

May 1

A Spirit of Meekness

*Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.*

—Matthew 5:5

Scripture reading: Isaiah 11:1–9

God wants us to rejoice today. He has brought us into this blessed place so that we may mourn and then rejoice. Let us look at the next verse in Matthew 5: “*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*”

You say, “Don’t talk to me about being meek; I will never be able to be like that.” Take the case of Moses. He surely was not meek when he killed the Egyptian. But when God got Moses into His hand in the land of Midian, He molded him so that he became the meekest man in all the earth. I do not care what your temper is like. If you get only a little touch of heaven, God can mold you so that you can become meek.

I used to have such a bad temper that it made me tremble all over. It would make me furious with its evil power. I saw that this temper had to be destroyed; it could not simply be patched up. One day the power of God fell upon me. I came to the meeting and fell down before the Lord. The people began asking, “What sin has Wigglesworth been committing?” This went on for two weeks. Every time I came to the altar, God used to sweep through me with such a manifestation of my helplessness that I would go down before God and weep right through. Then the preacher or the leader was broken up and came beside me. God started a revival that way. God had broken me up, and revival began through His revival in me. Oh, it was lovely!

Only God can make people right. Only melted gold is minted. Only moistened clay accepts the mold. Only softened wax receives the seal. Only broken, contrite hearts receive the mark as the Potter turns us on His wheel. Oh, Lord, give us that blessed state where we are perfectly and wholly made meek.

Thought for today: Perfect love will never want the preeminence in everything; it will never want to take the place of another; it will always be willing to take the back seat.

May 2

Those Who Hunger and Thirst

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.*

—Matthew 5:6

Scripture reading: Psalm 42

Meet the conditions, and God will fulfill His Word to you. Note that the verse says, “*shall be filled.*” The Spirit of God is crying, “*Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat*” (Isa. 55:1). The Spirit of God will take the things of Christ and show them to you so that you may have a longing for Christ in His fullness, and when there is that longing, God will not fail to fill you.

See the crowd of worshippers who have come up to the feast. They are going away utterly dissatisfied, but on the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus will stand and cry out, saying, “*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water*” (John 7:37–38).

Jesus knew that they were going away without the living water, and so He directed them to the true source of supply. Are you thirsty today? The living Christ still invites you to Himself, and I want to testify that He still satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry with good things.

In Switzerland, I learned of a man who met with a particular congregation. He attended their various meetings, and one morning at their Communion service, he arose and said, “Brothers, we have the Word, and I feel that we are living very much in the letter of it, but there is a hunger and thirst in my soul for something deeper, something more real than we have, and I cannot rest until I enter into it.” The next Sunday this brother rose again and said, “We are all so poor here, there is no life in this assembly, and my heart is hungry for reality.” He did this for several weeks until it got on the nerves of these people, and they protested, “Sands, you are making us all miserable; you are spoiling our meetings. There is only one thing for you to do, and that is to clear out.”

He went out of the meeting in a very sad condition. As he stood outside, one of his children asked him what was the matter,

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and he said, "To think that they should turn me out from their midst for being hungry and thirsty for more of God!" I did not know anything more of this situation until afterward.

Days later, someone rushed up to Sands and said, "There is a man over here from England, and he is speaking about tongues and healing." Sands said, "I'll fix him. I'll go to the meeting and sit right up in the front and challenge him with the Scriptures. I'll dare him to preach these things in Switzerland. I'll publicly denounce him." So he came to the meetings. There he sat. He was so hungry and thirsty that he drank in every word that was said. His opposition soon petered out. The first morning he said to a friend, "This is what I want." He drank and drank of the Spirit. After three weeks he said, "God will have to do something new or I'll burst." He breathed in God, and the Lord filled him to such an extent that he spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. Sands is now preaching and is in charge of a new Pentecostal assembly.

God is making people hungry and thirsty after His best. And everywhere He is filling the hungry and giving them what the disciples received at the very beginning. Are you hungry? If you are, God promises that you will be filled.

Thought for today: If you ever see a "shall" in the Bible, make it yours.

May 3

A Spirit of Hunger and Thirst

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.*

—Matthew 5:6

Scripture reading: Hebrews 1:8–9; 2:1–18

The Beatitudes of the Spirit are truly lovely. We must emphasize that God will not fail to fill us. No man can “*hunger and thirst after righteousness*” unless God has put the desire in him. This righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus.

In 1 John 5:4–5, we find these verses: “*This is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*” Righteousness is more than paying our way. We hear someone say, “Oh, I never do anything wrong to anybody. I always pay my way.” This is simply life in the flesh, but there is a higher “*law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 8:2). I must see that Jesus is my perfect righteousness. He came by the power of God:

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.

(Rom. 8:3)

But the divine touches of heaven never leave you stationary but rather increase your thirst and appetite for greater things. Something within makes you press on until you are empty of everything else so that you may be filled with what God is pressing in. This righteousness is a walk with God and a divine inheritance. It is seeking the face of Jesus until you cannot be satisfied without drinking of His Spirit and being overflowed continually with His blessings. I cannot be satisfied without Christ’s righteousness. He gives us thirst for the immensity of God’s power. It is a divine problem that is solved in only one way: having Him.

Thought for today: Having Him, we have all things.

May 4

A Spirit of Mercy

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

—Matthew 5:7

Scripture reading: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 85:4–13

I pray that God will bring you to a death of self and a life of righteousness, which will please God in the Spirit. Thus we understand in some measure what God has for us in the seventh verse of Matthew 5: “*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*”

I believe this is truly a spiritual condition, which is higher than the natural law. Sometimes when we talk about mercy, we think of being kind, amiable, or philanthropic toward others. We think those are respected positions. So they are, but the world has that. Beloved, we should have all that, but we should have much more. We will never understand the meaning of the mercy of Jesus until He fills us with Himself. My blessed Lord! Can there ever be one like Him? Can you think of such rarity, such beauty, such self-sacrifice? “*Blessed are the merciful.*” You cannot be filled with the Lord and not be merciful. You cannot have the baptism with power without this supernatural mercy, this divine touch of heaven that stops satanic forces, frees the oppressed, and strengthens the helpless. This is the spirit that God wants to give us. Oh, for heaven to bend down upon us with this deep inward cry for a touch of Him, His majesty, His glory, His might, His power!

It is a very remarkable thing that the merciful always obtain mercy. Look at the measure of this spiritual life: first full, then pressed down, then shaken together, and then running over (Luke 6:38). This divine touch of heaven is lovely. It is the most charming thing on earth, sweeter than all. God wants you to have this new wine. It thrills the human heart. How it mightily sweeps you right into heaven!

I ask you all, needy souls, whatever you want, to “*come boldly to the throne of grace*” (Heb. 4:16). Come, and the Lord will bless you.

Thought for today: We must have heaven’s riches to give to souls in poverty.

May 5

Elected by God

To the pilgrims of the Dispersion...elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit.

