

July 1

Unity of the Spirit

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
—Ephesians 4:3

Scripture reading: Psalm 133

You are bound forever out of loyalty to God to see that no division comes into the church body, to see that nothing comes into the assembly, as it came into David's flock, to tear and rend the body. You have to be careful. If a person comes along with a prophecy and you find that it is tearing down and bringing trouble, denounce it accordingly; judge it by the Word. You will find that all true prophecy will be perfectly full of hopefulness. It will have compassion; it will have comfort; it will have edification. So if anything comes into the church that you know is hurting the flock and disturbing the assembly, you must see to it that you begin to pray so that this thing is put to death.

Bring unity in the bonds of perfection so that the church of God will receive edification. Then the church will begin to be built up in the faith and the establishing of truth, and believers will be one. There is one body. Recognize that fact. When schism comes into the body, believers always act as though there were more than one body.

Do not forget that God means for us to be very faithful to the church so that we do not allow anything to come into the church to break up the body. You cannot find anything in the body in its relation to Christ that has schism in it. Christ's life in the body—there is no schism in that. When Christ's life comes into the church, there will be no discord; there will be a perfect blending of heart and hand, and it will be lovely. Endeavor "*to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*"

Thought for today: When we think that the church is poor and needy, we forget that the spirit of intercession can unlock every safe in the world.

July 2

The God Who Is over All

*One God and Father of all, who is above all,
and through all, and in you all.*

—Ephesians 4:6

Scripture reading: Psalm 95

Think of it! It does not matter what the Enemy brings to you, or tries to bring; the Father, who is above all, is over you. The God of power, majesty, and glory can bring you to a place of dethroning everything else! Do you dare to believe it?

Remember, God our Father is so intensely desirous to have all the fullness of the manifestation of His power that we do not have to have one thing that His Son did not come to bring. We have to have perfect redemption; we have to know all the powers of righteousness; we have to understand perfectly that we are brought to the place where He is with us in all power, dethroning the power of the Enemy.

God over you—that is real. The God who is over you is more than a million times greater than the Devil, than the powers of evil, than the powers of darkness. How do I know? Hear what the Devil said to God about Job: “*Have You not made a hedge around him?*” (Job 1:10). The Devil was unable to get near Job because there was a hedge. What was the hedge? It was the almighty power of God. It was not a thorny hedge; it was not a hedge of thistles. It was the presence of the Lord all around Job. And the presence of the Lord Almighty is so around us that the Devil cannot break through that wonderful covering.

The Devil is against the living Christ and wants to destroy Him; if you are filled with the living Christ, the Devil is eager to get you out of the way in order to destroy Christ’s power. Say this to the Lord: “Now, Lord, look after this property of yours.” Then the Devil cannot get near you. When does he get near? When you dethrone Christ, ignoring His rightful position over you, in you, and through you.

Thought for today: You will be strong if you believe this truth: faith is the victory—always. Glory to Jesus!

July 3

The Gifts of Christ

*To each one of us grace was given according to
the measure of Christ's gift.*

—Ephesians 4:7

Scripture reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

The apostle Paul spoke about the grace and the gifts of Christ—not the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the gifts of Christ. You are joined to Christ's body the moment you believe. For instance, some of you may have children, and they have different names, but the moment they appeared in the world, they were in your family. The moment they were born, they became a part of your family.

The moment you are born of God, you are in the family, and you are in the body, as He is in the body, and you are in the body collectively and particularly. After you come into the body, then the body has to receive the sealing of the promise, or the fulfillment of promise, that Christ will be in you, reigning in you mightily. The Holy Spirit will come to unveil the King in all His glory so that He might reign as King there, the Holy Spirit serving in every way to make Him King.

You are in the body. The Holy Spirit gives gifts in the body. Living in this holy order, you may find that revelation comes to you and makes you a prophet. Some of you may have a clear understanding that you have been called into apostleship. Some of you may have perfect knowledge that you are to be pastors. When you come to be sealed with the Spirit of promise, then you find out that Jesus is pleased and gives gifts in order that the church might come into a perfect position of being so blended together that there could be no division. Jesus wants His church to be a perfect body—perfect in stature, perfect in oneness in Him.

I have been speaking to this end: that you may see the calling that Paul was speaking about—humility of mind, meekness of spirit, knowing that God is in you and through you, knowing that the power of the Spirit is mightily bringing you to the place where not only the gifts of the Spirit but also the gifts of Christ have been given to you, making you eligible for the great work you have to do.

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My purpose is not to tell what God has for you in the future. Press in now, and claim your rights. Let the Lord Jesus be so glorified that He will make you fruit-bearers—strong in power, giving glory to God, having “*no confidence in the flesh*” (Phil. 3:3) but being separated from natural things, now in the Spirit, living fully in the will of God.

Thought for today: Let your whole soul reach out unto God; dare to breathe in heaven; dare to be awakened to all God’s mind; listen to the language of the Holy Spirit.

July 4

The Cry of the Spirit

Behold the Lamb of God!

—John 1:36

Scripture reading: John 1:6–36

John the Baptist's clothing was camel's hair, his belt leather, his food locusts and wild honey (Matt. 3:4). No angels, shepherds, wise men, or stars heralded John's birth. But the heavenly messenger Gabriel, who had spoken to Daniel and to Mary, also spoke to John's father, Zacharias.

In the wilderness, John was without the food and clothing of his earthly father's priestly home. He had only a groan, a cry—the cry of the Spirit. Yet from John's place in the wilderness, he moved the whole land. God cried through him. It was the cry of the Spirit—oh, that awful cry. All the land was moved by that piercing cry.

God spoke to John and told him about a new thing—water baptism. It was a clean cut; it was a new way. He had been with those of the circumcision; now he was an outcast. It was the breaking down of the old plan.

The people heard his cry—oh, that cry, the awful cry of the Spirit—and the message that he gave: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" (v. 2). Make straight paths—no treading down of others or exacting undue rights. '*Make straight paths for your feet*' (Heb. 12:13)." All were startled! All were awakened! They thought the Messiah had come. The searching was tremendous! Is this He? Who can it be? John said, "I am a voice, crying, crying, making a way for the Messiah to come" (John 1:23).

Individuals were purged; they found purpose. God pressed life through John. Through him, God moved multitudes and changed the situation. The banks of the Jordan were covered with people. The conviction was tremendous. They cried out. The prophet Isaiah had predicted, "*The rough ways [will be made] smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God*" (Luke 3:5–6). The people, the multitude, cried out and were baptized by John in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

Oh, to be alone with God. God's Word came to John when he was alone: "*The word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan,*

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preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Luke 3:2-3).

