

The Holy Ghost

by Leonard Ravenhill

The Holy Spirit is a person who can speak, rebuke, and inspire, and is essential for guidance, conviction, and transformation in our lives.

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Scripture: John 16:8

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Description

Leonard Ravenhill emphasizes the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, highlighting that the Holy Spirit is not merely an experience or influence but a person who guides, convicts, and transforms us. He critiques the modern church's superficial understanding of the Holy Spirit, urging believers to seek a deeper relationship that leads to true spiritual transformation rather than just emotional experiences. Ravenhill warns against complacency and the need for genuine spiritual awakening, calling for believers to embrace the Holy Spirit's power and guidance in their lives. He stresses that the Holy Spirit's work is to integrate God's life into ours, leading to a profound change in character and purpose. Ultimately, he challenges the church to rise up as 'manifest sons of God' in a world that desperately needs the truth and power of the Gospel.

Transcript

John 16 and verse 8. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. And of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more. Of judgment, because the Prince of this world is judged.

Now look at verse 13. How be it, and I'm putting an emphasis here. How be it when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth, for He shall speak not of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak, and He will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me, for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. There are various contributing forces to this meditation this afternoon. One was the fact that there's a slang phrase, that I just about detest.

And that is that you meet people who say something like this, Have you had the baptism? They say it with as much unction as, Have you had a flu shot? And most of them don't mean, Are you holy? What they mean is, Do you speak in tongues very often? Somebody sent me a little paper this week, and there was a

phrase in it that really, really gripped me, because it was written by a Pentecostal brother. And this is what he says, We're living in a, a charismatic generation that has despised, or neglected as he put it, the Holy Spirit. Now you need to sit and think an hour maybe over that, but it's very true.

We're living in a day when there's much talk about charisma. You know, we used to talk about a man having unction. The other day I talked with a very famous man, and he said to me, you know, so and so, Oh, he has charisma.

Now somebody said the reason that Jack Nicklaus isn't as popular as a golfer as Arnold Palmer is, Arnold Palmer has charisma. So apparently you don't need to be sanctified to have charisma. It's another word for a, a kind of glowing, outgoing, radiant personality.

You know, somebody comes in a room and whoo, the atmosphere changes. They have that kind of personality. And so, to many people again, you know, the Holy Spirit is not a person.

The Holy Spirit is an experience, or the Holy Spirit is an influence. But by biblical definition, by the words of Jesus here, the Holy Spirit is a person. As a person, he can speak.

As a person, he can rebuke. As a person, he can inspire us. As a person, he can be offended.

The other thing that disturbed me, and it did disturb me very much, was talking with a man who was a very distinguished minister, and he said he'd been talking to a lady whose husband had been one of these wild cards, a drunkard, a fighter, a drinker, a gambler, everything. But she wasn't too impressed with his life. He'd made it in the material world, he drives an enormous Cadillac, he has everything.

And somebody said, but listen, you know, he doesn't come in drunk, he doesn't gamble your money, he doesn't give you black eyes, he doesn't... She says, look, I want to tell you, I'll sum it up for you in a sentence. When he got saved so many years ago, his habits changed, his personality didn't. Well, if it didn't, he didn't get saved, that's all I've got to say about it.

If you've still got anger and pride and jealousy and maliciousness and something like that, you need to get to the cross real quick. Because Jesus didn't die to deliver you from a lot of lousy sins and the penalty that you get forever. He died to transform your personality.

You see, the Holy Spirit does not come. The work of God is not to bless us, it's to integrate his life in your life and my life. Simpson expresses it beautifully in the other hymn book we sing from sometimes.

Once it was the blessing, but now it is the Lord. Once it was the feeling and now it is his word, and so he goes on. Wasn't his gifts I wanted, now to give it all.

You see, you can retain your gifts, even if you're backslidden, you won't retain your fruits. The fruits will wither, the gifts remain. Because God says the gifts and callings of God are without repentance.

Now here Jesus says, now the disciples didn't like this. He says he's going to leave his disciples and another person is going to come, and he says when he is come, he doesn't say do the miraculous and raise the dead, this is what he says, when he is come, he will reprove or he will convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. I read a prophecy this week, it was written in 1619.

I didn't happen to know the writer personally, but it was written in 1619. It's a very marvelous prophecy, it's about these last days in which we live. And this man, though he does not substantiate his argument from

scripture, and he raises a host of theological and eschatological questions.

But there's an awful lot of truth in what he says. But he sees at the end time what he calls an army of Melchizedek men coming forward. You could translate that maybe into another way and talk about a bunch of super saints coming along if you like.

Now once I start thinking about the Holy Spirit, I had automatically to turn to what is perhaps the greatest chapter on the Spirit in the Bible, that's Romans 8. Here's another thing that provoked me. The radio, the TV said that one of the great problems right now in the nation is absenteeism. People backing off from duty, responsibility, going to work.

You know, the phone rings. It's Mary, she can't come in today. She has a terrible headache.

Oh, she'll be in tomorrow all right. This is Jack, he calls the office of the factory and says, I can't come today. Oh, I got real stomach upset.

Of course he doesn't say he was drinking beer and a lot of junk till midnight last night, but he says he has a stomach upset and he can't make it. Somebody else says, well I would have been there, but you know what, my uncle came in from Australia and he's only here for 48 hours, so I'm not coming in today, I'm not coming in tomorrow. Well, you say they're all reasonable.

