the flesh we tremble at soul-enriching afflictions and dread to see those black ships which bring us such freights of gold and treasure When the Holy Spirit sanctifies the furnace the flame refines our gold and consumes our dross yet the dolor of our nature likes not the glowing coals and had rather lie quiet in the dark mines of earth As silly children cry

because they are called to drink the medicine which will heal their sickness even so do we Our gracious Savior, however loves us too wisely to spare us the trouble because of our childish fears He foresees the advantage which will spring from our grief and therefore thrusts us into them out of wisdom and true affection It was a very great trouble to these first apostles to lose their teacher and friend Sorrow had filled their heart at the thought that he should depart but yet his departure was to give them the greater blessing of the Holy Spirit and therefore their entreaties and tears cannot avert the dreaded separation Christ will not gratify their wishes at so vast an expense as the withholding of the Spirit Mourn as they may under the

severe trial Jesus will not remain with them

because his departure is in the highest degree expedient Beloved, let us expect to be subject to the same loving discipline Let us reckon upon losing happy frames and choice enjoyments when Jesus knows that the loss will be better for us than the enjoyment God has given two great gifts to his people The first is his Son for us The second is his Spirit to us After he had given his Son for us to become incarnate, to work righteousness and to offer an atonement that gift had been fully bestowed and there remained no more to be conferred in that respect It is finished proclaimed the completion of atonement and his resurrection showed the perfection of justification It was not therefore necessary that Christ should remain any longer upon earth since his work below is forever finished Now is

the season for the second gift the descent of the Holy Spirit This could not be bestowed until Christ had ascended because this choice favor was reserved to grace with highest honor the triumphant ascension of the great Redeemer When he ascended up on high he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men This was, as Peter tells us the great promise which Jesus received of his Father Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear That his triumphal entrance into heaven might be stamped with signal glory the gifts of the Spirit of God could not be scattered among the sons of men until the Lord had gone up with a shout even the Lord with the sound of trumpet The first gift

being completed it became necessary that he whose person and work make up that priceless boon should withdraw himself that he might have power to distribute the second benefit by which alone the first gift becomes of any service to us Christ crucified is of no practical value to us without the work of the Holy Spirit and the atonement which Jesus wrought God can never save a single soul unless the blessed Spirit of God shall apply it to the heart and conscience Jesus is never seen until the Holy Spirit opens the eye The water from the well of life is never received until the Holy Spirit has drawn it from the depths As medicine unused for want of the physician's word As sweets untasted because out of reach As treasure unvalued because hidden in the earth such is Jesus the Saviour until the

Holy Spirit teaches us to know him and applies his blood to our souls It is to the honour of the Holy Spirit that I desire to speak this morning And oh, may the same hallowed flame which of old sat upon the apostles now rest upon the preacher and may the word come with power to our hearts We shall commence our discourse by the remark that the bodily presence of Christ must have been exceedingly precious How precious those alone can tell who love Christ much Love always desires to be in the company of the thing beloved and absence causes grief What is fully meant by the expression sorrow hath filled your heart Those only can know who anticipate a like painful bereavement Jesus had become the joy of their eyes the sun of their days, the star of their nights Like the spouse as she came up

from the wilderness they leaned upon their beloved They were as little children and now that their lord and master was going they felt that they should be left orphans Well, might they have great sorrow of heart So much love, so much sorrow when the object of love is withdrawn Judge ye, my brethren the joy which the bodily presence of Christ would give to us this morning and then you can tell how precious it must be Have we not, some of us been looking for years for the personal advent of Christ We have lifted up our eyes in the morning and we have said, perhaps he will come this day And when the day is closed we have continued our watching in our sleepless hours and renewed our hopes with the rising of the sun We longingly expect him according to his promise and like men who watch for

their lord We stand with loins girt about waiting for his appearing We are looking for and hastening unto the day of the lord This is the bright hope which cheers the Christian The hope that the saviour shall descend to reign amongst his people gloriously Suppose him to appear suddenly on this platform now How would you clap your hands?

