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Pastor W. H. Offiler

The law of the Gospel is the law of sacrifice. The Apostles understood thoroughly what it was to enjoy the beginnings of the Gospel of God. But the beginning of all things is but the beginning. As we begin our walk with God, then comes that faithful living of the experience of the call of Christ in our life day by day. Sometimes it is wonderful as we listen to the testimony of the newly converted ones and we hear the expressions of trial and faith as the Spirit of the Lord blesses them in their newly found life and the experiences that come into their life. We rejoice with them because it means so much to mankind to have the victory over habits that have been lifelong and suddenly to realize the freedom purchased for us in our lives by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But after the first thrill is over and we settle down to live a Christian experience, we settle down in our Christian lives to meet the various experiences as they come day by day, then it begins to dawn on us that in our Christian experience we are NOT living for ourselves. The Spirit of the Lord impresses the mighty truth upon us that we are to continue in the gospel in the Spirit of Christ and that is holy sacrifice, wholly. A spirit not only willing to yield its own love and pleasure, but also willing to go to the very extremes of human experience and love and to give his life as a ransom price for the whole world.

Paul tells us that if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. That is a very solemn saying because sometimes, when the truth of the gospel and of the experiences of Christ break in upon us, there is a tendency to draw back. But I am sure, that as we study not only our bible but the marvelous forces of nature by which we are surrounded we discover that everything is built, not only upon the wonderful victory that comes in our lives by the washing of Jesus' blood, but the real foundations are laid in our life by the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. The law of scripture is the law of sacrifice.

From the very beginning of God's dealings with man, always, the life entirely in the human sense, has been the one thing God must destroy and eradicate. There must be something more than our own love and pleasure and desires....something that comes to us from Christ to set aside all the lovely things we enjoy. The souls of men hang in the balance. Always it is revealed that death, instead of being the end of things for God's people, is rather the beginning of things. God is speaking not only in a spiritual sense. You and I must be willing to sacrifice our own desires. We must be willing to die, if it takes our life or saps our strength or wears us down to a shadow, yet we must do it at the call of God and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. As we yield to that law of sacrifice it becomes in us as that kernel of wheat that falls into the ground and dies.

When that wheat falls into the ground and dies it does not abide alone for in the center of that corruption that follows death, out of that unholy thing there springs the first green blade of a wonderful new life. That is a natural illustration. By and by the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear, and that is the course that expresses the law of the Spirit of Truth, as manifested by Christ. That wheat had to die before the new life could come forth. In the Christian experience the young man must give up his personal pleasure, his dream of wealth, and must be true to the vision of Christ. Here is where the rub comes to living successfully in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. What are we willing to sacrifice and give up that God may reveal in us the marvelous traits of character that are expressed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It shows to all the world, in every generation, that there is no living for God in the highest sense of the life of God, unless we are willing to die with Him. We must die to ourselves. We must be willing to put aside our indulgences and to die to that self-nature and all the world ambitions as they present themselves to us from day to day. Many of us want money. It is one of the strange desires of our hearts. We think that if we had a million dollars what marvelous things we could do. When you serve the gospel of Christ you will not find gold in it. When Christ commenced His ministry He had not a place to lay His head. He had no money to give to the people but He had something infinitely greater. If my friends this morning could only realize the joy of the sacrificial experience....the fruitfulness of turning the back upon ourselves and to say "no" to ourself.

In Christ it was "neither gold nor silver," Peter said to the lame man that layed at the Gate Beautiful of the Temple, "Silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I unto you." Oh, the treasure of the power and virtue in Christ. Oh, the Spiritual treasures God is ready to pour into the consecrated heart. We can know just what we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter told the lame man to rise up and walk, and immediately his ankle bones found strength.

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STENOGRAPHIC NOTES OF

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