Well, this is the point the Lord got through to me. He may not get it through to you the same way. Have you noticed that immediately your physical constitution is a little bit out of kilter, that it telegraphs up to your mind, and your mind says something to your will, and your will says, can't go to work today.

Can't do that today. Can't do something today. Not with a headache like this.

Not with a stomach like this. Not when uncle Johnny's coming, he could cut you out of his will. Ten dollars less.

You could be in real trouble. Now let me ask you a very simple question. Does the spirit get through to you as easily in your spirit as your tummy gets through to you? Hmm? I mean, tomorrow you're going on a day shopping, and you get up with a burden tomorrow, and you call sister Jane and say, listen Jane, I'm sorry I can't come.

You know, God's put such a burden of Africa on my spirit, I'm going to have to spend 12 hours on my stomach. Huh? You're going on a business trip, and the Lord intervenes and says, look, I want you today to do that. Does he do it? Look, if the Holy Spirit is power, let's turn the switch on.

God knows we need it, here and everywhere in the church of God. If he's power, turn the switch on. If he's a person, listen to him.

I'm convinced, I'll get to it maybe a little bit later, that what it mentions in the 19th verse of Romans 8, about the manifest sons of God. Do you know what? God will hear your prayer. I don't believe that's a secret anymore, of God hearing your prayer.

The secret is you hearing God. Now when did you last hear him? Come on. Not reading streams in the desert, or squirts in the wilderness or something.

But when you're really down along with God, you read the word of God, and suddenly you heard a voice say, no or yay. He's a person. Is it Watts or Wesley that says, he speaks and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive, the wounded broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe? Somebody asked me the other day, if I get discouraged with it.

Not on your life I don't get discouraged. Why should I? I know what God has called me to do, when I say it. And I found an answer to my problem years ago.

I'm going to talk to preachers this week. Fine, they'll get mad for sure. At least I hope so.

And it's very thrilling to get them upset. But do you know I got a secret from God? It isn't a secret in one sense. It's that word again about the apostle Paul, going down Damascus road, and he testifies three times about it, in the Acts of the Apostles.

And he says, we went down the road, and I, a company of people with me. And you know what he says? There shone round about me, and them that journeyed with me, a light from heaven. I heard a voice.

Nobody else heard the voice. I don't read anybody else hit the dust. He was a violent man.

God threw him off his horse. He couldn't have been walking all the way he was going. God threw him off his horse into the dust.

He was violent. God deals violently with violent people. The heart of Lydia opened like a flower.

Did you ever hear a flower make a noise? My, if some of us had made a sunset, it would wake up with a thousand earthquakes every morning, just to show we did it. But the old sun gets out of bed in all its majesty, never makes a noise. God works silently in some people's lives.

The heart of Lydia opened. But going down that Damascus road, Saul says, I heard a voice. Have you ever realized again, it's the very word that Daniel said? Others round about me saw a light.

I heard a voice. Now, the only way I get discouraged this afternoon is that it's out of a bunch of us that are here, less than 500. But if one doesn't hear the voice, I'd be pretty discouraged.

If one does, I'm satisfied. The rest of you can get some light, I hope. If you don't hear a voice, I'm sorry.

Romans 8 again is the, is the, well, of course, it depends who you follow. Somebody says it's the most profound chapter ever written, and somebody else will come up and tell you, Revelation Sunday is the greatest chapter, and somebody else will tell you another. But certainly this, this beautiful chapter, Romans 8, is the, is the chapter of the Holy Spirit.

Or you might say the Epistle is, because 26 times in the Epistle, the Apostle mentions the Holy Spirit. Eighteen of those times are in this chapter. He has eight different names for the Holy Spirit.

But again, what an amazing chapter this is. You see, when all is said and done, the Holy Spirit, when He has come, Jesus says, He will glorify me. He has nothing to give of Himself.

I tease people because I know it provokes them. And I like to provoke them. That the Holy Spirit has no gifts.

The Word of God says, Jesus died and rose from the dead, and what? He led captivity captive, and He gave gifts unto men. He purchased them with His own blood, and they were not there. The Holy Spirit is the, is the executor of the Godhead.

I don't know how many people I've had in my lifetime who've told me, listen, when I die, I'm going to leave you something in my will. There must be people in England nearly 200 years old because they told me 50, 60, 70 years ago they'd leave me something. I'm going to die.

Maybe by now all they'll leave me is bills anyhow, so I hope nobody can find my address. But you see, the Holy Spirit, He's the executor of the Godhead. He takes the treasures Jesus purchased for us, and He distributes them according to His will.

Look at verse 34 of chapter 8 here in Romans, worry for a minute. I'd rather look at verse 33 for a moment. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies.

Now look, if you believe that, you don't even, never need to have a worry in your whole life from here to eternity what people think. As brother Herb said earlier, he didn't care. What about my reputation? Take it to the cross, then you'll have no trouble with it.

Get it crucified. What's reputation? Well, I'll tell you what God told me in my twenties when I was a young man. You know what God told me one day? You don't need to worry about reputation.

Reputation is what people think you are. Character is what God knows you are. You can do what you like with my reputation, stamp on it, spit on it, distort it.

I'll enjoy it, I'll laugh with you. You can't touch my character, He has that. And that's inaccessible to you, and I've got better news than that.

I'm not afraid of you so much. It's inaccessible to the devil too. Sure.

