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Pastor W. H. Offiler

THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ we have a remedy for our sicknesses and it is a ransom price for salvation and healing. Let our hearts be open and let us know that first of all, faith in the ransom and remedy provided, is of first importance.

Sometimes I think we do not pay enough attention to our body, soul, and spirit for the reception of that Divine Virtue that comes from God. God's work has been finished and when Jesus hung on the cross, when the nails had gone through His hands and feet; when He knew the last thing had been wrought in Him, which the Scripture prophesied, and He was now nailed to the cross, He lifted up His heart and His voice to God and said, "It is finished."

I am so anxious that the casual spirit leave us and we realize what this means in order to get those divine virtues applied to our spirit and our body. All disease begins in the blood stream, some way. When sin came in originally it touched the blood stream of the human race and polluted it. When poison gets into that blood and touches our body then things begin to go wrong. It is terrific, the amount of sickness in the world today. It is the business of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, to apply themselves after the bible fashion, that everyone of us may become members of His body and used in Him to stem the tide of sin and evil diseases that fasten themselves on the people.

You and I know, that in the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is healing for the body. So many people come to me and say, "Why is it that I do not get healed?" I think the answer to that question lies within yourself.

My experience of divine healing began when I was seeking God. I was not seeking healing. I was not sick, but after 21 days of praying I did get sick. My jaw bone was decaying. It had put me in the hospital. For four years I had that thing bandaged up and they had to build a protector around it. I could not even bear to have a breath of air touch it. This came upon me after praying and for three days and three nights I was under the flames and power of hell. That thing burned over my head and neck and shoulders until it was impossible for me to collect my thoughts. All I had in mind was to find God. I wanted to settle in my mind whether God was or was not. When I saw the miracle working power in the bible I said, "Is that record true? Did you do these miracles and, if it is true, is it for us today?"

That was the sole burden of my prayer. I had seen, in the book of Mark, that list of the miracle-working power of God. I was religious, but I had been somewhat of a doubter. As I prayed, I put myself before the Lord to seek God. I didn't ask God to heal me because I did not know whether He could heal me. I had gone through the church and through my prayer book in the Episcopal church of England until I was 23 years of age. I thought religion was a matter of living a decent life and going to church and belonging to the church and doing what you could for mankind. I never got the idea that the Glory and Power of God could be applied in a living fashion and that Christ, Himself, today, could really touch your living, mortal body. But Luke 12:31 says "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

Most experiences of people are on a spiritual line. Everyone of us, if we are going to continue on and get the blessings of God in our lives, have got to pray ourselves into His presence. We have to get a real experience with God.

Suddenly, after three weeks of praying, the Lord Jesus came down to me and took His finger and touched my lips and passed it into my mouth and the moment that finger touched my jaw bone it was well. My five years of misery were gone. The moment that finger touched my jaw bone, corruption became incorruption. When the Lord touched it, it staid healed. In the twinkling of an eye I was well. That is the way the Lord taught me about divine healing. The Holy Ghost said to me ( I knew nothing about the bible scripture) "if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you." Luke 11:20 For every deep thing of God's truth that He has ever taught me, He has put me through the actual experience. The Lord has given me the actual experience with Himself in all the deep experiences of my life. God gave me grace to get so hungry for Him that He came to that bedroom of mine. The truth of God's word and the fact of its literal application to us today was solved in my life and in my mind.

In the scripture the woman said, "If I can but touch the hem of His garment I shall be whole." That is the spirit to get. She even pushed the Disciples on one side. The moment she did, Jesus said, "Who touched me?" When she touched Him, the streams of virtue flowed from that body of His into her body and she was made every whit whole.

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It is for you to discover why you do not get healed. It is not for the preacher. I have always been a believer in getting into touch with God, myself. When you do that you know it is done. The battle is between yourself and your spirit; your body and your spirit. You have got to rebuke your flesh. That is the stumbling ground of Satan, but the Holy Ghost can cast him out of your flesh.

In the book of Acts 8 the Ethiopian was talking to Phillip about a day almost 4000 years before Christ died on the cross. Phillip preached to the Ethiopian from the book of Isaiah 53 and then Phillip baptised him. In the Jewish bible that word "grief" is always "disease". The mental and spiritual diseases that come on people were all borne by Jesus on the cross.

We are now in the evening time. "When evening was come they brought many to Jesus that were possessed of devils and He cast out the evil spirit and healed all that were sick." If we could remain before the cross of Christ, it would be the greatest school we could ever attend.

Christ's blood was sprinkled in Glory, but as we drink the wine, God wants us to discern the blood of Christ shed on Calvary. It is the Communion of Christ's blood to your blood.

Stenographic notes of  
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John 19:28 "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I Thirst."

