March 1

My Own Remarkable Healing

*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*
—Matthew 19:26

Scripture reading: Psalm 77

At one time I was so bound that no human power could help me. My wife thought that I would pass away. At that time I had just a faint glimpse of Jesus as the Healer. For six months I had been suffering from appendicitis, occasionally getting temporary relief. I went to the mission of which I was the pastor, but I fell to the floor in awful agony, and I was brought home to my bed. All night I was praying, pleading for deliverance, but none came. My wife was sure it was my call home to heaven and sent for a physician. He said that there was no possible chance for me—my body was too weak. Having had the appendicitis for six months, my whole system was drained. Because of that, he thought that it was too late for an operation. He left my wife in a state of brokenheartedness.

After he left, a young man and an old lady came to our door. I knew that the old lady was a woman of real prayer. They came upstairs to my room. This young man jumped on the bed and commanded the evil spirit to come out of me. He shouted, “Come out, you devil! I command you to come out in the name of Jesus!” There was no chance for an argument or for me to tell him that I would never believe that there was a devil inside of me. The thing had to go in the name of Jesus, and it went. I was instantly healed.

I arose, dressed, and went downstairs. I was still in the plumbing business, and I asked my wife, “Is there any work in? I’m all right now, and I am going to work.” I found that there was a certain job to be done, and I picked up my tools and went off to do it. Just after I left, the doctor came in, put his hat down in the hall, and walked up to the bedroom. But the invalid was not there. “Where is Mr. Wigglesworth?” he asked. “Oh, doctor, he’s gone out to work,” said my wife. “You’ll never see him alive again,” said the doctor; “they’ll bring him back a corpse.”

Well, God was not ready for me to be a corpse. Since that time the Lord has given me the privilege of praying for people with appendicitis in many parts of the world, and I have seen a great many
people up and dressed within a quarter of an hour from the time I
prayed for them. We have a living Christ who is willing to meet
people in every place.

Our God is real, and He has saving and healing power today.
Our Jesus is just the same “yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb.
13:8). He saves and heals today just as of old, and He wants to be
your Savior and your Healer.

Oh, if you would only believe God! What would happen? The
greatest things. Some have never tasted the grace of God, have
never had the peace of God. Unbelief robs them of these blessings.
It is possible to hear and yet not to perceive the truth. It is possible
to read the Word and not share in the life it brings. It is necessary
for us to have the Holy Spirit to unfold the Word and bring to us
the life that is Christ. We can never fully understand the wonders
of this redemption until we are full of the Holy Spirit.

Thought for today: If Satan were almighty, we would all have to
quake with fear. But when we know that Satan is subject to the
powers of God in everything, we can be conquerors over every
situation.
March 2

Remember God's Goodness

*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*
—Proverbs 3:6

**Scripture reading:** Proverbs 3:1-26

After Jesus had departed from the Pharisees, He said to His disciples, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees” (Matt. 16:6). The disciples began to discuss this warning among themselves, and all they could think of was that they had brought no bread. What were they going to do? Then Jesus uttered these words: “O you of little faith” (v. 8). He had been with them for quite a while, yet they were still a great disappointment to Him because of their lack of comprehension and of faith. They could not grasp the profound spiritual truth He was bringing to them and could only think about having brought no bread. So Jesus said to them,

*O you of little faith...Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?* (Matt. 16:8-10)

Do you keep in mind how God has been gracious in the past? God has done wonderful things for all of us. If we keep these things in mind, we will be “strengthened in [our] faith” (Rom. 4:20). We should be able to defy Satan in everything. Remember that the Lord has led all the way. When Joshua passed over the Jordan on dry land, he told the people to pick up twelve stones and set them up in Gilgal. These were to be a constant reminder to the children of Israel that they came over the Jordan on dry land. (See Joshua 4:20-24.) How many times had Jesus shown His disciples the mightiness of His power? Yet they failed in faith right here.

**Thought for today:** The difference between those who are being led by the Holy Spirit and those who are being deceived by Satan is joy, gladness, and a calm expression instead of sadness, sorrow, and depression.
March 3

Lesson from a Fish

Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.

—Matthew 17:27

Scripture reading: Matthew 17:24–27; Mark 11:22-24

Peter had been in the fishing business all his life, but he had never before caught a fish with silver in its mouth. However, the Master does not want us to reason things out, for carnal reasoning will always land us in a bog of unbelief. He wants us simply to obey. “This is a hard job,” Peter must have said as he put the bait on his hook, “but since You told me to do it, I’ll try.” And he cast his line into the sea. There were millions of fish in the sea, but every fish had to stand aside and leave that bait alone and let the fish with the piece of money in its mouth come up and take the bait.

Do you not see that the words of the Master are the instruction of faith? It is impossible for anything that Jesus says to miss. All His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). If you will only have faith in Him, you will find that every word that God gives is life. You cannot be in close contact with Him and receive His Word in simple faith without feeling the effect of it in your body, as well as in your spirit and soul.

A woman came to me in Cardiff, Wales, who was filled with ulcers. She had fallen in the streets twice because of this trouble. When she came to the meeting, it seemed as if the evil power within her purposed to kill her right there. She fell, and the power of the Devil was attacking her severely. Not only was she helpless, but it seemed as if she had died. I cried, “O God, help this woman.” Then I rebuked the evil power in the name of Jesus, and instantly the Lord healed her. She rose up and made a great to-do. She felt the power of God in her body and wanted to testify continually. After three days she went to another place and began to testify about the Lord’s power to heal. She came to me and said, “I want to tell everyone about the Lord’s healing power. Don’t you have any tracts on this subject?” I handed her my Bible and said, “Matthew,
Mark, Luke, and John—they are the best tracts on healing. They are full of incidents of the healing power of Jesus. They will never fail to accomplish the work of God if people will only read and believe them.”

That is where men are lacking. All lack of faith is due to not feeding on God’s Word. You need it every day. How can you enter into a life of faith? Feed on the living Christ of whom this Word is full. As you are taken up with the glorious fact and the wondrous presence of the living Christ, the faith of God will spring up within you. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

“He who believes in Me” (John 14:12)—the essence of divine life is in us by faith. To the one who believes, it will come to pass. We become supernatural by the power of God. If you believe, the power of the Enemy cannot stand, for God’s Word is against him. Jesus gives us His Word to make faith effective. If you can believe in your heart, you begin to speak whatever you desire, and whatever you dare to say is done. You will have whatever you say after you believe in your heart. (See Mark 11:23–24.)

Thought for today: Dare to believe, and then dare to speak, for you will have whatever you say if you do not doubt.
March 4

Demonstrations of God's Might

On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
—Matthew 16:18

Scripture reading: Matthew 16:5–26

God is pleased when we stand on the Rock and believe that He is unchangeable. If you will dare to believe God, you can defy all the powers of evil. There have been times in my life when I have dared to believe Him and have had the most remarkable experiences.

One day I was traveling in a railway coach, and there were two people in the coach who were very sick, a mother and her daughter. I said to them, “Look, I’ve something in this bag that will cure every case in the world. It has never been known to fail.” They became very much interested, and I went on to tell them more and more about this remedy that had never failed to remove disease and sickness. At last they summoned up the courage to ask for a dose. So I opened my bag, took out my Bible, and read them the verse that says, “I am the LORD who heals you” (Exod. 15:26).

God’s Word never fails. He will always heal you if you dare to believe Him. Men are searching everywhere today for things with which they can heal themselves, and they ignore the fact that the Balm of Gilead is within easy reach. As I talked about this wonderful Physician, the faith of both mother and daughter went out toward Him, and He healed them both right in the train.

God has made His Word so precious that if I could not get another copy of it, I would not part with my Bible for all the world. There is life in the Word. There is power in it. I find Christ in it, and He is the One I need for spirit, soul, and body. It tells me of the power of His name and the power of His blood for cleansing. “The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing” (Ps. 34:10).

A man came to me one time, brought by his wife. I said, “What seems to be the problem?” She said, “He gets employment, but he fails every time. He is a slave to alcohol and nicotine. He is a bright, intelligent man in most areas, but he is in bondage to these two things.” I was reminded of the words of the Master, giving us
power to bind and to loose (Matt. 16:19), and I told him to stick out his tongue. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I cast out the evil powers that gave him the taste for these things. I said to him, “Man, you are free today.” He was unsaved, but when he realized the power of the Lord in delivering him, he came to the services, publicly acknowledged that he was sinner, and was saved and baptized. A few days later I asked, “How are things with you?” He said, “I’m delivered.” God has given us the power to bind and the power to loose.

