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Holiness Writers

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World

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HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

Volume I

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By **Charles Henry Stalker**

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CHARLES H. STALKER.

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INDEX

1

Sacrifice

2

Prayer

3

One Thing

4

Temptation

5

The Great Debt

6

Sin and Its Punishment

7

Gethsemane

8

The Penalty

9

The Silence of God

10

The Plan of Redemption

11

The Wisdom of Holiness

12

The Personality of God

13

The Possibilities of Faith

14
The Open Grave

15
Go! The Divine Commission

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INTRODUCTION

We are grateful to God and to the author that we are permitted to have these messages published in the form of a book. They have proved to be a great blessing to all who heard them, and we trust they may be a blessing to those who read them.

The author has been to this country several times, and has been greatly used of God in the origin and the establishment of the independent holiness movement. The messages in this book were delivered during one of the most supernatural and divinely-planned trips he has ever made. Every door was closed, and, owing to war restrictions, he was told that he could not cross the Atlantic; but He who caused the gate to open of its own accord that Peter might go free, opened the way for His servant and brought him safely through in answer to prayer. The special provision and Providence connected with these messages add weight and worth to them. They were given under the direct inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and the peculiarities and the special personality of the speaker have been carefully retained.

The writer will ever thank God that he was brought into touch with this man of God, who, fearless of men or devils, speaks forth the truths that are laid upon his heart by the Holy Ghost.

May these Holy Ghost messages be carried all over the world, that hungry hearts may know the blessedness of the abiding presence of the Holy Ghost.

G. Wooster

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

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Charles Henry Stalker

Message 1 SACRIFICE

Message Delivered at Leicester,
Sunday Morning, January 12th, 1919

"Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer. Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish. So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him."

This was the returned answer at the crucial time in the life of an individual and nation. Such conditions do not make characters, but they reveal characters which God has made. The characters of which we read in the Bible were not made in a moment of time, they were not produced by a simple testimony, they were not the production of a second's work of the Holy Ghost, but they were the work of Divinity that continued and tested and tried, and then in the crucial hour they were revealed to the world. So I am glad that we have this message to read this morning.

I am glad to find these diamonds and jewels dug out of the stone quarry in Leicester. These are the days when children must be raised up to Abraham from the stones. It has to be stone-quarry work. Some things will last for four years and some will last for eight years, but God's eternal truth will last for ever. It is well that we should spend our time and our thought for something that will last for ever. When the Holy Ghost came to my heart He showed me something that was not of man, but of God. It has increased until it is bigger than the earth, it is bigger than any writing of history, it is bigger than anything that man or brains has produced in the centuries that have past, and it stands out in this hour of uncertainty and tragedy as the only thing for humanity. There is no energy wasted if you continue to seek until you get something from heaven that will satisfy your soul.

You can see how definite the message was which Esther sent to Mordecai. "I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to law; and if I perish, I perish." That is the crowning sentence, and it is the expression of sacrifice on which Christianity has lived and always will live. Emblems and banners may be unfurled, and brains may last for a century, but this never fails.

Now I do not know when you will touch this, but you will never amount to anything until you do. It matters not about riches, poverty, circumstances, tests, and trials, everything is settled when it reaches this foundation. Nothing is so effective and nothing is so lasting. If all the people who have sung, "Where He leads me I will follow," had kept their covenant with God, the things which have been taking place these past years would have been impossible. So many are satisfied with the intellectual and theoretical, but that is not the foundation. There has never been a thing that hell

could produce, there has never been a jail or prison, or a famine so long that could overthrow the child of God that has remained on this foundation. I am not speaking these things hastily, they are for our meditation all the rest of our lives.

Those who have gone this way have gone in single file. You cannot go in numbers, you cannot go in families, some of your relations will never know God, and some of your worst enemies will spell their names like yours. If ever you know the secrets of the Holy Ghost and spend eternity in heaven you have to go through alone. Your foes will be those of your own household. Oh, those nagging, gnawing things, that withering pressure of hell that has taken people out of the will of God. You can bear things for a few minutes, but that constant, nagging, and gnawing, it will wither anybody who does not have something supernatural in their souls.

The foundation of Christianity has never been seen by the natural eye. It was taken out of the heart of God and buried in the heart of man until fires cannot burn it, and winds cannot blow it away, persecution cannot touch it, and the devil cannot find it. You can see it is not the emotional, and it is not the doctrinal, it is not the intellectual conception of the Bible truths. There are people who have the theory and the doctrine, but their lives are withering to this lost world.

I came a stranger to this country a few years ago. I saw it had everything. I heard addresses and saw sights, and I said, there is only one thing that ought to be mentioned in this country, and that is the supernatural. I have been to this country several times since then, but I have never seen a more supernatural work than this. It is what my heart has been longing for, since the time I stood on London Bridge alone. This is the thing. I see it, I saw it coming. There is no competition, brains cannot produce what the heart desires, education has never satisfied the heart of a peasant and never will. I say again, in the great strain and the great pressure, you must have something supernatural in your soul. What is this world dying for now? It is dying for something that nobody understands, and nobody can explain. It is dying for that which can never come from the head of man, but it comes from the heart of God.

After a few short years of service there is years of work ahead of me. The Holy Ghost showed me some things at the plow handle, and people said it would not work, and I could not preach, and people would not pay me for preaching, but the Holy Ghost told me I could do it. I give God all the glory. There is such a consciousness of utter dependence upon Divinity after the Holy Ghost comes to abide. God can produce characters that will stun and stagger brains and everything else for time and eternity.

Now you can have your sins forgiven in a second and you can put your all on the altar and receive the Holy Ghost in a moment of time, but do not stop there. Thousands have stopped with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and with the consciousness of the Holy Ghost coming into their hearts, but you go on until you come to this place of sacrifice. Do not wait to see how many are going with you, but get to the place where you are separated from everything, and the silken cords that are tied around your soul have all been cut, where the Holy Ghost can speak to you alone. Many times I think I see a little of what the Holy Ghost wants to do with some people, and I think it will take years for it to be accomplished. But what are years? What is time? What does it matter if you are in the will of God? Let Him mold a character that will be able to stand every test. You cannot go in two

by two. Husbands must be separated from their wives, parents from their children, by the Holy Ghost. Every individual ought to have a personal communication with God, and no friend, no affection, no circumstance should ever cross that threshold. If you think more of your husband, your wife, your brother, or sister, you will have to go with them. You cannot be His disciple. This is a place that very few ever reach. I say it prayerfully. The profession of Holiness is no more than a pastime with many people, and they talk of trying it. There is no "try" about this.

Esther asked them all to pray, but when she came to the crucial hour, she did not take a person to Shushan, she did not ask those who had prayed with her to go, but she went alone. The greatest tests of your life are when you are alone, and the greatest triumphs of your life are when you are alone. I like to be in meetings, I would like to have been in the Convention, but what is that? It is gone, but the secrets of the Holy Ghost come by revelation, and no crowd is necessary for that revelation, no special music is required in order for the Holy Ghost to reveal His secrets to your heart. No relations are recognized, you can get to a place where your relatives are no relation to you, but the Holy Ghost more than makes up for the lack. When I hear people say they wish this and they wish the other, I know there is something that they have not touched. You will never go far until you go alone.

Look at Gethsemane; Jesus only picked three of His disciples to go with Him: Peter, the messenger of Pentecost; John, the beloved disciple, and James. When He came up to the crucial point, He left them, and went a little further. Jacob was singled out, and you can go all through the Bible and find characters that were singled out from the rest of the people. That is the trouble today, people are not willing to be singled out. There are so many people that, when they are alone they are so lonesome, and they must have letters and they must have flattery, they must have something. Let the Holy Ghost single you out and make you a center, and you can stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

They came to Jesus one day, and told Him that His mother and brethren had come to see Him. What a number of people would have run. I saw some of the wounded soldiers returning the other day, and some of them were met by their mothers. What a sight it was! But Jesus said, "Who is my mother? He that doeth the will of my Father, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." He clipped the sacred cord of relationship and cut Himself off from everything. There are people today that the Holy Ghost would have taken a long way from where they are, if they had cut those cords. I know some people who think a great deal of their home, but they will never make their home in heaven.

"If I perish, I perish." When a person comes into the realm of the supernatural everything else sinks into oblivion. There is a kingdom at stake, there are those people who are helpless, the word has gone forth and they are to be killed. But the person who knows God will do extreme things, they will not be extremists, but they will do extreme things. There will be times in your life when you will do things that will cause you to wonder. If you consulted your friends you would not do them, and if you consulted good common sense you would not do them. Some people have so much good common sense that they need to have some uncommon sense. Some of the common sense has become nonsense.

I want you to notice that Esther did not stop with asking people to pray for her. When you have prayed and fasted, and others have prayed with you, then go and do the thing that has to be done. "If I perish, I perish." "If I perish, do not weep for me; this thing is worth my life, and I am prepared to give it." I say, beloved, that is where Christianity has stood, and staggered this world. Every sacrifice of Christianity for the last twenty centuries has been voluntary, the martyrs who have died, did not have to die. The people who were burned at the stake at Oxford and other places did not have to die, but they gave their lives willingly. All that is done for Christianity today must be done by voluntary service. Begging people to take a meeting and to give a testimony is all nonsense. Tell people they must do a thing? God never did that.

Christianity will stand in England, it will stand in America, it will stand in all places of the earth, it will burn at the stake, but it will live for ever. I plead with you this morning, let those cords which have been tied around you be clipped, let friends be turned to foes, let the future be just as dark as midnight, let the heavens be brass and the earth bars of iron, but do not miss the thought of God for your life. I want to give this testimony. The Holy Ghost is more to me in a minute today, than He used to be in twelve months. He is doing more in an hour than He used to do in a year. This is worth more than all the world, and the sweat drops of the Son of God ought to drop from the brow of everyone of His followers as long as time lasts. It is not a question of what others are going to do, it is not a question whether anyone else sees it, and it is not a question of what others say, but what are you going to do? People are going to extremes on every other line, the war was a war of extremity. There was death in the ocean, death in the sky, and death everywhere. Everything was extreme, and I tell you, beloved, if we are going to produce in this country and other countries what God wants, we must step over the tender feelings of a friend and be a target for earth and hell. God wants to single out men and women who will dare to do and dare to die. If you do not see anything in this thing, then take down the sign; if you do not mean to pay the price, then shut your mouth. But if you do, live and die for God and Holiness. Nothing will stand before it. Esther made up her mind that it was the sacrifice of her life, and she was prepared to give it. If that is produced which God desires, somebody must give their life for it, somebody must go alone with the Holy Ghost. I want you to see it is your privilege.

I was much impressed the other day as I thought of a man and his daughter who came to our home. The daughter had been saved in a Camp Meeting a few months previous. The father had been blind for forty years, but he wanted to come to our farewell meeting. They came and they sang that night and blessed the audience wonderfully. They went to the home where he was being entertained. We left very early next morning, but about ten o'clock they went to his door and called him, but he did not answer. They thought he was tired and weary, so they let him rest. After a while they went again, and there was no answer, so they thought possibly he was ill. They opened the door and went in. He was kneeling by his bed. They spoke to him, but there was no answer. They said, "Did you rest well last night?" But he never spoke. They took him to his home, and three days later he died. The daughter became a missionary and went to Jamaica. She was there about seven years, I think, then she came back. She was ready to go again, and then the war broke out and she could not sail. To make the story short, she fell ill and died. A few weeks after I made my way to that city. I did not know the cemetery, and I had no information. I went to a policeman, and he said, "Were they rich?" and I said "No." Then he told me I should possibly find them in a certain cemetery. I went to the authorities and they took me into a room where there were books and books. They found the name,

first of the father, and then of the daughter. They said there would be some difficulty about finding the graves, because they were buried in a cemetery of four-hundred acres. I took a car and went to that beautiful cemetery and told the people in the office the object of my visit. They said they would have been pleased to send someone with me, but they had no one they could send. I told them I believed that the Lord would answer prayer, and I started out into that cemetery of four-hundred acres. I walked and walked and I believed I would find it. I read my Bible and then I looked and away down there I saw their names. I knelt and thanked God for answered prayer.

They went to the altar and received the Holy Ghost, and they went right through with God and died in victory. I thanked God that He had brought me into touch with those two lives, and that He could take a blind man and fill him with the Holy Ghost and then take him to heaven in victory. That is the thing that counts. It is practical, personal, and supernatural. I just plead with you today that you would let the Holy Ghost single you out. Abandon yourself entirely to Him and let Him have His own way in your life.

Beloved, the possibilities of this meeting this morning will be talked over through all eternity, and you will never cease to praise God for the victories gained. After the whole earth is burnt up and the stars have ceased to shine, this foundation will be the same; hell cannot move it. The world cannot understand it, but God has said it, and it is true. You can have victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

I am glad to give this message this morning and that I can say from the depths of my heart that I have preached nothing that I have not practiced, I have said nothing that I do not know experimentally. It will work on any continent, at any time, under any conditions, it will work under any pressure, and it will work under trials.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 2

PRAYER

Message Delivered at Kettering,
Evening Meeting, Jan. 15th, 1919

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

There is scarcely anything that can be said of what the prayer life is and what it can be. These words are spoken definitely in regard to praying in the Holy Ghost, and there is more in this than in anything else. It is one of the most wonderful things that God hears and answers prayer. When the sinner comes and confesses his Sins and prays, God answers his prayer and saves his soul. Just think of the result. Here is a lost man, and he knows he is lost. He cries to God for pardon, and God answers his prayer. Then he knows just as clearly that he is saved. The believer comes and prays for the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. It may be a very simple prayer and very short, but think of all that it means, when that prayer is answered and the Holy Ghost comes.