—1 Peter 1:1–2

Scripture reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2–7; 4:3–12

Humanity, flesh, and natural things are all against divine things. Evil powers work upon this position of the human life, especially when the will is unyielded to God. Then, the powers of darkness rise up against the powers of divine order, but they never defeat them. Divine order is very often in the minority, but always in the majority. Did I say that right? Yes, and I meant it, too. Though it is in the minority, it always triumphs.

I want you to notice the text verse because it says “*Dispersion.*” This was meant to say that these people did not have much liberty to meet together, so they were driven from place to place. Even in the days of the Scottish religious reformer John Knox, the people who served God had to meet in very close quarters because the Roman church set out to destroy them, nailed them to judgment seats, and destroyed them in all sorts of ways. They were in the minority, but they swept through in victory, and the Roman power was crushed and defeated. Take care that such a thing does not rise again. May God bring us into such perfect order that we may understand these days, that we may be in the minority, but we will always obtain the victory through God.

The Holy Spirit wants us to understand our privileges: we are “*elect according to the foreknowledge of God...in sanctification of the Spirit.*” Now this sanctification of the Spirit is not on the lines of being cleansed from sin. It is a higher order than the work of redemption. The blood of Jesus is rich unto all powerful cleansing, and it takes away other powers and transforms us by the mighty power of God. But when sin is gone, yes, when we are clean and when we know we have the Word of God right in us and the power of the Spirit is bringing everything to a place where we triumph, then comes revelation by the power of the Spirit, lifting us onto higher ground, into all the fullness of God, which unveils Christ in such a way.

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This is what is called sanctification of the Spirit: sanctified by the Spirit, elected by God. I don't want you to stumble at the word *elect*—it is a most blessed word. You might say you are all elect. God has designed that all men should be saved. This is the election, but whether you accept and come into your election, whether you prove yourself worthy of your election, whether you have so allowed the Spirit to fortify you, whether you have done this I don't know, but your election, your sanctification, is to be seated at the right hand of God.

This word *election* is very precious to me. Foreordained, predestined—these are words that God designed before the world existed, to bring us into triumph and victory in Christ. Some people play around with it and make it a goal. They say, “Oh, well, you see, we are elected; we are all right.” I know many of them who believe in that condition of election, and they say they are quite all right because they are elected to be saved. I believe these people are so diplomatic that they believe others can be elected to be damned. It is not true! Everybody is elected to be saved, but whether they come into it, that is another thing.

Many don't experience salvation because the god of this world has blinded their eyes “*lest the light of the gospel of the glory...should shine on them*” (2 Cor. 4:4). What does that mean? It means that Satan has mastery over their minds, and they have an ear to listen to corrupt things. Be careful of things that do not have Jesus in them. I sometimes shout for all I am worth about Jesus, because I know there is no Jesus inside some things.

Beloved, I want you to see this election I am speaking about, to catch a glimpse of heaven, with your heart always on the wing, where you grasp everything spiritual, when everything divine makes you hungry for it.

It is through the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no sanctification if it is not sanctification unto obedience.

Thought for today: Wickedness may increase and abound, but when the Lord raises His flag over the saint, it is victory.

May 6

The Spirit Moves upon You

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

—John 3:16

Scripture reading: John 3:5–21

It does not matter what age you are. If I were to say to you, “Do you ever remember a time when the Spirit did not strive with you,” it would be marvelous how many people would answer, “No.” What do you call it? God bringing you in, His grace drawing you to Himself.

When I think of my own case, I recall that on my mother’s and father’s sides of the families there was no desire for God, yet in my very infancy I was strangely moved upon by the Spirit. At the age of eight, I was definitely saved, and when I was nine years old, I felt the Spirit come upon me, just as when I spoke in tongues. I was “*elect according to the foreknowledge of God*” (1 Pet. 1:2), and many have had the same experience.

It is a most blessed thought that we have a God of love, compassion, and grace, who does not will the death of even one sinner. God has made it possible for all men to be saved by causing Jesus, His well-beloved Son, to die for the sins of all people. It is true that He took our sins; it is true that He paid the price for the whole world; it is true that He gave Himself as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). And you say, “For whom?” “*Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely*” (Rev. 22:17).

“What about those who do not receive His gift of salvation?” you ask. It takes their direct refusal of the blood of Jesus; they have to refuse to have Christ reign over them. It is “*whoever desires*” on this side and whoever does not on the other side. There are people living in the world who do not desire God’s gift. Why do they respond this way? Because “*the god of this age has blinded [them], who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them*” (2 Cor. 4:4).

Thought for today: Jesus is bigger than any assembly, yet He is small enough to fill every heart.

May 7

Peace and Hope

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

—Romans 15:13

Scripture reading: Ephesians 1:2–21

Through sanctification of the Spirit, you will come to a place of rest. There is a peace in sanctification because it is a place of revelation, taking you into heavenly realms. God comes, speaks, and makes Himself known to you, and when you are face-to-face with God, you receive a peace “*which surpasses all understanding*” (Phil. 4:7), lifting you to a state of inexpressible wonderment.

Oh, this is like heaven to me,
This is like heaven to me,
I've crossed over Jordan to Canaan's fair land;
And this is like heaven to me.

This sanctification of the Spirit brings us into definite alignment with the wonderful hope of the glory of God. Lively hope is movement. It presses forward. Lively hope leaves everything behind. It keeps the vision. Lively hope sees Him coming! And you live in it—this lively hope. You are not trying to make yourself feel that you are believing, but the lively hope fills you with joy and expectation of the King's coming. Praise the Lord! I want you to know that God has this experience in His mind for you.

I pray God the Holy Spirit that He will move you this way. I trust that you will be so reconciled to God that there is not one thing that would interfere with your possessing this lively hope.

How He loves us, hovers over us, rejoices in us! How the Lord by the Holy Spirit fills our cup full and running over (Ps. 23:5)! “*The joy of the LORD is your strength*” (Neh. 8:10). I hope you won't forget the lively hope. It is the purpose of God for your soul. It is wonderful. Hallelujah!

Thought for today: A lively hope is the opposite of a dead hope.

May 8

Rejoice in Being Purified

That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

—1 Peter 1:7

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7–5:9

You have no idea what God will mean to you in trials and temptations—it is purification of the Spirit. Gold perishes, but faith never perishes; it is more precious than gold, though it may be tried with fire. I went into a place one day, and a gentleman said to me, “Would you like to see purification of gold this morning?” I replied, “Yes.” He got some gold and put it in a crucible and put a blast of heat on it. First, it became bloodred, and then it changed and changed. Then this man took an instrument and passed it over the gold, drawing something off that was foreign to the gold. He did this several times until every part was taken away. “Look,” he said, and there we both saw our faces in the gold. It was wonderful.