Another person came and said, “What can you do for me? I have had sixteen operations and have had my eardrums taken out.” I said, “God has not forgotten how to make eardrums.” She was so deaf that I do not think she would have heard a cannon go off. I anointed her and prayed, asking the Lord to replace the eardrums. But afterward she remained as deaf as it was possible to be. However, she saw other people getting healed and rejoicing. Had “God forgotten to be gracious” (Ps. 77:9)? Wasn’t His power just the same? She came the next night and said, “I have come to believe God tonight.” Take care that you do not come any other way. I prayed for her again and commanded her ears to be loosed in the name of Jesus. She believed, and the moment she believed, she heard. She ran and jumped on a chair and began to preach. Later I let a pin drop, and she heard it touch the floor. “With God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26). God can heal the worst case.

Discouraged one, “cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you” (Ps. 55:22). Look to Him and be radiant (Ps. 34:5). Look to Him now.

Thought for today: Faith is an act; faith is a leap; faith jumps in; faith claims. Faith has an author, and faith’s author is Jesus.
March 5

How to Obtain Spiritual Power

*How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?*

John 5:44

Scripture reading: Matthew 16:13–19, 21–23

In Peter's life, we see evidences of the spiritual power that he had attained, but we see also the natural power working. Jesus saw that He must suffer if He would reach the spiritual life that God intended Him to reach. So Jesus said, "I must go forward. Your words, Peter, are an offense to Me" (Matt. 16:23). If you seek to save yourself, it is an offense to God. God has been impressing on me more and more that if at any time I were to seek man's favor or earthly power, I would lose favor with God and could not have faith.

God is speaking to us, every one of us, trying to get us to leave the shoreline. There is only one place where we can have the mind and will of God; it is alone with God. If we look to anybody else, we cannot get it. If we seek to save ourselves, we will never reach the place where we will be able to bind and loose. (See Matthew 16:19.) There is a close companionship between you and Jesus that nobody knows about, where every day you have to choose or refuse.

It is in the narrow way that you get the power to bind and the power to loose. I know that Jesus was separated from His own family and friends. He was deprived of the luxuries of life. It seems to me that God wants to get every one of us separated to Himself in this holy war, and we are not going to have faith if we do not give ourselves wholly to Him. Beloved, it is in these last days that I cannot have the power I want to have unless, as a sheep, I am willing to shear myself. The way is narrow. (See Matthew 7:13-14.)

Beloved, you will not be able to bind and loose if you have sin in you. There is not one person who is able to deal with the sins of others if he is not free himself. "He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:22). Jesus knew the Holy Spirit would give them both a revelation of themselves and a revelation of God. He must reveal to you your depravity.

Do you believe that the Father in heaven would make you a judge over a kingdom if there were anything crooked in you? Do
you believe you will be able to bind unless you are free yourself? But everyone who has this living Christ within him has the power that will put to death all sin.

With Jesus’ last words on earth, He gave the disciples a commission. (See Mark 16:15–18.) The need for discipleship has never ceased. Some churches are weak today because Christ the Rock is not abiding in them in the manifestations of the power of God. This is not because it is a special gift—this power to bind and loose—but it is contingent on whether you have the rock foundation in you. In the name of Jesus, you will loose, and in the name of Jesus, you will bind. If He is in you, you ought to bring forth evidences of that power.

One can see that Peter had great sympathy, and he did not want Jesus to be crucified. It was perfectly natural for Peter to say what he did, but Jesus said, “Get behind Me” (Matt. 16:23). He knew He must not be turned aside by any human sympathy. The only way we can retain our humility is to stay on this narrow line and say, “Get behind me, Satan.”

Beloved, we are now living in the experience of the fact that Jesus is the Rock. I am glad, for we are within reach of wonderful possibilities because of the Rock. Take a stand on the fact that the Rock cannot be overthrown.

_Thought for today:_ If you try to go the easy way, you cannot be Jesus’ disciple.
March 6

Triumphant in Trials

When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.
—Job 23:10

Scripture reading: 1 Peter 1:3–21

Temptations come to all. In every temptation that comes, the Lord allows you to be tempted to the very hilt, but He will never allow you to be defeated if you walk in obedience. Right in the midst of the temptation, He will always “make the way of escape” (1 Cor. 10:13). With His power, God sweeps away the refuge of lies (Isa. 28:17) and all the powers of darkness. He causes you always to triumph in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 2:14). The Lord loves His saints and covers them with His almighty wings.

May God help us to see this truth. We cannot be “to the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:12) until we are ready for trials and are able to triumph in them. We cannot get away from the fact that sin came in by human nature, but God comes into our nature and puts sin into the place of death. Why? So that the Spirit of God may come into the temple in all His power and liberty, and so that right here in this present, evil world Satan may be dethroned by the believer. You must come to see how wonderful you are in God and how helpless you are in yourself.

God declared Himself to be mightier than every opposing power when He cast out the powers of darkness from heaven. I want you to know that the same power that cast Satan out of heaven dwells in every person who is born of God. If you would only realize this, you would “reign in life” (Rom. 5:17). When you see people laid out under an evil power, when you see the powers of evil manifesting themselves, always ask them the question, “Did Jesus come in the flesh?” I have never heard an evil power answer this question in the affirmative. (See 1 John 4:2–3.) When you know you have an evil spirit to deal with, you have power to cast it out. Believe this fact, and act on it, for “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4 KJV). God intends for you to overcome and has put a force within you whereby you may defeat the Devil.

Thought for today: If you are not worth tempting, you are not worth much.
March 7

The New Covenant

This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 3:3-18

The Israelites tried Moses tremendously. They were always in trouble. But as he went up onto the mountain and God unfolded to him the Ten Commandments, the glory fell. He rejoiced to bring those two tablets of stone down from the mountain, and his very face shone with the glory. He was bringing to Israel that which, if obeyed, would bring life.

I think of my Lord coming from heaven. I think all heaven was moved by the sight. The letter of the law was brought by Moses, and it was made glorious, but all its glory was dimmed before the exceeding glory that Jesus brought to us in the Spirit of life. The glory of Sinai paled before the glory of Pentecost. The Lord has brought in a new covenant, putting His law in our minds and writing it in our hearts (Jer. 31:33)—this new law of the Spirit of life. As the Holy Spirit comes in, He fills us with love and liberty, and we shout for joy. Henceforth, there is a new cry in our hearts: "I delight to do Your will, O my God" (Ps. 40:8). "He takes away the first that He may establish the second" (Heb. 10:9). In other words, He takes away "the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones" (2 Cor. 3:7), so that He may establish "the ministry of righteousness" (v. 9), this life in the Spirit.

You ask, "Does a man who is filled with the Spirit cease to keep the commandments?" I simply repeat what the Spirit of God has told us here, that this "ministry of death, written and engraved on stones" (and you know that the Ten Commandments were written on stones) is "passing away" (v. 11). However, the man who becomes a living epistle of Christ (2 Cor. 3:3), written by the Spirit of the living God, has ceased to be an adulterer or a murderer or a covetous man; the will of God is his delight. I love to do the will of God; there is no irksomeness to it. It is no trial to pray, no trouble to read the Word of God; it is not a hard thing to go to the place of worship. With the psalmist I say, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD'" (Ps. 122:1).
How does this new life work out? It works out because God "works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). There is a big difference between a pump and a spring. The law is a pump; the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a spring. The old pump gets out of order; the parts wear out, and the well runs dry. "The letter kills" (2 Cor. 3:6). But the spring is ever bubbling up, and there is a ceaseless flow direct from the throne of God. There is life.

It is written of Christ, "You love righteousness and hate wickedness" (Ps. 45:7). In this new life in the Spirit, in this new covenant life, you love the things that are right and pure and holy, and you shudder at all things that are wrong. Jesus was able to say, "The ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (John 14:30). The moment we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are brought into a wonderful condition like this.

Thought for today: As we continue to be filled with the Spirit, the Enemy cannot have an inch of territory in us.
March 8

How to Bring Conviction of Sin

When He [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
—John 16:8

Scripture reading: Ephesians 5:8–21

Do you believe that you can be so filled with the Spirit that a person who is not living right can be judged and convicted by your presence? As we go on in the life of the Spirit, it will be said of us that a vile person is convicted in our presence. Jesus lived in this realm and moved in it, and His life was a constant reproof to the wickedness around Him. “But He was the Son of God,” you say. God, through Him, has brought us into the place of sonship, and I believe that if the Holy Spirit has a chance at us, He can make something of us and bring us to the same place.