Alone! Alone!
Jesus bore it all alone!
He gave Himself to save His own.
He suffered—bled and died alone—alone.

Oh, to be alone with God, to get His mind, His thoughts, and His impression and revelation of the need of the people.

There was nothing ordinary about John—all was extraordinary. Herod was reprovved by him because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils that Herod had done. Herodias's daughter danced before Herod, who promised her up to half his kingdom. She asked for John the Baptist's head. (See Matthew 14:3-11.)

This holy man was alone. God had John in such a way that he could express that cry—the burden for the whole land. He could cry for the sins of the people. God is holy. We are the children of Abraham—the children of faith. Awful judgment is coming. Cry! Cry!

John could not help but cry because of the people's sin. John had been filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15). He had the burden. He was stern, but through his work, the land was open to Jesus. Jesus walked in the way; He came a new way.

"John came neither eating nor drinking" (Matt. 11:18)—John came crying. John's father and mother were left behind. His heart bled at the altar. He bore the burden, the cry, the need of the people. The only place he could breathe and be free was in the wilderness—the atmosphere of heaven—until he turned with a message to declare the preparation needed. Before Jesus came, repentance came to open up the place of redemption.

Like John, there must be a working of the Spirit in you; then God will work through you for others.

Thought for today: God is with a person who has only a cry.

July 5

Knowing Our Need

If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.

—Mark 5:28

Scripture reading: Mark 5:25–6:6

What a privilege to care for the flock of God, to be used by God to encourage the people, to help stand against the many trials that affect the needy. What a holy calling! We each have our own work, and we must do it, so that boldness may be ours in the day of the Master's appearing, and so that no man can take our crowns (Rev. 3:11). Since the Lord is always encouraging us, we have encouragement for others. We must have a willingness, a ready mind, a yielding to the mind of the Spirit. There is no place for the child of God in God's great plan except in humility.

God can never do all He wants to do, all that He came to do through the Word, until He gets us to the place where He can trust us, and where we are in abiding fellowship with Him in His great plan for the world's redemption. We have this truth illustrated in the life of Jacob. It took God twenty-one years to bring Jacob to the place of humility, contrition of heart, and brokenness of spirit. God even gave him power to wrestle with strength, and Jacob said, "I think I can manage after all," until God touched his thigh, making him know that he was mortal and that he was dealing with immortality. As long as we think we can save ourselves, we will try to do it.

In Mark 5:25–34, we have the story of the woman who had suffered many things from many physicians and had spent all that she had. She was no better but rather grew worse. She said, "*If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.*" She came to know her need. It is when we are empty and undone, when we come to God in our nothingness and helplessness, that He picks us up.

Thought for today: Our full cupboard is often our greatest hindrance.

July 6

Peter's Words of Wisdom

*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time.*

—1 Peter 5:6

Scripture reading: 1 Peter 5:1–11

Let's take a look at the fifth chapter of 1 Peter. "*Humble yourselves*" (v. 6). Look at the Master at the Jordan River, submitting Himself to the baptism of John, then again submitting Himself to the cruel Cross. Truly, angels desire to look into these things (1 Pet. 1:12), and all heaven is waiting for the man who will burn all the bridges behind him and allow God to begin a plan in righteousness, so full, so sublime, beyond all human thought, but according to the revelation of the Spirit.

"*Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you*" (1 Pet. 5:7). He cares! We sometimes forget this. If we descend into the natural, all goes wrong, but when we trust Him and abide beneath His shadow, how blessed it is. Oh, many times I have experienced my helplessness and nothingness, and casting my care upon Him has proved that He cares.

Verse eight tells us to "*be sober, be vigilant.*" What does it mean to be sober? It means to have a clear knowledge that we are powerless to manage, but also to have a rest of faith. The Adversary's opportunity is when we think that we are something and try to open our own door. Our thoughts, words, and deeds must all be in the power of the Holy Spirit. Oh yes, we need to be sober—not only sober, but also vigilant. We need not only to be filled with the Spirit but also to have a "go forth" in us, a knowledge that God's holy presence is with us. To be sober and vigilant, to have an ability to judge, discern, and balance things that differ—this is what we need.

"*Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith*" (vv. 8–9). We must resist in the hour when Satan's schemes may bewilder us, when we are almost swept off our feet, and when darkness is upon us to such a degree that it seems as if some evil thing had overtaken us. "*Resist him, steadfast in the faith.*" "*He who keeps*

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Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:4). God covers us, for no human can stand against the powers of hell.

"After you have suffered a while" (1 Pet. 5:10). Then there is some suffering? Yes! But it is *"not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"* (Rom. 8:18). The difference is so great that our suffering is not even worthy of mention. Ours is an eternal glory, from glory to glory, until we are swallowed up, until we are swallowed up in Him, the Lord of glory.

Thought for today: God is close at hand to deliver all the time.

July 7

Four Helps for the Heart

May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

—1 Peter 5:10

Scripture reading: 1 Peter 5

The God of all grace wants to do the following in us: first, “perfect”; second, “establish”; third, “strengthen”; and fourth, “settle.”

First is “perfect.” In the book of Hebrews, we read, “*May the God of peace...make you complete [“perfect,” KJV] in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ*” (Heb. 13:20–21). Keep in mind that when perfection is spoken of in the Word, it is always through a joining up with eternal things. Perfection is a working in us of the will of God.

Some of us would be fainthearted if we thought we had to be perfect in order to receive the blessing of God. We would ask ourselves, “How is it going to happen?” However, we find as we continue to follow God that the purpose of eternal life is an advancement, for we are saved by the blood. Our actions, our minds, are covered by the blood of Jesus, and as we yield and yield, we find ourselves in possession of another mind, even the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), which causes us to understand the perfection of His will.

Someone may be saying, “I can never be perfect! It is beyond my greatest thought.” You’re right; it is! But as we press on, the Holy Spirit enlightens, and we enter in, as Paul said, according to the revelation of the Spirit (Eph. 1:17–18). I am perfected as I launch out into God by faith, His blood covering my sin, His righteousness covering my unrighteousness, His perfection covering my imperfection. This is a very important fact: I am holy and perfect in Him.

Second is “establish.” You must be established in the fact that it is His life, not yours. You must have faith in His Word, faith in His life. You are supplanted by Another. You are disconnected from the earth. You are insulated by faith.

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Third is “*strengthen.*” You are strengthened by the fact that God is doing the business, not you. You are in the plan that God is working out.

Fourth is “*settle.*” What does it mean to be settled? It means knowing that I am in union with His will, that I am established in the knowledge of it, that day by day, I am strengthened. It is an eternal work of righteousness, until by the Spirit we are perfected. First is an enduring, then an establishing, a strengthening, and a settling. This happens according to our faith. It happens as we believe.