Dear believer, the trial of your faith is much more precious than gold that perishes. When God purifies you through trials, misunderstandings, persecution, and suffering because you are wrongfully judged, Jesus has given you the keynote: rejoice in that day. He is cleaning away all the dross from your life, and every evil power, until He sees His face right in the life, until He sees His face right in your life.

“Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” (2 Cor. 4:10). This process may not seem to any of us to be very joyous, because it is not acceptable to the flesh, but I have told you already that your flesh is against the Spirit. Your flesh and all your human powers have to be perfectly submitted to the mighty power of God inwardly, to express and manifest His glory outwardly. But you must be willing for the process and say “Amen” to God. It may be very hard, but God will help you.

It is lovely to know that in the chastening times, in the times of misunderstanding and hard tests when you are in the right and are treated as though you were in the wrong, God is meeting you and blessing you. People say it is the Devil. Never mind, let the fire

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burn; it will do you good. Don't begin complaining, but endure the situation joyfully. It is so sweet to understand that *"love suffers long and is kind"* (1 Cor. 13:4). How lovely to get to a place where you think no evil, you are not easily provoked, and you can bear all things and endure all things! Praise the Lord. Oh, the glory of it, the joy of it!

I understand what it means to jump for joy. I could jump for joy because of the Lord.

I know the Lord, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord has laid His hand on me.

"Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8). We love our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we have not seen. There is no voice so gentle, so soft, so full of tenderness to me. There is no voice like His, and there is no touch like His. Is it possible to love the One we have not seen? God will make it possible to all. *"Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory."*

Thought for today: Beloved, as you are tested in the fire, the Master is purifying everything that cannot bring out His image in you.

May 9

Spiritual Drunkenness

*For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God;
or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.*

—2 Corinthians 5:13

Scripture reading: Psalm 96

There is a place to reach in the Holy Spirit that is mystifying to the world and to many people who are not going on with God. Here is a most remarkable lesson. We can be so filled with the Spirit, so clothed upon by Him, so purified within, so made ready for the Rapture, that all the time it is as if we are drunk.

When I come in contact with people who would criticize my drunkenness, I am sober. I can be sober one minute; I can be drunk in the Spirit the next. I tell you, to be drunk with the presence of God is wonderful! *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph. 5:18). In this there is a lively hope, filled with indiscreetness in regard to what anyone else thinks.

Consider a man who is drunk. He stops at a lamppost, and he has a lot to say to it. He says the most foolish things possible, and the people say, “He’s lost his senses.”

Oh, Lord, that I may be so drunk with You that it makes no difference what people think! I am speaking to the Lord in hymns and spiritual songs, making my boast in the Lord. The Lord of Hosts is around me, and I am so free in the Holy Spirit that I am ready to be taken to heaven. But He does not take me. Why not? I am ready, and it is better for me to go, but for the church’s sake it is preferable that I stay. (See Philippians 1:23–25.)

It is best that I am clothed with the Spirit, living in the midst of the people, showing no nakedness. I need to be full of purity, full of power, full of revelation for the church’s sake. It is far better to go to heaven now, but for the church’s sake I must stay, so that I may be helpful, telling others how they can have their nakedness covered, how their minds can be clothed, how all their inward impurities can be made pure in the presence of God. It is better that I am living, walking, and acting in the Holy Spirit. This may seem impossible, yet this is the height that God wants us to reach.

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Here is another verse to help you: *“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness”* (Rom. 8:10). There is no such thing as having liberty in your body if there is any sin there. When righteousness is there, righteousness abounds. When Christ is in your heart, enthroning your life, and sin is dethroned, then righteousness abounds and the Holy Spirit has great liberty.

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (v. 17). My, what triumphs of height, of length, of depth, and of breadth there are in this holy place! Where is it? Right inside. Freedom, purity, power, separateness are ours, and we are ready for the Great Trumpet!

Thought for today: Holiness is the habitation of God.

May 10

The Riches of His Glory

May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely.
—1 Thessalonians 5:23

Scripture reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:8–24

May the Lord of Hosts so surround us with revelation and blessing that our bodies get to the place where they can scarcely contain the joys of the Lord. He will bring us to so rich a place that forever we will know we are only the Lord's. What a blessed state of grace to be brought into, where we know that the body, the soul, and the spirit are preserved blameless until the coming of the Lord (1 Thess. 5:23)!

God is greatly desirous for us to have more of His presence. We have only one purpose in mind: to strengthen you, to build you up in the most holy faith, and to present you for every good work so that you should be faultless in Him, quickened by the might of the Spirit, so that you might be prepared for everything that God has for you in the future. Our human nature may be brought to a place where it is so superabundantly attended to by God that in the body we will know nothing but the Lord of Hosts.

To this end, I invite you to the banquet that cannot be exhausted, a supply beyond all human thought, an abundance beyond all human extravagances.

Are you ready to be brought by the power of God into His new plan of righteousness? Are you ready to be able as never before to leave the things of the world behind and press on toward the prize of the high calling (Phil. 3:13–14)?

Are you ready to be so in God's plan that you will feel God's hand upon you? You will know that He has chosen you, so that you might be a firstfruit unto God.

Are you ready for the Lord to have His choice, so that His will and purpose will be yours, so that the "Amen" of His character may sweep through your very nature, and so that you may know as you have never known before that this is the day of the visitation between you and Him?

Thought for today: No matter how you come into great faith and believing in God, God says, "Much more abundantly, much more."

May 11

From Human to Divine

*The Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body,
and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.*

—Ephesians 3:6

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 15:41–55

I thank God for the glorious transformation He makes in us, taking us from fallen humanity into divine life. The God of all grace sees us; He knows us; He is acquainted with us. He is bending over us so that His infinite, glorious, exhaustless pleasure may move us today. What can please Him more than to see His sons and daughters clothed, in their right minds (see Luke 8:35), listening to His voice, their eyes and ears awake, coming into the treasury of the Most High?

If only we could comprehend today more than ever before why the Gentiles have been brought into the glories of His treasury, to feed on the finest of the wheat, to drink at the riches of His pleasure, to be filled with the God of love that has no measure.

Without doubt, the greatest mystery of all time from the commencement of creation to now is Christ made manifest in human flesh. What can be greater than eternal life working mightily through eternal death? What can be greater than the nature and appearance of Adam being changed by a new nature that is the fullness of the expression of the Father in heaven?

Everybody recognizes the Adamic race, but may God today let us understand fullness, the divine reflection. May He put us in the glorious position so that we may be changed—the living manifestation of the power of God changing our appearance. May He allow us to see the very expression of the Father, until the terrestrial will pass away, the celestial will come, and the rightness of His glory will press through all our humanity. Heaven will have an exhibition in us that it never before could have, and all the saints will be gathered. The very expression of the Master's face and the very glory of the Father will be in us. Oh, that the breath of heaven would move us today until we would feel, whatever happened, that we must move on to get ready for exit!

Thought for today: To be conformed to this world is all loss, but to be transformed from this world is all gain.