I don’t want to boast. If I glory in anything, it is only in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:31), who has been so gracious to me. But I remember a wonderful time of conviction. I stepped out of a railway coach to wash my hands. I had a season of prayer, and the Lord just filled me to overflowing with His love. I was going to a convention in Ireland, and I could not get there fast enough. As I returned to my seat, I believe that the Spirit of the Lord was so heavy upon me that my face must have shone. (When the Spirit transforms a man’s very countenance, he cannot tell this on his own.) There were two ministers sitting together, and as I got into the coach again, one of them cried out, “You convict me of sin.” Within three minutes everyone in the coach was crying to God for salvation. This has happened many times in my life. It is the ministry of the Spirit that Paul spoke of. This filling of the Spirit will make your life effective, so that even the people in the stores where you shop will want to leave your presence because they are brought under conviction.

We must move away from everything that pertains to the letter. All that we do must be done under the anointing of the Spirit. Our problem has been that we have been living in the letter. Believe what the Holy Spirit said through Paul—that this entire “ministry of condemnation” (2 Cor. 3:9) that has hindered your liberty in Christ is done away with. The law has been done away
March 8

with. As far as you are concerned, that old order of things is forever done away with, and the Spirit of God has brought in a new life of purity and love. In the life in the Spirit, the old allurements have lost their power. The Devil will meet you at every turn, but the Spirit of God will always "lift up a standard against him" (Isa. 59:19).

If God had His way, we would be like torches, purifying the very atmosphere wherever we go, moving back the forces of wickedness.

What do I mean when I say that the law has been done away with? Do I mean that you will be disloyal? No, you will be more than loyal. Will you grumble when you are treated badly? No, you will turn the other cheek (Matt. 5:39). You will always respond this way when God lives in you. Leave yourself in God’s hands. Enter into His rest. "For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His" (Heb. 4:10). Oh, this is a lovely rest! The whole life is a Sabbath. This is the only life that can glorify God. It is a life of joy, and every day is a day of heaven on earth.

Thought for today: The Holy Spirit takes it for granted that you are finished with all the things of the old life when you become a new creation in Christ.
March 9

The Power of the New Creation

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
—2 Corinthians 5:17

Scripture reading: Romans 8:1–39

People have been in meetings where the glory of God has fallen, where the fingerprints of God have touched everything, and where fortifications have been made in the body. The next morning the power of Satan has attacked them. Why does this happen? The spiritual life, the Son manifested, the glory of the new creation, is already in our mortal bodies, but the flesh, being a battleground for the Enemy, is tested. But what God is forming is greater than the mortal body, for the spirit that is awakening to the glorious liberty of a child of God is greater. How can we compare this with what is to come?

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing" (John 6:63). Though "my skin is destroyed" (Job 19:26), I have a life greater than this life that will look upon God, that will see Him in His perfection, that will behold Him in His glory, that will be changed to be like Him. By the presence of God, a new creation will so clothe us that we will be like Him. Knowing this, should I give place to the Devil? Should I let my feelings change the experience of the Word of God? Should I trust in my fears? No! A million times, no! There has never been any good thing in the flesh (Rom. 7:18), but God has given life to the spirit until we live a divine new life and are eternally shaped for God.

“What then shall we say?” (Rom. 8:31). Are you going to let the past, in which God Himself has worked for you, bring you to a place of distress? Or are you standing during your testing, quoting God’s Word—“Now we are children of God” (1 John 3:2)—and remembering how God has answered your prayers, brought light into your home, delivered you from carnality, and touched you when no power in the world could help? “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?” (Rom. 8:33). “I know whom I have believed” (2 Tim. 1:12), and I am persuaded that He who chose us for God will surely bring us to the place where we will receive the crown of life (James 1:12) through the faith that God has given us. God is in you and is
mightily forming a new creation by the Spirit in order to make you ready for the glory that will be revealed in Him.

Someone said to me the other day, “I am in terrible trouble; a man is cursing me all the time.” “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). God has given us Jesus, the heart of His love, “the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3), perfect in brilliance, purity, righteousness, and glory. I have seen Him many times, and seeing Him always changes me. Victory over your struggle is one of the “all things” (Rom. 8:32) that God has promised to give to you. Many needs have broken my heart, but I could say to the troubled one, “God is greater than your heart, greater than your circumstances, greater than the thing that holds you. God will deliver you if you dare to believe Him.” But I have to emphasize it again and again and again before I can get people to believe God.

A dear woman was marvelously delivered and saved, but she said, “I am addicted to smoking. What shall I do?” “Oh,” I said, “smoke night and day.” She said, “Sometimes, I take a glass of wine, and it has a hold on me.” “Oh,” I said, “drink all you can.” It brought some solace to her, but she was still in misery. She said, “We play cards.” I said, “Play on!” But after being saved, she called her maid and said, “Wire to London and stop the shipment of those cigarettes.” The new life does not want these things. It has no desire for them. The old is dethroned.

A clergyman came to me. He said, “I have a terrible craving for tobacco.” I said, “Is it the old man or the new?” He broke down. “I know it’s the old,” he said. “Put off the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3:9).

Someone told me, “I have an unlawful affection for another.” I said, “You need revelation. Since God has given you Jesus, He will give you all things. He will give you power over the thing, and it will be broken.” And God broke it.

Allow God to touch your flesh. He has given life to your spirit. Allow Him to reign, for He will reign until all is subdued. He is King in your life and is preeminent over your affections, your will, your desires, your plans. He rules as Lord of Hosts over you, in you, and through you, to chasten you and bring you to perfection.

Thought for today: God is never tightfisted with any of His blessings.
March 10

The Benefit of the Flaming Sword

So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.
—Genesis 3:24

Scripture reading: Romans 5:1–6:2

When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, God showed me a wonderful truth. After Adam and Eve transgressed and were driven out of the Garden, the Tree of Life was guarded by a flaming sword—a sword of death if they entered the Garden. But the baptism in the Holy Spirit put the Tree of Life right inside of me and a flaming sword right outside of me to keep the Devil from me, so that I can eat the eternal bread all the time. I am eating this wonderful bread of life. Nothing can separate us from this life. It is increasing tremendously, perpetually.

“What shall separate us?” (Rom. 8:35). Tribulations come, but they only press us closer to persecution—the finest thing that can come. All these things work together for our good (v. 28). Nothing comes except what is helpful. Trials lift you. Distresses give you a sigh, but God causes you to triumph. “Greater is he that is in you” (1 John 4:4 KJV) than all the powers of darkness.

Whatever befalls you as you abide in Him is the good hand of God upon you so that you won’t lose your inheritance. Every trial is a boost, every burden a place of exchanging strength. God will work. “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?” (Rom. 8:33). People do it, but it makes no difference; “God is for us” (v. 31). “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit” (1 Cor. 2:9–10). “No weapon formed against you shall prosper” (Isa. 54:17).

Know the wisdom and purpose of God’s great hand upon you. Glorify God in distresses and persecution, for the Spirit of God is made manifest in these situations. Be chastened. Be perfected. Press on to higher heights, deeper depths, broader breadths. Faith is the victory (1 John 5:4). The hope is within you (1 Pet. 3:15). The joy is set before you. (See Hebrews 12:2.) God gives the peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7). We know that the flesh
March 10

has withered in the presence of the purifying of the Word. He who has brought you to this point will take you to the end (Phil. 1:6). I have mourned and wept bitterly when I needed revelation from God, but I did not need to do so.

The Lord lifts up and changes and operates. He remakes body and soul until He can say, "There is no spot in you" (Song 4:7). Yes, it was persecution, tribulation, and distress that drew us near to Him. These places of trial were places of uplifting, places of change, where God operated by the Spirit. Do not bypass this way, but let God have His way.

God stretched out His hand, covered us with the mantle of His love, and brought us nearer and nearer to the channel of His grace. Then our hearts moved and yielded and so turned to the Lord that every moment has seen a divine place where God has met us and stretched out His arms and said, "Seek My face" (Ps. 27:8); "Look to Me" (Isa. 45:22). Behold what great love the Master has for you, to lead you to the fountain of living water. Yield! Be led! Let God be glorified! Amen.