Now a closing word: “*To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever*” (1 Pet. 5:11). How can this verse be realized in my case? By living for His glory. There must be no withdrawal, no relinquishing, no looking back, but going on, on, on, for His glory now and forever. We must go on until, like Enoch, we walk with God and are not, for God has taken us (Gen. 5:24).

Thought for today: Unbelief is the great dethroning place; faith is the great rising place.

July 8

The Flood Tide of Revival

*Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?*
—Psalm 85:6

Scripture reading: Psalm 85:7–86:13

Wherever Jesus went, multitudes followed Him, because He lived, moved, breathed, was swallowed up, clothed, and filled by God. He was God; and as the Son of Man, the Spirit of God—the Spirit of creative holiness—rested upon Him. It is lovely to be holy. Jesus came to impart to us the Spirit of holiness.

We are only at the edge of things; the almighty plan for the future is marvelous. God must do something to increase. We need a revival to revive all we touch within us and outside of us. We need a flood tide with a deluge behind it. Jesus left 120 men to turn the world upside down. The Spirit is upon us to change our situation. We must move on; we must let God increase in us for the deliverance of multitudes; and we must travail until souls are born and quickened into a new relationship with heaven. Jesus had divine authority with power, and He left it for us. We must preach truth, holiness, and purity “*in the inward parts*” (Ps. 51:6). Thirst for more of God.

Jesus treaded the winepress alone (Isa. 63:3), despising the cross and the shame. He bore it all alone so that we might be “*partakers of the divine nature*” (2 Pet. 1:4), sharers in the divine plan of holiness. That’s revival—Jesus manifesting divine authority. He was without sin. People saw the Lamb of God in a new way. Hallelujah! Let us live in holiness, and revival will come down, and God will enable us to do the work to which we are appointed. All Jesus said came to pass: signs, wonders, mighty deeds. Only believe, and yield and yield, until all the vision is fulfilled.

Thought for today: Jesus was not only holy, but He also loved holiness.

July 9

A Mighty Faith

Increase our faith.

—Luke 17:5

Scripture reading: Romans 4

God has a design, a purpose, a rest of faith. We are saved by faith and kept by faith. Faith is substance; it is also evidence (Heb. 11:1). God is! He is! And *“He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”* (v. 6). We are to testify, to bear witness to what we know. To know that we know is a wonderful position to be in. We are to be living words, epistles of Christ (2 Cor. 3:3), known and read by all men.

We are living in the inheritance of faith because of the grace of God. We are saved for eternity by the operation of the Spirit, who brings forth life unto God. Heaven is brought to earth until God quickens all things into beauty, manifesting His power in living witnesses. God is in us for the world, so that the world may be blessed. We need power to lay hold of Omnipotence and to impart to others the Word of Life. This is a new epoch with new vision and new power. Christ in us is greater than we know. All things are possible if you dare to believe. The treasure is in earthen vessels so that Jesus may be glorified (2 Cor. 4:7).

Let us go forth bringing glory to God. Faith is substance, a mightiness of reality, a deposit of divine nature, and the creative God abiding with us. The moment you believe, you are clothed with a new power to lay hold of possibility and make it reality. The people said to Jesus, *“Lord, give us this bread always”* (John 6:34). Jesus said, *“He who feeds on Me will live because of Me”* (v. 57).

Have the faith of God. The man who comes into great association with God needs a heavenly measure. Faith is the greatest of all. We are saved by a new life, the Word of God, an association with the living Christ. A new creation continually takes us into new revelation.

Thought for today: There is what seems to be faith, an appearance of faith, but real faith believes God right to the end.

July 10

The Life of God within Us

All things were made through Him.

—John 1:3

Scripture reading: Galatians 3:1–14

All was made by the Word. I am begotten by His Word. There is a substance within me that has almighty power in it if I dare to believe. Faith goes on to be an act, a reality, a deposit of God, an almighty flame moving me to act, so that signs and wonders are manifested.

Are you begotten? Is faith an act within you? Some need a touch; some are captives and need liberty. As many as Jesus touched were made perfectly whole. Faith takes you to the place where God reigns, and you drink from God's bountiful store. Unbelief is sin, for Jesus went to death to bring us the light of life.

His life is manifested power overflowing. We must decrease if the life of God is to be manifested. (See John 3:30.) There is not room for two kinds of life in one body. Death for life—that is the price to pay for the manifested power of God through you. As you die to human desire, there comes a fellowship within, perfected cooperation, you ceasing, God increasing. God in you is a living substance, a spiritual nature. You live by another life, the "*faith in the Son of God*" (Gal. 2:20).

As the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus, He is real—the living Word, effective, acting, speaking, thinking, praying, singing. Oh, it is a wonderful life, this substance of the Word of God, which includes possibility and opportunity, which confronts you, bringing you to a place undaunted. Jesus has given us power over all the power of the Enemy (Luke 10:19). He won it for us at Calvary. All must be subject to His power. What should we do to "*work the works of God?*" (John 6:28). "*This is the work of God, that you believe*" (v. 29). Whatsoever He says will come to pass. That is God's Word.

We must remain in a strong, resolute resting on the authority of God's Word. We must have one great desire and purpose: to do what He says. We must live in this holy Word, rejoicing in the manifestation of the life of God on behalf of the sick and perishing multitudes. Amen.

Thought for today: I have a living faith within my earthly body.

July 11

The Holy Spirit—Our Comforter

[God] comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3–11

We need a revelation of a greater power, an abiding presence sustaining and comforting us in the hour of trial, ready at a moment's notice, an inbreathing of God in the human life. What more do we need in these last days when perilous times are upon us than to be filled, saturated, baptized with the Holy Spirit? Baptized. Baptized into Him, never to come out. How comforting! Exhilarating! Joyful! May it please the Lord to establish us in this state of grace. May we know nothing among men except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). May we be clothed with His Spirit—nothing outside of the blessed Holy Spirit. This, beloved, is God's ideal for us. Are we here in this experience?

Where He may lead me I will go,
For I have learned to trust Him so,
And I remember it was for me,
That He was slain on Calvary.

God has chosen me to go through certain experiences to profit others. In all ages, God has had His witnesses, and He is teaching, chastening, correcting, and moving me just up to the point that I am able to bear it, in order to meet a needy soul who would otherwise go down without such comfort. All the chastening and the hardship is because we are able to bear it. No, we are not able, but we yield to Another—even the Holy Spirit. We are strengthened so that we may endure and so that we may comfort others *“with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”* (2 COR 1:4)

Why do we need brokenness and travail? The reason can be found in the book of Psalms: *“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word”* (Ps. 119:67).