You see, this man's come out of Romans chapter 7. Oh, what a chapter Romans 7 is, eh? It's assaulting captivity. Do you know what Romans 8 is? In the language of the modern day, it's the son of a soul set free. Romans 8, 7 is a funeral march.

Romans 8 is a wedding march. Romans 7, the man is in the tomb. Romans 8, the man is in triumph.

Romans 7, I don't believe he's even about to save man. I believe it's an unsaved man. Good night if you have all the rotten stuff in Romans 7. After you're saved, you better not get saved.

Just go join the Mormons or be a Mohammedan or something. Romans 7 is defeat. Romans 8 is deliverance.

Romans 7, the man is a victim. He's conquered. Romans 8, he's a victor.

He says in verse 37, there's recited things that might come and may not come. And then he says, what? We are more than conquerors through him that loved us. That's nice, isn't it? That's superlative, if you like.

Somebody asked an old country preacher what it meant to be more than conqueror. He says, well, it means you shoot at 13 ducks, 12 ducks and kill 13. Well, that's a pretty bad bit of logic, but I'll tell you what it is.

He's being more than conqueror. He's getting victory and not being exhausted at the end of it. Jesus didn't rise after he came out of the temptation of 40 days.

I like to read that story. You talk about, what? Mocking the devil. He was led of the spirit into the wilderness and he was beaten and battered for 40 days and nobody knows what happened.

You say, I can tell you three trials. You can't. You can only tell me three that happened after he came out of the severe temptation.

And then when he came out, you know what it says? He came out in the power of the spirit. I like that. I guess the devil was tearing his hair and spitting and roaring and saying, you know, I just thought I got that fellow down where I want him.

And Jesus says, would you like to go through it again? Because I'll take you on another 40 days and lick you anyhow. Superfluous energy. Victory with a margin left.

Where were we? Verse 33. Verse 34, listen to this. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died.

All right. Remember, he was a man in triumph. He's liberated.

He says it is Christ that died. All right. If it's Christ that died, can the death of Jesus Christ be contested? It is Christ that died, therefore this is our substitution.

He says he's at the right hand of God. So he's not only our substitute, he's a sovereign. He's there in majesty on high.

And he maketh intercession. So there's supplication. What more do you need? You've got substitution for our sins.

We've got sovereignty. He's triumphed over death and sin. And we've got supplication.

He libeth to make intercession for us. There's almost a holy swagger here, isn't there? In verse 8 he says, There is therefore now no condemnation to those of us who are in Christ Jesus, as long as we walk after the flesh and not after the spirit. One of the most rousing hymns I think ever sung.

We sang it up at Asbury the other week. I got them to sing it two or three times, because the pipe organ made up for what they couldn't sing anyhow. But it was majestic.

Wesley's hymn, No Condemnation Now I Dread. Jesus and all in him is mine. Alive in him my living head and clothed in righteousness divine.

Bold I approach the eternal throne that I have access. My breath is in my nostrils. The only thing I own in the world is not a house or a car.

One beat of my heart and I have the right to go to that eternal throne. I say reverently, my God, we're going to be terribly embarrassed when we get to heaven and look how we played around with Christianity. I have a sovereign, a lord, a majestic saviour with everything under his feet.

I have one living there to make intercession for my feeble prayer. If I said A, B, C, D, E, F, G, with a bird in my spirit, he'd interpret it to the Father. Sure, he'd live us to make intercession.

Oh, I like to hear men pray, I like to hear men sweat in prayer, grieve in prayer, weep in prayer, roar in prayer. Because one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is a ministry of intercession. But again, this race is not to the swift, this battle is not to the strong.

Prayer is not to the man with the most elastic vocabulary. If it was, I'd swat the dictionary every day. Prayer is not according to a man who can present his needs most eloquently to the Eternal Father.

What about the deaf and dumb? What about those who are retarded? Let me tell you something else, time's running on. Look at verse 9, will you please? Romans 8 and verse 9. You're not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. If so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now that's enough to keep us going all afternoon. The Spirit of God dwelling in you. Look at the next verse.

And if Christ be in you. My Lord, my Lord, my Lord. You mean to say you've been living on the miserable level you've lived this week, and God dwells in you, and the Spirit dwells... Well just a minute, I've got something else for you.

Would you mind reading verse 11? If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you? Come on! If that miracle of regeneration happened in your life, if you were born again of the Spirit of God, then God came to indwell you, the Spirit came to indwell you, and the Son came to indwell you. Before ever you got the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Dear God, why do we live at this poverty level when we've all these riches? Why is the church so weak when there's an unlink to omnipotence? Oh, there's a sense in which you're justified if you pray the language again of James, when he says that God won't rebuke us for our ignorance, but we can pray for wisdom.

But there's also the other side of the coin, in which it says if Christ dwells in you, He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Disagree with me if you like, and if you do, you'll know you're wrong, but you disagree with me if you like. Do you know what I've discovered? There's an awful lot of people want to be good.

There are not many people who want to be spiritual. A lot of people want to be good. They don't want to be spiritual.

Yeah, I'll sing mansion over the hilltop, but don't ask me to take up my cross. My Jesus, I love, we're the whole realm of nature, mine. He says, why don't you give me what you've got? You don't, you never own the whole realm of nature.

Stump up what you've got. You know, we never fool God. All we do is fool each other and fool ourselves.

Oh yes, I can get emotional singing. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life. Well, pity it didn't stop there.

That's not too bad. My soul, my life, my all. Ooh, ooh, that really hurts, doesn't it? It jags you a bit.