Thought for today: Among the persecuted you find those who are the ripest, the holiest, the purest, the most intent, those who are the most filled with divine order.
March 11

A Remarkable Catch

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.
—Hebrews 12:1-2


People crowded around Jesus, so He sat in a boat and taught them in order that all might hear His words. Then Jesus said to Peter, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch” (Luke 5:4). Peter answered, “We have toiled all night and caught nothing” (v. 5). Perhaps he was thinking, “Lord, You know nothing about fishing. Daytime is the wrong time to fish.” But he said, “Nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net” (v. 5). I believe every fish in the lake tried to get into that net. They wanted to see Jesus. I must see Jesus.

Peter filled one ship, then another. Oh, what would happen if you lowered all the nets? Believe God! He says, “Look to Me, and be saved” (Isa. 45:22). He says, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). He says, “He who believes in Me has everlasting life” (John 6:47). Believe! Oh, believe! It is the Word of God.

Peter saw the ship sinking. He looked around and saw Jesus. He fell down at Jesus’ feet, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Luke 5:8). He and all who were with him were astonished at the number of fish that they had caught. That spotless Lamb stood there, and Jesus said to Peter, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men” (v. 10).

To see Jesus is to see a new way, to see all things differently. It means a new life and new plans. As we gaze at Him, we are satisfied; there is none like Him. Sin moves away.

Jesus was the express image of the Father (Heb. 1:3). The Father could not be in the midst, so He clothed Jesus with a body—as well as with eternal resources. Let us gather together unto Him. Let us move toward Him. He has all we need. He will fulfill the desires of our hearts, granting all our petitions.

Thought for today: God has no use for anyone who is not hungering and thirsting for even more of Himself and His righteousness.
March 12

Energized by the Spirit

When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.
—Acts 4:31

Scripture reading: Ephesians 3:14–21

It is a necessity for every one of us to be filled with God. It is not sufficient to have just a touch or to be filled with just a desire. Only one thing will meet the needs of the people, and that is for you to be immersed in the life of God. This means that God takes you and fills you with His Spirit until you live right in God. He does this so that “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, [it may be] all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). In that place you will find that all your strength and all your mind and all your soul are filled with a zeal, not only for worship, but also for proclamation. This proclamation is accompanied by all the power of God, which must move satanic power and disturb the world.

The reason the world is not seeing Jesus is that Christian people are not filled with Jesus. They are satisfied with attending meetings weekly, reading the Bible occasionally, and praying sometimes. Beloved, if God lays hold of you by the Spirit, you will find that there is an end of everything and a beginning in God. Your whole body will become seasoned with a divine likeness of God. He will not only begin to use you, but also take you in hand, so that you might be “a vessel for honor” (2 Tim. 2:21). Our lives are not to be lived for ourselves, for if we live for ourselves we will die (Rom. 8:13); but if “by the Spirit [we] put to death the deeds of the body, [we] will live” (v. 13). He who lives in the Spirit is subject to the powers of God, but he who lives for himself will die. The man who lives in the Spirit lives a life of freedom, joy, blessing, and service—a life that brings blessing to others. God wants us see that we must live in the Spirit.

Thought for today: Jesus came to bring back to us what was forfeited in the Garden.
Ministering the Gifts of Healings

For to one is given...gifts of healings.
—1 Corinthians 12:8-9

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The gifts of healings are wonderful gifts. There is a difference between having a gift of healing and “gifts of healings.” God wants us not to come short in anything (1 Cor. 1:7).

I like this term “gifts of healings.” To have these gifts, I must bring myself into conformity with the mind and will of God. It would be impossible for you to have gifts of healings unless you possessed that blessed fruit of longsuffering. You will find that these gifts run parallel to that which will bring them into operation.

How is it possible to minister the gifts of healings considering the peculiarities there are in the churches and the many evil powers of Satan that confront us and possess bodies? The person who wants to go through with God and exercise the gifts of healings has to be a person of longsuffering, always having a word of comfort. If the one who is in distress and helpless doesn’t see eye to eye with us about every matter and doesn’t get all he wants, longsuffering Christians will bear and forbear. Longsuffering is a grace Jesus lived in and moved in. He was filled with compassion, and God will never be able to move us to help the needy until we reach that place.

You might think by the way I went about praying for the sick that I was sometimes unloving and rough, but oh, friends, you have no idea what I see behind the sickness and the one who is afflicted. I am not dealing with the person; I am dealing with the satanic forces that are binding the afflicted. As far as people go, my heart is full of love and compassion for all, but I fail to see how you will ever reach a place where God will be able to use you until you get angry at the Devil.

One day a pet dog followed a lady out of her house and ran all around her feet. She said to the dog, “I cannot have you with me today.” The dog wagged its tail and made a great fuss. “Go home, pet,” she said, but it didn’t go. At last she shouted roughly, “Go home!” and off it went.
March 13

Some people play with the Devil like that. “Poor thing,” they say. The Devil can stand all the comfort anybody in the world could give him. Cast him out! You are not dealing with the person; you are dealing with the Devil. If you say with authority, “Come out, you demons, in the name of the Lord!” they must come out. You will always be right when you dare to treat sickness as the Devil’s work.

Gifts of healings are so varied that you will often find the gift of discernment operating in connection with them. Moreover, the manifestations of the Spirit are given to us “for the profit of all” (1 Cor. 12:7).

You must never treat a cancer case as anything else but a living, evil spirit that is destroying the body. It is one of the worst kind of evil spirits I know. Not that the Devil has anything good—every disease of the Devil is bad, either to a greater or lesser degree—but this form of disease is one that you must cast out. In casting out demons, we have to be careful about who gives the command. Man may say, “Come out,” but unless his command is by the Spirit of God, man’s words are useless.

You must be sure of your ground; you must be sure that there is a power mightier than you that is destroying the Devil. Take your position from the first epistle of John and say, “Greater is he that is in [me], than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4 KJV). If you think the power comes from you, you make a great mistake. It comes from your being filled with Him, from His acting in the place of you—your thoughts, your words, your all being used by the Spirit of God.

Thought for today: It is no mistake to declare yourself against the Devil.
Ministering to a Lame Man

_I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting._
—1 Timothy 2:8

Scripture reading: 1 Timothy 3

I remember when I was at Antwerp and Brussels. The power of God was very mighty upon me there. Going on to London, I called on some friends. To show you the leading of the Lord, these friends said, “Oh, God sent you here. How much we need you!” There was a young man twenty-six years old who had been in bed eighteen years. His body was much bigger than an ordinary body because of inactivity, but his legs were like a child’s. He had never been able to dress himself.

When his family received the wire saying we were coming, the father dressed the young man. He was sitting in a chair when we arrived. I felt it was one of the opportunities of my life. I said to this young man, “What is the greatest desire of your heart?” “Oh,” he said, “to be filled with the Holy Spirit!” I put my hands on him and said, “Receive; receive the Holy Spirit.” Instantly he became drunk with the Spirit and fell off the chair like a big bag of potatoes. I saw what God could do with a helpless cripple. First, his head began shaking terrifically; then his back began moving very fast, and then his legs. Then he spoke clearly in tongues, and we wept and praised the Lord. Looking at his legs, I saw that they were still as they had been, by all appearances, and this is where I missed it.

These “missings” are sometimes God’s opportunities of teaching us important lessons. He will teach us through our weaknesses what is not faith. It was not faith for me to look at that body, but human nature. The man who wants to work the works of God must never look at conditions but at Jesus, in whom everything is complete.

I looked at the boy, and there was absolutely no help. I turned to the Lord and said, “Lord, tell me what to do,” and He did. He said, “Command him to walk in My name.” This is where I missed it. I looked at his condition. I got the father to help lift him up to see if his legs had strength. We did our best, but he and I together
could not move him. Then the Lord showed me my mistake, and I said, “God, forgive me.” I got right down and repented and said to the Lord, “Please tell me again.” God is so good. He never leaves us to ourselves. Again He said to me, “Command him in My name to walk.” So I shouted, “Arise and walk in the name of Jesus.” Did he do it? No, I declare he never walked. He was lifted up by the power of God in a moment, and he ran. The door was wide open; he ran out across the road into a field where he ran up and down and came back. Oh, it was a miracle!

**Thought for today:** Faith is actively refusing the power of the Devil.
March 15

I Am the Lord Who Heals You

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
—James 5:14-15

Scripture reading: James 5:7-20

We have in this precious Word a real basis for the truth of healing. In these verses God gives very definite instructions to the sick. If you are sick, your part is to call for the elders of the church; it is their part to anoint and pray for you in faith. Then the whole situation rests with the Lord. When you have been anointed and prayed for, you can rest assured that the Lord will raise you up. It is the Word of God.