People can speak about it and I have heard some of the best preachers, and I have heard testimonies, but no one has been able to express it. I have heard people expound the Bible, they have torn the text to pieces, and when they have finished and put on the climax, they could not tell it as good as it was in my soul. I have heard some Greek scholars, and my, how they did sweat. They dug up roots like we used to dig up roots in the clearing, and when they were through, the thing was not as big as God had made it in my soul. Praise the Lord.

People say we exaggerate, but it cannot be exaggerated. You would have to go in eternity to exaggerate it. With all the wonderful discoveries that have been made by man, they have never been able to do for a soul what the Holy Ghost has done. There is one striking thing about praying in the Holy Ghost. You cannot pray in the Holy Ghost until you have prayed the Holy Ghost in. There are hundreds of people who have prayed a little, but you would be surprised at the small number who have prayed a prayer in the Holy Ghost. We have got to face the facts, and facts will live after feelings are dead. You begin to deal with facts and you will have something that will stick to you a long time after people have lost all they professed to have.

There are no limitations, there is no condition, and there is no power that can keep us from praying a prayer in the Holy Ghost. A person living in a sod house, if he knows the difference between salt and sugar, can pray a prayer in the Holy Ghost.

The devil cannot get an answer to prayer, neither can any of his followers. People can have money and prestige and place, but if they were left to get an answer to prayer, they would die in poverty and

spend eternity in hell with the rich man. There is absolutely no end to the possibilities in the prayer life.

After this dark picture, this dismal picture held up by this man, he says "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." You can live on answers to prayer, and no one can keep you from getting answers to prayer. I say, tonight, without any hesitation, that the greatest change in my life after the Holy Ghost came was the continuous answer to prayers. Prayers that nobody ever heard, prayers that were prayed in my heart by the Holy Ghost, and I am getting answers to prayer today that were prayed years ago. I have had answers to prayer during the last two or three years that were prayed with my hands on the plow handle. The Holy Ghost knows just what He is doing.

There is another very striking thing, this is a prayerless age. People read about prayer, but they do not pray. If they do it, it is a burden to them. They will take plenty of time to eat, but when it is time for prayer they will read the shortest Psalm and they call that prayer. They do not realize how much there is in prayer. We are living in an age when people do not see much in it, and they say it is foolish to pray. If we did what the people used to do in fasting and prayer we would be counted as fools. If a person said he was going to spend his life in pleasure, very little would be said about it, but if someone says they are going to spend their life in prayer, they are looked upon as a curiosity. But, believe me, there is more in prayer than there is in anything else.

These words were written at a time when everything was out of the ordinary, but he said, "You can pray in the Holy Ghost." I am glad, today, everyone of us can pray in the Holy Ghost. You can start in your home, and you will be surprised at the things that will be brought to your memory and to your door in answer to prayer. You may think of it now as a very small thing, but when you begin to pray it will increase. Get alone with the Lord in prayer, communion and fellowship.

All prayers prayed in the Holy Ghost are answered. You see how important it is. And no prayers out of the Holy Ghost are answered. You see how awful that is. Someone says, "Be careful, now." I am with the Bible. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." Beloved, when God puts the light on your soul it pays to walk in every ray. When people speak lightly about these things, we can see that they know nothing about them. Just think what it means for your soul to be in communion with God. The Holy Ghost has come in and you do not have to be worrying about your own experience, you can be praying for others. When you get into this experience, and you begin to think what it means, you will find yourself saying, "How did I get along without the Holy Ghost?" The refinement and education that comes to a soul in communion with God cannot be found in any other place. If you would spend the rest of your life in prayer, you would come up to the judgment with such a character that would simply stagger the angels through all eternity.

People will do almost everything else but pray. You can get preachers, you can get people to do almost everything but pray. They think prayer is just a little thing, a prayer now and then, but it is a real life, and the Bible says: "Pray without ceasing." I do not mean that you will always be in the same place, but you can always be in communion with God.

Whenever a sinner confesses his sins and prays for pardon, he always gets the answer. There are thousands of people today who have desires in their hearts, but the carnal mind hinders them from getting answers to prayer. After God destroys the works of the devil, and the Holy Ghost comes in, He makes intercession for the saints. There is more in a groan after He comes than in all the beautiful words spoken before. Many times your prayer will end with a real cry of soul that finds no words to express it. You use the vocabulary, but that is limited. The words fail sometimes, they do not express your desire, and you just groan out a prayer that cannot be uttered, and God begins to answer. It will take something from you. You may have various kinds of burdens, but a burden of soul just seems that it would eat up your very life. I believe that the great need today is for more prayer.

It says: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done." It does not say, if all your relatives agree, but if two of you agree. I was in a meeting two years ago, and the people were so stirred up that they went after others at midnight in automobiles. They wanted to see them saved. It was not fanaticism, it was nothing of the kind, but they had a burden for lost souls, and they were so in earnest about it, that it put conviction on the whole of that community, and I believe it will never be forgotten.

The people said, "What does this mean?" It was because a few people started to pray. I was surprised to see the number increased night after night. That country was just shocked by the divine currents that came in answer to prayer. People said, "You are a fool." They thought I was a fool when I started, and they thought it for two or three years, and then they shut their mouths. If we are fools, we are going in for the whole foolery. If this thing does not work there is nothing that will. I have given my life for it, and I am not ashamed of it. It seems to me that we never had a greater opportunity than we have tonight.

A person came to me a few months ago, and said: "When I sit up and talk I can keep awake, but when I go to prayer I go to sleep." Go to sleep praying, go to sleep with a burden of soul? No, keep awake. I do not see anything in praying like that, that is sleeping. Far better go to bed and go to sleep. When you receive the Holy Ghost, He will give you a very different prayer from that. Beloved, you have got to step out to new ground and take new promises, and get answers to prayer as never before or you will dry up and die.

There is a very impressive feature about prayer, and that is the prayer cable reaches to everybody's heart. You do not have to go out of your room, you can close the door, in fact, the Bible says, "When thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." That is it, and that is just what He wants. I see the need and I see the supply; but, beloved, the supply must be taken to the need, and that is no child's play.

Why was the war won in victory? Because of the sacrifice. It was costly, but the victory was won. It will mean sacrifice to spread Holiness over this country, but there is no man in the universe who can stand before that spirit of surrender and sacrifice. I quite believe it is a trial to go away from home for a few weeks, for a few days, but some people went away from their homes for ever. Affections had to be clipped. Carload after carload left our country, and they went to the front. Thank God, there is victory. We do not have to fight for victory. We fight with victory. A great many people think of serving the Lord in order to be happy, but we serve Him because we are happy. That is the

secret of the whole thing, and it is within the reach of everybody. We are not going in for feeling, we are going in with life and for life.

The Holy Ghost comes in as a reality, and He is sure to do something that none of your relatives think He can do. You are the odd one, they talk of you as an absentee, they point to your picture on the wall. "Yes, they used to be here at Christmas and at Thanksgiving, but they went to a meeting and got something, and they have never been like us since." You are looked upon as a curiosity, you had better go so far away that they cannot see you. Do not look on the same dates, because we cannot sit around and count our friends on our fingers when the world is dying for the message that brings life.

I was in a meeting, and a woman came to the altar. I found, after she came, that she was the wife of a drunkard. She had an awfully hard time, but she was hungry for God. She came to the penitent form and begun to pray a very touching prayer. It seemed that she was under such deep conviction that God answered her straightway. Then she said she knew she would have to receive the Holy Ghost. She prayed again for the Holy Ghost, and then she said, "Do you think God would answer my prayer now?" And I said, "Yes." She said there was one thing she wanted the Lord to do, and I said, "Ask Him quickly," Then she asked God to save her husband, she believed He would. I asked the Lord to answer her prayer. She went home, and was getting ready to retire, when a hand was placed on her shoulder. Her husband stood by her. He said, "What would you think if I said I was never going to drink again?" and she said, "I should be the happiest woman in the world." Then he told her how he was in the drinking saloon and started to take a drink when something seemed to say to him, "Don't take it." He put it down, told the bartender, and left the place. What made him do it? It was that woman's prayer. That prayer in the Holy Ghost went right down to that saloon. There was a meeting the next night, and a big crowd was there. When the altar call was made, that man stood up. His wife stood up beside him and told how she was saved the night before, and how she had received the Holy Ghost. Her husband wanted to be saved. Of course he did. God hears and answers prayer. You can see that argument is not going to do it, but you can get away in a little corner and pray a little prayer and save some soul from hell.

Now this goes right beyond the intellectual, it cannot be explained. "Passeth all understanding." People have been trying to see into this for twenty centuries, but they have never seen it, and they cannot understand it.

God never sent the hundred and twenty out to explain it, He sent them to be witnesses. Stephen never explained it, Paul never explained it. You cannot get it by education, but by revelation. One person came to the altar and told me what a number of books he had read. A number of people want the filling without the killing. I have heard them sing, "Fill me now," they ought to sing "Kill me now. Killing is the first thing, you must be dead to everything, dead to friends, dead to foes, dead to the future, dead to your own plans, and then He will fill you. You can be filled with all the fulness of God. It is one of the most staggering things that Divinity ever offered to humanity. So many have been trying, but all they have to do is to get down and accept it just like a little child.

Jesus makes intercession for the sinners at the throne, but the Holy Ghost makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. That is the double prayer life, and you can see that it is a

special life for the people that are sanctified wholly. I would not miss it for all that the world can offer.

A man was in a meeting one day, and I was telling just a few answers to prayer, and afterwards he said, "That is all right for you, but it is not practical in my life." But that was his fault. He could have it. It is within the reach of all. Just start where you are, give your whole life to God, and when the Holy Ghost comes He will lead you every step of the way.

From the time that I took my hands off the plow handle I have known nothing but following the Holy Ghost and having answers to prayer. He has done all that has been done. There is no way of magnifying this too much, it cannot be exaggerated. I want to encourage you because I know there are prayers in your heart, but, beloved, do not cut yourself off from this opportunity that is given to everyone who is abandoned to the Holy Ghost.

Do not think it is exhausted because it increases all the way and deepens every day and hour. Now and again people say: "I do not see how it is done." That is because it is supernatural. After you have used all your eyes, and all your good common sense, and all your powers, then God steps in, and you enter into this prayer life. Thank God for it. It is better and richer all the way through. Just now He is whispering secrets to my soul. I do not covet very much, but I covet for you the consciousness that you are in the will of God.

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God." If this little nucleus gathered here tonight would begin a life of prayer in the Holy Ghost it would mean more to this country and to this world than we will ever know. Do not think of your limitations, do not think of the opposition, that is part of the "bill of fare." Do not grieve the Holy Ghost, but stay with your job. The Bible says: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Some old carnal fellow will say: "I don't believe it." He does not have to believe it. That is the thing. Why, people have been so mad sometimes because I would not get mad, and they have said, "I think you ought to do this." So many people think and think and think and never get a thought out of the heart of God. They have been in cold storage so long.

God help us tonight, let us go in for the thing, let them pound us, let them sneer at us and turn the cold shoulder, but let us go on. It is our business to press on with this message of Holiness. I want someone to get this thing and live this life. May someone receive the Holy Ghost now.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 3 ONE THING

Message Delivered at Penn,
Sunday Morning, January 19th, 1919

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward to mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

These words have specially impressed my mind this morning, they are so expressive and so comprehensive. I trust that God will speak to our hearts some living truth which is the need of the hour.

"This one thing I do." That is the secret in every life of sacrifice and service. It is very impressive that after this man was saved and sanctified he saw more in this one thing than in anything else. A real supernatural change had taken place. Before, he was bringing death and destruction, but afterwards he was bringing life and instruction. He carried the message of life, the greatest message that this world has ever heard and that God has ever spoken. We can see the need of a real supernatural change. Although he learned a great deal at the feet of Gamaliel, if he had never had a real change of heart we should never have heard of this character.

"This one thing I do." We are not giving our time and our energy and our money to a failing cause, we are not making an investment that will fail to bring real dividends. These things have been tried and tested in the fiery furnace, and the lion's den, and under the most extreme circumstances, and they have never failed, and never will.

One particular thing is, that when people get this experience, they give their lives willingly to the work. You can make your own choice, and no one is responsible but you. When it comes to these things, which are of such great worth, all are left to make their choice. A person does not have to read the Bible, or pray at the family altar, there is no compulsion. How glad I was to see that man raise his hand last night; divinity and humanity were united together, and no one can explain it. It goes into the realm which is only revealed by the Holy Ghost. That is the whole secret of it. The act which has staggered the brainiest is that it is revealed in simplicity to the babes. "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes."