Thought for today: The God in you will not fail if you believe the Word of God.

July 12

Yielding to God's Plan

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

—2 Corinthians 1:5

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

C hastening provokes or bestows upon us fruits unto holiness. It is in the hard places where we see no help that we cry out to God. He delivers us so that we can help the tempted. It was said of Jesus that He was “*in all points tempted as we are*” (Heb. 4:15). Where did He receive strength to comfort us? It was at the end of “*vehement cries and tears*” (Heb. 5:7), when the angel came just in time and ministered and saved Him from death. Now He can send angels to us. When? Just when we are about to go straight down. At such times in the past, did He not stretch out to us a helping hand?

God takes us to a place of need, and before we are barely aware of it, we are full of consolation toward the needy. How? The sufferings of Christ abound! The ministry of the Spirit abounds so often. It is a great blessing. We do not know our calling in the Spirit. It is so much greater than our appreciation of it. Then we speak a word in season (Isa. 50:4); here and there we minister, sowing beside all waters as the Holy Spirit directs our paths.

Paul and the people he ministered to cooperated with one another. Here is the value of testing: it results in a great flow of life from one to another. John Wesley woke up one day and became conscious of the need of one establishing another. In this way, he bore witness to the ministry of the Spirit, and multitudes were born again in his meetings when they heard the wonderful works of God. They heard stories and had consolation poured out to them by the revelation of the Spirit.

We are members of one another. When God's breath is upon us and we are quickened by the Holy Spirit, we can pour into each other wonderful ministries of grace and helpfulness.

Thought for today: We need a strong ministry of consolation, not deterioration or living below our privileges.

July 13

Consolation out of Affliction

If we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation....Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

—2 Corinthians 1:6

Scripture reading: Isaiah 51:9–16

*T*hese consolations come out of deprivation, affliction, and endurance. “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead” (2 Cor. 1:9).

Have we gone as far as Paul? Very few of us have. Can you see how Paul could help and comfort and sustain because he yielded to God all his trust as Jesus did? Because he was yielded to the Holy Spirit to work out the sentence of death, he could help others.

I pray to God that He may never find us “kick[ing] against the goads” (Acts 9:5). We may have to go through the testing; divine healing, purity of heart, baptism in the Holy Spirit and in fire—we are tested for these truths. We cannot get out of this testing. But in every meeting, the glory rises. We descend down into trials also to be sustained and brought out for the glory of God. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). Oh, the joy of being worthy of suffering! How will I stand the glory that will be after?

Many of God’s people are victorious in suffering but fail or back out when things are going fine. Deprivation is often easier than success. We need a sound mind all the time to balance us so that we do not trade our liberty for something less.

We get glimpses of the glory all the time. To Paul in the glory, the presence of the Lord was so wonderful. But he said, “Lest I should be exalted...a thorn in the flesh was given to me” (2 Cor. 12:7). That was the mercy of God. “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations” (2 Pet. 2:9) and “saves such as have a contrite spirit” (Ps. 34:18). What a revelation for the time to come! If Satan had his way, we would be devoured.

Thought for today: The truths you stand for, you are tried for.

July 14

The Spirit Is upon Me

The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me.

—Luke 4:18

Scripture reading: Luke 4:1-21

I believe God is bringing us to a place where we know that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us. If we have not gotten to that place, God wants to bring us to the fact of what Jesus said in John 14: “*I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper [‘Comforter,’ KJV], that He may abide with you forever*” (v. 16). Because the Spirit of the Lord came upon Him who is our Head, we must see to it that we receive the same anointing, and that the same Spirit is upon us. The Devil will cause us to lose the victory if we allow ourselves to be defeated by him. But it is a fact that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, and as for me, I have no message apart from the message He will give, and I believe that the signs He speaks of will follow.

I believe that Jesus was the One sent forth from God, and the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). We see the manifestation of the Spirit resting upon Him so that His ministry was with power. May God awaken us to the fact that this is the only place where there is any ministry of power.

The Comforter has come. He has come, and He has come to abide forever. Are you going to be defeated by the Devil? No, for the Comforter has come so that we may receive and give forth the signs that must follow, so that we may not by any means be deceived by the schemes of the Devil. There is no limit to what we may become if we dwell and live in the Spirit. In the Spirit of prayer, we are taken right away from earth into heaven. In the Spirit, the Word of God seems to unfold in a wonderful way, and it is only in the Spirit that the love of God is poured out in us (Rom. 5:5).

Thought for today: Who is the man who is willing to lay down everything so that he may have God’s all?

July 15

Hearts Aflame

Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.
—Ezekiel 37:5

Scripture reading: Ezekiel 37

As we speak in the Spirit, we feel that the fire that burned in the hearts of the two men on their way to Emmaus, when Jesus walked with them, is burning in our hearts. (See Luke 24:13–32.) It is sure to come to pass that when we walk with Him, our hearts will burn; the same power of the Spirit is present today to make it happen. The two men on their way to Emmaus could not understand what was happening on the road, but a few hours later, they saw Jesus break the bread, and their eyes were opened.

But, beloved, our hearts always ought to burn. There is a place where we can live in the anointing and the clothing of the Spirit, where our words will be clothed with power. *“Do not be drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph. 5:18). Being filled with the Spirit is a wonderful privilege.

It was necessary for John to be in the Spirit on the Isle of Patmos so that the revelation could be made clear to him (Rev. 1:9–10). What does it mean to this generation for us to be kept in the Spirit? All human reasoning and all human knowledge cannot be compared with the power of the life that is lived in the Spirit. In the Spirit, we have power to loose and power to bind (Matt. 16:19). There is a place where the Holy Spirit can put us where we cannot be anywhere else but in the Spirit. But it is only in the Spirit.

Now, I read in Matthew 16:19 that Jesus says, in essence, “I will give you power to bind, and I will give you power to loose.” This is a power that many of us have not yet claimed, and we will not be able to claim this manifestation of the Spirit unless we live in the Spirit. When are you able to bind and loose? It is only in the Spirit. You cannot bind things in human strength or with the natural mind. This power was never lacking in Jesus, but I feel that there is a great lack of it in most of us. God help us!

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me” (Luke 4:18). Beloved, there was a great purpose in this Spirit being on Jesus, and there is a special purpose in your being baptized in the Spirit. We must not

forget that we are members of His body, and by this wonderful baptismal power, we are partakers of His divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).