I believe that we all can see that the church cannot play with this business. If believers turn away from these clear instructions, they are in a place of tremendous danger. Those who refuse to obey do so to their unspeakable loss. Many turn away from the Lord like King Asa, who “in his disease...did not seek the LORD” (2 Chron. 16:12). Consequently, “he died” (v. 13).

Does the Lord meet those who look to Him for healing and who obey the instructions set forth in the book of James? Most assuredly. He will undertake for the most extreme case.

A woman came into one of my meetings suffering terribly. Her whole arm was filled with poison, and her blood was so diseased that it was certain to bring her to her death. We rebuked the thing, and the next day she testified that she was without pain and had slept all night, a thing she had not done for two months. To God be all the praise! You will find that He will do this kind of thing all along.

God provides the double cure, for even if sin has been the cause of the sickness, His Word declares in James 5:15, “If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Thought for today: If you turn away from any part of God’s truth, the Enemy will certainly get an advantage over you.
March 16

Kept by God’s Power

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept.
—John 17:12

Scripture reading: John 17

There are evil powers, but Jesus is greater than all evil powers. There are tremendous diseases, but Jesus is the Healer. No case is too hard for Him. The Lion of Judah will break every chain. He came to relieve the oppressed and to set the captive free (Luke 4:18). He came to bring redemption, to make us as perfect as man was before the Fall.

People want to know how to be kept by the power of God. He will contend for your body. When you are saved, Satan will come around and say, “See, you are not saved.” The Devil is a liar.

I remember the story of the man whose life was swept and put in order. The evil power had been swept out of him. But the man was not filled with the Holy Spirit. If the Lord heals you, you dare not remain unresponsive to His Spirit. The evil spirit came back to that man, found his house swept, and took seven others worse than himself and dwelt there. The last stage of that man was worse than the first. (See Matthew 12:43–45.) Be sure to get filled with God. Get an Occupier. Be filled with the Spirit.

God’s power cannot come out of you unless it is within you. We must have all inward confidence and knowledge that we are God’s property, bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus. God wants you to know how to claim the victory and shout in the face of the Devil and say, “Lord, it is done.” (See Revelation 21:6.)

God has a million ways of undertaking for those who go to Him for help. He has deliverance for every captive. He loves you so much that He even says, “Before they call, I will answer” (Isa. 65:24). Don’t turn Him away.

Thought for today: Every position of grace into which you are led—forgiveness, healing, any kind of deliverance—will be contested by Satan.
March 17

Life in the Word

As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
—Psalm 18:30

Scripture reading: Psalm 119:9–28

In the days when the number of disciples began to multiply, there arose a situation in which the Twelve had to make a definite decision not to occupy themselves with serving tables, but to give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. How important it is for all God’s ministers to be continually in prayer and constantly feeding on the Scriptures of Truth. I often offer a reward to anyone who can catch me anywhere without my Bible or my New Testament.

None of you can be strong in God unless you are diligently and constantly listening to what God has to say to you through His Word. You cannot know the power and the nature of God unless you partake of His inbreathed Word. Read it in the morning, in the evening, and at every opportunity you get. After every meal, instead of indulging in unprofitable conversation around the table, read a chapter from the Word, and then have a season of prayer. I endeavor to make a point of doing this no matter where or with whom I am staying.

The psalmist said that he had hidden God’s Word in his heart so that he might not sin against Him (Ps. 119:11). You will find that the more of God’s Word you hide in your heart, the easier it is to live a holy life. He also testified that God’s Word had given him life (v. 50). As you receive God’s Word, your whole physical being will be given life, and you will be made strong. As you receive with meekness the Word (James 1:21), you will find faith springing up within. You will have life through the Word.

Thought for today: I find nothing in the Bible but holiness, and nothing in the world but worldliness. Therefore, if I live in the world, I will become worldly; on the other hand, if I live in the Bible, I will become holy.
March 18

A Better Plan for You

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
—Revelation 2:10

Scripture reading: Acts 6:1–7; Revelation 2:9–11

The Twelve told the rest of the disciples to find seven men to look after the business side of things. They were to be men with a good reputation and filled with the Holy Spirit. Those who were chosen were just ordinary men, but they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and this infilling always lifts a man to a plane above the ordinary. He can baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matt. 3:11).

The multitude chose seven men to serve tables. Undoubtedly, they were faithful in their appointed tasks, but we see that God soon had a better plan for two of them—Philip and Stephen. Philip was so full of the Holy Spirit that he could have a revival wherever God put him down. (See Acts 8:5–8, 26–40.) Man chose him to serve tables, but God chose him to win souls.

Oh, if I could only stir you up to see that, as you are faithful in the humblest role, God can fill you with His Spirit, make you a chosen vessel for Himself, and promote you to a place of mighty minis­try in the salvation of souls and in the healing of the sick. Nothing is impossible to a man filled with the Holy Spirit. The possibilities are beyond all human comprehension. When you are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, God will wonderfully work wherever you go.

When you are filled with the Spirit, you will know the voice of God. I want to give you one illustration of this. When I was going to Australia recently, our boat stopped at Aden and Bombay. In Aden the people came around the ship selling their wares—beautiful carpets and all sorts of Oriental things. One man was selling some ostrich feathers. As I was looking over the side of the ship watching the trading, a gentleman said to me, “Would you join me in buying that bunch of feathers?” What did I want with feathers? I had no use for such things and no room for them either. But the gentleman asked me again, “Will you join me in buying that bunch?” The Spirit of God said to me, “Do it.”
March 18

The feathers were sold to us for three pounds, and the gentleman said, “I have no money on me, but if you will pay the man for them, I will send the cash down to you by the steward.” I paid for the feathers and gave the gentleman his share. He was traveling first class, and I was traveling second class. I said to him, “No, please don’t give that money to the steward. I want you to bring it to me personally in my cabin.” I asked the Lord, “What about these feathers?” He showed me that He had a purpose in my purchasing them.

A little while later, the gentleman came to my cabin and said, “I’ve brought the money.” I said to him, “It is not your money that I want; it is your soul that I am seeking for God.” Right there he opened up the whole story of his life and began to seek God, and that morning he wept his way through to God’s salvation.

You have no idea what God can do through you when you are filled with His Spirit. Every day and every hour you can have the divine leading of God. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is great in every respect.

*Thought for today:* It does not take a cultured or an educated man to fill a position in God’s church. What God requires is a yielded, consecrated, holy life, and He can make it a flame of fire.
The Blessing of Persecution

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
—Matthew 5:11

Scripture reading: Psalm 119:77-93

How is it that the moment you are filled with the Holy Spirit persecution starts? It was so with the Lord Jesus Himself. We do not read of any persecution before the Holy Spirit came down upon Him like a dove. Shortly after this, we find that after He preached in His hometown, the people wanted to throw Him over the brow of a hill. (See Luke 4:16-30.) It was the same way with the twelve disciples. They had no persecution before the Day of Pentecost, but after they were filled with the Spirit, they were soon in prison. The Devil and the priests of religion will always get disturbed when a man is filled with the Spirit and does things in the power of the Spirit. Nevertheless, persecution is the greatest blessing to a church. When we have persecution, we have purity. If you desire to be filled with the Spirit, you can count on one thing, and that is persecution. The Lord came to bring division (Luke 12:51), and even in your own household you may find “three against two” (v. 52).

At a meeting I was holding, the Lord was working, and many were being healed. A man saw what was taking place and remarked, “I’d like to try this thing.” He came up for prayer and told me that his body was broken in two places. I laid my hands on him in the name of the Lord and said to him, “Now believe God.” The next night he was at the meeting, and he got up like a lion. He said, “I want to tell you people that this man here is deceiving you. He laid his hands on me last night for a rupture in two places, but I’m not a bit better.” I stopped him and said, “You are healed; your trouble is that you won’t believe it.”

He was at the meeting the next night, and when there was opportunity for testimonies, this man arose. He said, “I’m a stonemason by trade. Today I was working with a laborer, and he had to put a big stone in place. I helped him and did not feel any pain. I said to myself, ‘How did I do that?’ I went to a private place where I could take off my clothes, and I found that I was healed.” I told
the people, "Last night this man was against the Word of God, but now he believes it. It is true that 'these signs will follow those who believe...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover' (Mark 16:17-18). Healing is through the power that is in the name of Christ." It is the Spirit who has come to reveal the Word of God and to make it spirit and life to us (John 6:63).