Why, the lame among you Would the joy of his appearance leap like a heart and even the dumb might sing for joy The presence of the master, for rapture Come quickly, come quickly, Lord Jesus It must be indeed a precious thing to enjoy the corporal presence of Christ Think of the advantage you would be in the instruction of his people No mystery need puzzle us if we could refer all to him The disputes of the Christian church would soon be ended for he would tell us what his word meant beyond dispute There would be no discouragement to the church henceforth in her work of faith and labour of love for the presence of Christ would be the end of all difficulties and ensure conquest over all enemies We should not have to mourn as we now do over our forgetfulness of Jesus for we should sometimes

catch a look at him and a sight of him would give us a store of joy so that like the prophet of Horeb we could go forty days in the strength of that meat It were a delightful thing to know that Christ was somewhere upon earth for then he would take the personal supervision of his universal church He would warn us of apostates He could reject the hypocrites He would comfort the feeble-minded and rebuke the erring How delightful would it be to see him walking among the golden candlesticks holding the stars in his right hand Churches need not then be subdivided and rent with evil passions Christ would create unity Chisholm would cease to be and heresy would be rooted out The presence of Jesus whose countenance is as the sun shining in his strength would ripen all the fruits of our garden

consume all the weeds and quicken every plant The two-edged sword of his mouth would slay his foes and his eyes of fire would kindle the holy passions of his friends But I shall not enlarge upon that point because it is one in which fancy exercises itself at the expense of judgment I question whether the pleasure which the thought of Christ's being here in the flesh has given us just now may not have had a leaven of carnality in it I question whether the church is yet prepared to enjoy the corporal presence of her Saviour without falling into the air of knowing him after the flesh It may be it shall need centuries of education before the church is fit to see her Saviour in the flesh on earth again because I see in my own self and I suppose it is so in you that much of the delight which I

expect from the company of Christ is according to the sight of the eyes and the judgment of the mind and sight is ever the mark and symbol of the flesh However leaving that point we come to the second which is that the presence of the Comforter as we have it upon earth is very much better than the bodily presence of Christ We have fancied that the bodily presence of Christ would make us blessed and confer innumerable boons but according to our text the presence of the Holy Ghost working in the church is more expedient for the church I think this will be clear to you if you think for a moment that the bodily presence of Christ on the earth however good it might be for the church would in our present condition involve many inconveniences which are avoided by his presence through the Holy

Spirit Christ being most truly man must as to his manhood inhabit a certain place and in order to get to Christ it would be necessary for us to travel to his place of residence conceive all men compelled to travel from the ends of the earth to visit the Lord Jesus Christ dwelling upon Mount Zion or in the city of Jerusalem what a lengthened voyage would that be for those who live in the far off ends of the world doubtless they would joyfully undertake it and as peace would be universal and poverty be banished men might not be restrained from taking such a journey but might all be able to accomplish it yet as they could

not all live where they could every morning see Christ they must be content with every now and then getting a glimpse of him but see my brethren the Holy Spirit the vicar

of Christ dwells everywhere and if we wish to apply to the Holy Spirit we have no need to move an inch in the closet we can find him or in the streets we can talk with him Jesus Christ could not be present in this congregation after the flesh and yet present in the neighboring church much less present in America and in Australia and in Europe and in Africa at the same time but the Holy Spirit is everywhere and through that Holy Spirit Christ keeps his promise where two or three are met together in my name there am I in the midst of them he could not keep that promise according to the flesh at least we are quite unable to conceive of his doing so but through the Holy Spirit we sweetly enjoy his presence and hope to do so to the world's end think again access to Christ if he were here in

his corporal personality would not be very easy to all believers there are only 24 hours in the day and if our Lord never slept if as a man he could still live and like the saints above rest not day nor night yet there are only 24 hours and what were 24 hours for the supervision of a church which we trust will cover the whole earth how could a thousand million of believers all receive immediate personal comfort either from his lips or the smiles of his face even at the present moment there are some millions of true saints upon earth what could one man do by his personal presence even though that one man were incarnate deity what could he do in one day for the comfort of all of these why we could not possibly expect each one of us to see him every day nay we could scarcely expect to have