The revelation came this way: I saw Adam and Eve driven out of the Garden and a flaming sword at every side to keep them from entering into the Garden. But I saw that all around me was a flaming sword keeping me from evil, and it seemed this would be true if I would claim it, so I said, "Lord, I will." The flaming sword was around me, delivering me from the power of hell. In this way, we are preserved from evil. God is like a wall of fire around us (Zech. 2:5); why should we fear? What a wonderful salvation! What a wonderful Deliverer!

Notice Ezekiel 37. The only need of Ezekiel was to be in the Spirit, and while he was in the Spirit, it came to him to prophesy to the dry bones and say, "*O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD*" (v. 4). And as he prophesied according to the Lord's command, he saw an "*exceedingly great army*" (v. 10) rising up about him. The prophet obeyed God's command, and all we have to do is exactly this: obey God. What is impossible with man is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

I pray to God that your spirit, soul, and body may be preserved holy (1 Thess. 5:23), and that you may be always on fire, always ready with the anointing on you. If this is not so, we are out of divine order, and we ought to cry to Him until the glory comes back upon us.

Thought for today: If we breathe the Holy Spirit's thoughts into our thoughts, and live in the anointing of the Holy Spirit as Jesus lived, then there will be evidences that we are in the Holy Spirit, and we will do His works.

July 16

A Door of Utterance

[Pray] *that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*
—Ephesians 6:19–20

Scripture reading: Acts 26:1–29

Paul felt, as we do, the need for utterance. He had plenty of language, but he wanted utterance. We can have inspiration, operation, tongue, mind, heart—we need all these. God works through these in this divine order to give forth the truth most needed for the time. But the supreme need of the hour is prayer for utterance.

Paul and his helpers were men sent forth by the power of the Holy Spirit. But without anointing, they could not open the door or give forth the right word for the hour. Paul and his helpers were unequal to the need. Was this an indication that something was out of order? No! We are all dependent on the Holy Spirit to breathe through us.

How can we live in this place, reliant on omnipotent power? It is by the Spirit of the Lord giving vent, speaking through us. It is not an easy thing. God said to David, “It is good that the desire is in your heart.” (See 2 Chronicles 6:8.) But that will not do for us who live in the latter days when God is pouring forth His Spirit, and rivers of power are available at our word. We need to live by Mark 11:22–23: “*Have faith in God....Whoever...believes...will have whatever he says.*” Let God arise. Let God breathe His Holy Spirit through your nature, through your eyes and tongue—the supernatural in the natural for the glory of God. God raised Paul for this ministry. What was the means? Jesus said, “*By faith in Me*” (Acts 26:18). The faith of God.

Thought for today: Apart from this living breath of the Spirit, the message is ordinary and not extraordinary.

July 17

Speech Inspired by the Spirit

My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
—Psalm 45:1

Scripture reading: Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 15:1–16:1

Oh, for more people to believe God that “*the tongue of the dumb [might] sing*” (Isa. 35:6). When will they? When they believe and fulfill the conditions. Oh, beloved, it is not easy. But Jesus died and rose again for the possibility. “*Have faith in God*” (Mark 11:22). The whole man needs to be immersed in God so that the Holy Spirit may operate and the dying world may have the ministry of life for which it is famished.

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Rom. 8:11)

As the dead body of Christ was given life and brought out by the Holy Spirit, may we be given eyes to see and ears to hear and a tongue to speak as the oracles of God. “*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Pet. 4:11). Those are our orders: speaking what no one knows except the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit gives divine utterance—a language that would never come at all unless the Holy Spirit gave utterance and took the things of Christ and revealed them. Did God answer Paul’s prayer to be able “*to speak the mystery of Christ*” (Col. 4:3)? Yes! “*In mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God...from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ*” (Rom. 15:19).

It was the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, that brought to us redemption. It was by the grace of God—His favor and mercy, a lavished love and an undeserved favor—that God brought salvation. We did not deserve it.

Thought for today: The greatest gift to mankind is to be able to say, “Christ lives in me!”

July 18

Seasoned with Salt

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt.
—Colossians 4:6

Scripture reading: James 3

Salt has three properties: first, it stings; second, it heals; and third, it preserves. In the same way, your words by the Spirit are filled with grace, yet they cut to the heart, and they bring preservation. We must be very careful to be salty. God's Word will not return void; it will accomplish, and it will prosper (Isa. 55:11)—but our mouths must be clean and our desire wholly for God.

Jesus' words were straightforward. To the elite of the holiness movement of His day, He said, "*Woe to you...hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs*" (Matt. 23:27). To others He said, "You are deceived; you have the idea that you are the children of Abraham, but you are the children of the Devil, and you do his works." (See John 8:39, 44.) His mouth was full of meekness and gentleness and yet was so salty because of their corruption. Unless you know the charm of Christ, you might think you are out of the working of His eternal power. However, see what the prophet Isaiah said: "*A bruised reed He will not break*" (Isa. 42:3).

"*Know how you ought to answer each one*" (Col. 4:6). This is not easy to learn. It is only learned in the place of being absorbed by God. When we are in that place, we seek to glorify God and can give a chastening word full of power to awaken and to save. Use the salt, beloved! Use conviction; use the healing for their preservation.

How true we have to be! You are seasoned with salt. I love it! It is inspiring! It is conviction! Thus the Holy Spirit writes on the fleshly tablets of the temple of the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:3). O Lord, enlarge our sense of Your presence in the temple so that we may discern the Lord's body in our midst.

Thought for today: None are so deaf as those who won't hear the Word of God; none so blind as those who won't see its truth.

July 19

Full of Life

Be filled with all the fullness of God.
—Ephesians 3:19

Scripture reading: Ephesians 3:14–21

We want our whole being to be so full of the life of our Lord that the Holy Spirit can speak and act through us. We want to live always in Him. Oh, the charm of His divine plan! We cry out for the inspiration of the God of power. We want to act in the Holy Spirit. We want to breathe out divine life. We want the glory, miracles, and wonders that work out the plan of the Most High God. We want to be absorbed by God, and we want to know nothing among men except Jesus and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). Unto You, O God, be the glory and the honor and the power (Rev. 5:13)!

Yes, filled with God,
Yes, filled with God,
Emptied of self and filled with God.

For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me;
It's heaven below
My Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.

Can you wonder why I love Him so? May there be a cry until we witness Acts 11:15: "*And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them.*"

Oh, be on fire, oh, be on fire,
Oh, be on fire for God.
Oh, be on fire, be all on fire,
Be all on fire for God.

Thought for today: To live two days in succession on the same spiritual plane is a tragedy.

July 20

The Ministry of the Spirit

Nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus.

