

1939 March 8, 1939

Ferndale Fellowship Meeting

Pastor W. H. Offiler

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The Church of Jesus has been growing from the day of Pentecost to this day. All over the world you will find God's people, men and women sold out to God. They are willing to make sacrifices in order that this earth be anointed by the Spirit of God in these last days. My vision for the last days is the greatest that God has ever let loose out of Heaven. The Word of God that has been sown is the incorruptible Word of God and must bring forth fruit. This is God's Great Harvest Time.

Sometimes we think the Church has not made the progress it should because we have not apprehended the length, breadth, depth and the height of God's love, and we have not understood the plan He has mapped out for these last times. Today we are living in a time when God is tearing the veil from the hearts and minds of the people, and they are beginning to realize what the Gospel is. It is hidden from those only, who are unlearned in the mighty things of God and His wonderful Word, but to every man and woman, willing to pay the price and go down on their knees before God, He will meet that man and that woman. If they will pay the price and pray and wait on God, He will pour down on them the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we view the ministry of Jesus Christ, sometimes we are dumbfounded as we realize Christ was born the Son of God and began life as a Babe, and as He grew in wisdom and favor with God and man, for thirty years, we only hear one expression out of Him and that was at 12 years of age to His mother and Joseph when they discovered Him in the Temple and He reminded them, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" One of the marvels of the Christ is that for 30 years that is all we hear from Him. But every day the Son of God was growing in wisdom and stature, and one day He made His appearance at the Jordan and from then on the Glory and Power of God was on Him. The manifestations of that power have so astounded the world that even today after 2000 years experience with the Son of God they cannot believe the power of Christ is what it is revealed to be in the bible.

Here we have the Son of God manifesting every power and grace and virtue of the Spirit of God and today men and scholars of all kinds cannot believe there is vested, in Christ, this power and they cannot receive it. This is largely true of people professing Christianity and it is getting to be true even of Pentecostal folk for whom God has done so much.

We are in a time of sleeping; in a time when the Parable of the Ten Virgins is coming to its fulfillment and we are in a time when we are sleeping on the job. Many Christians in this meeting tonight have known the power of God and made pure by His power. The Virtue of Christ was not only manifested along the lines of healing. Christ came with a practical religion. Almost the first words that went from His lips, as they brought sick ones to Him, were "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." You and I have never yet comprehended the marvelous thing God did when He gave us a Saviour like Christ who could make an end to sin in our lives. It is only by that one Agency that sin can be forgiven. When that man was brought on the stretcher and heard the words spoken by Jesus, "Son, thy sins are all forgiven," that man knew it. When Christ speaks it is something more than words; something that reaches down into your soul and a spirit, and in spite of the unbelief in our human nature, we know and believe that the Word of God is absolutely true.

Christ forgives your sins. Whether you accept it is another thing altogether. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. There stands Calvary's Cross and that has been the theme of God's ministry for almost 2000 years. There is no subject like it in the world, "THE CROSS OF CALVARY."

You are looking at a man who will never die. Oh, they may take this Shāk ... this is only a shāk. Paul says, "As there is a natural body, there is a Spiritual body." When a Christian dies he is going somewhere. Don't look at that hole in the ground. Before they hold my funeral I will be gone. I will never attend my funeral. Where do you suppose Heaven is? You believe there is one. I am glad you do. Your faith will get you there. Heaven is much more real than this world of ours. You are not in the land of the living. You are in the land of the dying. Everyone is on the way to the Undertakers as far as the natural man is concerned.

We have an inkling of where Christ went to when He left this world. After Christ had been gone a few days, the Heavens opened and the Glory of God came down on those 120 and the world has never gotten over that thing. When your time comes to die, if you love the Lord, it won't only be the doctor and the nurse standing by your bed ... there will be an unseen Guest by you... it will be the Holy Spirit of God. You can never get the beginning of a Christ life without the Holy Ghost.

I read the first chapter of Luke and by and by it was going through me like a hurricane when I saw the hand of God Bringing forth that new creation, the Son of God, and then to realize God is beginning that thing in me. I am born of God and who is born of God is deathless.

The Holy Ghost carries us on and shows us deeper things of God. If they would give me all Ferndale with much money, I wouldn't even look at it. You and I, as Christians, have something money cannot buy. For 40 years the Spirit of God has been talking to me and quickening me. Last year I ran right into the devil and for the first time I was lying on my back. But I just had to stand by and wait for that invisible One. The Christian is a person that has to know something, not only about what he can see, but must know more about the thing he cannot see. The reality of the invisible things is one of the brightest things in God's book. Oh, the mighty and marvelous things that God created, that you cannot see with your natural eye! There is something about me that you cannot see. First is the natural and then that which is spiritual.

The Holy Ghost drove Christ into the Wilderness to suffer the temptations of hell and the Holy Ghost led Him to the place where He must die on the cross. When He came to that last Passover, He said, "With great desire have I desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Oh God, make us Christians who can believe God and believe there is virtue enough in Christ to heal the vilest things hell can put on the human body. I know this marvelous power vested in the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at Christ ... they crucified Him ... He died but He had enough of that Bible in Him to keep corruption away from Him. The Holy Ghost came down from Heaven and split that stone and took it one side, and no one but Christ and the Holy Ghost know how He got those grave clothes off.

Brethren, be sure you know the way out. You know the way in. That shining One sitting on the stone ... that is my Lord. If I ever die and you happen to be around when the trumpet sounds you will find me sitting on my grave stone. I am making sure I know the way out before I meet it. That is the Glory of Salvation. The Holy Ghost never leaves you when you go into the Valley of the Shadow.

I have seen, lately, the most marvelous manifestations of the simple faith in the resurrection. Heaven is full of the Spirits of just men and just women made perfect. God has a divine purpose and plan in this religious movement. It is more than a meeting. It is all right for us to assemble ourselves together, but the plan and purpose of God is to make you a new creation and then to anoint that new-born creature with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven and then if you will let God have His way, there is no stopping place. The power of God will sweep through your life.

The first miracle Christ ever performed was at a wedding and that was when He turned the water into wine, and manifested His Glory. God always keeps the best wine until the last. The best wine of God's experience in your body, soul, and spirit is left until the last.

I don't know why I preached you a funeral sermon but I got you out of the grave. When we are born again we become citizens of a new City. We are bound for that City. You are not a worm ... you are a new-born creation of God, which is formed by the power of God .. brought into creation by its union with Christ, anointed with the Spirit of God sent down from Heaven and ready to enter into our inheritance when the trumpet of God sounds.

How wonderful it is that we can build our hope of Time and Eternity on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Amen

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