our turn once in the year but beloved we can now see Jesus every hour in every moment of every hour so often as he bowed the knee his spirit who represents him can commune with you and bless you no matter whether it be at the dead of night that your cry goes up or under the blaze of burning noon there is the spirit waiting to be gracious and your sighs and cries climb up to Christ in heaven and return with answers of peace these difficulties did not occur to you perhaps in your first thinkings but if you meditate a while you will see that the presence of the spirit avoiding that difficulty makes Christ accessible to every saint at all times not to a few choice favorites but to every believing man and woman the Holy Ghost is accessible and thus the whole body of the faithful can enjoy

present and perpetual communion with Christ we ought to consider yet once more that Christ's presence in the flesh upon the earth for any other purpose than that of ending the present dispensation would involve another difficulty of course every word which Christ had spoken from the time of the apostle till now would have been inspired being inspired it would have been a thousand pities that it should fall to the ground busy scribes would therefore be always taking down Christ's words and my brethren if in the short course of three years our savior managed to do and to say so much that one of the evangelists informs us that if all had been written the world itself could not have contained the books which would have been written I ask you to imagine what a mass of literature the Christian

church would have acquired if she had preserved the words of Christ throughout these one thousand eight hundred and sixty four years certainly we should not have had the word of God in the simple compact form of a pocket bible it would have consisted of innumerable volumes of the sayings and deeds of the Lord Jesus Christ only the studious nay, not even the studious could have read all the Lord's teachings and the poor and the illiterate must ever have been at a great disadvantage but now we have a book which is finished within a narrow compass with not another line to be added to it the canon of revelation is sealed up forever and the poorest man in England believing in Christ going with a humble soul to that book and looking up to Jesus Christ who is present through his spirit though

not out of the flesh may in a short time comprehend the doctrines of grace and understand with all saints what are the heights and depths and know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge so then on the score of inconvenience precious as the corporal presence of Christ might be it is infinitely better for the church's good that until the day of her millennial glory Christ should be present by his spirit and not in the flesh yet more, my brethren if Jesus Christ were still present with his church in the flesh the life of faith would not have such room for its display as it now has the more there is visible to the eye the less room for faith the least faith the most show the Romish church which has little enough of true faith provides everything to work upon the senses your nostrils are

regaled with incense and your ears are delighted with sweet sounds the more faith grows the less it needs outward helps and when faith shows her true character and is clean divorced from sense and sight then she wants absolutely nothing to rest upon but the invisible power of God she has learned to hang as the world hangeth upon no seen support just as the eternal arch of yon blue sky springs right up without props so faith rests upon the invisible pillars of God's truth and faithfulness needing nothing to shore or buttress her the presence of Christ Jesus here in bodily flesh and the knowing of him according to the flesh would be the bringing back of the saints to a life of sight and in a measure spoil the simplicity of naked trust you remember the apostle Paul says we now know no man

after the flesh yea, says he though we have known Christ after the flesh yet now after the flesh know we him no more to the skeptic who should ask us why do you believe in Christ? if Jesus had remained upon the earth we could always give an easy answer there he is there is the man behold him as he continues still to work miracles there would be very little room for faith holy adherence to the bare word of God and no opportunity for her to glorify God trusting where she cannot trace but now beloved the fact that we have nothing visible to point to which carnal minds can understand this very fact makes the path of faith more truly congenial with its noble character faith mighty faith to promise ease and looks to that alone which she could hardly do if she could look upon the visible person

of a present saviour happy day will it be for us when faith enjoys the full fruition of her hopes in the triumphant advent of her Lord but his absence alone can train and educate her to the needed point of spiritual refinement furthermore the presence of Jesus Christ on earth would materially affect the character of God's great battle against air and sin suppose that Christ were to destroy the preachers of air by miracle suppose that persecuting monarchs had their arms dried up or that all men who would oppose Christ were suddenly devoured by fire why then it would be rather a battle between physical greatness and moral evil than a warfare in which only spiritual force is employed on the side of right but now that Christ is gone the fight is all between spirit and spirit between God the