—Acts 20:24

Scripture reading: Romans 13:14–14:19

The ministry of the Spirit has been entrusted to us. We must be in the place of edifying the church. Law is not liberty, but if there is a move of God within you, God has written His laws in your heart so that you may delight in Him. God desires to set forth in us a perfect blending of His life and our lives so that we may have abounding inward joy—a place of reigning over all things, not a place of endeavor. There is a great difference between an endeavor and a delight.

God says to us, “*Be holy, for I am holy*” (1 Pet. 1:16). Trying will never cause us to reach a place of holiness, but there is a place, or an attitude, where God gives us faith to rest on His Word, and we delight inwardly over everything. “*I delight to do Your will, O my God*” (Ps. 40:8). There is a place of great joy. Do we want condemnation?

We know there is something within that has been accomplished by the power of God, something greater than there could be in the natural order of the flesh. We are the representatives of Jesus. He was eaten up with zeal. (See John 2:17.) This intense zeal changes us by the operation of the Word; we do not rest in the letter, but we allow the blessed Holy Spirit to lift us by His power.

The disciples were with Jesus three years. He spoke out of the abundance of His heart toward them. John said, “We have touched Him; our eyes have gazed into His eyes.” (See 1 John 1:1). Did Jesus know about Judas? Yes. Did He ever tell? No. When Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him, they said, “*Lord, is it I?*” (Matt. 26:22). The essence of divine order is to bring the church together, so that there is no schism in the body, but a perfect blending of heart to heart.

“*The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life*” (2 Cor. 3:6). The sword cut off Malchus’s ear, but the Spirit healed it again. (See Luke 22:50–51.) Our ministry has to be in the Spirit, “*free from the law of sin and death*” (Rom. 8:2). When we live in the ministry of

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the Spirit, we are free; in the letter we are bound. If it is “*an eye for an eye*” (Matt. 5:38), we have lost the principle. If we are to come to a place of great liberty, the law must be at an end. Yet we love the law of God; we love to do it and not put one thing aside.

“*Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered...by the Spirit of the living God...on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart*” (2 Cor. 3:3). It’s heart worship when God has made the incision; the Spirit has come to blend with humanity.

Thought for today: Ours is not an endeavor society, but a delight to live in the will of God.

July 21

Peace in Our Hearts

*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You.*

—Isaiah 26:3

Scripture reading: Isaiah 54:5–55:9

We must keep in the spiritual tide—God supreme, the altar within the body. Faith is the evidence, the power, the principle, keeping us in rest. We must have the Spirit in anointing, intercession, revelation, and great power of ministry. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be in God's plan—the Spirit preeminent, revealing the Christ of God, making the Word of God alive—something divine. *“Our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the...Spirit; for the...Spirit gives life”* (2 Cor. 3:5–6).

I knew a believer whose job was to carry bags of coal. He had been in bed three weeks away from his work. I showed him Romans 7:25: *“I thank God; through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”* I said, “Keep your mind on God and go to work, shouting victory.” He did, and the first day he was able to carry a hundred bags, his mind stayed on God and kept in peace. *“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble”* (Ps. 119:165).

If your peace is disturbed, there is something wrong. Apply the blood of Jesus, and keep your mind stayed upon Jehovah, where “hearts are fully blessed, finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest.” Keep your mind on God, gaining strength in Him day by day.

“The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). This is a new dispensation, this divine place: Christ in you, the hope and evidence of glory (Col. 1:27).

May God gird you with truth (Eph. 6:14). I commend you to Him in the name of Jesus.

Thought for today: If you are not free in the Spirit, your mind is in the wrong place.

July 22

At the Lord's Service

Lord, what do You want me to do?
—Acts 9:6

Scripture reading: Acts 9:1–22

In the midst of persecuting the Lord's disciples, Saul was confronted with a bright light from heaven (Acts 9:3). A voice spoke to him saying, "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*" (v. 4). Saul asked who was speaking, and when Jesus identified Himself, Saul's response was, "*Lord, what do You want me to do?*" As soon as Saul was willing to yield, he was in a condition where God could meet his need, where God could display His power, where God could have the man.

Friend, are you saying today, "*What do You want me to do?*" The place of yieldedness is just where God wants us. People are saying, "I want the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I want to be healed. I would like to know for certain that I am a child of God," and I see nothing, absolutely nothing, in the way, except that they have not yielded to the plan of God.

In Acts 19:6, the condition was met that Paul demanded, and when he laid his hands on the Ephesian disciples, they were instantly filled with the Spirit and spoke in other tongues and prophesied. The only thing they needed was just to be in the condition where God could come in.

The main thing today that God wants is obedience. When you begin yielding and yielding to God, He has a plan for your life, and you come in to that wonderful place where all you have to do is eat the fruits of Canaan.

It is the call of God that counts. Paul answered the call of God. I believe God wants to stir our heart today to obedience. Our response should be, "*Lord, what do You want me to do?*"

Thought for today: God is looking for obedience.

July 23

Are You Willing?

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul.
—Acts 19:11

Scripture reading: Matthew 16:24–27; Luke 14:27–35

Paul had been putting many believers in prison, but God brought him to such a place of yieldedness and brokenness that he cried out, “*What do You want me to do?*” (Acts 9:6). Paul’s choice was to be a bondservant for Jesus Christ.

Beloved, are you willing for God to have His way today? God said about Paul, “*I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake*” (Acts 9:16). But Paul saw that these things were working out “*a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*” (2 Cor. 4:17). Do you need a touch from God? Are you willing to follow Him? Will you obey Him?

When the Prodigal Son had returned and the father had killed the fatted calf and made a feast for him, the elder brother was angry and said, “*You never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends*” (Luke 15:29). But the father said to him, “*All that I have is yours*” (v. 31). He could kill a fatted calf at any time. When God can trust us, we will not come short in anything.

“*God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul.*” Let us notice the handkerchiefs that went from his body. This passage indicates that when Paul touched handkerchiefs and sent them forth, God worked special miracles through them: diseases departed from the sick, and evil spirits went out of them. Isn’t this lovely? I believe that after we lay hands on these handkerchiefs and pray over them, they should be handled very sacredly. Even as we carry them, they will bring life, if we carry them in faith to the suffering ones. The very effect, if you would only believe, would be to change your own body as you carry the handkerchief.

God wants to change our faith today. He wants us to see that it is not obtained by struggling and working and longing. “*The Father Himself loves you*” (John 16:27). “*He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses*” (Matt. 8:17). “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*” (Matt. 11:28). Who is the man who will take the place of Paul and yield and yield and yield until God possesses him in such a way that power will

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flow from his body to the sick and suffering? It will have to be the power of Christ that flows. Don't think there is some magic power in the handkerchief, or you will miss the power. It is the living faith within the man who lays the handkerchief on his body, and the power of God through that faith. Praise God, we may lay hold of this living faith today. The blood has never lost its power. As we get in touch with Jesus, wonderful things will take place. And what else? We will get nearer and nearer to Him.