Those of you who are seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit are entering a place where you will have persecution. Your best friends will leave you—or those you may think are your best friends. No good friend will ever leave you. But be assured that your seeking is worthwhile. You will enter into a realm of illumination, a realm of revelation by the power of the Holy Spirit. He reveals the preciousness and the power of the blood of Christ. I find by the revelation of the Spirit that there is not one thing in me that the blood does not cleanse (1 John 1:9). I find that God sanctifies me by the blood and reveals the effectiveness of His work by the Spirit.

**Thought for today:** The Lord Jesus gives you peace, but soon after you get peace within, you get persecution without. If you remain stationary, the Devil and his agents will not disturb you much. But when you press on and go the whole length with God, the Enemy has you as a target. But God will vindicate you in the midst of the whole thing.
March 20

Delivered from Alcohol

As many as touched [His garment] were made perfectly well.
—Matthew 14:36

Scripture reading: Matthew 14:23–36

Stephen was just an ordinary man, but he was clothed with the divine. He was “full of faith and power” (Acts 6:8), and great wonders and miracles were done by him. Oh, this life in the Holy Spirit! Oh, this life of deep inward revelation, of transformation from one state to another, of growing in grace, in all knowledge, and in the power of the Spirit! In this state, the life and the mind of Christ are renewed in you, and He gives constant revelations of the might of His power. It is only this kind of thing that will enable us to stand.

In this life, the Lord puts you in all sorts of places and then reveals His power. I had been preaching in New York, and one day I sailed for England on the Lusitania. As soon as I got on board, I went down to my cabin. Two men were there, and one of them said, “Well, will I do for company?” He took out a bottle and poured a glass of whiskey and drank it, and then he filled it up for me. “I never touch that stuff,” I said. “How can you live without it?” he asked. “How could I live with it?” I asked. He admitted, “I have been under the influence of this stuff for months, and they say my insides are all shriveled up. I know that I am dying. I wish I could be delivered, but I just have to keep on drinking. Oh, if I could only be delivered! My father died in England and has given me his fortune, but what good will it be to me except to hasten me to my grave?”

I said to this man, “Say the word, and you will be delivered.” He asked, “What do you mean?” I said, “Say the word—show that you are willing to be delivered—and God will deliver you.” But it was just as if I were talking to a board for all the understanding he showed. I said to him, “Stand still,” and I laid my hands on his head in the name of Jesus and cursed that alcohol demon that was taking his life. He cried out, “I’m free! I’m free! I know I’m free!” He took two bottles of whiskey and threw them overboard, and God saved, sobered, and healed him.

I continued to preach all the way across the ocean. He sat beside me at the table. Prior to this, he had not been able to eat, but now at every meal he went right through the menu.
March 20

Oh, the name of Jesus! We make too little use of that name. Even the children cried, “Hosanna” (Matt. 21:15). If we would let ourselves go and praise Him more and more, God would give us the shout of victory.

You need only a touch from Jesus to have a good time. The power of God is just the same today. To me, He’s lovely. To me, He’s saving health. To me, He’s the Lily of the Valley. Oh, this blessed Nazarene, this King of Kings! Hallelujah! Will you let Him have your will? Will you let Him have you? If so, all His power is at your disposal.

Thought for today: There is always a place of deliverance when you let God search out what is spoiling and marring your life.
March 21

A Vision Becomes Reality

He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.
—Matthew 8:17

Scripture reading: Isaiah 53:1–12

I want to tell you a remarkable story. One day I was standing at the bottom of Shanklin Road, Belfast, Ireland, with a piece of paper in my hand, looking at the addresses of where I had to go, when a man came over and said to me, “Are you visiting the sick?” “Yes,” I said. “Go there,” he said, and pointed to a house nearby.

I knocked at the door. No reply. I knocked again, and then a voice inside said, “Come in!” So I opened the door and walked in. Then a young man pointed for me to go up the stairway.

When I got up onto the landing, there was a door wide open. So I walked right through the doorway and found a woman sitting up on the bed. As soon as I looked at her, I knew she couldn’t speak to me, so I began to pray. She was rocking back and forth, gasping for breath. I knew she was beyond answering me.

When I prayed, the Lord said to me—the Holy Spirit said distinctly—“Read Isaiah 53.” So I opened the Book and began to read aloud,

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. (Isa. 53:1–2)

When I got to the fifth verse, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed,” the woman shouted, “I am healed!”

“Oh!” I said. “Tell me what happened.”

“Two weeks ago I was cleaning the house,” she said. “In moving some furniture, I strained my heart. The doctors examined me and said that I would die of suffocation. But last night, in the middle of the night, I saw you come into the room. When you saw me, you knew I could not speak, so you began to pray. Then you opened to Isaiah 53 and read until you came to the fifth verse, and when
March 21

you read the fifth verse, I was completely healed. That was a vision; now it is a fact.”

So I know the Word of God is still true. Now that is a word from the Lord. You will never get anything more distinct than that from the Lord. People miss the greatest plan of healing because of moving from one thing to another. Become grounded. God wants you to take the Word, claim the Word, and believe the Word. That is the perfect way of healing. Do not turn to the right hand or to the left (Deut. 5:32), but believe God.

God wants to sweep away all unbelief from your heart. He wants you to dare to believe His Word. It is the Word of the Spirit. If you allow anything to come between you and the Word, it will poison your whole system, and you will have no hope. It is like the Devil putting a spear into you. The Word of Life is the breath of heaven, the life-giving power by which your very self is changed. By it, you begin to bear the image of the heavenly One.

Thought for today: One bit of unbelief against the Word is poison.
March 22

The Bread of Healing

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone?
—Luke 11:11


The following question arises: Are salvation and healing for all? They are for all who will press right in and claim their portion. Do you remember the case of that Syro-Phoenician woman who wanted the demon cast out of her daughter? Jesus said to her, “Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs” (Mark 7:27). Note that healing and deliverance are here spoken of by the Master as “the children’s bread”; therefore, if you are a child of God, you can surely press in for your portion.

The Syro-Phoenician woman purposed to get from the Lord what she was after, and she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs” (v. 28). Jesus was stirred as He saw the faith of this woman, and He told her, “For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter” (v. 29).

Today many children of God are refusing their blood-purchased portion of health in Christ and throwing it away. Meanwhile, sinners are pressing through and picking it up from under the table and are finding the cure, not only for their bodies, but also for their spirits and souls. The Syro-Phoenician woman went home and found that the demon had indeed gone out of her daughter. Today there is bread—there is life and health—for every child of God through His powerful Word.

The Word can drive every disease away from your body. Healing is your portion in Christ, who Himself is our bread, our life, our health, our all in all. Though you may be deep in sin, you can come to Him in repentance, and He will forgive and cleanse and heal you. His words are spirit and life to those who will receive them (John 6:63). There is a promise in the last verse of Joel that says, “I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed” (Joel 3:21 KJV). This essentially says that He will provide new life within. The life of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, can so purify people’s
hearts and minds that they become entirely transformed—spirit, soul, and body.

The sick people were around the pool of Bethesda, and one particular man had been there a long time. His infirmity was of thirty-eight years’ standing. Now and again an opportunity to be healed would come as the angel stirred the waters, but he would be sick at heart as he saw another step in and be healed before him. Then one day Jesus was passing that way, and seeing him lying there in that sad condition, He asked, “Do you want to be made well?” (John 5:6). Jesus said it, and His words are “from everlasting to everlasting” (Ps. 90:2). These are His words today to you, tried and tested one. You may say, like this poor sick man, “I have missed every opportunity until now.” Never mind that. “Do you want to be made well?”

Thought for today: One touch of living faith in Him is all that is required for wholeness to be your portion.
March 23

Why Did Ananias and Sapphira Die?

You have not lied to men but to God.
—Acts 5:4

Scripture reading: Acts 5:1–16

Ananias and Sapphira were in the wonderful revival that God gave to the early church, yet they missed it. They thought that possibly the thing might fail. They wanted to have a reserve for themselves in case it turned out to be a failure.

Many people are like them today. Many make vows to God in times of great crisis in their lives but fail to keep their vows, and in the end they become spiritually bankrupt. Blessed is the man “who swears to his own hurt and does not change” (Ps. 15:4), who keeps the vow he has made to God, who is willing to lay his all at God’s feet. The man who does this never becomes a lean soul. God has promised to “strengthen [his] bones” (Isa. 58:11). There is no dry place for such a man. He is always “fresh and flourishing” (Ps. 92:14), and he becomes stronger and stronger. It pays to trust God with all and to hold back nothing.