May 12

Our Joint Inheritance

This grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

—Ephesians 3:8

Scripture reading: Galatians 3:7–29

The fullness of the expression of the Holy Spirit today is giving us a glimpse into what has been provided by the Father. We know that in the old Israel, from Abraham right down, God had a special relationship with His chosen people.

But the Gentiles had no right to it. The Master said to the Syro-Phoenician woman, “Shall I take the bread of the children and give it to dogs?” (See Mark 7:27.) Did Jesus mean that the Gentiles were dogs? No, He meant that the whole race of the Gentiles knew that they were far below the standard and the order of those people who belonged to the royal stock of Israel. The Samaritans all felt it.

“But isn’t it possible for the dogs to have some crumbs?” was the woman’s question. (See verse 28.) God has something better than crumbs. He has made the Gentiles of the same body, the same heirs as His chosen people. He has put no difference between them and us, but He has included us in the promises for all who are forgiven by the blood of Christ. Paul spoke about it, knowing that “*if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise*” (Gal. 3:29).

Thank God! God so manifests His power that He has brought us into oneness, and we know we are sharing in the glory. We are sharing in the knowledge that we belong to the aristocracy of the church of God.

It is wonderful to know that I am in the body. It is wonderful to know that the apostles and prophets and all those who have passed down the years, holding aloft the torch, going on from victory to victory, all will be in the body. But how wonderful if we may be in the body so that we might be chosen out of the body to be the bride! It will be according as you are yielded to the “*effective working of His power*” (Eph. 3:7).

Thought for today: God has met the needs of all nations, of all ranks, of all conditions.

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Your Part in the Body

The Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

—Ephesians 3:6

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

I want you to see your place in the body of Christ. There is no greater language than this about the Lord, that all fullness dwells in Him. (See Colossians 1:19.) Christ is to be manifested fully in humanity.

Do not be afraid of claiming your right. It is not a measure that you have to reach. Remember, John saw Him, and he said that he had a measure that could not be measured. Christ is coming to us in a measureless measure. Human calculation cannot fathom it.

The church is rising in all her vision and destroying the powers of darkness, ruling among the powers of wickedness, and transforming darkness to light by the power of the new creation in us. The church is doing all this so that we might know the power that is working in us by the resurrection of the life of Christ.

So we are enriched with all enrichment; we are endowed with all beatitudes; we are covered with all graces; and now we are coming into all the mysteries so that the gifts of the Spirit may be manifested in us.

The revelation of Paul, which never from the foundation of the world had been revealed, is that the Son of God, the very embodiment of the nature of the Most High, the very incarnation of His presence and power, could fill a human vessel to its utmost capacity, until His very nature will sweep through by the power of God.

You cannot enter into this life without being enlarged, abounding, and superabundant. Everything in God is enlargement. God never wants a child of His in the world to be measured. All the riches of God are infinite and boundless. There is no such thing as measuring them. If ever you measure God, you will be thin and little and dwarfed. You cannot measure. You have an exhaustless place.

God's Son is in you with all the power of development, until you are so enriched by this divine grace that you live in the world

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knowing that God is transforming you from grace to grace, from victory to victory.

The Spirit in you has no other foundation than from glory unto glory. Paul was so enlarged in the Spirit in this third chapter of Ephesians that his language failed to express the glory of Christ Jesus. And then, when he failed to go on in his language, he bowed his knees unto the Father. Oh, this is supreme! This is beyond all that could be! When language failed, when prophecy had no more room, it seems that he came to a place where he got down on his knees. Then we hear by the power of the Spirit language beyond all Paul could ever say: "*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named*" (Eph. 3:14–15).

Paul realized that he was joining earth and heaven together. They are one, thank God! There is nothing between us and heaven. Gravity may hold us, but all in heaven and in earth are joined under one blood, with no division or separation. "*To be absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord*" (2 Cor. 5:8).

Thought for today: You might measure your land, you might measure your harvest, but you cannot measure the purposes of the Spirit life: they are boundless; they are infinite.

May 14

Persecution after Baptism

They were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

—Acts 5:17-18

Scripture reading: Acts 5:12-42

People were scattered, and persecution had come. God knows—I say it reverently—that we never make progress when life is easy. You may settle down in your ease and miss the great plan of God.

A man may be saved for many years without knowing much about persecution. A man may be sanctified for many years without knowing much about persecution. But it is impossible to be baptized with the Holy Spirit without entering into persecution.

The disciples had a wonderful time when they were with Jesus. They had no persecution, but there was One in the midst of them whom the people of Nazareth tried to throw over the brow of the hill. (See Luke 4:16-30.)

Let us see that whatever happens there is no harsh judgment in us, no bitterness. We have been quickened, brought into, changed by a new authority, incorruptible in the corruptible. We must see that we have divine life where death was, love where hatred was, the power of God reigning in the human, the Lord shining the light of His countenance on us right in the midst of death, and life breaking forth like rivers in the desert.

The days will come when your ministry and your own life will be tested on all lines. If you can get beyond your nature, beyond your natural line of thought, and beyond yourself into a plane of almighty provision for you in the flesh, quickened by the Spirit, you will survive. It will be as the Word of God says, "*Having done all...stand*" (Eph. 6:13).

Thought for today: When the trial is on, when everything comes to a point where it seems it is the last strand in the rope, then the Lord will very mightily bring you into a land of plenty.

May 15

Satan Cannot Be Made Holy

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested,
that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

—1 John 3:8

Scripture reading: 1 John 3:1-17

There is no such thing as purifying the impure. Evil things never get purer, but more vile. All impurity, all evil must be cast out. You can never make Satan holy. He will be hellish and fiendish forever, and when the brightness of God comes, the Devil will be glad to get in the pit and stay there forever and ever.

Some foolish people say that the Devil will be saved, and that they will go arm in arm with him. It is because they do not rightly understand the Word of God. You will never purify sin. *"The carnal mind...is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be"* (Rom. 8:7). Carnality has to be destroyed. Evil propensities must be rooted out. God's plan is, "I will give you a pure heart and a right spirit." And this is the order of the new creation in God.

It does not matter what you say; if your human spirit does not get wholly sanctified, you will always be in danger. It is that position where the Devil has a chance to work upon you. Therefore, we are taught to come into sanctification where uncleanness and corruption pass away, and where all kinds of lusts lose their power.

Only in the pursuit of sanctification does God bless us in our purifying state so that we ascend with Him in the glory. The saints of God, as they go on into perfection and holiness and understand the mind of the Spirit and the law of the spirit of life, are brought into a very blessed place.

It is the place of holiness, the place of entire sanctification, the place where God reigns on the throne of the heart. It is the place where the mind is so concentrated in the power of God that a person thinks about the things that are pure and lives in holy ascendancy. The Spirit can sanctify your spirit until you will never vaunt yourself and will never say "I, I, I," but it will be "Christ, Christ, Christ." Then Christ will be glorified.