Huh? I mean, you could have left that out, couldn't you? I mean, your soul and your life's enough without asking for all. But you see, God, God, God gave you everything in Jesus Christ and he asked everything in return. There's no part-time discipleship.

There's no part-time spirituality. No, I say, I'm convinced again there are many that want to be good, but there are very few that want to be spiritual. I talked just before I came to the meeting with an old veteran missionary.

He's out in California just preparing to leave and go back to South America. I think when I first met him he was working in Borneo and had an awful time down there. He's beaten up, he's wrinkled, he's been through hell.

His wife's health has been shattered, she gets restored. One day it's like heaven, the other day her body's in awful pain. Some wages there for serving God when they've been 30 years on the mission field.

You say you ought to be as bright as an angel. Well, I'll tell you what, I happen to read my Bible and it says the outward man perishes but the inward man is renewed day by day. And as you get older you find your body doesn't respond the same, does it? Mama, can you play tennis? No, she says no.

OK, your body won't keep up, your energies don't keep up, your mind isn't. The outward man perishes, say what you will. But you know what he said? He said, Brother Ravenhill, you know, I'm so disturbed about two things.

One is the complacency in the church. The other is, and he's a veteran, he served God. Man, he could have quit years ago.

He'd done a lifetime's work and he went to another mission field. And he said, the thing is, God has been shaking me up so much in the last few months. I said, glory to God, Brother.

He'd been doing the same with me the last few weeks. Oh, yes. Oh, he keeps tearing me up, keeps disturbing me, keeps rebuking me, keeps showing me areas that I know so little about.

Well, he said, you know, Brother Ravenhill, down in South America, the Spanish preachers in the Pentecostal churches particularly, they get people saved, they get them going on with God. And then when they get to a certain place, he said, you'll hear a man say, Ah, yes, you wanted God, you wanted his blessing, you wanted the baptism, you wanted the gifts. But as soon as he took the pacifier out of your mouth, you started grumbling.

Huh? Why are you so happy? Still got a pacifier? Hasn't he laid any challenge there? Hasn't he made any demands there? Tell us all we have to do is crap and have a whale of a time and give a little tithe and be blessed. Wait a minute. When he starts crucifying the flesh, when he says, don't go to the cross, get on the thing.

Oh, then, of course, it becomes a different story entirely, doesn't it? This is a tremendous chapter I've said and I say again. It's all through the finished work of Jesus Christ. He has ascended and nobody can challenge the substitution he made for me on the cross.

He's not only my substitute, he's my sovereign. You know, sometimes I think, you may not do this, I think I live sometimes as though God, Jesus, didn't quite get through with it and finish the job. But I'll tell you what he said on the cross.

Just two words. Maybe we ought to write them here, maybe you ought to write them on a piece of paper, stick them on the mirror where you keep looking at your beautiful self and see a sign there every time you

look and it just say this, it is finished, three words. He can't come back and do anything else.

If he did, he didn't do a perfect job, he did a perfect job. Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain, you could stack their bodies until you couldn't see the moon. You could have a river of animal blood bigger than the river Amazon.

But not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain could give one guilty conscience peace or wash away one stain, but Christ the heavenly Lamb takes all our sins away. The one tragic moment in hell was when Jesus said it is finished and he pulled the empire down. And you see Jesus strutting, the only time he strutted in the book of the Revelation and he says with a triumph, you know what? I finished the job and listen, these are the keys of death and of hell.

You know if we really knew it, this Lucifer's got nothing left. He's got nothing left. Let me come to three simple things in this chapter, 22, 23, 26.

Verse 22, We know that the whole creation groaneth and traveleth in pain together until now. And not only they but ourselves also which have the first fruits, it's really first fruit in the original, first fruit of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption to with the redemption of the body. Verse 30, 26.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities for we know not what we should pray for as we ought but the Spirit itself. That's the worst translation in this version. It's really the Spirit himself maketh intercession.

You see, the true Spirit of prayer, the Spirit of God in me creates it. And he at the right hand of the Father communicates it. And the Father on the throne considers it.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit always work in harmony. Remember it's not Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it's this way, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not, N.O.T. as Tozi used to say, the junior partner in the Godhead.

They're equal in majesty, they're equal in glory. Every work of, I say this many times to myself in prayer, I guess I've said it here more than once. And what's more, I'll tell you more than once again.

Every work of the Holy Spirit is majestic. The world was a ball of mud hanging up there in the universe and the Holy Spirit brought it and he brooded over it. And go down the road just now and see all those blue bonnets and lovely flowers.

He put them prodigal there with his colourer. He made the stars those heavenly flames. He counts their numbers, calls their names.

His wisdom's vast and those no bound are deeper all our thoughts are drowned. Oh! He made this universe, he put the stars in their sockets. He was there before the trees of the fields clapped their hands and the morning stars sang together.

He was there in the bosom of the Father and he brooded over a dirty pile of mud and it became this marvellous world that we haven't discovered yet. And one day he brooded over the empty womb of a young beautiful maiden and he conceived Jesus Christ there just like he conceived creation. And one day that man was lying on a slab cold and dead as dead as the slab he was on.