I was going down a street in Columbus one day, and I noticed a large board. It was painted in an attractive way, and on one side was written: "We have no competition, we are in a field of our own." How true that is. The Holy Ghost says: "You have no competition on this line." You can weep and pray, and live and die, and only a few will care after all. Only a few will ever know you, but you can live for ever when you live in the Holy Ghost.

A great many people would like the results, they would like the dividends, but they will not make the investment. If you are having a hard time to get a place, fall in the mud and trust the blood. Nobody ever wanted Paul's place, and they will never want your place.

They are very particular when they choose men to be soldiers, but when God makes a call, He silences all the calls of man. He will take the scrap iron pieces and the dust and ashes of a mis-spent life, and He will use it for His glory, and the salvation of souls. He will take a body that has been wrecked by sin and He will make a monument that will stand through time and eternity. I have heard people say they have tried it once, they have started once. What did they try? Just think of experimenting with God. God never thought of thirty or forty years, He never made a sacrifice that would last only for a day, it was a sacrifice that will last for ever. He has made a covenant that is everlasting. I want to say, beloved, that when you get in the thought of God you can be a blessing to somebody, and they will never forget it as long as they live, and they will remember you in their dying hour.

Here was a man that had the highest authority, his pockets were full of papers, but his heart was filled with stuff. Just as soon as his heart was changed the papers went and he trusted God, He took him through. I am glad that God has such characters.

This is an hour of extreme need, we cannot open our eyes without seeing the need. We cannot live selfish lives and be clear. The heart of man is craving for something, and it can never be satisfied until it finds God. We were created to be filled with the knowledge of God and with the Holy Ghost.

At one time it was thought very peculiar and very strange for people to leave the country and go out indefinitely. Single ones took the gangplank and went to the fields far away, but during the past few months the gangplank has been crowded, bringing the blood and the sacrifice from afar. The single missionary used to go to the field and death was faced as a matter of fact. The people said nothing, and they were willing to go. Oh, we are so far behind in making the sacrifice for God and a lost world. We have been so selfish and we have been so secluded that we have let millions go without hearing the name of Jesus. You can see there is a great work to be done. There is no compulsion, but you can just give your life.

Christianity does not live on what people say, but upon what it does, and when a thing is done God and man can see it. Say all you please about what God cannot do, but when God does it in the heart, wisdom and brains are staggered.

I remember a little girl who came to the altar. She was under deep conviction, and God begun to talk to her. She lifted up her little face and said she was the worst sinner that ever lived, and she prayed and cried. Some people say, "I would not do that." Yes you will. "Every knee shall bow." And "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven" After a while she said: "I know I am saved and all my sins are forgiven," and the tears soon dried on her face. We saw it, but we did not understand it. That testimony will live for ever. You can get around tradition, you can explain away education, but the work of God will stand.

One special thing that has impressed me is, that this work has a foundation that the devil can never move or remove. After all has been said and done there are no words that can give expression to the gratitude of the heart that has been changed by the power of God.

We are glad this morning that we can read of one man of God who said "This one thing I do." It was an hour of need then, it is an hour of need now, and there is nothing that brings such reward as a life of sacrifice and service for others. When you begin to see these things God will bless you wonderfully.

I went to New York a few years ago to see some missionaries sail. Some had come from a distance, and some had friends to see them off, but there was one young lady who seemed to have more friends and more presents than any of them. When she went up on the gangplank her arms were just filled. Some had gone away without a carnation, but she seemed to have more than her share. It was all right, because her friends had a right to do it. She disappeared for a little while and then she came back. You would think that she would have placed them in the state room where she could have enjoyed their fragrance, but she came back with her arms full of flowers, and she begged to distribute those flowers along the steamer. It made an impression that will never leave me. They had been given to her, but she saw more in giving them away. I watched her closely. I did not receive a flower, but I got such a blessing by watching. How different it was from selfishness. She might have put them in a vase in the state room, or she might have given them to the stewardess to keep fresh for the voyage, but she passed them on to others.

The heart of God broken on Calvary gives to everyone who comes in surrender, salvation from sin and the abiding presence of the Comforter. As soon as they are filled with the flowers of divine grace, then they can pass them on to others.

Beloved, what did God save you for? What did Jesus shed His blood for? What was Gethsemane for? For you and me to enjoy ourselves? Never! What does it matter how I feel for twelve months? What does it matter if ecstasy and emotion never possess me again, if I am conscious that I am in the will of God and giving somebody a flower, or putting something in somebody's life that will never cease to glorify God and bless others.

While Jesus was walking this earth He did some good things, and He displayed His power, but if He had stopped there we would have been lost for ever. He walked on and stood in Gethsemane alone, He sweat when others would have been shivering and freezing. He did not stop there, He went on and carried His cross and His broken heart. That is the foundation upon which Christianity is based. That is why Ingersoll and Voltaire and Russell cannot come within ten million miles of the first edge of the corner of the foundation-stone of Christianity.

If there was no future, the presence of God in the human heart is a divine guarantee for all time, and it can satisfy humanity at every turn. I am so glad that things are offered to us and revealed to us. God is God, and there is none else.

Another reason that you have to do one thing is because you have no time for anything else. It is surprising how much time it takes to do one thing and to do it well. The man who built Brooklyn

Bridge was counted strange and peculiar, but thousands are going over that bridge who never thought of it. There was a man who used to stay out on the ocean so long in going to India, and he suggested making the Suez Canal. People said it could not be done, but he did it. When I saw the monument of that man I was so thankful that he finished it and made it possible for people to go that way and miss the rolling sea. And when you think of it, Jesus Christ takes us from the rolling sea of life and the turmoil of sin, and all His ways are pleasantness and all His paths are peace. But He never found sympathy.

A man said to me the other day, "I don't understand this," and I said, "You never will until you get it." It is still a mystery, you can hear the brightest and the richest and deepest thought from the word of God, but it is still a mystery.

How staggering are those things that were written by John. While others would have starved, he laid his head on the sand and he looked up and wrote a book that has staggered people for twenty centuries. He saw and believed God, and God told him to write at the end that the curse of the Almighty would fall upon those who take anything from that book.

It is the last inspiration, the last word that humanity will have from Divinity, and it says: "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst, come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." Think about thirty or forty years being divided, starting here and stopping there. Never! Give every drop of blood in your veins, give all the strength of your body, and all your faith. What is money? What is place? It will be very small when you step into the realm of the supernatural.

That was the reason why Paul did the one thing, he had no time for anything else, he was in the biggest thing in the universe, and the greater always includes the lesser. Someone says, "I do not see much in a meeting like this, I see more in the crowds." I see more in the supernatural, wherever it is, whether it is in the child or in the hungry heart. "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Another very impressive thing about this is that it satisfies for ever. That which satisfies the world today will not satisfy it tomorrow, but that which satisfies your heart now will also satisfy tomorrow and for ever. "Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." What is time for? The taking of wages and the movement of the hands of the clock? Time is just a little spot between two eternities, and just think of spending time for anything but the glory of God. the brevity of our opportunity increases our responsibility and we must not shirk it.

You say God is just the God of the whole world, but He is the God of the individual, and He will save whosoever will let Him. I say this morning, let others give their lives to what they will, let others make their choice, I have made mine. There has never been an hour of regret. There has never been a moment of disappointment since the Holy Ghost came to my heart.

I could scarcely speak my name so that you could understand it when I was sixteen. I was a disappointment to my friends, but God was talking to my heart, and He saved me from sin and the Holy Ghost came. Then I spoke as plainly as I am speaking to you now. It was a supernatural work,

and I left the plow handles and have been preaching the gospel ever since. I have traveled over five hundred thousand miles, and it is none of the devil's business. I have asked for no favors and no support. I have asked for nothing but the privilege of telling out what the Lord has done for my soul.

And so, beloved, I give you this message this morning. It has not been gleaned as a pastime, but I give it to you as the testimony of the faithfulness of the Holy Ghost since He came to my heart. What I covet for you this morning is that you should know something of the supernatural. A person asked me the other day how I got into this work. I do not know. How do I travel? I do not know. How did I get to this country when so many hundreds are waiting to come? Prayers went up to God, and He touched the hearts of some people. I give Him all the glory; and, beloved, when you live in the realm of the supernatural, you have something to live on every day, three meals a day, and lunches between. There is always something to strengthen you when the Holy Ghost abides.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 4 TEMPTATION

Message Delivered at Mansfield,
Afternoon Meeting, January 30th, 1919

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will, with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

A great many have the impression that when people are sanctified wholly and filled with the Holy Ghost they have no temptation, but that is only a deception, because the most severe temptations come to the people who walk closely with God. The more they know of God the more they feel the severity of the temptation.

A Christian cannot get to a place where he will not be tempted. That is the devil's business, and he has absolutely no other way of reaching the children of God except by temptation. Temptation can never come to anyone until it is permitted by God. The devil is allowed the privilege of bringing temptation, but there is an understanding between God and His children that they are only tempted by Divine permission.

There has never been a temptation that has lasted very long, the longest lasted forty days and forty nights. There is always great victory after every temptation which comes to us, and strength is given while we are going through that we could not obtain in any other way.

A great many think that temptation comes because there is something lacking or because people are not in their proper place, but Jesus came to do the will of God, and He was placed up as a target of hell, and went through the most severe temptation that this world has ever known. Now, we cannot be tempted in all points like He was, but he was tempted in all points like as we are. No one is called to go through the temptation that He went through; He went through all our temptations and more, and He is able to succour them that are tempted

The devil will not tempt very much those who are not doing anything. It is the active agent of God who has the most severe temptations. It is the means the devil uses to try and down the servant of God, but God's purpose in permitting the temptation is to produce a strong character which will be able to endure as well as to enjoy.

There is one consolation we can have in every temptation, and that is the devil's not allowed to stay very long. His temptations may be severe, but he comes with the understanding that he can only touch so far. He can attack people in different ways, but he has never been allowed to take life. God is the giver of life, and He is the keeper of life. Somebody says, "Oh, well, people fall." Certainly

they can fall, but God has made provision to keep them through temptation. Take the Bible, look at each person who was severely tempted, look at the people who went through the worst temptations, and there was an understanding that the devil could not touch their lives.

Now, if you get that thought, every temptation will be an inspiration. Before the devil had permission to go and tempt Job, he was told he could take his cattle, he could take his family, but he could not take his life, and there is nothing that amounts to much except the life.

Before the devil is allowed to do anything he has the word from God that he must not touch the life, and not only that, but he is not allowed to tempt you above that ye are able to bear.

Now, the length of the temptation is often decided by the way it is met. If you meet it with the Bible, the blood, and the Holy Ghost, it will not last long, but if you begin to respond it will last longer. The devil cannot stand before the blood, he cannot meet the Bible, and he is ignorant of the Holy Ghost. That is where the supreme victory is guaranteed. Jesus Christ did not mention the blood because it was His own blood which He was going to shed for the redemption of a lost world, but He used the Word. He said, "It is written." He never used another thing on the devil but the Word.

Temptations are permitted for our good and for the glory of God. Everything we endure, everything we suffer prepares us for what is to follow. Temptations magnify God and minimize everything else. People have constantly talked about the trial of Job, but if he had not been so severely tempted he would not have had such a strong character.

Now there are a great many people who think their lot is so much harder than that of others, but millions have passed that way before and have gone through in victory. Nothing has been so severely tested and tried as Holiness, the devil has made a special target of it. If you go to some preachers, they will tell you they are not tempted. I remember speaking to a minister, and he said, "I don't see anything in speaking about temptation, there is not much in it after all." To him, there was no reality in it. When you begin to push forward with the message of Holiness temptation comes.

When temptation comes it is centered on the point where we are weakest, but there is always Divine protection. When the devil came to the Son of God, he did not say anything about clothing or education, but he said, "If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread." Just think of talking about bread after a person has had nothing to eat for forty days and forty nights. Of course, we recognize He was the Son of God, but He was tempted as the Son of man. He was tempted in all points like as we are. He could not have been tempted in that way except as the Son of man, but He overcame as the Son of God. When the Bible says He was hungry, I believe it just as much as when it says "God is love."

The Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. God was with Him before the temptation, He was with Him through the temptation, and He was with Him after the temptation. Some people think it was a promiscuous affair, but it was not. The place was chosen by the devil, and he was there in readiness, but he did not say anything until Jesus had been there forty days and forty nights.

Our first parents were tempted in a garden, where they had everything they needed. They had the fragrance of creation, they had the beauty of Holiness, but the serpent came and tempted them and they fell. The second temptation was out with the wild beasts in a lone spot. The devil watched Jesus for forty days and forty nights, and then, when He was hungry, he came to Him. The first temptation was on God's territory, but the second was on the devil's territory. You can see how God prepared the first place, it was beautiful, pure, and clean. The devil chose the second place and it was the wilderness, the place of hunger, the home of the wild beasts. Some people are tempted about money, the temptation comes when they need money. The devil chooses the place, but God has promised to go with you. He prepares you before you meet the temptation, He prepares you for that condition and He is with you after the temptation is over.

