

TACOMA MEETING, March 9, 1938 (three pages)

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Pastor W. H. Offiler

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Isaiah 53:10 "When thou shall make his soul an offering for sin.....He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied:"....

Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Before you and I can properly understand the importance and the significance of a scripture like this we must understand something of our own makeup. We must know just how we are constituted. We have to know that in each one of us there is a body, soul and spirit; just as God, in His marvelous fulness is manifested in triune sense -- God as the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the three blending into that one wonderful and complete God. It is a marvelous study. I say to my congregation there are certain things we ought to know and of all people on earth Christians should not be ignorant. They have no right to be. They might not be able to take degrees from a University or grades from high school, but by no means should they let their salvation come and go as a matter of fact. When God saves you and me from sin He brings about that operation with a purpose and that is, that we may come to a knowledge and understanding of God. It is a sin that Christians know so little about God and about His word.

There are two verses of scripture that always appeal to me. Matt. 13:13 "Because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." Matt. 13:23 "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Hearing the word of God and not understanding it. There are all kinds of excuses for not understanding God's bible among the average Christians, but friends, it is no excuse. God never intended you to look for one. I think it is a shame for anyone even to think that God would write a bible men and women cannot understand. There is a reason for not understanding God's bible. "When men and women hear the Word of God and understandeth it not, then cometh that wicked one, the devil, and catcheth away that good seed which was sown in the heart.

This is seed received by the way side." The seed fell on their heart and was sown in their heart but because of the lack of understanding it did them no good. It flared up for a little while but by and by it is tramped under foot or the fowls of the air come down and take it away.

Matt. 13:23 "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Now what are you going to do about that? "He that hears the word of God". How are we ever going to arrive at an understanding? The reason God's people do not understand things and do not understand themselves is because they do not comprehend that wonderful Spirit that God has put on them in the new birth -- you are entitled to every illumination of God. In Luke 24 we read that when they were born again, the Spirit of God was on them and the new man began to live in them, then He opened their understanding. Then He began to preach to them a sermon concerning Himself, beginning with Moses in Genesis and going through all the Prophets and Psalms. You can find Christ in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and in the books of Kings and Chronicles, and on down through all your bible you can find the wonderful revelation of Jesus, the Son of God.

The man that hears the word of God and understands it. Here is the foundation for fruitfulness. To be merely a Christian and to acquiesce to the power and gifts and blessings of Christianity and that Jesus died for you, is not enough. God doesn't want you to stop there. You are a new creature. God, the Holy Ghost, is your Teacher and as we submit to Him and follow the bible, you will find that the Spirit of God will take the word and make it real and the very fact that God's word becomes real in you, gives you the power to make it real to someone else. That moment you are becoming fruitful. I wonder what a 100% Christian would look like? Some, after they understand God's word bring forth 100 fold. That is by the power of God on them in the illumination of His word and Spirit. When He brings the gospel to you it brings you forth into the full experience of everything that God has to pour out on His people. You will find that the word of God not only illuminates you and makes you fruitful, but also it becomes a discerning spirit within you and me. The Word of God becomes a discernor of the thoughts and intents of mens' hearts. I am not interested in knowing my neighbor's business. That is not the idea. But the Word of God discerns even the thoughts. It steps out of the realm of natural and physical things into the realms of the thought life, and soul and spirit, and to the man and woman born of God and filled with the Holy Spirit

there is absolutely no bounds to divine revelation and divine power as they minister among men.

"Christ made His soul an offering for sin." We ought to know God and to understand all there is to know about God. The only way you can get knowledge of God is to get it from your bible. No other book in the world will reveal God to you. No other creature or being in this wide world has had the revelation and there is no greater revelation than the Word which has already been written. Sometimes folks say to me, "Here is a book that has been given in the spirit." When folks get so conceited that they think they can do without their bible I say to them, "My bible was written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Spirit and I don't want any new way." What we need is the word we already have. We need that Word to strike fire in our body, soul, and spirit. Where is the man that has ever comprehended God or His word, even yet. Sometimes we look into the work, the full gospel work that we represent.

You ought to be saved from sin. If you have not said "Yes" to God, the Apostle says you stand in jeopardy. The rank ideas that folks, who know nothing of the bible, get concerning salvation. They say, "It is all right for the old folks and to teach the children to say, Our Father who art in Heaven, but I am not ready for salvation to turn my back on the world. I am not ready to give up, to give up!" How ignorant people are. What have you got to give up when you give your heart to God? The dance hall? You can't go to beer parlors? Why don't they give God a chance for Jesus' sake? Get away from that kind of thing and begin to think on something worthwhile. If you want something in the line of study go to God's bible and you will find enough there in a short space of time to keep you busy for a life time. You don't have to give up anything.