And the devil thought man I just got him I knew he wouldn't get up he hasn't he's not going to make it and as I've told you before he said what can we do and they put a stone there and then they put wax over the stone and seals over the wax and then the sin of the world against the stone and then Satan says every demon put your shoulder to that stone we've only ten seconds to go and we can wreck the whole human race. And if you think the first countdown was in Florida you're two thousand years too late it was resurrection morning. And all heaven was looking on and all hell was looking on and the earth had gone to sleep.

Don't you get disgusted friends forget you. Remember that lovely pathetic hymn Do thy friends despise, forsake thee take it to the Lord in prayer. I always feel like saying would you hand them all a Kleenex while we sing that self-pitying hymn.

Do you realize that for three years he told them he was the resurrection and the life and demonstrated it and not one of them turned up that morning at Easter? Why do you expect better treatment? All hell was looking on all the angels were looking on there's the stone there's the wax there's the seal there's the soldiers there's all the sin of the world there's every demon on his shoulder and in the last minute when Satan got to ten nine what was it ten nine eight seven six five four three two and he was just going to say one and the Holy Ghost went in and cheated him. Jesus jumped up from the tomb because the word of God says in this very chapter of Romans 8 the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead. Listen do you realize if your body raised you from the dead trespasses and sins why get so excited about Lazarus you were as dead as Lazarus maybe you stunk more but you were as dead as he was anyhow.

You say he opened the eyes of blind Bartimaeus didn't he open your blind eyes? He unplugged the ears of the deaf weren't you deaf didn't we sing it this afternoon? Hear him ye deaf his praise ye dumb your ransom tongues employ. Hmm? I wonder how often our ransom tongues are employed I wonder how often we do leap for joy.

The Holy Ghost created the world the Holy Ghost created the Christ in the matrix of the virgin the Holy Ghost raised up Jesus from the dead and not only that but remember it says what in Romans pardon me Hebrews 10 excuse me the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctified for the pure and fine of the flesh how much more how much more shall the blood of Christ flow through the eternal spirit he needed the Holy Ghost even when he ascended to say I like Jesus is putting it mild but you see our language is so poor I like him because he contradicts all the laws of nature people say well how could a man maybe be born without a mother without a father well the first man came into the world without a mother he's the only person in creation that didn't

have a navel but Adam didn't have a mother Jesus didn't have a father he came into the world contradicting nature he walked on the water that scared him that scared them just to show he could contradict he didn't do it often he didn't do it for fun most often he took a boat some people want miracles every meeting you must come to a house for a long while maybe before you see any we don't need them in that sense I'm sure man if we could have done what Jesus did you'd never left the pool of Bethesda all your life he went and healed one man and walked away and left maybe 500 cripples that would have killed me I shared meetings often with Miss Kuhlman and she'd say after the meeting when somebody said wasn't it marvellous oh she'd say but brother how many went away unhealed that's what gets

me not that three people were healed there were 3000 there not healed oh well the cameras don't put the pictures on that do you ever find a healer write a book on all his failures huh do you ever testify about all

your failures come on now oh I once prayed for so and so I saw so and so do me right fine I'm not saying that I'm just saying this on the law of averages we've got about 100 failures for every healing or miracle Jesus didn't take walk on the water for fun he walked on the water when he was in it but I'll tell you what he did it that's what matters the only man that ever did not Peter did it you say he sank I say he didn't the scripture says he did he doesn't it says he sank when he was going out how do you think he got back do you think Jesus gave him a picker bag he walked back

to the boat sure he did you see he only had his eyes on Jesus going out but when he came back he had Jesus with him I think he hung on Jesus' arm I would anyhow walking or no walking they say we both go down together or not at all no no no no no chance of that but isn't it lovely that Jesus contradicts the laws of men the laws of science and one day they were talking to him and he says you know one day and they oh oh he's gone hey that must have been nice to see Jesus going up stupid people say Wilbur Wright was the first fella to go through the air forget it Elijah went with a chariot with four motors on two well I don't have any horses he had but Elijah went up didn't he with a chariot of fire that must have been great to see see God's never behind anybody I mean never behind in the

sense of of too late he's always ahead of everybody and you know that same Jesus that went walking up the clouds wouldn't it be wonderful to see I've dreamed I've been doing that many times woke up all perspiring for sure but I've dreamed I was walking up clouds you know one day he's going to come stepping down the clouds won't that be wonderful particularly if you've just got your gas bill and all the other bills and you're just wondering what to do and suddenly whoopee there he is huh you thought it was an earthquake 10,000 of his saints wouldn't it have been impressive if he'd done that the resurrection morning instead of leaving it to the end I remind you again he didn't try to impress anybody Jesus never went to anybody after he was raised from the dead no sinners no sirree you come

by faith this prophecy of 1613 said what we'll need in the end time is a great miracle a revival miracle we've had them for the last 50 years in this country no nation on earth has had more no man had more than Charles Price read his books I think we have them one of the great saints of Pentecostalism they dragged him to court because he was healing people he said I never healed anybody I never gave a prescription but I happened to work for a master who was pretty good at it the Bosworth brothers came up Oral Roberts Jack Cole mentioned them I met most many of them we've gone through that phase it didn't turn the nation to God somebody told me I was going to send his name I won't that Miss Coolman's ministry had diminished tremendously before she died she wasn't getting the same power she

knew it David Wilkerson told me that she didn't tell him she told his friend I'm the last of the line God isn't going to work for anybody that nature that style anymore he's going to do it in a better way but again don't look so sad please it's all the power of the spirit oh one other thing I should have told you about the Holy Spirit do you know he's a good writer oh some guys that wrote for him weren't much good one was a guy he never went to school herdsman of Tikoa not sure he got all his calligraphy nice but I'll tell you what boy they left me a marvellous book holy men of God take as they were moved do you ever feel something churning in you I do at times I hear women say we were in a house not too long ago where a young lady was expecting a baby within a few days she said you know