We can never be tempted like Jesus was, but He can be tempted like as we are. He was winning back from the devil and hell all that was lost in the fall, He was planting Holiness, and if He had failed at that point we would never have been saved. So you and I could not be tempted as He was. We may be tempted in a lonely spot, we may be tempted in an extreme way, but no temptation will come to us but such as is common to man.

In the first temptation the devil went on God's territory; in the second, God went on the devil's territory. If you are going to plant Holiness in England, you will have to go on the devil's territory because this old world belongs to the devil. Many people do not recognize that fact, but it is true. He has got a mortgage on it, and he would take it to hell if it were not for the prayers of God's people. The devil went without invitation on God's territory and took from God in the Garden of Eden; Jesus went on the devil's territory without invitation and took back all that had been lost. People say they do not see anything in it, of course they do not. The devil has blinded their eyes.

There is no sin in being tempted, it is a sign that you do not belong to the devil. He tempts you because he wants to overthrow you and get you back into bondage. When he comes to tempt you, he never takes the stand which God takes when He comes to give you victory. The devil says, "If," but the Holy Ghost in you gives reality and certainty.

While the devil was watching the Son of God, God was also watching His Son, but He said nothing until the temptation was ended, then the angels came and ministered unto Him. The baking had been going on forty days, and it was ready for the angels to carry to Him. It is a very clear lesson. Jesus would rather have stayed another forty days than to have taken the devil's food. You will always have something specially prepared for you while you are going through the temptation, and it will be delivered to you after you are through. That was the only time the angels brought food to Jesus, it was the only time they were ever sent to Him.

The devil waited until Jesus was hungry; he was not as hungry in four days as He was in forty, but God did not allow His Son to be tempted above that He was able to bear; and His Son will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able to bear. With every temptation is a way of escape. How? Through the Bible, through the blood, and through the Holy Ghost.

Another thing, God did not allow His Son to go through the temptation until after He had received the Holy Ghost. That is a very remarkable thing. He did not receive the Holy Ghost to destroy

carnality, because He had none to destroy, He received the Holy Ghost as a preparation for His life's work. We receive Him for the destruction of the carnal mind, and to prepare us for our life's work.

Then I want you to notice that Jesus received nothing after He had received the Holy Ghost. He was then ready for the temptation, He was ready for the persecution, He was ready for Gethsemane, He was ready for anything from the Jordan to the crucifixion. When you think of this being a preparation for the Son of God, you will certainly agree that it is the preparation for His followers. You will see the importance of it. When people see that the great cause of the failure of Christianity is because they have not received the Holy Ghost they will begin to make more of Him. He is more than a manifestation, more than an ecstasy, He is a person. Jesus went through all temptation, through all the miracles, even to the raising of the dead, but He never received anything after He had received the Holy Ghost. It is the same with God's children. They are prepared for everything after they receive the Holy Ghost, until they have an abundant entrance into heaven. Great multitudes live and die and never know that they can have the experience of Holiness, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire.

We have come with a message that is worth everything that it costs. You will never be tempted above that you are able to bear. No one has ever found out how much a person filled with the Holy Ghost can endure, and how much they can enjoy. People have endured most severe persecutions and they have simply smiled and shouted their way through the flames and everything else, and gone right through.

They have had more to enjoy than they had to endure. After you have passed through the special temptation you will have a greater joy. That is the way God undertakes today. Always remember that temptation is never an evidence that you do not know God, it is rather the evidence that you do know Him. If you did not, the devil would not tempt you in the way that he does, so you can turn round and defeat him instead of giving any place to him. The Bible says, "Neither give place to the devil."

That which would be a temptation to one, would not be a temptation to another, and the devil knows that, but he does not know how God delivers you from the temptation. He knows how to try you, but he does not know what keeps you from yielding. He knows he cannot get to you as long as you stay with God. He knows that there is absolutely no way of plucking you out of His hand, but by the surrender of your own will. He does not know the power of the Holy Ghost or the power of the blood. He does not know the secrets that come from the broken heart of the Son of God. I am glad there are some things that the devil does not know, and he has no way of finding them out. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him." That is why you can have victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

A great many do not see the importance of God's children meeting together, but we do not have enough meetings to talk over the things that are in favour with Holiness. There are people who had better miss a day's work than miss a Holiness meeting. They do not see it, but it is true. They place the value on the things that are seen, and think little of the unseen. At this extreme hour people are driven to their wit's end, and such pressure is upon them that I do not feel like criticizing them, but I wish they would gather in thousands to hear the message of the Holy Ghost.

And so, this afternoon, temptation ought not to be a discouragement. It is a sign that the devil has no place, and he sees that you are valuable to God. Temptations come from the outside. "The devil goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Thank God for the secrets of the Holy Ghost that are given to the children of God. I am glad that there is a way of escape, the devil made a way in, but God has made a way out.

After the sinking of some steamers they were more careful about the life-belts; after the burning of the theater in Chicago a law was made that every door should be an exit. One night every exit was closed and hundreds were burned to death. Then they made a strict law that every theater must have a man to see that all the exits are unlocked so that people can get out. There is always a way out of every temptation. There is enough in the Bible to guarantee victory anyway. I want you to know that God knows your condition and that you can get in such relation that He will undertake for you. You can go through and establish a communion with God that the devil cannot find a current of it. Before the Holy Ghost came everything was against me, since He came everything has been in my favour. I could hardly speak, and people said I should never preach. The doctor said I should never speak so that people could understand me, but I was speaking the next day, and people did understand. The Holy Ghost had come and taken possession and changed everything in my favour. I struck the biggest bargain I ever had, and I want to encourage somebody.

I never see a curiosity or a novelty that I do not believe God would use if God could have His way with them. He wants people to receive the Holy Ghost and behave themselves the rest of their days.

Jesus did not stay around with the long-haired Rabbis, but He went to the fishermen, Do not limit God to your condition, or to your knowledge, tradition, or position, let the Holy Ghost come in and adjust you.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 5

THE GREAT DEBT

Message Delivered at Mansfield,
Afternoon Meeting, January 31st, 1919

"I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise. So as much as in me is I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

You will find an experience here that shows the great, radical and supernatural change that had taken place in this man's heart, and I do not believe it was simply for the Apostle Paul, but I believe it comes to all who are conscious that their sins have been forgiven and that the Holy Ghost has come to abide in their hearts. There are a great many things in which people differ, but the supernatural work is the same in every heart. There may be a difference in the personalities and in the dispositions, but the work of grace is always the same. Those who are really saved from sin, praise God for salvation, and those who have received the Holy Ghost have an inexpressible gratitude in their hearts for all that God has done for them.

The revelation of Calvary always brings with it the revelation of the need of humanity, and these revelations, given by the Holy Ghost, will last through time and through eternity.

Now it is fatal to go into this thing without going in for life and with life. You cannot realize how much there is in it until you get into it. So many people do not see anything in it because they are not in it, but some are getting so much out of it because they are all in it.

The first impression that came to Paul after he received the Holy Ghost was his great indebtedness to the human race. He saw more than the few he had left on the road to Damascus, or even the crowd of Athenians. The vision of God goes clear beyond the vision of man, and just where humanity stops, divinity begins, and when you have seen as far as your eyes can see, then the Holy Ghost takes you into the realm of the supernatural. The depth is always beyond man and beyond the measurement he has used, and when Paul said, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable are His judgments, and His way past finding out," he was trying to express something that went right beyond all language.

We use language as the expression of thought, but in speaking of the supernatural, words fail to convey any idea of the divine supply for the need of humanity.

First of all the Holy Ghost shows you your own need, and then, when you know your sins are forgiven and the Holy Ghost has come, He can never again show you your need, but He will show you the need of others, the need of a lost world. If you never feel a burden, you will never be a blessing. The burden on the hearts of the saints always brings blessing to the sinners, and the unction

on the saints always brings conviction on the ungodly. I just simply mention it. It is always the same. These things do not change, they are the same in this country as in America, they do not change in a hall, they do not change in a cathedral. Where there is no burden, there can be no blessing. That is the reason why the prayer meetings are dying out, the burden is gone and there is no blessing. The saints must carry a burden if blessings are to be brought to the sinners.

When there is no burden and no vision the people perish. Why is it that so many souls are without Holiness? Because some people have not seen enough in it to live and die for it. Thousands of people would get the experience in a few moments if they saw as much in it as they see in other things, but they do not see it. You can preach about it, and witness to it, but the Holy Ghost has to show it to that man out there or he will never see anything in it. If I told you something and you believed it, and then someone else came along and told you something, you would go off with them. That is the reason why the devilish errors have gained so much ground. There is the desire for leadership. When God tells you something and you believe Him and allow Him to do a work in your heart, you will be able to stand.

Just think what a vision Paul had. He did not receive it at the feet of Gamaliel, he did not get it at college. It came as a revelation from the Holy Ghost. He was hurrying people to hell and persecuting the Christians until he was saved and sanctified. A great many people never have a vision and they never have a burden for lost souls. When God gives you a vision you are never the same afterwards. Paul said, "I am debtor." He was saved and sanctified and he realized he was indebted to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, to the wise and to the unwise, to the people who do not know much, and who do not enjoy as much as others. You can give your whole lives to God and go out and help somebody and God will have all the glory.

When we get this vision God begins to show us the need of other hearts. If we were to be saved and sanctified and do nothing we would be of all men most miserable, but it is not so. I do not want people to pity me, I would rather they prayed for me. I saw something that I cannot tell, the Holy Ghost showed it to me and it has been getting bigger ever since; I saw a lost world and I have a burden for lost souls, it has been increasing all the time. The Holy Ghost not only showed Paul the need, but He showed him the great supply. Then he wrote to them and told them how he longed to come to them that they might receive a second benefit. He prayed for them night and day, and he saw something for the Romans, and for the wise, too. He had the dose that would do for all of them. He had the real message of God and he was longing to carry it to them.

He said he did not know how many more beatings he would have, but he was coming to them, and he was coming in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. It did not matter how many prisons he had to enter, or how many beatings he had, they could not take away the vision he had on his way to Damascus, and they could not take away the burden. He kept it until they took off his head. Just think what a debt we owe to this lost world. Some of them do not know that the promises of the Bible are for them, some of them do not know "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." They have not heard that "Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord." What are you worth if God does not put something in your soul? This is not the work of man, but the work of God.

Get into harmony with God and give your life for Holiness. On every other line you will find competition. If you prepare yourself for farming, you will find competition. Advertise for one, and fifty would possibly come. I do not know what they are doing today. If you prepare yourself for teaching there are plenty of competitors, but no one can fill your place in the thought of God. If you do not fill it, it will be vacant for time and for eternity.

People who are filled with the Holy Ghost can be a great blessing to others and yet be unconscious of the fact. Is there Bible for that? Yes. Jesus said, in reference to some characters, "When saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

They were doing the very thing and did not know it. When you had that prayer meeting and took that "Holiness Messenger," it blessed somebody although you did not know it. God pronounced a blessing upon it. If you do not fill your place it will never be filled, and you will be met at the judgment bar by souls who will be doomed and damned because of your neglect. If you fill your place then "thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

Paul learned wonderful things at the feet of Gamaliel, but they had no effect on him after he had the revelation from God. He counted all those things but dung, he was willing to sacrifice everything, to suffer the loss of all things that he might know God. He did it for the glory of God and for the good of souls.

When Jesus was here He was so much alone. No doubt there were many who thought they would follow Him, but when He told them that "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head," that killed them and He never heard from them again. He knew their thought and He saw their purpose. Another time they were asking who should be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? You get a place as a gift from God and nobody else can fill that place.

Give your life to God and see how He will honor it. Think of the places Paul could have filled in Gamaliel's crowd. He could have had a salary, he could have had honor and popularity and position, but he was willing to suffer the loss of these things, and he chose the stones and the prisons and the beatings. He did it because he had a vision from God and he never lost it. When he went before the king you would have thought that he took notes, but he said, "Oh King, I was going towards Damascus and I saw a light. I wish you could see that light too, it was brighter than the shining of the sun, and I have never forgotten it." He could have preached to him, but he just told him he saw a light. I can imagine that king saying, "He has seen something that I never saw, and this is the first man that has ever stood before me in my authority and my position and told me a thing like that." It was so special that it has been put on record, and you and I can read all that was said.

There is no competition on this line. Why? Christianity does not need support from this old world, it is supported by the people who believe in it and have given their lives for it. Christianity is no pauper, and people who are filled with the Holy Ghost never go begging. A few people who are saved from all sin, and cleansed by the precious blood will always support Holiness.

When we think of what we have to take to this lost world, we see immediately why we should take it. We have the only message that will save lost souls. We have the only message that will make a soul ready for heaven, we have the only message that will satisfy a human heart, we have the only message that will give comfort in the time of sorrow, and the message that will give wisdom to the ignorant.

Just think what a tremendous thing it is. People come in here and the first thing they say, is, "He does not preach like our preacher." That is nothing against them, but they see the difference at once. Thank God we have something to take to the people. Paul said he was debtor to the whole bunch. We have the message for which the world is dying. The message of the Holy Ghost is the only message that has Divine authority, Divine affection, Divine illumination, salvation, and Holiness in it. God help us to see it and get it too. It is going to take faith and sacrifice, it is going to cost somebody their life, but it is worth all it costs.