Holy Spirit and Satan between truth and air between the earnestness of believing men and the infatuation of unbelieving men now the fight is fair we have no miracle on our side we do not want it the Holy Spirit is enough we call no fire from heaven no earthquake shakes the ground beneath our foeman's feet Korah is not swallowed up the sand does not go down alive into the pit physical force is left to our enemies we ask it not why? because by the divine working we can vanquish air without it in the name of the Holy One of Israel in whose cause we have been enlisted by his might we are enough without miracles and signs and wonders if Christ were here still working miracles the battle were not so spiritual as it is now but the absence of the corporal saviour makes it a spiritual conflict of

spirit of the noblest and sublimest order again, dear friends the Holy Spirit is more valuable to the church in her present militant state than the presence of Christ could be conceived to be because Christ must be

here in one of two ways either he must be here suffering or not suffering if Christ were here suffering then how could we conclude that his atonement was finished is it not much better for our faith that our blessed Lord having once for all made expiation for sin should sit at the right hand of the Father is it not much better, I ask than to see him still struggling and suffering here below oh, but you say perhaps he would not suffer then I pray you do not wish to have him here till our warfare is accomplished for to see an unsuffering Christ in the midst of his suffering

people to see his face calm and clear when yours and mine are wrinkled with grief to see him smiling when we are weeping this were intolerable no, it could not be brethren if he be a suffering Christ in our sight then we should suspect that he had not finished his work and on the other hand if he be an unsuffering Christ then it would look as if he were not a faithful high priest made like unto his brethren these two difficulties throw us back into a state of thankfulness to God that we have not the dilemma to answer but that the Spirit of God who is Christ present on earth relieves us from these difficulties and gives us all the advantages we could expect from Christ's presence in a tenfold degree only this one further remark that the personal presence of Christ much as we think of it

did not produce very great results in his disciples until the Spirit was poured forth from on high Christ was their teacher how much did they learn? why, there is Philip Christ has to say to him have I been so long time with you and yet hath thou not known me, Philip? they were puzzled by questions which little children can now answer you can see that at the end of their three years course of training with Christ they had made but slender progress Christ is not only their teacher but their comforter yet how frequently Christ failed to console them because of their unbelief after he had uttered that delightful discourse which we have been reading he found them sleeping for sorrow in this very chapter when he is trying to comfort them he adds for because I have said these things unto you

sorrow hath filled your heart Christ's object was to foster the graces of his disciples but where were their graces? here is Peter he has not even the grace of courage and consistency but denies his master or the rest of them forsake him and fly there was not even the spirit of Christ infused into them their zeal was not tempered with love for they wanted fire from heaven to consume his adversaries and Peter drew a sword to cut off the high priest's servant's ear they scarcely knew the truths which their master taught and they were far enough from imbibing his heavenly spirit even their endowments were slender it is true they once wrought miracles and preached but with what success? do you ever hear of Peter winning three thousand sinners under a sermon till the Holy Spirit came? do you

find any of them able to edify others and build up the church of Christ? no the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ considered only as to its immediate fruits was not to be compared with ministries after the descent of the spirit he came unto his own and his own received him not his great work as a redeemer was a complete triumph from beginning to end but as a teacher since the spirit of God was only upon him and not upon the people his words were rejected his entreaties were despised and his warnings unheeded by the great multitude of the people the mighty blessing came when the words of Joel were fulfilled and it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy your old men shall dream dreams your young men shall

see visions and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit that was the blessing and the blessing which we venture to say again was so rich and so rare that it was indeed expedient that Jesus Christ should go that the Holy Spirit might descend I now pass on to the third point of the subject with brevity we have come thus far the presence of Christ admitted to be precious but