Thought for today: Ministry always begins as soon as a person yields.

July 24

The Secret of Power

Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?
—Acts 19:15

Scripture reading: Acts 19:13–20

Implore you in the name of Jesus, especially those of you who are baptized, to wake up to the fact that you have power if God is with you. But there must be a resemblance between you and Jesus. The evil spirit said, “*Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?*” Paul had the resemblance. You are not going to get this resemblance without having His presence; His presence changes you. You are not going to be able to get the results without the marks of the Lord Jesus. You must have the divine power within yourself; devils will take no notice of any power if they do not see Christ. “*Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?*” The difference in these exorcists was that they did not have the marks of Christ, so the manifestation of the power of Christ was not seen.

If you want power, don’t make any mistake about it. If you speak in tongues, don’t mistake that for the power. If God has given you revelations along certain lines, don’t mistake that for the power. Or if you have even laid hands on the sick and they have been healed, don’t mistake that for the power. “*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me*” (Luke 4:18)—that alone is the power. Don’t be deceived. There is a place to be reached where you know the Spirit is upon you so that you will be able to do the works that are accomplished by this blessed Spirit of God in you. Then the manifestation of His power will be seen, and people will believe in the Lord.

God wants you to be ministering spirits, and this means being clothed with another power. You know when this divine power is there, and you know when it goes forth. Beloved, we can reach it; it is a high mark, but we can get to it. Do you ask how? Say to God, “*What do You want me to do?*” (Acts 9:6). That is the plan. It means a perfect surrender to the call of God, and perfect obedience.

Thought for today: The baptism of Jesus must bring us to the place of having our focus centered on the glory of God; everything else is wasted time and wasted energy.

July 25

Yield and Obey

Yield yourselves to the LORD.
—2 Chronicles 30:8

Scripture reading: John 15:1–14

A dear young Russian came to England. He did not know the language but learned it quickly and was mightily used and blessed by God. As the wonderful manifestations of the power of God were seen, people asked him the secret of his power, but he felt it was so sacred between him and God that he should not tell it. But they pressed him so much that he finally said to them, “First, God called me, and His presence was so precious that I said to God at every call that I would obey Him. I yielded and yielded and yielded until I realized that I was simply clothed with another power altogether, and I realized that God had taken me—tongue, thoughts, and everything—and I was not myself, but it was Christ working through me.”

Do you know that God has called you over and over and has put His hand upon you, but you have not yielded? Have you had the breathing of His power within you, calling you to prayer, and you have to confess that you have failed?

I went to a house one afternoon where I had been called, and I met a man at the door. He said, “My wife has not been out of bed for eight months; she is paralyzed. She has been looking forward so much to your coming. She is hoping God will raise her up.” I went in and rebuked the Devil’s power. She said, “I know I am healed; if you leave, I will get up.” I left the house and went away, not hearing anything more about her. I went to a meeting that night, and a man jumped up and said he had something he wanted to say; he had to go to catch a train but wanted to talk first. He said, “I come to this city once a week, and I visit the sick all over the city. There is a woman I have been visiting, and I was very much distressed about her. She was paralyzed and lay on her bed many months. However, when I went there today, she was up doing her work.” I tell this story because I want you to see Jesus. Yield to Him today.

Thought for today: If there are any *but*s in your attitude toward the Word of truth, there is something unyielded to the Spirit.

July 26

God's Wonder-Working Power

Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD?

Who can declare all His praise?

—Psalm 106:2

Scripture reading: Psalm 106

A letter came to our house saying that a young man was very ill. He had been to our mission a few years before with a very bad foot; he had worn no shoe but had fastened a piece of leather around his foot. God had healed him that day. Three years afterward, something else came upon him. What it was I don't know, but his heart failed, and he was helpless. He could not get up or dress or do anything for himself. In that condition, he called his sister and told her to write to me and see if I would pray. My wife said to go, and she believed that God would give me that life. I went, and when I arrived at this place, I found that the whole country was expecting me. They had said that when I came, this man would be healed.

I said to the woman when I arrived, "I have come." "Yes," she said, "but it is too late." "Is he alive?" I asked. "Yes, barely alive," she said. I went in and put my hands on him and said, "Martin." He just breathed slightly and whispered, "The doctor said that if I move from this position, I will never move again." I said, "Do you know that the Scripture says, '*God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever*' (Ps. 73:26)?" He said, "Should I get up?" I said, "No."

That day was spent in prayer and ministering the Word. I found a great state of unbelief in that house, but I saw that Martin had faith to be healed. His sister was home from an asylum. God kept me there to pray for that place. I said to the family, "Get Martin's clothes ready; I believe he is to be raised up." I felt the unbelief.

I went to the chapel and had prayer with a number of people around there, and before noon they, too, believed that Martin would be healed. When I returned, I said, "Are his clothes ready?" They said, "No." I said, "Oh, will you hinder God's work in this house?" I went into Martin's room all alone. I said, "I believe God will do a new thing today. I believe that when I lay hands on you,

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the glory of heaven will fill this place." I laid my hands on him in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and immediately the glory of the Lord filled the room, and I fell at once to the floor. I did not see what took place on the bed or in the room, but this young man began to shout, "Glory, glory!" and I heard him say, "For Your glory, Lord," and he stood before me perfectly healed. He went to the door and opened it, and his father stood there. He said, "Father, the Lord has raised me up," and the father fell to the floor and cried for salvation. The young woman brought out of the asylum was perfectly healed at that moment by the power of God in that house.

God wants us to see that the power of God coming upon people has something more in it than we have yet known. The power to heal and to baptize is available, but you must say, "*Lord, what do You want me to do?*" (Acts 9:6). You say it is four months before the harvest. If you had the eyes of Jesus, you would see that the harvest is already here (John 4:35). The Holy Spirit wants you for the purpose of manifesting Jesus through you. Oh, may you never be the same again! The Holy Spirit moving upon us will make us to be like Him, and we will truly say, "*Lord, what do You want me to do?*"

Thought for today: The Devil will say you can't have faith. Tell him he is a liar.

July 27

Higher Ground

Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established.
—2 Chronicles 20:20

Scripture reading: Mark 9:19–29

Are you ready? “Why?” you ask. Because God wants to give us higher ground, holier thoughts, and a more concentrated, clearer ministry. God wants us to be in a rising tide every day. This rising tide is a changing of faith; it is an attitude of the spirit where God rises higher and higher. He wants us to come to the place where we will never look back. God has no room for the person who looks back. (See Genesis 19:15–26.)