Thought for today: Holiness is power; sin is defeat. Sin is weakness; holiness is strength.

May 16

Supernatural Fullness

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
I have come that they may have life, and that they may
have it more abundantly.*

—John 10:10

Scripture reading: Romans 8:1–17

If I cannot make a person who is suffering from disease righteously indignant against that condition, I cannot help him. If I can make every sufferer know that suffering, disease, and all these things are the workings of the Devil, I can help him.

If you can see that the Devil is after you, to kill you for all he is worth, believe that Christ is enthroned in your heart to destroy the very principles of the Devil in every way. Have the reality of this; build upon it by perfect soundness until you are in the place of perfect bliss, for to know Christ is perfect bliss. Be so built in Him that you are not afraid of evil. You must have a fullness that presses out beyond; you must have a life that is full of divine power; you must have a mind that is perfectly in Christ; you must cease to be natural and begin to be supernatural.

Are you ready to be so changed by God that you will never have this human fear anymore? Remember that “*perfect love casts out fear*” (1 John 4:18).

Step into the full tide of the life of the manifestation of God. Your new nature has no corruption in it. Eternal life is not just during your lifetime; it is forever. You are regenerated by the power of the Word of God, and it is in you as an incorruptible force, taking you on from victory to victory until death itself can be overcome, until sin has no authority, until disease could not be in the body. This is a living fact by the Word of God.

Right in this present moment, there is “*no condemnation*” (Rom. 8:1). This law of the Spirit of life is a law in the body; it is a law of eternity; it is a law of God, a new law. It is not the law of the Ten Commandments, but a law of life in the body, changing you until there is no sin power, no disease power, and no death power.

You who desire to go a thousand miles through faith, beyond what you have ever gone before, leap into it. Believe that the blood

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of Christ makes you clean; believe that you have come into resurrection life. Believe it!

Trying is an effort, whereas believing is a fact. Don't join the Endeavor Society, but come into the Faith Society, and you will leap into the promises of God, which are "Yes" and "Amen" (2 Cor. 1:20) to all who believe.

Don't look down your nose and murmur anymore. Have a rejoicing spirit; get the praise of God in your heart; go forth from victory to victory; rise in faith, and believe it. You must not live in yourself; you must live in Christ. "*Set your mind on things above*" (Col. 3:2), and keep your whole spirit alive in God. Let your inheritance be so full of divine life that you live above the world and all its thoughts and cares.

Thought for today: God is on His throne and can take you a thousand miles in a moment. Have faith to jump into His supernatural plan.

May 17

Room for Jesus

*She...laid Him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.*

—Luke 2:7

Scripture reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

Jesus said, “*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head*” (Matt. 8:20). Is this true? Yes, but at the same time, it is not true. He could have had a dozen beds. Then why did He not use them? For the simple reason that the people loved Jesus and wanted Him, yet they dared not have Him in their homes. If He would go to their homes, such convicting truths would fall from His lips that they could not stand in His presence. They wanted this holy, lovely Jesus, this beautiful Nazarene, and yet they did not want Him. Thus the Son of Man did not have any place to lay His head, so He spent His nights on the Mount of Olives.

The centurion said, “*Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed*” (v. 8). The centurion knew that Jesus did not have to be physically present to heal the sick servant. He believed that just a word from Jesus would be sufficient. Jesus was amazed at this man’s faith, and He told the centurion, “*Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you*” (v. 13). The servant was healed as Jesus spoke.

But some do not want Jesus to come to their homes, and it is not because they have such great faith. They do not want Him to come because of the changes they would have to make in their lives. They know that if Jesus were to live in their hearts, their lives would be totally transformed. Many refuse salvation because they know they cannot continue to live in the same old ways; therefore, they do not invite Christ to their homes. Beloved, let us not be afraid to ask Him to come in to stay. Ask Him to give you grace to come to Him. He is not looking at our unworthiness, but at His worthiness. My whole heart cries out to God that I might touch Him afresh.

Thought for today: It is only a step to Jesus.

May 18

Our Living Hope

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a
living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

—1 Peter 1:3

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1–34

A farmer surveys his land, eagerly scanning the first ears of corn poking through the soil. He knows that first beginnings often indicate the outcome of the harvest. In the same manner, we can be assured of resurrection because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. And “*as He is, so are we in this world*” (1 John 4:17). Christ is now getting the church ready for translation. In Peter, we read that we are “*begotten...again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*” Oh, to be changed. What a living hope He gives!

Although Paul and Peter were together very little, they both were inspired to bring before the church the vision of this wonderful truth that the living are being changed. If Christ did not rise, our faith is in vain, and we are still in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17). But Christ has risen and become the firstfruits (v. 23), and we now have the glorious hope that we will also be changed. We who were “*not a people...are now the people of God*” (1 Pet. 2:10). We have been lifted from the mire to be among princes. Beloved, God wants us to see the preciousness of it. It will drive away the dullness of life. Jesus gave all for this treasure. He purchased the field because of the pearl, “*the pearl of great price*” (Matt. 13:46). Jesus purchased it, and we are the pearl of great price for all time. Our inheritance is in heaven, and in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, we are told to “*comfort one another with these words.*”

What could be better than the hope that in a little while, the change will come? It seems like such a short time ago that I was a boy. Soon, I will be changed by His grace and be more than a conqueror with “*an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away*” (1 Pet. 1:4). The inheritance is in you. It is something that is accomplished by God for you. When my daughter was in Africa, she often wrote of things corroding. Our nature is

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corruptible, but as the natural decays, the spiritual is at work. As the corruptible is doing its work, we are changing.

When will it be seen? When Jesus comes. Most beautiful of all, we will be like Him. What is the process? Grace! What can work it out? Love! It cannot be translated into human phrases. God so loved that He gave Jesus (John 3:16).

There is something very wonderful about being undefiled in the presence of my King, never to change, only to be more beautiful. Unless we know something about grace and the omnipotence of His love, we will never be able to grasp it. But believers can say:

Love, fathomless as the sea.
Grace flowing for you and for me.

Thought for today: Just as in the flesh Jesus triumphed by the Spirit, we can be like Him in His victory.

May 19

Our Place Is Reserved

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

—John 14:2

Scripture reading: John 14:1–24

Jesus has prepared a beautiful place for us, and we will have no fear of anyone else taking it; it is reserved. When I went to certain meetings, I would have a reserved seat. I could walk in at any time, and my seat would be unoccupied. What is good about having a reservation? You have a place where you can see Him; it is the very seat you would have chosen. He knows just what you want! He has designed the place for you. Because of His love, you will have joy instead of discord throughout eternity. Will you be there? Is it possible to miss it? We “*are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*” (1 Pet. 1:5).

What is distinctive about it? It will be the fullness of perfection, the ideal of love. The poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the hungry and thirsty, the merciful, the pure—all will be ready to be revealed at the appearing of Jesus Christ. You could not remain there unless you had experienced His purifying, perfecting, and establishing. You will be ready when His perfect will has been worked out in you. When you are refined enough, you will go.