Sometimes it seems almost unbelievable the limits to which the human heart will go in its hatred and striving. Here we have Jesus on the cross of Calvary. How wonderful it was that to His dying moment He knew all the things that were being wrought out that day were now being accomplished in the fulfilling of the scripture by David in Psalm 22, of the sorrow and sufferings of Jesus Christ as He hung between the Heavens and the earth. In that Psalm you will find the detailed account of the sufferings of Jesus written about 1000 years before the cross became a fact.

But the thought in my mind was, as He said "I thirst", there was nothing but vinegar to offer Him as He was dying. They added to it hyssop and the bitter herb ministered to Him in the last moments of His life, showing the hatred in human nature. Not only was it in the Romans and the people who demanded His crucifixion, but that hatred continues even down to the present day, all because men and women have never taken time to pray their way out of their gory humanism into the Glory of God. Jesus said of the congregation that stood about Him, that their eyes were blinded and ears were deaf, and their hearts like stone. They could not see or hear or understand the marvelous things that were transpiring before their very eyes.

So, I say to my friends this morning, don't be disheartened because you are permitted to suffer. Sometimes the thought of our heart might be thus -- that God had left us alone in our discouragements and sorrows and in our tears. Shall I say to you, that God never leaves or forsakes that one who entirely puts their trust in Him and who depends completely on the finished work of Jesus on Calvary's Cross for their deliverance and for the revelation in them of the eternal life of the Son of God. God has not forgotten you. Your sufferings and sorrows are known to Him, and remember, the sufferings of Christ have been likened to our human body. Some fill one place; some another; but everyone of them, whether they have been weak or strong, it is just the same in the eyes of God. Everyone of us are necessary to the full complement of the Divine purpose.

I read these words, "It is finished." So many times we apply that in a doctrinal sense. It was a wonderful climax to all God had revealed, to see the Son of God nailed to the cross, taking our sins, bearing our infirmities and our sicknesses, providing a remedy and a ransom price from it all, that we all may be delivered from the sins and sicknesses that touch the human body. But can we not discern behind those three words of the Son of God that sigh of satisfaction in the realization that came to Him, that the work He had foreseen is finished. Before He came to this world it was talked over in the Councils of God that Jesus should come and die. Before He was born and lay in Bethlehem's manger the Son of God, in the Glory of God, had knowledge of the thing that awaited Him....those pains and terrors that get hold of the spirit of men when they know they are doomed to suffer and die. In these three words, "It is finished", we can almost hear that sigh of eternal satisfaction, the gladness and glory of God, in the fact that He had finished His work without failure.

Sometimes we have tasks to accomplish that are hard for us to carry. They loom up before us and are a burden and a weight to our soul. The spirit of anxiety and care is upon us, but sometimes when we have accomplished that task and the work is done, we can heave the same kind of a sigh and say, "Thank God, that is over and done." So it was in the case of the Lord Jesus Christ. That Son of God was also the Son of man. He was not only the Brightness of the Father's Glory and express Image of the Father's Person, begotten by the grace and glory of the Father through the body of the Virgin and rightfully titled the "Son of God," -- but He was also born the Son of Mary and titled the "Son of man." He knows all the grace and glories of the Heavens above; all the joys that have been stored up in the eternal future for those who are ready to tread the same kind of pathway; the pathway of sorrow and pain and sufferings. Thank God, the present life is but the ante-room to the eternities of God. The Apostle tells us, "the sufferings of this present time are not to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Rom. 8:18

Jesus endured the cross and despised the shame of the malefactor imposed on Him because He had in view the Brightness of the Glory of God and the bliss of the redeemed ones who should people the new Heaven and earth where righteousness should dwell; when sin has been banished from the Heavens and earth and the hearts of men; when the curse has been lifted and God's people receive the fullness of the divine reward in immortality and are able to live in the bodies of their immortality and are able to enjoy the Glories of God in an eternal sense.

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No wonder there was a sigh of satisfaction in the heart of Jesus as the palor and ~~and~~ cold sweat of death were on His body and brow. He could look back on a work finished and completed and He could say, "Father, I thank Thee, I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do."

Sometime you and I are going to stand in the presence of that only Begotten Son of God and He is going to speak to us of the life we live on this earth. God has provided a work for everyone of you to do. There is none exempt from the commands and revelation of the Spirit of God on us. There is a soul that only you may save. If you fail God in that soul-winning ministry, that soul will go out into the eternities of blackness and darkness, forevermore away from God. If you fail you will stand before the Lord empty-handed. Nothing in your hands to bring unto Him who has brought so much gladness and glory into your life. Shall you and I today go out after that soul?

You say, "I do not know which one the Lord will have me to **speak to.**" Remember, In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, **ye** have done it unto me. You cannot do a good, a holy, a righteous or spiritual thing unto any living soul and miss the plan and purpose of God in His rewards to you. Pick out that one that is hardest to reach. See that one that is most uncomely; the one who seems to be of least importance in his community. You will see a transformation and behold the power of God coming on the impossible man and making him possible for God.

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