I believe everybody ought to get a vision that will bless somebody else. Has anybody ever told you that your life was used by God to save them; has anybody ever told you that you were the means in God's hands of making them hungry for the Holy Ghost. God will put someone on your heart and He will wake you up at night and speak to you about them and that burden is going to take blessing to them. Have something that satisfies your own soul and then you can take it to others. It must be practical, it must be spiritual, and it must be supernatural. You can live on the faith of others and be encouraged and inspired by others, and be blessed in meetings, but until you have something that will work away from meetings, you do not bring much to the meeting. Until you have something that works when you are alone and that satisfies your own soul, you cannot be a blessing to others. I believe it is possible for everybody to be a soul winner. The Holy Ghost will use you to be a blessing to someone whom no one else could reach. That leaves a place for everyone of us. Nobody wants any other place when they fill the place God has for them.

In taking this message of the Holy Ghost, we are up against tremendous difficulties. We have to get through the tradition, the indifference, the lethargy, carnality and formality, and it takes nearly a lifetime to do it. People look out of the corner of their eyes and they will let you walk on up the road, thinking you are fools. People have looked at me and said, "Oh, if you would not preach that way, if you would not talk about hell and preach about Holiness." They do not see the necessity. God help us to see it and be true.

Paul was not only willing to preach, but he was willing to die. Anything that is worth living for and dying for will put conviction on this lost world. Conviction is the work of God through holy lives and holy characters. Your life brings conviction and your death will bring conviction. When the Boxers were causing so much trouble, some missionaries were placed in a stone house until relief came from Shanghai. The rescuers gave orders for the walls to be torn down, they could hear the cries of the missionaries, but they could not locate them. The walls were taken down and they found three who had been made prisoners. They brought them out into the light and sunshine, but two could not speak and they very soon died. The third was almost dead, but he could say "glory."

He did not say anything against the Boxers, he did not say anything about the lack of fresh air, but he just said "glory." It made a great impression upon me. He died with "glory" on his lips and in his

heart, and he is in glory now. The forces who had come to the rescue were on their way back to Shanghai and the leader thought of that missionary who said "glory," but did not say a word against the Boxers. He saw there was something in a religion like that, and he gave his heart to God. Mrs. Stalker and I met that man and he told us he could not get away from the fact that the missionary had something in his heart beyond ordinary or he could not have said "glory" in those circumstances.

Beloved, you will never know how much there is in a word or in the lifting of a hand when you have abandoned yourself to the Holy Ghost.

If you allow the devil to have a place and begin to say, "I can't do this," your life will be a failure. God wants to put something in your life and then stand you out perfect and complete in all His will. He wants you to be so conscious that you are in His will that come life or death, things present or to come, nothing shall be able to overthrow you. Do not stop with a little feeling, but have the unction of God on your soul, have a vision and a burden and get into the realm where you have victory in your soul all the time.

I believe to a great extent, that the supernatural will make up for many of the deficiencies in the physical and mental and even in the speech. Many times God has made up for the lack of these things in a marvellous way. I have been glad many times that my head was empty and my heart was full when I started out with God. I had a conviction that the power of God would work, but people said it would not. Some time after, I was staying in a home. I was praying in my room and I thought I would go downstairs. I knew the gentleman of the house was in the room below. We said a few words, and then he said, "You do not know much, do you?" And I said "No." Well, you know, it was rather strange, and it struck me, but you do not know how much it blessed me. Soon afterwards, I went back to my room and I really thanked the Lord I knew I did not know anything.

A few days later I left that place and went away a few hundred miles. Then I received a letter from that man, and he said, "You remember staying in our home?" Of course I remembered. Then he said, "You remember I said to you, 'You do not know much, do you?' and you said 'No.' If you will be at New York on a certain date, I will take you to Palestine, and then you will know a little more." I believe I should never have gone on that trip if I had known much, it blessed me nearly to death. Only God could have put it into the heart of that man to do that thing. On the way back I stopped in this country, and I suppose that is the reason I am here today. I could not have come this time if I had not come then, this trip is in connection with that, and I have been tripping ever since.

Someone says, "Well, you do not think He would do those things for me?" I simply give it as an illustration of what He can and does do. That was about all that man said to me, and that was about all I said. I used my five senses and tried not to think any more nonsense than I could help. I say these things because they come out of the supernatural, they came because the Holy Ghost came.

The education I have had for years has been the result of observation and travel, and I use it for the glory of God. He has arranged it that way that I might study geography. My teacher would have had me learn geography with my head, but the Holy Ghost has had me study it with my feet; that is the difference. We have the Bible for it. "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon shall

be yours." You can see how a great many people get maps in their heads, but they never travel ten miles, and they never put two and two together and make four in the Holy Ghost. That is the thing.

There is an intellectual conception of the Bible and the blood, but it never reaches the heart. Do you believe the Bible? Yes, where? Up in your head or in your heart? There are people that receive the doctrine of Holiness intellectually and have an intellectual conception, but if you take off their heads they would have nothing left to take them to heaven. The Holy Ghost knew that and He said, "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." God begins with the heart and goes to the mouth. Do not think of your limitation, but abandon yourself to the Holy Ghost and let Him have His way for the rest of your life. There is no competition and the Holy Ghost will give you victory. If there are some here this afternoon who do not know that they are saved from every sin, come and seek it with all your heart and ask God to forgive you. And if there are those who have not definitely received the Holy Ghost, receive Him now.

I say nothing against what you have been taught but you have never taken any action in your life that has brought so much blessing to you. He will destroy carnality and bring purity and victory. The crowds are outside and millions are in need, but you can be cleansed from all sin and filled with the Holy Ghost now.

Let us pray.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 6

SIN AND ITS PUNISHMENT

Message Delivered at Mansfield,
Evening Meeting, February 1st, 1919

"For the wages of sin is death," and "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

It would seem that after having such a message as this, given by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, that one would never commit another sin. I never think of sin but what there comes to me the thought that people would never commit sin as long as they live if they knew what sin is.

There is very little conception in their minds of what they are doing. We can think, and think, and think, and then it is impossible for us to have a conception of what the committal of one sin has done. A single sin will damn a soul for ever, and the results will last through all eternity. Adam and Eve had no conception of their sin when they wrecked the human race and brought suffering to unborn millions. The world is suffering tonight as a result of that sin which was committed centuries ago. The action which they took afterward, when they tried to cover their sin with fig leaves proved that they had no conception of what they had done. The devil had so blinded them that they did not see. That is exactly the condition of everyone who commits sin today. I say that everyone would give up a life of sin if they saw what was in it.

Adam and Eve saw they had fallen, they felt their separation from God, they had lost communion with Him, but they thought they could cover up their sin with fig leaves. It is a striking thing that as soon as people have committed sin they know it must be covered. Every sinner has a desire to cover his sin, but it can only be covered with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

The text says, "The wages of sin is death." "The soul that sinneth it shall die." There is still the power to think and to act, but the soul is dead to God and to the things of God.

When God breathed into that piece of mud the breath of life and man became a living soul, he lived in God, and when he disobeyed he fell and lost the image of God. Without the sacrifice of Calvary he is lost and doomed and damned. People say, "I have not committed any great sin." Why, the rejection of Jesus Christ by this world is an awful sin. I have heard others say, "I never committed any sin." But the Bible says, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" It does not say anything about crime, it does not say anything about committing a great sin, or doing some extreme thing: "How shall we escape if we neglect?"

Now we can have some conception of what sin is by the sacrifice that was made that humanity might be delivered from it. The reason why so few men and women give it up is because they do not realize what it is and what it will do for them. People have laughed and made fun of it, They say you

cannot get rid of it, but that is a lie from hell and will damn all who believe it. You can be rid of sin — God has said so. Let God be true and every man a liar. What God says about sin will stand or ever. "The soul that sinneth it shall die."

There are some who say, that God is not a God of love if He sends souls to hell, but He never does that. People take themselves there. That is the decision of humanity, that is man's work. God intended through the sacrifice of His Son to prepare people for heaven, and there is only one thing that will keep them out of heaven, and that is sin. I do not say this in criticism, but I am willing for others to have their salaries, I am willing for them to have their applause, but God pity them at the judgment bar. People have said I could preach to thousands if I would go on a more popular line, but I would rather preach to a dozen people and preach Holiness, than preach to ten thousand and say nothing about Holiness. I would rather have the curses here than have people curse and damn me at the judgment bar because I had failed to preach the truth.

There is going to be an awful judgment, it is coming, and everyone will have to meet it. I would rather have the persecution here than have to meet what some will have to meet because they have not been true to the souls of others.

Talk about persecution, talk of burning stakes, all that the fire ever did was to send them to heaven a little sooner. All the stakes ever did was to open heaven's front door and lock them in for evermore. All the devil can do with Holiness is to put it in heaven, it is bound to go there. He cannot take it to hell. He can beat it and hit it, but he will send it to heaven a little quicker.

People do not realize that the sin they commit today will cause them to suffer through all eternity. Someone says, "Oh, but these things are so common and everybody does not speak like you do." Then if they do not preach the Bible, you had better not listen to them. People are trying to cover up sin, and they are making light of it and making fun of it, but it is wrecking, ruining, and damning this world. The screams and cries of today are the result of sin which was committed centuries ago. There are some suffering tonight as a result of the sin of those they never knew. Beloved, if you settle the sin question, you settle the greatest question that God or man ever thought about.

The devil told Adam and Eve to help themselves to the forbidden fruit, and they would be perfectly free, and they believed him. God told Achan what to do, but he disobeyed. Then he tried to cover his sin with straw. He took the golden wedge and the Babylonish garment and hid them in his tent. He could not go out with them because the others would have known where they came from. He covered them with straw in his own tent. But the Holy Ghost went to work. Achan had no conception of the sin he had committed, but God says, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." He has never changed His word, and He never will. Other people may change it and bring various interpretations, but it makes no difference. Achan took the wedge of gold and the Babylonish garment and he thought it did not matter, but the Holy Ghost was faithful, and we read that he uncovered his own sin. He went out and thirty-six people died as a result of that one sin. God said they were not to take anything, but Achan said, "I will take it and cover it with straw." Just think of straw put between God's eye and that golden wedge. Why, He saw him take it. He saw him when he put the straw over it and He saw him when he was dead and damned.

You say you do not think He is a God of love. I know you do not, but God has a law and it has a penalty. He has not asked any person in the pulpit, He has not asked any orator, but He has the control of things. Because of the conditions once in a while, some think He is not paying any attention, but nothing escapes His all-seeing eye. He is watching and I believe many more might have had to sacrifice their lives in this recent war if it had not been for the faith and prayer that was put around the throne of God. There were so many interceding, they did not stop with a little prayer. I have heard some agonizing prayers. I have seen people late at night, hanging on to God to answer prayer over three thousand miles of salt water.

I am just using this for an illustration. You cannot get a tremendous thing through with hell's artillery in the twentieth century unless the supernatural is connected with it. God must be in it, there must be the supernatural, there must be the working of the hand of God. Millions had to go down and sacrifice their lives, but I believe other millions were saved, and God must have the glory and He must have the honor. I say again, beloved, you cannot think that His eye is not watching, and that His ear is not listening, you cannot think that He is not interested in the climax of the greatest calamity that has been known for twenty centuries. You cannot think that heaven has been silenced. His eyes have run to and fro throughout the whole earth, He has been showing Himself strong.

Mark my word, in these last days we are going to see displays of God's power, and while hell's artillery is filling the air and while every step is going to be contested, yet God is going to do some things, He is going to make people sit up and take notice. Do not tell me that the tears and the prayers and the broken hearted mothers, wives, daughters and sons pleading with God, has not moved His hand on behalf of the helpless. God has been working with the unseen and we recognize it and give Him the glory for it.

I remember in one meeting there was a woman, and after she had heard of some answers to prayer, she said, "Do you think I could get an answer to prayer that would keep my husband from death, he is now in the front trenches?" And I said, "I do" Some of them looked a little strange at me, but I believed that God would answer. That woman came to the altar and trusted God to save her soul. Then she offered up one of the most heart-rending prayers for her husband. It seemed to me I could see God's eye fastened down upon that husband in the trenches. He is at home now. I do not say that with any criticism, I do not say that without the greatest sympathy for those who have fallen, but we have not touched the edge of the supernatural. In that meeting, with possibly a thousand people present, I felt that prayer went to the throne of God and turned His hand and turned His eye. God still hears and answers prayer. There is not a person who would leave this room without the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire if they could see what the Holy Ghost could do through them. There is not a person who would leave this room with one unforgiven sin if they had any conception of what sin is. The death sentence is over every sinner tonight, there is just a heartbeat between their souls and hell.