But there is something to be done yet to establish you, to make you purer. A great price has been paid: “*The genuineness of your faith...[is] much more precious than gold that perishes*” (v. 7). And we must give all and yield all as our Great Refiner puts us in the melting pot again and again. He does this so that we will lose the chaff (Matt. 3:12), so that the pure gold of His presence will be clearly seen, and His glorious image will be reflected.

Thought for today: We must be steadfast and immovable, until all His purposes are worked out.

May 20

Standing Firm through Trials

But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap.

—Malachi 3:2

Scripture reading: Malachi 3

Praising God in a meeting is a different thing than thanking Him for the trials you face in your life. There must be no perishing though we are tried by fire. What is going to appear at the appearing of Jesus? Faith! Your heart will be established by the grace of the Spirit, which doesn't crush, but refines; doesn't destroy, but enlarges. Oh, beloved, the Enemy is a defeated foe, and Jesus not only conquers but also displays the spoils of His conquest. The pure in heart will see God (Matt. 5:8). *"If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light"* (Matt. 6:22).

What is it? It is loyalty to the Word by the power of the blood. You know your inheritance within you is more powerful than all that is without. How many have gone to the stake and through fiery persecution? Did they desire it? Faith tried by fire had power to stand all ridicule, all slander. We need to have the faith of the Son of God, *"who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross"* (Heb. 12:2). Oh, the joy of pleasing Him!

No trial, no darkness, nothing is too hard for me. If only I may see the image of my Lord again and again. In the melting pot, He removes the skimmings until His face is seen. When the metal reflects Him, it is pure. Who is looking into our hearts? Who is the Refiner? My Lord. He will remove only what will hinder. Oh, I know the love of God is working in my heart.

Thought for today: You will do more in one year if you are really filled with the Holy Spirit than you could do in fifty years apart from Him.

May 21

Getting Ready for Review

Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?
—1 Samuel 6:20

Scripture reading: Romans 2:1–16

Remember going to the Crystal Palace when General Booth had a review of representatives of the Salvation Army from all nations. It was a grand sight as company after company with all their distinctive characteristics passed a certain place where he could view them. It was a wonderful scene. Similarly, we are going to be presented to God. We are to be a joy to look at, to be to His praise and glory. No one will be there but those who have been tried by fire. Is it worth it? Yes, a thousand times. Oh, the ecstasy of exalted pleasure! God reveals Himself to our hearts.

Peter speaks of “*sincere love*” (1 Pet. 1:22). What does it mean to have “*sincere love*”? It means that even when you are misused or shamed, it never alters; this love is only more refined, making you more like Him. “*Sincere love*” is full of appreciation for those who do not see eye to eye with you. Jesus illustrated it on the cross when He said, “*Father, forgive them*” (Luke 23:34). And Stephen demonstrated it as he was being stoned. He said, “*Lord, do not charge them with this sin*” (Acts 7:60). “*Sincere love*” is the greatest thing God can give to my heart.

We are saved by an incorruptible power—a process always refining, a grace always enlarging, a glory always increasing. We are neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. “*The spirits of just men made perfect*” (Heb. 12:23) are stored in the treasury of the Most High. We are purified as sons and are to be as holy and blameless as He is. Through all eternity, we will gaze at Him with pure, genuine love. God will be glorified as the song is continuously sung: “*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty*” (Rev. 4:8).

How can we be sad, or hang our heads, or be distressed? If we only knew how rich we are! May God’s name be blessed.

Thought for today: Our trials are getting us ready for the procession and the presentation before the Lord.

May 22

What Is Inside Will Come Out

As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man.
—Proverbs 27:19

Scripture reading: Matthew 15:1–20

We praise God that our glorious Jesus is the risen Christ. Those of us who have tasted the power of the indwelling Spirit know something about how the hearts of those two disciples burned as they walked to Emmaus with the risen Lord as their companion. (See Luke 24:13–32.)

Note the words of Acts 4:31: “*And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken.*” There are many churches where they never pray the kind of prayer that you read of here. A church that does not know how to pray and to shout will never be shaken. If you live in a place like that, you might as well write over the threshold: “Ichabod”—“*The glory has departed from Israel!*” (1 Sam. 4:21). It is only when men have learned the secret of prayer, power, and praise that God comes forth. Some people say, “Well, I praise God inwardly,” but if your heart is full of praise, you will have to let the praise come out.

The inner working of the power of God must come first. It is He who changes the heart and transforms the life. Before there is any real outward evidence, there must be the inflow of divine life. Sometimes I say to people, “You weren’t at the meeting the other night.” They reply, “Oh, yes, I was there in spirit.” I say to them, “Well, next time come with your body also. We don’t want a lot of spirits here and no bodies. We want you to come and get filled with God.” When all the people come and pray and praise as did these early disciples, there will be something happening. People who come will catch fire, and they will want to come again. But they will have no use for a place where everything has become formal, dry, and dead.

The power of Pentecost came in order to loose men. God wants us to be free. Men and women are tired of imitations; they want reality; they want to see people who have the living Christ within, who are filled with Holy Spirit power.

Thought for today: The shout cannot come out unless it is within.

May 23

God Is with You

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

—1 Corinthians 10:13

Scripture reading: Romans 8:31–39

Dare you take your inheritance from God? Dare you believe God? Dare you stand on the record of His Word? What is the record? If you will believe, you will see the glory of God. You will be sifted as wheat. You will be tested as though some strange thing tried you. You will be put in places where you will have to put your whole trust in God.

Every trial is to bring you to a greater position in God. The trial that tries your faith will take you on to the place where you will know that the faith of God will be forthcoming in the next test. No man is able to win any victory except through the power of the risen Christ within him. You will never be able to say, "I did this or that." You will desire to give God the glory for everything.

If you are sure of your ground, if you are counting on the presence of the living Christ within, you can laugh when you see things getting worse. God wants you to be settled and grounded in Christ and to become steadfast and unmoveable in Him. The Lord Jesus said, "*I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!*" (Luke 12:50). Assuredly, He was obedient to the will of His Father in Gethsemane, in the judgment hall, and, after that, on the cross, where He, "*through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God*" (Heb. 9:14). God will take us right on in like manner, and the Holy Spirit will lead every step of the way. God led Him right through to the empty tomb, to the glory of the Ascension, to a place on the throne.

Thought for today: The Son of God will never be satisfied until He has us with Himself, sharing His glory and sharing His throne.

May 24

Pressing Through

We never saw anything like this!

—Mark 2:12

Scripture reading: Mark 2:1–17

If anything stirs me in my life, it is words such as these: “*We never saw anything like this!*” These words were spoken following the healing of a paralyzed man. His four friends removed a portion of the roof in order to “*let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying*” (Mark 2:4). Jesus healed the man, and “*immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all*” (v. 12).