this thing moves in the night my how it stirs in the meeting it was kicking he's enjoying my preaching actually but she said man one part when you were speaking he was kicking me like mad great great that's good maybe he's going to be a preacher the Holy Spirit's energies did you notice that in that hymn we sang this afternoon eternal light I love that phrase the Holy Spirit energy you know if you link the force of

the sun and all nature and every atom bomb and hydrogen bomb and everything else it wouldn't be a fire cracker compared to the power of the Holy Ghost he raised Jesus from the dead what do you think kind of power did that hmm he blasted the whole in hell itself through the power of the Spirit and Jesus raised from the dead he led captivity captive alright let me skip to this

quickly what does it say in verse 22 the whole creation groaneth huh wasn't another earthquake last week they didn't report how strong it was on the Richter scale but another one in Turkey somewhere you count back the last five years the strength of earthquakes the hundred even millions of people being destroyed huh the other night I was laying in bed the lightning was flashing till the whole countryside was lit up you could have read a book with it man if you could have harnessed just one of those flashes that would last you in electricity all the rest of your life for the whole city but the whole creation is groaning today I believe physically it's groaning I believe the skies are groaning I believe the earth is groaning I believe the upset in the in the weather is part of the groaning

of creation and there's no legislation can put it right we ourselves groan within ourselves do you? come on do you? do you? don't answer me answer God do you? do you? do you ever groan within yourself? not for longings merely for yourself that somehow you might come to maturity and strength do you groan?

I like that hymn that we sang this afternoon I like it I don't like it I choke up when it says give us thy sons to bear the message glorious we've got three of them in different countries I thank God for give us thy wealth to speed them on their way yeah I I do that by the grace of God I like to go out and preach because we give the money to missions it's great the pastor says how much do you want?

I say as many thousands as you can give me give me every dime I want such a penny of it won't even take expenses for coming give me the money that's needed in South America let's get moving where there's darkness this man told me he'd been to the area where Paul and Irene are he says I'll tell you what that's a different kind of Christianity than you'll find anywhere he said you didn't drop one hint of light that bunch down there obey it they obey it they're all just young couples in their twenties to thirties with a breathing of God on that community already had warnings and prophecies of what God's going to do they've got teenagers that Paul says they can pray and pray till two or three o'clock in the morning they pray like veterans like men in America or England at fifty or sixty years

of age who walked with God for forty years and these kids were three and four and five years of age but they pray with groanings and then verse twenty six that says the spirit himself as it should be maketh intercession now people say of course that means tongues and I don't believe it does I believe you can pray in tongues sure but I don't believe that's what it's talking about here if it was God would say so he happens to be smarter than we are if he said it was praying with tongues of the utterance but it's beyond tongues it's beyond tongues it's groanings which cannot be uttered it's Hannah again in the place where she's determined by the grace of God to bring forth that child and it's not for her sake it's for God's sake it's not to take her barrenness but God needs a prophet twenty

years up the road and she's determined to see that God gets that man and the priest can think she's drunk and everybody else thinks she's spiritually insane why does she care? let God come on you with a burden for somebody or something somewhere you won't care a hill of beans whether you think your dress is fifty years old or your hair's the wrong style or your nose isn't the right shape you won't even see nor feel live in a different world as this precious brother says God doesn't really want to bless us he wants to integrate his life into mine alright let me step back the creation groaneth we groan the spirit groan why? now you may

They want them to be good. They want them to be exempt from drugs and filth and rotten literature and everything. But once the Christian child tries to get the other person saved, the other boy saved, and talk about God, he gets more as much persecution as he did in the other school.

The kids want to be good, their parents want them good, but not spiritual. Now there's no sense, there's no sense in saying we're going to outlaw filth in Christian schools if you tap it in the house on your TV. I'm not going to talk to you again about this, I'm going to talk to you today.

If you say I don't want my child to go to a school where there's a pollution, see he doesn't live in a house where poison comes down the tube. Your children not need more than one hour a night on TV. Under 14 years of age you won't like this, it's true, they should be in bed by eight o'clock.

They shouldn't date until they're 19, not one of my precious sons did. Because you see kids don't wake up, they wake up physically, sexually, they wake up, they can do all kinds of things after they're 14 or 15. And if you, if you precipitate them into that, well don't start screaming to almighty God for it.

You see your children need a Christian school, okay, they need a Christian home balanced by love, balanced by a thing that's old-fashioned discipline. Now of course we wouldn't get this, because equal rights lawyers would storm us. You know the greatest schools in England and in this country until five years ago were not co-ed.

That knocks the bottom out of it, they should be girl schools or boy schools, but that's gone forever I'm afraid. But once they start mixing up at teenage and they get a life physically and sexually any other way, you start problems so you better protect them. Isn't it terrible now that the devil can come down that tube? Now you're going to have to compensate somehow sure enough, sure enough.

My boys went to good schools. As we would say they were not, well the first one was a pretty good school. The good schools in England, the schools where they still parade in the central hall in the morning, sing a hymn, have a bible read.

That doesn't make them Christians in themselves. They're still good and they don't jostle with girls and boys because there's only boys. That's another deal.