The Holy Spirit wants to get you ready to stretch yourself out to God and to believe that “*He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*” (Heb. 11:6). You do not need to use vain repetitions when you pray (Matt. 6:7). Simply ask and believe.

People come with their needs, they ask, and then they leave with their needs because they do not faithfully wait to receive what God has promised them. If they ask for it, they will get it.

Many people are missing the highest order. I went to a person who was full of the Spirit but was constantly saying, “Glory! Glory! Glory!” I said, “You are full of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit cannot speak because you continually speak.” He kept still then, and the Spirit began to speak through him. This story illustrates the fact that often we are altogether in God’s way.

I want to so change your operation in God that you will know that God is operating through you for this time and forevermore. May the Spirit awaken us to deep things today.

Are you ready to move and be moved by the mighty power of God that cannot be moved, and to be so chastened and built up that you are in the place where it doesn’t matter where the wind blows or what difficulty comes because you are fixed in God?

Are you ready to come into the plan of the Most High God, believing what the Scriptures say and holding fast to what is good, believing so that no one will take your crown (Rev. 3:11)?

Thought for today: Do more believing and less begging.

July 28

Changed by the Word

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

—Psalm 119:9

Scripture reading: Psalm 119:17–40

God can so change us by His Word day by day that we are altogether different. David knew this. He said, “*Your word has given me life*” (Ps. 119:50). “*He sent His word and healed them*” (Ps. 107:20). How beautiful that God can make His Word abound! “*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!*” (Ps. 119:11).

It is absolute disloyalty and unbelief to pray about anything in the Word of God. Believe and receive the Word of God, and you will always be on sure ground. If you pray about the Word of God, the Devil will be behind the whole thing. Never pray about anything concerning which it can be said, “Thus says the Lord.” You need to receive God’s words so that they will build you on a new foundation of truth.

In Romans 12:1, we see that Paul had been operated on:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

He had undergone a mighty operation on more than just a surgical table. He had been cut to the very depths of his being, until he had absolutely reached a place on the altar of full surrender. When he came to this place, out of the depths of this experience, he gave his whole life, as it were, in a nutshell.

Thought for today: The Word of God does not need to be prayed about: the Word of God needs to be received.

July 29

Receive God's Grace

*We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you
not to receive the grace of God in vain.*

—2 Corinthians 6:1

Scripture reading: Psalm 51

People are getting blessed all the time and are receiving revelation. They go from one point to another, but they do not establish themselves in the thing that God has brought to them. If you do not let your heart be examined when the Lord comes with blessing or with correction, if you do not make the blessing or the correction a stepping-stone, or if you do not make it a rising place, then you are receiving the grace of God in vain. People could be built up much more in the Lord and be more wonderfully established if they would step out sometimes and think over the graces of the Lord.

Grace will be multiplied on certain conditions. How? In the first chapter of 2 Timothy, we have these words: "*The genuine faith that is in you*" (v. 5). Everyone in the entire church of God has the same precious faith within him. If you allow this same precious faith to be foremost, utmost in everything, you will find that grace and peace are multiplied. The Lord comes to us with His mercy, and if we do not see that the God of grace and mercy is opening to us the door of mercy and utterances, we are receiving His grace in vain.

When you are in prayer, remember how near you are to the Lord. Prayer is a time during which God wants you to be strengthened, and He wants you to remember that He is with you.

When you open the sacred pages of Scripture and the light comes right through and you say, "Oh, isn't that wonderful!" thank God, for it is the grace of God that has opened your understanding. When you go to a church meeting and the revelation comes forth and you feel that it is what you needed, receive it as the grace of the Lord. God has brought you to a place where He might make you a greater blessing.

Thought for today: If we want strength in building our spiritual character, we should never forget our blessings.

July 30

Constant Salvation

*Behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.*

—2 Corinthians 6:2

Scripture reading: 1 John 1

There are two processes of salvation. First, God helped you when the Spirit was moving you and when the Adversary was against you, when your neighbors and friends did not want you to be saved, and when everybody rose up in accusation against you. When you knew there was fighting on the outside and fighting within, He helped you; He covered you until you came into salvation. Second, He keeps you in the plan of His salvation.

This is the day of salvation. The fact that you are being saved does not mean that you were not saved, but it means that you are being continually changed. In the process of regeneration, you are being made like God; you are being brought into the operation of the Spirit's power; you are being made like Him.

This is the day of salvation. God has helped you in a time when Satan would destroy you, and He is with you now. If we remain stationary, God has nothing for us. We must see that we must progress. Yesterday will not do for today. I must thank God for yesterday; however, tomorrow is affected by what I am today.

Today is a day of inspiration and divine intuition, a day in which God is enrapturing the heart, breaking all shorelines, getting my heart to the place where it is responsive only to His cry, where I live and move honoring and glorifying God in the Spirit. This is the day of the visitation of the Lord. This is the great day of salvation, a day of moving on for God.

We will praise and magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised! He has helped us, and now He is building us; now He is changing us; now we are in the operation of the Holy Spirit. Every day you must climb to higher ground. You must refuse everything that is not pure and holy and separate. God wants you to be pure in heart. He wants your intense desire after holiness.

Thought for today: You must deny yourself in order to go forward with God.

July 31

In Perfect Harmony

Give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.
—2 Corinthians 6:3

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 13:4–12

If you, being a member of a certain church, are in a place where you would rather see one person saved at your church than two people saved at another church, then you are altogether wrong, and you need to be saved. You are still out of the order of the Spirit of God, and you are a stranger to true, holy life with God.

God wants to show us that we must so live in the Spirit that the ministry is not blamed. If your ministry is not to be blamed, how can you help to prevent it from being blamed? You have to live in love. See to it that you never say or do anything that would interfere with the work of the Lord; rather, live in the place where you are helping everybody, lifting everybody, and causing everybody to come into perfect harmony. Remember, there is always a blessing where there is harmony. "One accord" is the keynote of the victory that is going to come to us all the time.

There are thousands and thousands of different churches, but they are all one in the Spirit to the extent that they receive the life of Christ. If there is any division, it is always outside of the Spirit. The spiritual life in the believer never has known dissension, because where the Spirit has perfect liberty, there is total agreement, and there is no schism in the body.

"The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (2 Cor. 3:6). When there is division, it is only because people choose the letter instead of the Spirit. If we are in the Spirit, we will have life. If we are in the Spirit, we will love everybody. If we are in the Spirit, there will be no division; there will be perfect harmony.

Thought for today: More grace means more death to self; more life means more submission; more revelation means more humility.