It is an ideal thing to get people to believe that when they ask, they will receive (Matt. 21:22). But how could it be otherwise? It must be so when God says it. Now we have a beautiful word brought before us in the case of this paralyzed man, helpless and so weak that he could not help himself get to Jesus. Four men, whose hearts were full of compassion, carried the man to the house, but the house was full. Oh, I can see that house today as it was filled, jammed, and crammed. There was no room, even by the door. It was crowded inside and out.

Something should happen all the time to cause people to say, “*We never saw anything like that.*” God is dissatisfied with stationary conditions. He opens the storehouse of the Most High, “*the unsearchable riches of Christ*” (Eph. 3:8), to us. God wants to move us into this divine position so that we are completely new creations (2 Cor. 5:17). You know that “*the flesh profits nothing*” (John 6:63). Paul says in Romans that “*the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be*” (Rom. 8:7). As we cease to live in the old life and come to know the resurrection power of the Lord, we enter a place of rest, faith, joy, peace, blessing, and life everlasting. Glory to God!

May the Lord give us a new vision of Himself and fresh touches of divine life. May His presence shake off all that remains of the old life and bring us fully into His newness of life. May He reveal to us the greatness of His will concerning us, for there is no one who loves us like He does. Yes, beloved, there is no love like

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His, no compassion like His. He is filled with compassion and never fails to take those who will fully obey Him into the Promised Land.

Thought for today: So many people stop at the doorway when God in His great plan is inviting them into His treasury.

May 25

The Way to Jesus

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

—Matthew 11:28

Scripture reading: Matthew 7:13–27; 11:25–30

In God's Word, there is always more to follow, always more to know. If only we could be like children in taking in the mind of God, what wonderful things would happen. Do you apply the whole Bible to your life? It is grand. Never mind those who take only a part. You take it all. When we get such a thirst that nothing can satisfy us but God, we will have a royal time.

The child of God must have reality all the time. After the child of God comes into the sweetness of the perfume of the presence of God, he will have the hidden treasures of God. He will always be feeding on that blessed truth that will make life full of glory. Are you dry? There is no dry place in God, but all good things come out of hard times. The harder the place you are in, the more blessing can come out of it as you yield to His plan. Oh, if only I had known God's plan in its fullness, I might never have had a tear in my life. God is so abundant, so full of love and mercy; there is no lack to those who trust in Him. I pray that God will give us a touch of reality, so that we may be able to trust Him all the way.

What an example of faith we have in the story of the paralytic's healing told in Mark 2. When the sick man's four friends found that the house where Jesus was staying was too crowded to enter, the men asked among themselves, "What will we do?" But there is always a way. I have never found faith to fail, never once. May the Holy Spirit give us a new touch of faith in God's unlimited power. May we have a living faith that will dare to trust Him and say, "Lord, I do believe."

There was no room, "*not even near the door*" (Mark 2:2), but these men said, "Let's go up on the roof." Unbelieving people would say, "Oh, that is silly, ridiculous, foolish!" But men of faith say, "We must get our friend help at all costs. It is nothing to move the roof. Let's go up and go through."

Lord, take us today, and let us go through; let us drop right into the arms of Jesus. It is a lovely place to drop into, out of your

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self-righteousness, out of your self-consciousness, out of your unbelief. Some people have been in a strange place of deadness for years, but God can shake them out of it. Thank God, some of the molds have been broken. It is a blessed thing when the old mold gets broken, for God has a new mold.

Thought for today: God can perfect the imperfect by His own loving touch.

May 26

Paid in Full

The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
—Luke 19:10

Scripture reading: Mark 2:1–12

Tell you, friends, that since the day that Christ's blood was shed, since the day of His atonement, He has paid the price to meet all the world's needs and its cries of sorrow. Truly Jesus has met the needs of broken hearts and sorrowful spirits, withered limbs and broken bodies. God's dear Son paid the debt for all, for He *"took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses"* (Matt. 8:17). He was *"in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin"* (Heb. 4:15). I rejoice to bring Him to you today, even though it is in my crooked Yorkshire speech, and say to you that He is the only Jesus; He is the only plan; He is the only life; He is the only help; but thank God, He has triumphed to the utmost. He heals all who come to Him.

As the paralyzed man was lowered through the roof, there was a great commotion, and all the people gazed up at this strange sight. We read, *"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you'"* (Mark 2:5). What had the forgiveness of sins to do with the healing of this man? It had everything to do with it. Sin is at the root of disease. May the Lord cleanse us from outward sin and from inbred sin and take away all that hinders the power of God to work through us.

"Some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts" (v. 6). They asked, *"Who can forgive sins but God alone?"* (v. 7). But the Lord answered the thoughts of their hearts by saying,

Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, "Arise, take up your bed and walk"? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins; He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." (Mark 2:9–11)

Jesus healed that man. He saw also the faith of the four men. There is something in this for us today. Many people will not be saved unless some of you are used to stir them up. Remember that

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you are your "*brother's keeper*" (Gen. 4:9). When these men carried the paralyzed man, they pressed through until he could hear the voice of the Son of God, and liberty came to the captive. The man became strong by the power of God, arose, took up his bed, and went forth before them all.

I have seen wonderful things like this accomplished by the power of God. We must never think about our God in small ways. He spoke the word one day and made the world. That is the kind of God we have, and He is just the same today. There is no change in Him. He is lovely and precious above all thought and comparison. There is none like Him.

Thought for today: We must take our brother to Jesus.

May 27

Faith like Abraham

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

—2 Peter 1:1

Scripture reading: John 6:22–51

As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God purposes that like our Lord, we should love righteousness and hate lawlessness. There is a place for us in Christ Jesus where we are no longer under condemnation but where the heavens are always open to us. God has a realm of divine life opening up to us where there are boundless possibilities, limitless power, and untold resources. We have victory over all the power of the Devil. As we are filled with the desire to press on into this life of true holiness, desiring only the glory of God, nothing can hinder our true advancement.

Through faith, we realize that we have a blessed and glorious union with our risen Lord. When He was on earth, Jesus told us, “*I am in the Father and the Father in Me*” (John 14:11). “*The Father who dwells in Me does the works*” (v. 10). And He prayed to His Father, not only for His disciples, but also for those who would believe on Him through their testimonies: “*That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me*” (John 17:21). What an inheritance is ours when the very nature, the very righteousness, the very power of the Father and the Son are made real in us. This is God’s purpose, and as, we take hold of the purpose by faith, we will always be conscious that “*He who is in [us] is greater than he who is in the world*” (1 John 4:4). The purpose of all Scripture is to move us to this wonderful and blessed elevation of faith where our constant experience is the manifestation of God’s life and power through us.