I'm saying that to say this, I believe we've come right back to the day of Elijah. There's nothing new under the sun, that's what the book says. I went to school where there was filth.

They told rotten stories, they had some dirty books, they told lies, they cheated, they stole. Admittedly it wasn't as popular. Do you know more women, more married women left home last year, deserted home than men? In God's name where are we getting? Three weeks ago there was a great big seminar, everybody has seminars.

I think I'm going to have a seminar on seminars. Because everybody's having seminars. There was a big seminar and it was jammed up in Minneapolis on the Christian family.

You know whenever any seminars where we were kids, I'm going to tell you something for nothing, shoot me if you like. But I'm going to tell you that if you take time with your children in the morning, at night, in prayer and instruction and cut the dummy thing out and somehow get their engagement, you'll never need it. You're never going to need to go to a seminar or a cemetery to raise your family.

Not so. You know somehow Mrs. Wesley managed the 19 with us. Oh I've heard people mercilessly criticize Maxwell, L.E. Maxwell, one of the finest schools in the world today, away in Canada.

They've over a thousand, I think 1200 students, they've school age, I don't think they're preschool, they're school age and high school and a marvellous system. And people are criticizing but the proof of the pudding's in the eating. He has seven children, every one of them has done or is doing work on the mission field or is married to a missionary.

A fellow called me the other day and he said I'm the son of so-and-so and I'm so-and-so. I said I remember when your father lift your shirt up and spanked your bear behind. He's about six foot two now, he's a big fine, one of the greatest preachers in the country.

They have ten children and every one of them is either a missionary, engaged to a preacher, on the mission field, or working somehow or somewhere. A disciplined home, balanced with love, the reading of the word of God. All right we've come back to the days of Elijah.

Now here's a simple thing. In the days of Elijah there was only one Ahab, only one Jezebel. With thousands of Jezebels and thousands of Ahabs now.

Where are the Elijahs? Who are the manifest sons of God? I'm working on it and as the Lord helps me I'll bring you something on it if I get more illumination. But you know what I think really? I'm not so sure it's super saints kind of Melchizedek type. I think the last part of verse 18 is that we, verse 18, the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Do you know what I think? Contradict me if I'm right and I'll be glad of the information. I don't believe one man ever candidated to be a prophet. Did he? Where did Elijah come from? I'd like to know his dad and mum.

I get more interested in fathers and mothers as I get older. He must have had a dad and mum somewhere don't you think? Huh? What was Moses' dad and mum? Amram and Jacobed was that him? Boy that's funny names to write down on your birth certificate. Who's your father? Jacobed, Amram.

Hey they must have been a couple. They didn't care what the government said. The government said you give us that kid and we'll drown him.

They said not on your life, we don't obey government, we obey God. Think God doesn't joke? The princess goes down to have a bathe and she sees a basket with a babe and she says oh oh what a beautiful and you know what? He's one of the Hebrew children, drown him. That's what you should have said if you'd obeyed Hey not only was Moses' father and mother didn't obey the king, she didn't obey him.

She says take him home, I'm going to have him. He's my boy, he's going to be a prince. I'll look after him.

He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh. I guess God laughed at that. The little baby that should be drowned, the government paid his expenses, read the seven scouts of the Acts of the Apostles, sealed a mighty scullery, became a statesman.

Oh yes. Do you think he ever candidated to be a deliverer? Do you think he'd been praying on the backside of the desert? Lord take me back as quickly as you can because I want to go see Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the last man in the world he wanted to see.

Pharaoh said let Moses come back, I'll cut his head off. Did he candidate for it? No, the Lord fought him. Take off thy shoes from our sacks.

Oh it's all right, I've been keeping a register on you Moses, got the whole thing. Jesus, 30 years, learned obedience. Oh you and I wouldn't do that.

We take every difficulty out of the way of our kids so they get flabby and there's no challenges. Jesus learned obedience by the things he suffered. Romans 8, oh it's a marvellous chapter, it's full of excitement and right in the middle it says what? I reckon the sufferings of this present time are not... oh oh oh oh boy.

I mean why did he put that in? If, if he'd left it out it would have been a glorious chapter. Why put a cloud in the sky? It's like saying why do you put black keys on white? You know it's a way to abolish that. The black and white get on all right there, but right in the middle of Romans 8 with all its excitement, the sufferings of this present time.

If you haven't read it for a while, would you get a book a bit later of Dr. Tozer where he says God talks to the man that listens. Do you know what he says? He's never spoken to a man yet that didn't have a broken heart. A man that didn't weep, a man that didn't sorrow.

He comes and he takes Moses. Then, then sometime this read, read the 24th chapter of Exodus. See God doesn't deal with us all the same.

Everybody's not going to be manifest sons, you don't want to be. All we want to do is go to heaven. Praise the Lord, got one or two gifts, hallelujah, I'll make it.

But God's going to have some manifest sons in these last days, in these last hours. You know how they'll prove themselves? By hiding away like Moses did for 40 years. By being still before God, like John Baptist was for maybe 20 years.

By being forgotten like Jesus was for 30 years. And then that 24th chapter, I wind up with it there. Do you remember what God said to those men there? He says, Moses, leave the multitude.

You can bring Aaron, and her, and Joshua, and uh, who was that, who was the other, Nahab, I can never say that name at all, Nahab and Abihu. You see, Israel are going to be down there. They're still my people.

The 70 are going to be here. They're my people. But the others are going to be there.