the presence of the Holy Spirit most clearly shown to be of more practical value to the Church of God than the corporal presence of the Lord Jesus Christ advance then to the third point the presence of the Comforter is appallatively valuable we may gather this first from the effects which were seen upon the day of Pentecost on the day of Pentecost the heavenly toxins sounded

the alarm of war the soldiers were ill prepared for it they were a slender band having only this virtue that they were content to wait until power was given to them they sat still in the upper room the mighty sound was heard across Jerusalem the forceful whirlwind travels on until it reaches the chosen spot it fills the place where they are sitting here was an omen of what the Spirit of God is to be to the Church it is to come mysteriously upon the Church according to the sovereign will of God but when He comes like the wind it is to purge the moral atmosphere and to quicken the pulse of all who spiritually breathe this is a blessing indeed a boon which the Church greatly wants I would that this rushing mighty wind would come upon this Church with an irresistible force which would carry

everything before it the force of truth but of more than truth the force of God driving truth home upon the heart and conscience of men I would that you and I could breathe this wind and receive its invigorating influence that we might be made champions of God and of His truth oh that it would drive away our mists of doubt and clouds of air come sacred wind England needs thee the whole earth requires thee the foul miasmas which brood in this deadly calm would fly if thy divine lightnings enlightened the world and set the moral atmosphere in commotion come Holy Spirit, come we can do nothing without thee but if we have thy wind we spread our sail and speed onward towards glory then the Spirit came as fire a fire shower accompanied the rushing mighty wind what a blessing is this to the

Church the Church wants fire to quicken her ministers to give zeal and energy to all her members having this fire she burns her way to success the world meets her with a fire of faggots but she confronts the world with a fire of kindling spirits and of souls aglow with the love of Jesus Christ she trusts not to the wit and eloquence and wisdom of her preachers but to the divine fire which clothes them with energy she knows that men are irresistible when they are filled with hallowed enthusiasm sent from God she trusts therefore in this and her cry is come Holy Fire abide upon our pastors and teachers rest upon every one of us this fire is a blessing Christ did not bring us in person but which he now gives through his Spirit to the Church then there came from the fire shower a descent of

tongues this too is the privilege of the Church when the Lord gave the apostles diverse tongues he did as it were give them the keys of the various kingdoms go saith he Judea is not my only dominion go and unlock the gates of every empire here are the keys you can speak every language dear friends though we can no longer speak with every man in his own tongue yet we have the keys of the whole world swinging at our girdle if we have the Spirit of God with us you have the keys of human hearts if the Spirit of God speaks through you I have this day the keys of the hearts of the multitudes here if the Holy Spirit wills to use them there is an efficacy about the Gospel when the Spirit is with us little dreamed of by those who call it the foolishness of men I am persuaded that the results which

have followed ministry in our lifetime are trivial and insignificant compared with what they would be if the Spirit of God were more mightily at work in our midst there is no reason in the nature of the Gospel or the power of the Spirit why a whole congregation should not be converted under one sermon there is no reason in God's nature why a nation should not be born in a day and why within a single twelve months a dozen ministers preaching throughout the world might not be the means of converting every elect son and daughter of Adam to a knowledge of the truth the Spirit of God is perfectly irresistible when he puts forth

his full power his power is so divinely omnipotent the moment he goeth forth the work is achieved the great prophetic event we see occurred on the day of Pentecost the

success given was only the first fruits Pentecost is not the harvest we have been accustomed to look on Pentecost as a great and wonderful display of divine power not at all to be equaled in modern times brethren it is to be exceeded I stand not upon Pentecost as upon a towering mountain wandering at my height but I look at Pentecost as a little rising knoll from which I am to look up to mountains lofty afar I look not to Pentecost as the shouting of our harvest home and the bringing in of the sheaves into the garner no, but as an offering of the first wave sheaf before the altar of God you must expect greater things pray for greater things long for greater things here is this England of ours sunk in stolid ignorance of the gospel weighing like a nightmare upon her bosom to whom we have