Ananias and Sapphira went to a Holiness meeting. They were going to sell all that others might be fed. They talked it over and decided to keep back part of the price. One came to the meeting a little earlier than the other. Peter was there, he met Ananias at the door, and he said, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost and to keep back part of the price?" Ananias fell down and gave up the ghost. A little later his wife came along, not knowing what had happened to her husband,

and she lied to the Holy Ghost, and she, too, was carried out with her husband. They went to hell. Judgment does not always come as sudden, but it is sure. What a dwarfed conception they had of what they had done. They went right from the front door of a Holiness meeting to hell. One side of the door was Holiness, the other hell. Holiness is here and hell is just outside the door.

Someone says, "Oh, I do not believe in a God that will do that." If God did that with all who have kept back part of the price, what would take place? "The judgments of God are not always so soon, but they are just as sure. "The soul that sinneth it shall die."

Now, when you reject Holiness you reject the last call, there is nothing after that except hell. Why did the judgment come so sudden to Ananias and Sapphira? Because they lied to the Holy Ghost. They did not realize what they had done. Why did not Ananias tell them he was going to hell? He did not know. Carnality had so blinded him. Perhaps he told his neighbors that he was going to hear Peter preach, but they never heard him speak again. After the rejection of Holiness comes hell. Where is hell? Right at the door. How long does it last? For evermore. There is not a person in this town who would commit another sin if they could see the suffering and the result of sin.

Look at Judas. He looked into the face of the Son of God, he ate at the same table, he walked along the road with Him, he heard His sermons, and he heard His teaching, but he had no conception of sin. Why is it that people do not rush to the altar to be sanctified wholly and to receive the Holy Ghost? Because they have heard fifty Sundays in the year that there is nothing in it. Judas went out and sold the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver, and he is in hell tonight suffering the penalty. Thirty pieces of silver locked him up in hell and he is there without a drop of water. He tried to wash the blood off his hands, but could not. He had sealed his damnation by his own action.

There is an insane person in an asylum tonight because he resisted the Holy Ghost. You could go and hear his testimony, and he will tell you that the Holy Ghost spoke to him. He rejected Him. He had a strong mind and was getting along nicely, he was respected, but the light of Holiness came and he said "No" to the Holy Ghost. It only took a few weeks or months to land him in the asylum. Someone says, "But you would not take that testimony." Well, I think you could. Others believed it, and it caused quite a stir. People do not realize all it means to be saved from sin and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Mrs. Stalker and I were having a meeting, and in the audience there was a teacher from a large State Institution. She had been very successful, and had been there a number of years. In that meeting she saw that she could be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire, and that carnality could be destroyed. She came to the altar and trusted God to do the work in her heart. She went on teaching for a number of years, and then her health gave way, and she had a nervous breakdown. After she took her stand for Holiness, her friends turned against her and opposed her. The devil began to scheme and work. She was about to come into possession of some money which had been left to her, and her relatives had her examined by a specialist, and they worked such a scheme that she was placed in an asylum and they had her money. All that she asked to take with her was her Bible, and they said that was a sure sign of insanity. She prayed and read her Bible. She asked that God might deliver her from that place so that she could go out and give her testimony to Holiness.

While she was praying one day, the Holy Ghost told her to write her name on a piece of paper and drop it when she was out walking with the others. This she did and she also wrote that there was a person in the asylum who needed help, she was there because people wanted her money. That piece of paper was left on the ground. There was plenty of grass and that paper might easily have been trampled upon, but someone picked it up. They made inquiries, and an expert was brought, and after careful examination he said she was not insane, and there had been a trick. In answer to prayer she was taken out of that asylum and is giving her testimony today. She says that if she had not received the Holy Ghost she would have still been in that asylum. She gives a clear testimony, and it would almost break one's heart to hear it. She has a special prayer meeting every day for the people in that place, for no doubt some are there through jealousy. She had been there, and she says the Holy Ghost allowed her to go so that she might have a burden for other souls. She received her money again and is standing for Holiness today. It has made a great impression upon me. We never know what the Holy Ghost is preparing a soul to endure or to enjoy, but I want to tell you that sin will damn anybody who has it, and "The soul that sinneth it shall die." I never believed much in fancies, but these things are facts. People have no conception of the suffering, sacrifice and sorrow that sin has brought to individuals.

The purpose of these meetings is just to give the plain, simple message, and in this atmosphere anybody could get saved if they have a desire to, and believers could receive the Holy Ghost. There are people here to pray for you, and there is the need in your heart. You are not going far from this meeting before you will meet something that will make you wish you had said "Yes" to God.

I say these things because I am impressed with the fact that our time is short! The surprise of time and eternity is that Divinity has left in the hands of humanity the decision of their eternal destiny. One would think that after all that has been done on Calvary that men would be compelled to accept it, but they are not.

Man is left to choose. Whosoever will may come. If you will come, you can know that every sin which you have committed is covered by the blood, and if you are already a child of God, you can have carnality destroyed from your heart and the Holy Ghost will come in to abide for ever.

There are greater possibilities in your life from the moment that sin is destroyed and you receive the Holy Ghost. I am a stranger to you and I do not know you, but I know a God who is able to deliver you from all sin, I know He is able to save to the uttermost. If you do not have this experience tonight, God is able to give it to you.

May God help someone to step out with Him. It may seem that you are stepping out on nothing, but that is what the devil tells you. God is able to defeat him and take away from you every abnormal habit and give you victory in your soul all the time. May God help you to take the step tonight, for His glory and the good of your soul.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 7

GETHSEMANE

Message Delivered at Mansfield,
Morning Meeting, February 2nd, 1919

"Then saith He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here and watch with me. And He went a little farther, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, O, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And He cometh unto His disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, what, could ye not watch with me one hour? watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: The Spirit indeed Is willing, but the flesh is weak."

I do not think that too much can be said about the work of the Holy Ghost, and I am deeply impressed with what has been done in this country since I was here before. But I am more impressed with what the Holy Ghost is going to do. There is nothing that is going to glorify God and bless men like the message we stand for in this meeting this morning. Now that statement will be criticized and laughed at, but it will prove absolutely true in every experience.

A great deal depends on the faithfulness of individuals. While there are some who think it matters very little, you are a link in the chain and although you know your sins are all forgiven and the Holy Ghost abides, yet He is going to reveal things to you and show you possibilities in the future that you never dreamed of, that is what He comes to do. After making a number of trips to this country, I believe there is nothing that will appeal to your people like the message that you carry. The Holy Ghost makes an appeal that can be made in no other way, and I know personally, that no other message ever appealed to my own soul as much as that. God gave me a vision that I had never had before, and I have never lost it. It cannot be expressed, but it is revealed by the Holy Ghost, and that is what is what I covet for you above everything else. I want everyone of you to know the secrets of the Holy Ghost. They are for you, just in your condition, He will bring them to you just where you are.

One often hears the words of our text flippantly spoken by people who are unfaithful, and by those who do not take their place in the work of God. "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Never say it again. Those words were uttered in the greatest struggle that Divinity has ever known for humanity. You ask people why they did not take some part, and they say, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." It should never be spoken in that way. The expression came from the broken heart of the Son of God in the great struggle in Gethsemane. He was just bearing the burden, and He was just groaning under its weight when He said: "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, Thy will be done." And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. And He left them and went

away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh He to His disciples, and saith unto them, "sleep on now, and take your rest, behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

There are some very impressive lessons in this, and I never take this message and read it without the consciousness of the depth of the meaning of it. When we think about it we can see at once that we can grasp only a part — only a miniature part of the great struggle through which He passed.

We can see that Holiness is always ahead.

That is something every one of you can carry. The world will tell you that Holiness is behind, carnality will say it is out of date, but Holiness is always ahead. "He went a little farther." Just where carnality stops, a man filled with the Holy Ghost will move on and go ahead; just where the mobs of this world stop Holiness goes right on and you can always know where to find it. Never look for it in the rear, it is always ahead. You need not think it is something to be tested and to be tried. It has been tested and tried and it works, and it always takes its place at the front. That is why the victories have been won, Holiness goes ahead of carnality, intellectuality and humanity into the realm of victory. You can see these things are practical, they are the result of the work of the Holy Ghost in the heart and they are worked out in the life. Holiness never stops with the crowd, it never has and never will.

Now, I want you to notice that it was not the five thousand, it was not the one hundred and twenty, it was only three out of all who had been with Him and followed Him, all who had watched Him and heard Him. He only took Peter, James and John, the choice of the lot, those who had heard His heart secrets, those who knew Him best. He took them, and they followed along; and then when He came to the place — when they came really to the place carnality failed. It always fails, it never keeps up with Holiness, it never keeps up with the Holy Ghost, and when it comes up to the crucial and critical point, it fails every time.

Now when they came to the place, — just think what a place that was — He went a little further and fell on His face. You can see for yourself how much it meant, and you will never stay with carnality after the Holy Ghost comes to your heart. Others will stop, and after they stop you will go a little farther. They say, "You can't do it." You say, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." They say, "You are going too far," and you say, "Good-bye." They say, "Don't see anything in it," and you say, "I see everything in it." You see why you are such a curiosity, you become the odd one. You were raised like the rest, but you have got some other kind of raising, you ate at the same table. You had the same instruction and the same education, and they had some hope of you until you received the Holy Ghost. Then you disgraced the family and you became the worst one of the lot. People say these things because they don't see anything else, but the Holy Ghost takes you right on in victory. Why is this meeting held here this morning? Because people see more in coming here than staying at home. Now a great many people do not see that, but some saw it, and they said "Good-bye."

There was a crowd with Saul of Tarsus when he was riding along, and they heard a noise, but he heard something that knocked him down, and he never got over it. He heard a voice speaking to him,

saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" It stopped him right there. We have never heard anything of the other bunch, but why? We will never hear the last of Paul. Why? Because he heard a voice from heaven. The others heard a noise, they thought it thundered. If I did not see more in it than ninety-nine out of every hundred I would quit, I would not live at the miserable, half dying rate.

Holiness is always ahead. Don't think you are ever going to be defeated, while you keep the Holy Ghost in your heart you are going to have the victory. You do not serve God for victory, you serve God with victory. It does not matter what others say, you are always in the majority. Someone says "That seems strange, I cannot see how He can do it." But He can do it. All He wants is a channel. You can hold on to God until He will move in every room in the house, and He will move on every heart until they know that you have something they do not possess. They may get mad and say some hard things, but the thing is working just the same. Yes, God is able to do that.

When there was a lion's den, it was ahead, it was not back yonder, no, it was ahead. When there was a fiery furnace, Holiness was ahead. There were only three of them, but they were ahead, and I can see that hell-bound procession following them. I can see that godless king looking through his fingers, and while everybody else bowed, and bowed, and bowed, those three stood as stiff as a rod, and they would not bow down. They went straight into the burning, fiery furnace, and they found somebody there that the king had not put in.

That was the secret. "How did that fourth One get in there? We did not put Him in." How did a Holiness Meeting get in the Town Hall when carnality is hating it worse than hell? How can we have a meeting here without a D.D. or a LL.D. to come and see about it? That is the secret.

And the king said, "I counted three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, now there is another that I did not count, and He looks like the Son of God." He had listened to the testimonies which had been so radical that he recognized that the fourth was like the Son of God. The king did not put that One in there, so there must have been someone he did not have charge of, there was someone round the corner in the furnace, and He did not show Himself till the fire had become hot enough. It burnt up the fellows that put them in, they were burnt to ashes. People have studied this, but they have never found out the secret. Holiness is ahead always, you never find it anywhere else.

Now the great tests and struggles of your life will take place when you are alone, and sometimes the devil's power will be strong. Your friends will leave you, and your own family will stand aside.

You will have to go through alone. The Son of God had five thousand when He was feeding them with the loaves and fishes, He had a multitude when He was opening the eyes of the blind, but when He was sweating the death sweat for a lost world, He was alone.

I want to say, beloved, that this is as true as it has ever been. You will spend much time alone with God and the greatest struggles and the greatest battles of your life will take place when you are alone. There will be meetings and there will be messages, but you must have something that will take you through alone. Until you have something that will defy the devil and defeat all hell and drive back the powers of darkness when you are alone, you will never have much victory. It is good to have someone to pray with, that is the right thing, but there is nothing that will give you courage and build

up your character so much as being alone with God in the great battles of your life. We are apt to depend on people, and we are apt to listen to them. Jesus was left by the multitude and left by His followers, that is the thing — left by His followers, those who had been with Him and knew Him best. They were tired and weary, and they had no conception of what was going on, they saw it not. It is good to be with our friends and to hear their encouraging words, but, beloved, you will get more alone with God in prayer, in communion and in struggle than you will ever get in any other way. This is the point where a great many fail, they are not prepared to go through alone.

Now and again the light will come to somebody's soul and they will say, "My people don't believe that way." Well, if they do not, God help you to believe that way. You can have family prayers alone, and you can have people saved and sanctified with nobody around. You will have to die alone, and God wants you to get the victory alone.

Another thing I want you to notice, carnality is sleeping while Holiness is weeping. That has always been the case. Now you want to get away from the sleeping to the weeping, and if you weep you will weep alone. You live and talk with your friends, but when you go to prayer they are not there. Look at Jesus up there on the mountain, looking over Jerusalem while it is sleeping, and what does He say? "How often would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her brood under her wing, and ye would not." They would not. That was the secret. "Your house is left unto you desolate." It is too late now, the opportunity is past. God help us to see these things this morning. If you laugh, the world laughs with you; if you weep, you weep alone.