And you know what it says? That God did not, N-O-T, he did not lay his hands on the nobles. There's one group, here's another, there's another. And he says, Moses come up here.

Why? Why didn't they all go there? Because they all didn't want to hear the thunder, and the roar, and the lightning, and the flashing of God in his holiness. Moses had served his probation well. Joshua isn't there yet.

Aaron and her are not there yet. You know I encourage, I don't know how you encourage your spirit. I encourage my spirit that all over the world, here in America and elsewhere, there are men who are secretly waiting on God.

I got a letter the other day, it stirred me. Fellow said, I heard you preach a few weeks ago in a certain place, you preached on Elijah. I'm right in the middle of it.

And you know I've got everything I wanted. I've been to college, I've been to seminary, I have a nice church, and I'm booked every night this year, I'm booked into the middle of September. And just as you were speaking and you said, go hide thyself, the Lord said, cancel every preaching engagement you have this year.

And he's had to write dozens of letters. He said, I've cancelled every one. I've got a job on a farm where I can finish at five.

And you know what? One of my buddies, from the college, has done the same thing. He's gone to another farm, and they're going to let him work there and me work here. And we're going to meet after we've washed at night.

And we're going to get along with our Bibles and the Word of God. We're going to have every night from a few weeks now, right until September, waiting on God. A business person said to me just recently, I don't know whether I should stay in this office all this time.

In this great poem that I've mentioned to you before, find it if you can, W. H. Meyer's great majestic poem on St. Paul. He says, God will forgive thee all but thy despair. He'll forgive everything except your despair.

You know what? There's no amount of mercy and pleading on a deathbed that will restore all the wasted years, all the wasted money. Sure folk joke I'm stingy. Sure I am.

I believe from the day I got saved, every penny I have belongs to Jesus. It doesn't belong me. It says in the Old Testament.

Oh, the Old Testament. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. These prosperity boys on radio, always talking about the Old Testament, aren't they? Do you know what God did for Abraham? Listen, I'll tell you something God did.

Number one, when he divided Canaan, he didn't give an inch of ground to the Levites. They were to serve God entirely. But the compensation was this, nobody could carry the ark of God but the Levites.

Do you think God doesn't compensate men? I say when we get the pacifier out of our, we kick. Yeah, yeah, you're giving us your own ideas. You're all right when you preach the word.

Sometimes you inject your own thoughts. Well I've got good company. Paul says the same thing.

He says I'm preaching here not by commandment. I'm telling you what's in my own mind and I'll do that till I die. But let me say the last thing.

One of the most thrilling stories I ever heard when I was a kid. I'd like my mother to tell it. She's a great storyteller too.

And she showed us those men coming with a big rod like this, struggling and the knees were buckling and they only just made it over the border. Carrying a bunch of grapes. Man alive, this week grapes were a dollar eighty a pound.

That would be worth about a million dollars I would imagine the way priced. Now I don't know whether they were all little grapes or they were so big you know that the whole family ate one. I don't know.

But they were so big that man they carried them out. Huh? They carried them out of the promised land into Egypt. Well what do you think they did? Give them to the birds? They didn't have any hogs because they didn't believe in pigs.

Might be hard on our friend Jake here but anyhow they, they, they didn't believe in hogs. Have you ever visualized those people sitting down and saying you know what? Man these grapes. You know I think they stuffed them with honey before they, oh are they luscious.

Well listen, listen, listen. There's not enough for everybody. Every, not a million people could have a grape.

There weren't enough but I'll tell you what they were the greatest grapes. But you know what? They were happy to have the fruits of the promised land but they didn't want to go in. There happened to be 31 kings in the promised land.

They didn't want to get their little fingers hurt or the fingernails crushed or have to fight the 31 kings. And the walls were to high heaven and everything is terrible in there but oh I like the fruit. Say are you going back again? Just it's John's birthday.

Bring, bring me a bunch will you? You know I mean you know if you could make it real you know. Do you think we could open an agency? Could I open a branch office or something over there? Or could we get an underground railway to bring them through? They ate of the fruit of the land but they never went in. Oh we've been awful people.

A lot of people want to be blessed and happy. They don't want to take up their cross and follow him. You see Jesus has a cross for you that he doesn't have for me and one for me he doesn't have for you.

Oh I'm getting old. I'm just young enough to start and I can do it. I've nearly enough invitations to go.

But you know George Muller didn't go around the world till he was 70. And then without radio or TV or anything he preached to 7 million people after he was 70 years of age. And at 90 years of age he was as fresh as a daisy.

He must have touched some of that marvellous stuff in Romans 8. The resurrection quickening your mortal body. The spirit that worketh in us. Oh come on forget about the glory that shall be.

It's time we had a bit right down here. It's time that we were so candidated that God whispers into your heart and says listen I'm going to make you one of my manifest sons. But the only way to do it I'm going to drop you in a jungle in South America.

I'm going to drop you in a hell hole in New Jersey and ask you to live your life out there and you better tell your bride before you go that. Sorry I'm tearing the flowers. You better tell your bride before you go that this is where we're going to live.

See she loves you enough to live in a lousy rat infested place. Yeah it's easy to sing give of thy sons to bear the message glorious. It's easy to feel moved isn't it? It's another thing to get let the spirit of God so possess us again that I'm not just after blessing but to be made a blessing.

Not to know little of his life but integrated with him that my life and your life may be hid as Paul says with Christ in God.

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