"He made His soul an offering for sin." Man is made up of body, soul, and spirit. Soul is not spirit. If soul was spirit and spirit, soul, man would be dual in his nature. Not triune. There is a separation. A separate body. A distinct and separate entity that is called soul. Thank God there is also a Spirit man and Spirit nature. You will see that God wants to get that Spirit nature alone to Himself. When Christ died on Calvary's Cross, He hung with nails driven through hands and feet and that crown of thorns pressed into His brow. His body was nailed to Calvary but not on the cross did He make His soul life an offering for sin. Go down into the soul life of you and of me and you are stepping out of the visible realms of humanity and you are stepping into those marvelous creations of you and me in which we can experience a thing as God Himself experienced it.

Christ made His soul an offering for sin. If you will follow the steps of the Son of God you will find where Jesus severed the last link between soul and spirit. The body hung there but the conflict which went on in His soul brought great drops of blood as the soul life was separated from the spirit and the spirit stood alone as victorious and purified and perfected and as ready to stand in the presence of God as when the nails were driven through His hands and feet and He said, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit." It is through the soul life that the deepest experiences are expressed. The soul life is capable of experiencing good and evil. Between the soul and spirit of a man. God, the Holy Ghost, is striving, might and main, to get possession of the Spirit nature of man. If the Holy Ghost can get that spirit nature of yours, the glory and holiness and blessedness, and fruitfulness of God will be poured into your soul life. But the soul and flesh have kind of a partnership together. Christ said, "Fear not him that hath power to kill the body but fear him that hath power to kill both body and soul."

It only goes to show you that all the evil desires in the flesh get into that soul life of yours and there is no stopping place for sin. When a man's soul becomes polluted with the emotions of sin in the flesh it gets into the soul life and unless God works regeneration in you and holds back that evil thing it gets into your soul life. It was when Christ offered His soul life in Gethsemane that He suffered. His was the most intense prayer ever offered. Sometimes Christians wonder why it is their lives are so fruitless and their prayers are not answered. They were not prayed on a bible foundation. When you go to praying you will pray for the things Christ prayed for. If you are born again you will take the burden on your soul that Christ took on His. That is the reason that Gethsemane prayer has prevailed unto now and ever will and never will lose its power to deliver men from sin. It is as powerful today as when it pressed the blood drops out of the body of the Son of God.

If you will study your bible it will tell you how to pray. Ex. 23 will tell you just how to pray. It not only has to be an utterance of the physical body, but that soul of yours must be offered. You want to win a soul? Offer up your soul. Pray a prayer like Christ did and don't be satisfied with the wishy-washy thing we call praying in these last days. The compounding of the incense under the old law will show you how to pray. Three kinds of seed were put together in a mortar and, with a stone hammer, were ground until reduced to a fine powder and mixed with fresh incense. These three seeds were the symbol of the threefold nature of man. In the same chapter you will see the revelation of the Father as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost on exactly the same line. These three were pulverized and beaten, and remember, anything you get from God you get through a process of suffering.

It is good to jump if there is anything to jump for, but the Salvation of God will bring you to Gethsemane and to a place where you will follow the footsteps of Jesus and trod the way He did. Instead, many will tell you that Jesus bore your cross. But Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me." There is a cross for everyone of us and it is a marvelous thing when the body, soul, and spirit of us melts before God and almost dissolves, and there arises from your soul a cry that is heard in the Glory above and God has to answer prayer and He does. I know He does, because God put me through the process. We ought to know our bible and follow the example of Christ and that is what the Holy Ghost is for.....to make you like Jesus. Oh, like Jesus! "He made His soul an offering for sin."

The word of God is quick and powerful, dividing asunder even the soul and spirit. It is the word of God that divides asunder and performs the most delicate operation in the Universe. ...the separation between soul and spirit. Cleaving between the two --- separating that soul life from contact with its Spirit. You spirit belongs to God. If you will let God, who is a Spirit, take possession of your spirit, He will dominate it and touch the physical body and there is no stopping place when you are lost in God. If we want to become fruitful, as the Saints of God have been down through the line of the Ages, let us step in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who made His soul an offering for sin.

Until you and I have taken the self-same way, our lives will be ordinary indeed, but if we let God have His way we will sell out to Him with body, soul, and spirit and I believe that is what God is calling for in His saints. He has had a heavy-hearted service and testimony long enough. God wants a people as holy as Himself. If we can realize the call of the Spirit that is upon the saints of God in these last days and how God wants you to enter into this wonderful thing that will bring the 100% fruitfulness in our lives! It is not enough to just believe in Jesus and go to church. God wants the whole man -- body, soul, and spirit, and if you will give that to Him, He will work out through you the power of His Salvation.

WHO:MH

Stenographic notes of
Marguerite Hood

Pastor W. H. Offiler
Bethel Temple
Seattle, Washington