Peter went on writing to those who had obtained “*like precious faith,*” saying, “*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord*” (2 Pet. 1:2). We can have the multiplication of this grace and peace only as we live in the realm of faith. Abraham reached the place where he became a “*friend of*

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God” because he “*believed God*” (James 2:23). He “*believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness*” (v. 23). Righteousness was credited to him on no other ground than that he “*believed God.*” Can this be true of anybody else? Yes, it can be true for every person in the whole wide world who is saved and is blessed along with faithful Abraham.

Some people are anxious because, when they are prayed for, the thing that they are expecting does not happen right then. They say they believe, but you can see that they are really in turmoil from their unbelief. Abraham believed God. You can hear him saying to Sarah, “Sarah, there is no life in you, and there is nothing in me; but God has promised us a son, and I believe God.” That kind of faith is a joy to our Father in heaven.

Thought for today: When we believe God, there is no telling where the blessings of our faith will end.

May 28

Eyes of Faith

Jesus went about...teaching...preaching...and healing.

—Matthew 4:23

Scripture reading: Isaiah 58:8–12

One day, a young woman from a place called Ramsbottom came to be healed of an enlargement of her thyroid gland. Before she came she said, “I am going to be healed of this goiter, Mother.” After one meeting she came forward and was prayed for. The next meeting she got up and testified that she had been wonderfully healed. She said, “I will be so happy to go and tell Mother about my healing.”

She went to her home and testified to her wonderful healing. The next year when we were having the convention, she came again. From a human perspective, it looked as though the goiter was just as big as ever, but that young woman was believing God. Soon she was on her feet giving her testimony, saying, “I was here last year, and the Lord wonderfully healed me. I want to tell you that this has been the best year of my life.” She seemed to be greatly blessed in that meeting, and she went home to testify more strongly than ever that the Lord had healed her.

She believed God. The third year, she was at the meeting again, and some people who looked at her said, “How big that goiter has become!” But when the time came for testimonies, she was on her feet and testified, “Two years ago, the Lord gloriously healed me of a goiter. I had a most wonderful healing. It is grand to be healed by the power of God.” That day someone questioned her and said, “People will think there is something the matter with you. Why don’t you look in the mirror? You will see that your goiter is bigger than ever.” The young woman went to the Lord about it and said, “Lord, You so wonderfully healed me two years ago. Won’t You show all the people that You healed me?” She went to sleep peacefully that night still believing God. When she came down the next day, there was not a trace or a mark of that goiter.

Thought for today: A faint heart can never have a gift. Two things are essential: first, love; second, determination—a boldness of faith that will cause God to fulfill His Word.

May 29

The Mirror of Faith

*But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it,
and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work,
this one will be blessed in what he does.*

—James 1:25

Scripture reading: Daniel 3:10–30

God's Word is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Ps. 90:2). His Word cannot fail. God's Word is true, and when we rest in its truth, what mighty results we can get. Faith never looks in the mirror. The mirror of faith is the perfect law of liberty.

To the man who looks into this perfect law of God, all darkness is removed. He sees his completeness in Christ. There is no darkness in faith. Darkness is only in nature. Darkness exists when the natural replaces the divine.

Grace and peace are multiplied to us through a knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. As we really know our God and Savior, we will have peace multiplied to us like the multiplied fires of ten thousand Nebuchadnezzars. Our faith will increase even though we are put into a den of lions, and we will live with joy in the middle of the whole thing.

What was the difference between Daniel and the king that night when Daniel was put into the den of lions? Daniel's faith was certain, but the king's was experimental. The king came around the next morning and cried, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" (Dan. 6:20). Daniel answered, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths" (v. 22). The thing was done. It was done when Daniel prayed with his windows open toward heaven. Prayer links us to our lovely God, our abounding God, our multiplying God. Oh, I love Him. He is so wonderful!

Thought for today: All our victories are won before we go into the fight.

May 30

Holiness Opens the Door

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God
and of Jesus our Lord.*

—2 Peter 1:2

Scripture reading: 2 Peter 1:1–11

Note that grace and peace are multiplied through the knowledge of God, but first our faith comes through the righteousness of God. Righteousness comes first and knowledge afterwards. It cannot be otherwise. If you expect any revelation of God apart from holiness, you will have only a mixture. Holiness opens the door to all the treasures of God.

He must first bring us to the place where we, like our Lord, “[love] righteousness and [hate] lawlessness” (Heb. 1:9), before He opens up to us these good treasures. When we “regard iniquity in [our hearts], the Lord will not hear” us (Ps. 66:18), and it is only as we are made righteous, pure, and holy through the precious blood of God’s Son that we can enter into this life of holiness and righteousness in the Son. It is the righteousness of our Lord Himself made real in us as our faith remains in Him.

After I was baptized with the Holy Spirit, the Lord gave me a blessed revelation. I saw Adam and Eve turned out of the Garden for their disobedience. They were unable to partake of the Tree of Life, for the cherubim with flaming sword kept them away from this tree. When I was baptized, I saw that I had begun to eat of this Tree of Life, and I saw that the flaming sword surrounded it. It was there to keep the Devil away. How marvelously He keeps us so that the Wicked One cannot touch us. I see a place in God where Satan cannot come. We are “hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). He invites us all to come and share this wonderful hidden place. We dwell “in the secret place of the Most High” and “abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Ps. 91:1). God has this place for you in this blessed realm of grace.

Thought for today: Oh, what privileges are ours when we are born of God!

May 31

Faith Claims the Victory

[Through the] *exceedingly great and precious promises...you may be partakers of the divine nature.*

—2 Peter 1:4

Scripture reading: Philippians 3:1-15

The Lord has called us to share in His glory and power. As our faith claims His promises, we will see this truth evidenced. I remember one day I was holding a meeting. My uncle came to that meeting and said, "Aunt Mary would like to see you before she dies." I went to see her, and she was assuredly dying. I said, "Lord, can't You do something?" All I did was stretch out my hands and lay them on her. It seemed as though there was an immediate touch of the glory and power of the Lord. Aunt Mary cried, "It is going all over my body." That day she was made perfectly whole.

One day I was preaching, and a man brought a boy who was wrapped up in bandages. It was impossible for him to walk, so it was difficult for them to get him to the platform. They passed him over about six seats. The power of the Lord was present to heal, and it entered right into the child as I placed my hands on him. The child cried, "Daddy, it is going all over me." They took off the boy's bandages and found nothing wrong with him.

The Lord wants us to be walking letters of His Word. Jesus is the Word and is the power in us. It is His desire to work in and through us "*for His good pleasure*" (Phil. 2:13). We must believe that He is in us. There are boundless possibilities for us if we dare to act in God and dare to believe that the wonderful power of our living Christ will be made clear through us as we lay our hands on the sick in His name (Mark 16:18).

I feel the Holy Spirit is grieved with us when we know these things but do not do greater deeds for God. Does not the Holy Spirit show us wide-open doors of opportunity? Will we not let God lead us to greater things? Will we not believe God to take us on to greater demonstrations of His power?

Thought for today: Keep men's eyes off you, but get their eyes on the Lord.