The background to a Holiness meeting is something that many people know nothing about. They see the meeting and they hear the message, but that is all. He said, "If it be possible let this cup pass from me," and when He prayed again, He said, "If this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." Why did He weep? Because He saw a lost world. Why did they sleep? Because they had carnality. Their eyes were open to see the miracles, but when it came to the great struggle they were asleep. The Son of God had no doubt walked as far as they had and was just as weary, but He was facing the cross, He was praying for a lost world and His heart was beginning to break, and Peter, James and John, not Judas now, but Peter, James and John, the chosen ones, those who had been with Him most, were sleeping. How few are willing to go out and go through with God alone. It means a great deal, but it is worth all it costs, and things you get that way you can have for time and eternity. You are going through single file. Some are going to die and be damned right in your home, you are going to follow some to the cemetery and know that they are lost. All your relatives and friends will not go with you, but the question is, Are you going? You will have to leave them; and someone says, "But I want them all to go." So did Jesus, that was His desire. But, beloved, God wants to know if you are willing to go through single file with Him, the Holy Ghost is faithful to all who will.

So you see how much it meant for the Son of God to go through that struggle; when He came back to His disciples He found them sleeping, how it must have torn His very heart. Three times He returned and found them sleeping. Regardless of what anyone else will do, go through and God will be true to you. There have been times when I have not had a word, when I have not had a letter, but there has not been a time when the Holy Ghost was not faithful. These times come and many people do not understand them, and many times the devil takes advantage.

Now you will have the greatest tests and the greatest struggles after you abandon yourself to the Holy Ghost and stand for Holiness, but in their severity God is going to give you victory. The devil hates Holiness more than anything else, he is going to down everybody he can and he will seek to get in every crack and corner, but the Holy Ghost is able to give you victory. He was alone and He was weeping and He sweat as it were great drops of blood, even on a cold morning. Someone says, "How do you know it was a cold morning?" Only a short distance away Peter was warming himself by a fire. He was sweating, it was just the burden of soul. There is nothing, beloved, that will bring such agony as a burden of soul. You can carry a financial burden, you can carry a physical burden, but when you get a burden of soul it will bring out of your veins the blood that is there. And it is a wonderful thing to know that God hears and answers prayer. A prayer takes something out of you — it took sweat from the Son of God. It takes something out of you, but it brings something to you. A great many people think it is just a pastime, but when the heart is in it, it takes something out of you.

Then you see the disappointment. Carnality is always a disappointment to Divinity and it always will be. It always fails at the crucial point. It never can see inside heaven and it will leave everybody disappointed and doomed and locked in a devil's hell, it does not matter who it is.

If you have carnality in your heart this morning do not leave this hall until you have let God deliver you and fill you with the Holy Ghost. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Now it is easier to get preachers and singers than pray-ers. People will do everything else before they will pray. There is a demand for pray-ers, but there are not enough to supply the demand. I do not like to speak on this subject without spending most of the night in prayer. It seems a special picture. He was just praying, and He had to do His praying alone. There is something peculiar about prayer, there is something special about prayer. Talking to man is one thing, but talking to God is quite another, and it seems that the devil wants to keep people from praying.

The Holy Ghost is faithful to everyone, and, beloved, you do not realize what privileges you have until you are filled with the Holy Ghost. He makes intercessions for you with "groanings which cannot be uttered." Now the groanings of Jesus could be uttered. Notice, He groaned in spirit and He uttered groans, but the Holy Ghost intercedes with groanings which cannot be uttered. You might pray a few words, but that prayer becomes special when it is groaned out by the Holy Ghost at the throne of God. Prayers that become groans always get an answer. And it says Jesus "sweat as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground." And He went back the third time, but they did not understand; and notice the disappointment when He said, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" He asked for just one hour, but they were too sleepy and they did not wait with Him even one hour. God help everyone of us this morning not to miss anything He has for us.

Another thing that seems so very impressive, and it was about the last thing Jesus said to them, "Sleep on now." He had awakened them twice, but the third time He went back He said, "Sleep on now." It is one of the most pathetic and saddest utterances there is in the Bible. The disappointment at the cross was hardly equal to this. It scarcely meant so much when they took His garment and tore it to pieces and gave Him vinegar to drink. This "Sleep on now," showed they had missed the great

opportunity of their lives. They disappointed Him in the hour that He needed them most. There was only one Transfiguration and there was only one Gethsemane. Now they had disappointed Him and He said, "Sleep on now."

Later, these disciples went to the Upper Room and received the Holy Ghost; but just think of the people who never wake up. It seems that people have been fed with the opiates of hell so long that only one here and there can be rescued. The Holy Ghost is doing His last work and preparing a people for the coming of the Lord. The physical need is not so great as the spiritual need, and although some are alarmed at the conditions, yet so few are in the place to take the message that will meet the need.

God help us this morning that we may never have that sentence spoken to us. What is time for? Just weeping and praying and groaning for a lost world. What is eternity for? Rejoicing with the blood-washed and the redeemed. We are having the hardest battles now that we will ever have, and you will be going alone with your burden for souls sometime, and it will just slip off and you will be for ever with the Lord. Some day you will be getting ready for a service, and the burden heavy upon you, but it will just slip away and the Lord will come. I am expecting it.

It seems to me that things are getting into such a condition that none but God can handle them, and the coming of Jesus is the only hope. The Church has failed, carnality has failed, but, thank God, Christianity is a success and Holiness is alive for evermore.

They may be sleeping all around you, but you can be wide awake, and the greatest honor that can be given to you is to have a burden for souls that will lay on your heart till it breaks. In Palestine, in the places where Jesus is supposed to have been there is a little flower which is called the blood-drop, and, according to the legend, Jesus carried such a burden that blood came out of His veins and dropped on the ground and the little flower came up. No one need believe that, but the thought I want you to get is that He carried the burden and it increased until when they saw Him hanging on the cross His heart was broken. People have remarked that certain men would have lived longer if they had not had such a burden for souls, but if you die with a broken heart there is no lost time. You had better live ten years with the Holy Ghost than a hundred without Him.

The Holy Ghost energizes and inspires and gives courage and character so that you can accomplish more in ten years than some people would do in a hundred. The burden for souls is rare, not many have it, and some say they would not like that kind of burden. It takes real life to carry it, and people may not live so long, but they will live through all eternity.

Jesus might have lived longer if He had not carried such a burden, and His followers might have lived longer if they had not received the Holy Ghost. We say that because they all died an unnatural death. John might have stayed off the Isle of Patmos if he had not had the Holy Ghost. They chose to have the Holy Ghost and die an unnatural death rather than have carnality and live a hundred years. That is the secret, and may God help someone to receive the Holy Ghost this morning, and in life and in death have the victory.

I believe this morning, beloved, that the Holy Ghost could take possession of this crowd and increase this work with all the increase of God just as much as I believe we are in this hall.

God is calling someone. You may have those in your home who know nothing of God, but if you let the Holy Ghost come into your heart you can take something to that home that has never been there before, and by your life and by your obedience you can carry something to those hearts.

God help you to be willing to pay the price. Do not miss your opportunity, it is within your reach now, and the Holy Ghost will be faithful to you. There was only one Transfiguration, only one Gethsemane, and only one Calvary. Jesus went through and died of a broken heart. Take the step now, regardless of anyone, and God will meet your need.

Let us pray.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 8

THE PENALTY

Message Delivered at Perth,
Evening Meeting, February 26th, 1919

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy, under two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who had trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

This is a sad message, because it has in it a final word to a human soul. There is something I do not like about last words, there is something I do not like about "good-byes" when one is about to leave a place. There is always an inexpressible something about these words. The words do not exactly mean what you want to say, and looks cannot convey what you feel, and the handshake — there is not enough in it. After a few days in a place — I am nearly always in strange places — an interest in souls takes hold of me. How many times between the trips to Perth have I experienced that interest of soul.

Many times, at vigils, in nights of prayer, I have thought of Perth. I did not know that I should ever come back to deliver the message, but I do know that never before have we had so much of the presence and power of God in the meetings. I know the Holy Ghost has been faithful to every heart. I know He has carried the light to you. I know these meetings will be talked over in heaven and they will be talked over in hell. The interests at stake are truly great, and we have on our hearts a great responsibility.

There is nothing so sad on this earth as the loss of the soul. Did you think the meeting was over when it closed last night? No, that meeting had no end. It had no end for me. I went to my room, got down on my knees and there stayed most of the night. God was talking to me about lost souls, souls who are going to damnation. Somebody went out of this room last night, and they went out never to return. Nothing appeals to me like the loss of a soul, I can hardly bear it, for when I see a vision of lost souls, I reflect that the people who live without God, die without God. In the meeting last night some stood in grave danger. Do not misunderstand me when I say that a funeral prayer, breathed when you are doomed and on your deathbed is a very slim plank.

People who live without God must die without God. Many a time I have been sent for when it is too late. I am willing to go, but I have no desire to go. I will be honest with you and say so. I have been called to see too many people die who could have had, but did not have, the faith to get hold of God. I go because I have a heart of sympathy, because they expect me to go, but I do not like it. That is not the time to seek God.

Look through the whole Bible and God says, "Seek first," "Seek first," "Seek first." "Today, if you will hear His voice." It is the same all the way through. You cannot find in that Bible from cover to cover, the advice, "Seek last." It is not there. Yet thousands of people are building their hopes of salvation on the fact that they prayed a little prayer or sang a little song. Yes ! Five cents worth of medicine will make people sing and pray, but it took the blood of Calvary to save a soul.

Now consider how mercy is illustrated. Think of what mercy means. Think of how it touches every door, every window, everywhere, and it comes down to every heart and to every tongue.

My Bible says, "If thou shalt confess . . . thou shalt be saved," and yet people go on without it and go down to the dust and ashes of a misspent life.

The great tragedy of it all is that too many do not realize that every man and woman who dies without mercy breaks a sacred law. Every law has its penalty. There could be no protection of property if there were no punishment for the breaking of the law. There is a penalty, as all know, for breaking the law of the land, and there is a penalty for infringement of the law of Moses: "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses." Mercy was there, but they died without mercy. Think how long mercy has been extended to you, think of your having had that Bible all the years you have lived. Think of the number of times you have heard about the blood, then think of the times you have gone in forgetfulness of God. It is an awful thing to live without God, because those who live without God die without God.

I could stand here until the morning and tell you the names of people who have lived without God and they have died without Him. They have died without mercy. They had a Bible in the house, but they did not read it, they knew they had a God in heaven, but they did not pray to Him. They knew the blood was shed for them on Calvary, but they paid no attention. They resisted and died without mercy. People should consider, and consider profoundly, that it would be better for them to live in poverty, without any of the "good things?" of the world, without many friends, than to be without God. Of all the things that touch my heart, the sharpest is that people who know so much die ignorant of God. They do not realize it.

According to the Bible the Mosaic law was laid down with a penalty attached to it, and when it was broken those who broke it had to die. Yet, the fulfillment of the law only meant acceptance of mercy. Mercy, which instead of being difficult to find, is offered at your very door step, mercy which came to your room, mercy which was at your own fireside, mercy which has been hanging on your very bedposts, and facing you every day in the street. I say it is an awful thing to live for years and then to die without mercy, to spend eternity in hell, asking for a drop of water. There is something strange about a person who lives without God. The longer you live without Him the harder it is for you to find Him. I am sorry to say that I know old, middle aged, and young people who seem to have very little chance of ever knowing Him, they have rejected Him so much.

Everything is so extreme in these days that people are hardly moved by anything. That, however by no means prevents the penalty of the law from being inflicted. How cold the final word of the law is. Regardless of sympathy, regardless of appeal, regardless of request. I have thought I have felt its cold hand many a time when it has taken hold of people and held them as prisoners. When I visit the

penitentiary and witness there some two thousand men, and see the cold, iron hand of the law on them, I say, "These men should be in their homes, supporting their families and helping others, instead of wasting their time under the protection of the law." The law was given for the protection of the commonwealth, the law was for the people, and these prisoners had broken it and they had to suffer the penalty. They might have enjoyed the privileges and opportunities of their homes, but they were deprived of such blessings. If you want to know something of the law of God, look at the laws of the land. The latter are for the protection of the commonwealth, and if they are broken, the person responsible must pay the penalty. You see, now, how people keep themselves from the protection and preservation of God Almighty.

A young man committed a crime and was brought to our penitentiary. He was placed in confinement after being tried. He was placed in the death cell, awaiting the hour of electrocution. His father and mother, both aged people, became very anxious about him, for he was their only support, and they were left in such sorrow and loneliness, that at last, much against their will to travel, they took the trip and came to Columbus. Though unacquainted with anyone, they trudged about until they found their way to the Governor. After a little delay, they met him in his chamber, and pleaded with him, saying, "We have come asking mercy on behalf of our only son." They told him about the young man and added, "Governor Harman, if you had an only son, your only support, and he was in this condition, you would certainly come and ask for mercy. You are a father, and have a father's heart." The Governor replied, "Your son has committed a crime and broken the law. He has been examined and given every consideration which the law can give. You have come too late." He continued, "When I became Governor of Ohio, I said, with my hand on the Bible, that I would protect and preserve the commonwealth and all its interests. I took the oath and the people expressed their confidence by making me Governor here. Your son has been convicted of a crime, and is in the death cell awaiting the hour of electrocution. You cannot appeal to me as a father, you must appeal to me as the Governor. Then if you do that there is no mercy for your son.