I wish I could make you see how great a God we have. Ananias and Sapphira were really doubting God and were questioning whether this work that He had begun would go on. They wanted to receive some glory for selling their property, but because of their lack of faith, they kept part of the proceeds in reserve in case the work of God were to fail.

Many are doubting whether this Pentecostal revival will go on. Do you think this Pentecostal work will stop? Never. For fifteen years I have been in constant revival, and I am sure that it will never stop. When George Stephenson built his first locomotive engine, he took his sister Mary to see it. She looked at it and said to her brother, “George, it’ll never go.” He said to her, “Get in, Mary.” She said again, “It’ll never go.” He said to her, “We’ll see; you get in.” Mary at last got in. The whistle blew, there was a puff and a rattle, and the engine started off. Then Mary cried out, “George, it’ll never stop! It’ll never stop!”

People are looking at this Pentecostal revival, and they are very critical. They are saying, “It’ll never go.” However, when they are induced to come into the work, they one and all say, “It’ll never
stop.” This revival of God is sweeping on and on, and there is no stopping the current of life, of love, of inspiration, and of power.

God has brought unlimited resources for everyone. Do not doubt. Hear with the ear of faith. God is in the midst. See that it is God who has set forth what you see and hear today (Acts 2:33).

I want you to see that in the early church, controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit, it was not possible for a lie to exist. The moment it came into the church, there was instant death. And as the power of the Holy Spirit increases in these days of the latter rain (see James 5:7), it will be impossible for any man to remain in our midst with a lying spirit. God will purify the church. The Word of God will be in such power in healing and other spiritual manifestations, that great fear will be upon all those who see these things.

To the natural mind, it seems a small thing for Ananias and Sapphira to have wanted to have a little to fall back on, but I want to tell you that you can please God and get things from God only through a living faith that gives Him all. God never fails. God never can fail.

Thought for today: The power of God is just the same today as it was in the past. People need to be taken back to the old paths, to the old-time faith, to believing God’s Word and every “Thus says the Lord” in it.
March 24

Be on Guard

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.
—2 Thessalonians 3:3

Scripture reading: 2 Thessalonians 2

These are the last days, the days of “the falling away” (2 Thess. 2:3). These are days when Satan is having a great deal of power. But we must keep in mind that Satan has no power except as he is allowed.

It is a great thing to know that God is loosing you from the world, loosing you from a thousand things. You must seek to have the mind of God in all things. If you don’t, you will stop His working.

The striking thing about Moses is that it took him forty years to learn human wisdom, forty years to know his helplessness, and forty years to live in the power of God. It took one hundred and twenty years to teach that man, and sometimes it seems to me that it will take that many years to bring us to the place where we can discern the voice of God, the leadings of God, and all His will concerning us.

I see that all revelation, all illumination, everything that God had in Christ was to be brought forth into perfect light so that we might be able to live the same way, produce the same things, and in every activity be children of God with power. It must be so. We must not limit the Holy One. We must clearly see that God brought us forth to make us supernatural, so that we might be changed all the time along the lines of the supernatural. He wants us every day to live in the Spirit so that all of the revelations of God are just like a canvas thrown before our eyes, on which we see clearly step by step all the divine will of God.

Thought for today: We will never know the mind of God until we learn to know the voice of God.
March 25

The Sweet Touch of Heaven

[Come] to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious.
—1 Peter 2:4

Scripture reading: 1 Peter 2:1-16

I know many of you think before you speak. Here is a great word: “For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil” (Rom. 16:19). Innocent. No inward corruption or defilement, that is, not full of distrust, but a holy, divine likeness of Jesus that dares believe that the almighty God will surely watch over all. Hallelujah! “No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (Ps. 91:10-11). The child of God who is rocked in the bosom of the Father has the sweetest touch of heaven, and the honey of the Word is always in his life.

If the saints only knew how precious they are in the sight of God (Isa. 43:4), they would scarcely be able to sleep for thinking of His watchful, loving care. Oh, He is a precious Jesus! He is a lovely Savior! He is divine in all His attitudes toward us, and He makes our hearts burn. There is nothing like it. “Oh,” said the two men who had traveled to Emmaus with Jesus, “didn’t our hearts burn within us as He walked with us and talked with us?” (See Luke 24:32.) Oh, beloved, it must be so today.

Always keep in mind that the Holy Spirit must bring manifestation. We must understand that the Holy Spirit is breath, the Holy Spirit is a person, and it is the most marvelous thing to know that this Holy Spirit power can be in every part of our bodies. You can feel it from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet. Oh, it is lovely to be burning all over with the Holy Spirit! And when that takes place, the tongue must give forth the glory and the praise.

You must be in the place of magnifying the Lord. The Holy Spirit is the great Magnifier of Jesus, the great Illuminator of Jesus. After the Holy Spirit comes in, it is impossible to keep your
March 25

tongue still. Why, you would burst if you didn’t give Him utter-
ance! What about a silent baptized soul? Such a person is not to be
found in the Scriptures. You will find that when you speak to God
in the new tongue He gives you, you enter into a close communion
with Him never experienced before. Talk about preaching! I would
like to know how it will be possible for all the people filled with the
Holy Spirit to stop preaching. Even the sons and daughters must
prophesy (Joel 2:28). After the Holy Spirit comes in, a man is in a
new order in God. You will find it so real that you will want to sing,
talk, laugh, and shout. We are in a strange place when the Holy
Spirit comes in. If the incoming of the Spirit is lovely, what must be
the outflow? The incoming is only to be an outflow.

I am very interested in scenery. When I was in Switzerland, I
wasn’t satisfied until I went to the top of the mountain, though I
like the valleys also. On the summit of the mountain, the sun beats
on the snow and sends the water trickling down the mountain
right through to the meadows. Go there and see if you can stop the
water. It is the same way in the spiritual realm. God begins with
the divine flow of His eternal power, which is the Holy Spirit, and
you cannot stop it.

Thought for today: Faith is the open door through which the Lord
comes in.
March 26

Spiritual Giants

Why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?
—Acts 3:12

Scripture reading: Acts 3:2–26

We must always clearly see that the baptism in the Spirit must make us ministering spirits. Peter and John had been baptized only a short time when they met the lame man at the temple. Did they know what they had? No. I challenge you to try to know what you have. No one knows what he has in the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You have no conception of it. You cannot measure it by any human standards. It is greater than any man can imagine; consequently, those two disciples had no idea what they had.

For the first time after they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, they came down to the Gate Beautiful. There they saw the man sitting who had been lame for over forty years. What was the first thing that happened after they saw him? Ministry. What was the second? Operation. What was the third? Manifestation, of course. It could not be otherwise. You will always find that this order in the Scriptures will be carried out in everybody.

I clearly see that we ought to have spiritual giants in the earth, mighty in understanding, amazing in activity, always having a wonderful testimony because of their faith-filled works. I find instead that there are many people who perhaps have better discernment than the average believer, better knowledge of the Word than the average believer, but they have failed to put their discernment and knowledge into practice, so the gifts lie dormant. I am here to help you to begin doing mighty acts in the power of God through the gifts of the Spirit. You will find that what I am speaking about is from personal knowledge derived from wonderful experiences in many lands. The man who is filled with the Holy Spirit is always acting. The first verse of the Acts of the Apostles says, “Jesus began both to do and teach.” Jesus had to begin to do, and so must we.

Thought for today: I would rather have the Spirit of God on me for five minutes than receive a million dollars.
March 27

Help for the Hurting

You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.
—Psalm 86:15

Scripture reading: Lamentations 3:21–41

In Sydney, Australia, a man with a cane passed by a friend and me. He had to get down and then twist over, and the torture on his face made a deep impression on my soul. I asked myself, “Is it right to pass by this man?” So I said to my friend, “There is a man in awful distress, and I cannot go farther. I must speak to him.” I went over to this man and said to him, “You seem to be in great trouble.” “Yes,” he said, “I am no good and never will be.” I said, “You see that hotel? Be in front of that door in five minutes, and I will pray for you, and you will be able to stand as straight as any man here.” This statement exercised my faith in Jesus.

I came back after paying a bill, and he was there. I will never forget him wondering if he was going to be trapped, or why a man would stop him on the street and tell him he would be made to stand straight. However, I had said it, so it had to be. If you say anything, you must stand with God to make it so. Never say anything for bravado, unless you have the right to say it. Always be sure of your ground, and be sure that you are honoring God. If there is anything about the situation that will make you anything, it will bring you sorrow. Your whole ministry has to be along the lines of grace and blessing.