baptismal regeneration supported by a horde of priests who either believe that dogma or hold their benefices by subscribing to a lie how is this incubus to be shaken off from the living bosom of England not by might nor by power but by my spirit, saith the Lord there is France cursed with infidelity, fickle, gay given up to pleasure how is she to be made sober and sanctified unto God not by might but by my spirit saith the Lord yonder is Germany with her metaphysical skepticism her half-Romanism that is to say Lutheranism and her abounding potpourri how is she to arise not by might nor by power but by my spirit, saith the Lord away there in Italy sits old Rome the harlot of the seven hills still reigning queen triumphant over the great part of the earth how is she to die where is the

sword which shall find out her heart not by might nor by power but by my spirit saith the Lord the one thing then which we want is the spirit of God do not say that we want money which will have it soon enough when the spirit touches men's hearts do not say that we want buildings churches, edifices all these may be very well in subserviency but the main want of the church is the spirit and men into whom the spirit may be poured if there were only one prayer which I might pray before I died it should be this Lord, send thy church men filled with the Holy Ghost and with fire give to any denomination such men and its progress must be mighty keep back such men send them college gentlemen of great refinement and profound learning but of little fire and grace dumb dogs which cannot bark in

straight way that denomination must decline let the spirit come and the preacher may be rustic, simple, rough unmannered but the Holy Ghost being upon him none of his adversaries shall stand against him his word shall be with power to the shaking of the gates of hell beloved did I not say well when I said that the spirit of God is of superlative importance to the church and the day of Pentecost seems to tell us this remember brethren and here is another thought which should make the spirit very dear to you that without the Holy Spirit no good thing ever did or ever can come into any of our hearts no sigh of penitence no cry of faith no glance of love no tear of hallowed sorrow your heart can never palpitate with life divine except through the spirit you are not capable of the smallest

degree of spiritual emotion much less spiritual action apart from the Holy Ghost dead you lie living only for evil but absolutely dead for God until the Holy Ghost comes and raises you from the grave there is nothing good in you today my brother which has not been put there the flowers of Christ are all exotics in me that is in my flesh dwelleth no good thing who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean not one everything must come from Christ and Christ gives nothing to men except through the spirit of all grace prize them the spirit is the channel of all good which cometh into you and further no good thing can come out of you apart from the spirit let it be in you yet it lies dormant except God worketh in you to will and to do of his own good pleasure do you desire to preach how can

you unless the Holy Ghost touches your tongue do you desire to pray alas what dull work it is unless the spirit maketh intercession for you do you desire to subdue sin would you be holy would you imitate your master do you desire to rise to superlative heights of spirituality are you wanting to be made like the angels of God full of zeal and ardor for the master's cause you cannot without the spirit without me ye can do nothing O branch of the vine thou canst have no fruit without the sap O child of God thou hast no life within thee apart from the life which God gives thee through his spirit said I not well then that the Holy Spirit is superlatively precious that even the presence of Christ out of the flesh is not to be compared to his presence for glory and for power this brings us to

the conclusion which is a practical point brethren if these things be so let us who are believers in Christ view the mysterious spirit with deep awe and reverence let us so reverence him as not to grieve him or provoke him to anger by our sin let us not quench him in one of his faintest motions in our soul let us foster every suggestion and be ready to obey every prompting if the Holy Spirit be indeed so mighty let us do nothing without him let us begin no project and carry on no enterprise and conclude no transaction without imploring his blessing let us do him the due homage of feeling our entire weakness apart from him and then depending alone upon him having this for our prayer open thou my heart and my whole being to thine incoming and uphold me with thy free spirit when I shall have

received that spirit in my inward parts you who are unconverted let me beseech you whatever you do never despise the spirit of God remember there is a special honor put upon him in scripture all manner of sin and of blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men but the sin against the Holy Ghost shall never be forgiven neither in this world nor in that which is to come remember if a man speak a word against the son of man it shall be forgiven him but if he speak a word against the Holy Ghost it shall never be forgiven him this is the sin which is under death of which even the loving John says I do not say that ye shall pray for it tremble therefore in his presence put off your shoes from off your feet for when his name is mentioned the place whereon thou standest is holy ground let the spirit be