We helped him up the two steps, took him to the elevator, and got him upstairs. It was difficult to get him from the elevator to my room, as though Satan was making the last attempt for his life, but we got him there. In five minutes’ time this man walked out of that room with his body as straight as any man’s. He walked perfectly and declared he hadn’t a pain in his body.

If God will stretch out His mighty power to loose afflicted legs, what mercy will He extend to that soul of yours that must exist forever? He invites you: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). God is willing in His great mercy to touch limbs with His mighty power, and if He
is willing to do this, how much more eager He is to deliver from the power of Satan. How much more necessary it is for us to be healed of our soul sicknesses than of our bodily ailments! God is willing to give the double cure.

Beloved, it is ministry; it is operation; it is manifestation! Those are three of the leading principles of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We must see to it that God is producing these three through us.

The Bible is the Word of God. It has the truths, and whatever people may say of them, they stand stationary, unmovable. Not one word of all His good promises will fail (1 Kings 8:56). His Word will come forth. In heaven it is settled (Ps. 119:89). On earth the fact must be made manifest that He is the God of everlasting power.

Thought for today: Grace is God’s blessing coming down to you. You open the door to God as an act of faith, and God does all you want.
March 28

Begin to Act

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
—2 Timothy 2:15

Scripture reading: 2 Timothy 2:1–15; 20–21

God wants His glory to be seen. We are going to miss a great deal if we don't begin to act. But once we begin to act according to the will of God, we will find that God establishes our faith and from that day makes His promises real to us.

I was speaking about faith and what would take place if we believed God. When I left that place, it appeared that one man who worked in the coal mine had heard me. He had trouble with a stiff knee. He said to his wife, “I cannot help but think every day that Wigglesworth’s message was to stir us to do something. I cannot get away from it. All the men in the pit know how I walk with a stiff knee, and you know how you have wrapped it with yards of flannel. Well, I am going to act. You have to be the congregation.” He got his wife in front of him. “I am going to act and do just as Wigglesworth did.” He got hold of his leg unmercifully, saying, “Come out, you devils; come out in the name of Jesus! Now, Jesus, help me. Come out, you devils; come out.” Then he said, “Wife, they are gone! They are gone!” So he went to his place of worship, and all the coal miners were there. As he told them this story, they became delighted. They said, “Jack, come over here and help me.” And Jack went. As soon as he was through in one home, he was invited to another, loosing these people from the pains they had gotten in the coal mine.

We have no idea what God has for us if we will only begin! But, oh, the grace we need! If we do this work outside of Him, if we do it for ourselves, it will be a failure. We will be able to succeed only as we do the work in the name of Jesus. Oh, the love that God’s Son can put into us if we are only humble enough, weak enough, and helpless enough to know that unless He does it, it will not be done!

Live and walk in the Spirit. Talk with God. Let go of what is earthly, and take hold of God’s ideals. God will bring you to an end of yourself. Begin with God this moment.

Thought for today: God wants us to be blessed, but first of all He wants us to be ready for the blessing.
March 29

A Double Cure

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.
—Acts 1:8

Scripture reading: Romans 5:19–6:18

My friend, you need a double cure. You first need saving and cleansing and then the baptism of the Holy Spirit, until the old man never rises anymore, until you are absolutely dead to sin and alive to God by His Spirit and know that old things have passed away. When the Holy Spirit gets possession of a person, he is a new being entirely—he becomes saturated with divine power. We become a habitation of Him who is all light, all revelation, all power, and all love. Yes, God the Holy Spirit is manifested within us in such a way that it is glorious.

A certain rich man in London had a flourishing business. He used to count his many assets, but he was still troubled inside; he didn’t know what to do. Walking around his large building, he came upon a boy who was the doorkeeper; he found the boy whistling. Looking at him, he sized up the whole situation completely and went back to his office again and puzzled over the matter. Although he continued with his business, he could find no peace. His bank could not help him; his money, his success, could not help him. He had an aching void. He was helpless within. My friend, having the world without having God is like being “whitewashed tombs” (Matt. 23:27).

When he could get no rest, he exclaimed, “I will go and see what the boy is doing.” Again he went and found him whistling. “I want you to come into my office,” he said. When they entered the office, the man said, “Tell me, what makes you so happy and cheerful?” “Oh,” replied the boy, “I used to be so miserable until I went to a little mission and heard about Jesus. Then I was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. I am always whistling inside; if I am not whistling, I am singing. I am just full!”

This rich man obtained the address of the mission from the boy, went to the services, and sat near the door. But the power of God moved so strongly that when the altar call was given, he responded. God saved him and, a few days afterward, filled him with
March 29

the Holy Spirit. The man found himself at his desk, shouting, “Oh, hallelujah!”

The blessed Son of God wants to fill us with such glory until our whole body is aflame with the power of the Holy Spirit. I see there is “much more” (Rom. 5:9). Glory to God! My daughter asked some African boys to tell her the difference between being saved and being filled with the Holy Spirit. “Ah,” they said, “when we were saved, it was very good; but when we received the Holy Spirit, it was more so.” Many of you have never received the “more so.”

After the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will have power. God will mightily move within your life; the power of the Holy Spirit will overshadow you, inwardly moving you until you know there is a divine plan different from anything that you have had in your life before.

Has He come? He is going to come to you. I am expecting that God will so manifest His presence and power that He will show you the necessity of receiving the Holy Spirit. Also, God will heal those who need healing. Everything is to be had now: salvation, sanctification, the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and healing. God is working mightily by the power of His Spirit, bringing to us a fullness of His perfect redemption until every soul may know that God has all power.

Thought for today: God is the essence of joy to us in a time when all seems barren, when it seems that nothing can help us but the light from heaven that is far brighter than the sun. When that touches you and changes you, you realize nothing is worthwhile but that.
March 30

Life-Giving Faith

When He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”

—Matthew 9:28–29

Scripture reading: Romans 4:8–5:2

What it means for people to have faith! What it will mean when we all have faith! We know that as soon as faith is in perfect operation, we will be in the place where God is manifested right before our eyes. The pure in heart will see God (Matt. 5:8), and all the steps of purity are a divine appointment of more faith. The more purity, the more faith.

When Lazarus died and Jesus knew that Mary, Martha, and everyone around them had lost confidence and faith, He turned to the Father in prayer and said, “Father...I know that You always hear Me” (John 11:41–42). Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb; death had to give him up, and everything had to come to pass as He said.

Fellowship, purity, unity—these things reflect a living cooperation in which we are being changed from faith to faith. May the Lord grant to you this thought today: How may I more and more abandon myself from any earthly, human fellowship, until I am absolutely so bound to God that God has the right-of-way to the throne of my heart, until the center of my emotions is blessedly purified, until there is no room for anything except the Son of God, who is the Author and Finisher of faith (Heb. 12:2)? Then Christ will be manifested in your flesh, destroying everything that is outside of Him.

Thought for today: Jesus’ blood and His mighty name are an antidote to all the subtle seeds of unbelief that Satan will try to sow in your mind.
March 31

Be Satisfied

If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
—John 7:37

Scripture reading: John 7:37–8:12

Most of us have seen water baptism in action so often that we know what it means. But I want you to see that God’s very great desire is for you to be covered with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He wants you to be so immersed with the light and revelation of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, that your whole body will be not only filled but also covered over until you walk in the presence of the power of God.

Jesus saw all the people at the Feast of Tabernacles, and He not only had a great ability to scrutinize, to unfold the inward thoughts and intents of the heart, but He also saw things at a glance; He took in a situation in just a moment’s time.

We must not forget that He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was lovely because He was full of the divine inflow of the life of God. Look at how He dealt with this situation. He saw the people who had been at Jerusalem at the feast, and they were coming back dissatisfied. My Lord could never be satisfied when anybody was dissatisfied.

Nowhere in Scripture is it recorded that you should be famished, naked, full of discord, full of evil, full of disorder, full of sensuality, or full of carnality. That was what was taking place at the feast, and they came away hungrier than they were before. Jesus saw them like that, and He said, “‘Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters’ (Isa. 55:1). Come to Me, you who are thirsty, and I will give you drink.”

Oh, the Master could give! The Master had it to give. Beloved, He is here to give, and I am sure He will give.

Yes, the heavy hand of God is full of mercy. The two-edged sword is full of dividing. (See Hebrews 4:12.) His quickening Spirit puts to death everything that needs to die so that He might transform you by the resurrection of His life.

Thought for today: The death of Christ brings forth the life of Christ.