treated with reverence in the next place as a practical remark let us viewing the might of the spirit take courage today we know brethren that we as a body of people seeking to adhere closely to scripture and to practice the ordinances and hold the doctrines as we have received them from the Lord himself are but poor and despised and when we look at the great ones of the earth we see them on the side of the false and not of the true where are the kings and the nobles where are the princes and where are the mighty men are they not against the Lord of hosts where is the gold where is the silver where is the architecture where is the wisdom, where is the eloquence is it not banded against the Lord of hosts what then shall we be discouraged our fathers were not they bore their testimony in

the stocks and in the prison but they feared not for the good old cause as like John Bunyan they learned to rot in dungeons but they learned not to play the coward they suffered and they testified that they were not discouraged why because they knew not that truth is mighty and will prevail for truth is not mighty and will not prevail in this world until men are different from what they are but they knew that the spirit of God is mighty and will prevail better to have a small church of poor men and the spirit of God with them than to have a hierarchy of nobles to have an army of titled princes and prelates without the Holy Spirit for this is not merely the sinew of strength but it is strength itself where the spirit of God is there is liberty and power courage then brethren we have only

to seek for that which God has promised to give and we can do wonders he will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him wake up members to this church to give earnest prayer and all believers throughout the

world cry aloud unto God to let his bare arm be seen wake children of God for ye know the power of prayer give the covenant angel no rest till he speak the word and the spirit worketh mightily among the sons of men prayer is work adapted to each of you who are in Christ you cannot preach you cannot teach but you can pray and your private prayer unknown by men shall be registered in heaven those silent but earnest cries of yours shall bring down a blessing the other morning when we were holding special prayer there were some brethren present who kept saying during the prayer to

themselves scarcely loud enough to be heard do Lord, do grant it, hear it that is the kind of praying which I love in prayer meetings I would not care for the loud shouts of some of our Methodist brethren though if they like they are welcome to it but I do like to hear friends praying with the groaning which cannot be uttered Lord, send the spirit send the spirit Lord work, work, work during sermon time it is what numbers of churches should be doing crying out to God in their hearts as you walk the streets when you see sin you should pray Lord, put it down by thy spirit and when you mark a struggling brother striving to do good you should cry Lord, help him help him by thy spirit I am persuaded we only want more prayer and there is no limit to the blessing you may evangelize England you

may evangelize Europe you may Christianize the world if you do but know how to pray prayer can get anything of God prayer can get everything God denies nothing to the man who knows how to ask the Lord never shuts his storehouse till you shut your mouth God will never stop his arm till you stop your tongue cry aloud and spare not give him no rest till he sendeth forth his spirit once again to stir the waters and to brood over this dark world till light and life shall come cry day and night O ye elect of God for he will avenge you speedily the time of battle draweth nigh Rome sharpens her sword for the fight the men of air gnash their teeth in rage now for the sword of the Lord and of Gideon now for the old might and majesty of the ancient days now for the shaking of the walls of Jericho

even though we have no better weapons than Ram's horns now for the driving out of the heathen and for the establishment of God's Israel in the land now for the coming of the Holy Spirit with such might and power that his nose flood covered the mountaintops Jehovah's flood of glory shall cover the highest summits of sin and iniquity and the whole world over the Lord God omnipotent shall reign you who have not the spirit pray for it may he prompt you to pray this morning unconverted sinners may the spirit give you faith remember that the Holy Spirit tells you to trust Christ if you honor the Holy Spirit trust Christ I know you must be regenerate but the man who trusts Christ is regenerate you must repent you must be holy but the man who trusts Christ shall repent and shall be made holy the

germs of repentance and holiness are in him already trust Christ sinner it is the Holy Ghost's mandate to you this morning may he constrain you to trust him and he shall have the glory world without end Amen

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