The parents, with tears running down their faces, took the train for their humble home. One morning shortly after, it appeared in the paper that a few moments before midnight the young man had been taken from his cell to the chair and in an instant paid the penalty for his crime.

That seems cold, but it is for the protection of the commonwealth. That young man kept himself from mercy and died without mercy, and the appeals to the Governor and the tears of the parents were of no avail.

How many, like him, cut themselves off from God, and think not of mercy until the hour of death? As we are told, those who merely despised Moses' law died without mercy. It does not say they committed any crime, they simply despised, and the text says, "Of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God?" One would think that would be enough for those who say they do not believe in punishment or the infliction of a penalty for sin.

Recently I was in the Mission field. A poor washerwoman came to the meeting and God spoke to her heart. She was very poor, her dress was hardly fit to be in a public place. She had the responsibilities of a home, too, and could scarcely make ends meet. However, at the close of the meeting she came and handed me some money. She said that on one occasion she had charged too

much for the washing, and she would rather give it back than meet it at the Judgment. The Holy Ghost was faithful, and restitution had to be made. This case illustrates that you can do things under the law of the land that you cannot do under the law of God.

Now, the point which should be emphasized is this: While the blessing of God is as lavish as it undoubtedly is, it must also be remembered that His punishment is in the same degree. While heaven is such a holy place, hell is certainly an awful one. Holiness is so wonderful and sin surely is terrible and tragical. It is so all the way through. The punishment for the rejection of the Holy Ghost is going to be terrible. The punishment for the rejection of God was the destruction of the world by the flood. The punishment for the rejection of Jesus Christ has made the name of the Jew a by-word for twenty centuries. The Jews were scattered to the four winds. It was an awful thing to reject Jesus Christ, and it is an awful thing to reject the Holy Ghost. Did the Jews reject Christ more intelligently than the Gentiles are rejecting the Holy Ghost today? I cannot believe it, but I do believe that the rejection of the Holy Ghost must end in awful punishment. If people would put forth half the effort to receive as they do to resist, they would quickly be filled with all the fulness of God.

I have been asked by critics, "Do you like to preach this way?" Yes, because I believe it is the truth, and God honors the truth. I do not give you the Greek reading of it, I give you the Bible just as it stands. If the penalty for rejection in the antediluvian world was destruction, how much more worthy of punishment are those who, with all the light and opportunity of these days, turn their backs on salvation. Today the responsibility is increased. I ask your consideration of this before it is too late. If God has made a heaven for a holy people, He has made also a hell for bad people. Yes, there is a heaven and there is a hell. There is punishment under God's law as well as under any other law. I am glad that the so-called reason of Ingersoll, Voltaire, Tom Payne, and Russell has not been able to change it.

Compare God's light with the light offered by the infidel. When God said, "Let there be light," it was for the poor, the rich, and for everyone. And it is not measured as is your gas and electricity by a man with a little meter, but it is as free as air. God can fill every nook, every corner, street, doorway, and window pane. That is the way He does things. I have seen people saved in an instant and God seemed to drop something right down in their souls. The difficulties disappeared when they were sanctified wholly. If you get this blessing some persons may turn against you and say they do not like you, but you can say, "Praise the Lord." They may say they do not like your doctrine, but you can say, "Amen." If they hit you it would not hurt, you would not even feel angry. If they sat on you, you would not cry out; you hardly know of those things, so much has God done for you.

But wait until He starts the punishment. I believe as much in eternal punishment as I do in eternal bliss, and when the Holy Ghost says there is to be sore punishment, it is enough to make people tremble. Never was there a time when carnality, intellectuality, formality, and refinement were so combined as they are today to oppose the Holy Ghost. Still, wherever there is a hungry heart, a needy soul, to it we say, "Whosoever will may come." Need I warn more against the rejection of the Holy Ghost. I would rather a man's tongue cleaved to the roof of his mouth, than hear it used against Holiness or the Holy Ghost.

It does not matter what you say about me, but I cannot bear to hear anyone say a word against the Holy Ghost. He waits for an entrance into your heart, He will come and take the supremacy. When He has destroyed sin from your heart, He will make you a channel of blessing to others. You can let your soul become a desert or a flower garden, but if the latter, the flowers of divine grace, planted in your own soul, will be watered by your own glad tears and will become fragrant in a life of spiritual joy.

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By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 9

THE SILENCE OF GOD

Message Delivered at Perth,
Sunday Night, March 2nd, 1919

"God has departed from me, and answereth me no more . . . what shall I do?"

This is the language of a lost soul — no mercy, no Bible, no blood, no prayers, no tears, no Holy Ghost, no heaven, but hell. He was doomed and damned by his own action and decision and his own sin. This man had a wonderful opportunity. He had life and God, he had answers to prayer, he had faith and he had the sanction of God. God had talked to him and he had talked with God. But now this is his language," God has departed from me and answereth me no more."

I feel with regard to our meetings of the past week that God has spoken to many hearts, but there has been continuous resistance. The responsibility is upon all who have heard the messages. Tragedy will follow. A great many people make light of God's coming to the human heart, but it is a great event. People know when He comes as well as they know their names — and better. They know it as well as they know they are in this room. When conscience speaks, it is as clear and as radical and as real and as, supernatural as God taking possession of a man. All your customary signing and joining, wandering and doubting is damning. It may increase the membership and satisfy a clergyman, but it will damn souls unless there is a revelation of God in the human heart. When such a work takes place it is a great event; and when a person tells me he does not know if he is saved, I know. When people say they are not sure about it, their very statement makes certain the absence of a real change.

A voice was never more clear than when God, for Christ's sake, unburdened my soul, and when the Holy Ghost came in. All this uncertainty and carnality, all this doubting and unbelief I cannot understand. He that believeth is saved, and he that doubteth is damned. God's word to all is that "everyone that asketh receiveth." God hears and answers prayer.

In the case of this character which we have before us tonight, he knew God, was acquainted with God and God had talked to him, and he knew it. I want to say that of all the tragical things, the worst is the tragedy of a person who has sinned against light. It is an awful thing to reject light. You may think we speak plainly and definitely about it, but I could give testimonies in proof of what I say by the hundreds. I have said it is a great event when God comes to a soul, and it is just as great an event when God leaves one. That is sad indeed; the results are always serious. God can come to a soul and He can also leave a soul; and what keeps God away from a soul in the first place will also cause Him to depart. Sin keeps men from God, and God from men. When the Holy Ghost comes into a man's heart his sin leaves.

Now this event in the text is something that has taken place. It is not a new inception, there is no doubt about it; there is no uncertainty about the thing, there is no expression in it which would admit of a single doubt. Oh! the awful hour when God leaves humanity, whereby humanity is eternally damned. You would be astonished if you knew the number of people in this and other countries whom God has left, irrespective of intellectual belief and tradition. When He leaves, these things do not count, they are only destructive and withering and damning. "God has departed from me." He was the same living, conscious man, but God had left and taken from him every drop of the saving blood, every joy, every tear, every answer to prayer. You talk about real things! That was reality, you do not find any expression of uncertainty about it. I am surprised that more people are not more determined to keep the blessing and maintain their communion with God, and have a burden for the lost. You think you have not the burden I speak of? I know it. I have been speaking to people this week who have no vision — people who act and live differently from what they are commanded to do. If you had the vision of lost humanity, the vision of Calvary, how differently you would act. I cannot give you the vision; but the Holy Ghost can do it. It will not be done for £100 or £1,000.

I want you to notice that in cases of those who have had light, God can leave them if they are disobedient. He can leave them doomed and damned, even if they remain on the earth. The text is a clear proof of that fact. A few sermons or a few attendances at church will not keep your heart right with God. Here, tonight, we have the language of a lost soul, the cry of a man who knew he was damned while he was alive, and he had a conscience that will live through all eternity. That is not all. The sin that damned him and separated him from God will live with him for time and eternity. This is a sad message because of its cost. Everything has its cost. Everything is valued according to its cost; and this is a valuable message because of its cost. It is not all paid yet. It is being paid even while you are sleeping tonight, and tomorrow, and while the cycles of time go on. Tonight, that man is paying the cost of his sin paying the penalty for the broken law of God, the law broken by the action of his own life.

A great many get the idea that what God says is a joke. They jeer at His word. They also get the idea that there is no hell, that the hereafter is just nothing. They say: "Let us get through this life, and we will risk the hereafter." They have even looked into my face and said: "Well, if I go to hell, I will have lots of company." Company, when locked up in hell, as if it were in Perthshire. How deceived a man is, how possessed of the devil a man is, how near to being damned a man is, when he will say a common thing like that. A man in that condition is so far gone, that, possibly, he will never hear God's voice again. Others talk about what it costs to be saved, and to live a holy life. They know little about the cost. What is the cheap laugh of the unbeliever when you have your pure, joyful life and the fulfillment of God's word as your reward. What inducement has the worldly man to offer you, to follow in his worldly, sinful way? Better for these agents of hell, with their inducements, their salaried positions and their sugary things, were a millstone tied round their necks and that they were thrown into the sea. God help them. What is the instigation of these messengers of Satan? It is that abominable carnality. That serpent of hell is the same in the church as in the Market Place; it is as black as hell and it is tearing at the heart-strings of humanity. As we have been praying, God has been talking and He has given me a vision of lost souls.

The other day someone said Perth was a hard place. That is one of the saddest things that could be said of a place where so much light has been given, where so many tears have been shed and

where so many prayers have been offered. A sadder thing could not be said, This has been a heavy week, the burden has been heavy, although when someone receives the Holy Ghost that lifts the burden. When you have the destinies of souls resting upon you, I tell you it means something. I do not like preaching funeral sermons while people are alive.

"God has departed." He had left and that man had the consciousness of it. God used to talk to that man. It is one of the most tragical things that could come to anybody's mind. Pray. I am not to speak much longer. The silence of God always means the presence of sin, and the presence of sin the silence of God.

Another thing to notice in this subject: God never came back to that man, who was alive and not dead when He departed from him. You have it for your own consideration and you can read it in your Bible. God scarcely ever comes back after He leaves the human heart when there has been willful disobedience. The unfaithful are nearly always damned, and it is rare that one ever gets back to God, if one leaves Him. I do not say they cannot. Do not go from this meeting and say I preach that everyone goes to hell who does not do so and so. I say that God never came back to this man after He left him.

Jesus, I notice, never went a second time to a single person or place that rejected Him, which should show that you have no more right to a ray of light in Perth, after rejecting what you have. He will go to some other spot, and, believe me, if there is not a radical change, you are to have darkness in Perth. Darkness always follows rejected light, and you have no right to another ray. Think of it. There are in this world, thousands who have never heard the name of Jesus, and thousands want the light of Holiness; they not only want it, but they are going to have it. These thousands are to have, shall I say, what you do not want, or, at least, reject. I say there must be a radical change, and a supernatural change very soon. There is no time to waste. In this momentous matter there is no consideration for personalities, individualities, means, clothes, and the like. "God has departed." And where did the man go? To a watchnight meeting in a church which cannot afford to preach the word? As if an atmosphere of devilish carnality and compromise could help anyone in such a plight. No; it was to hell he went. That is the only place for souls when God has left them. There, of course, you may have the unbeliever's comfort. Company, any company suits a lost soul. In that direction there are no restrictions or convictions; creeds change right away, and you have the freedom of "any" company.

When the Holy Ghost has left a man his first and consuming desire is to drag others with him to degradation. What a dangerous cry is that of "Drag in the crowds!" Then God is gone, He has left, He has left. What decision would you give tonight if God would never speak to you again? I think you would pray and turn from all your sins. Otherwise your life is not worth living.

This man to whom God had spoken ended his own life. Tragedy always follows the rejection of light. But God has every right to go from such a man, and He went from him, never to return.

I want to emphasize that this man committed suicide and went to hell. That was his destination, and that is the destination of everyone who sins and rejects Holiness. Remember you are not rejecting me, it is not my message at all. You have your Bibles. Read. I have never preached anything

but the Bible. I have always been right with it and am right with it tonight. And I have told you what one man did. He rejected the light. Now watch this. But for that fact his soul might have been in heaven tonight, but by his own action and decision he went straight down to a devil's hell. The Holy Ghost is faithful.

I was in a meeting; the pastor asked if I would go with him to a certain home, and I said I would. We went, and as we entered the house we were met by a weak, pale-faced man. He asked us to pray for him, and we said we would. "But," he said, "Before you pray I want to tell you something." He knew what he had done, and he went on: "I was a Christian and I was brought up to the light of Holiness. God wanted me to preach, and I knew if I received the Holy Ghost I should have to preach. I told God I would not do it. I argued with God, and told Him I would make money and provide for others to preach." That, friends, was very frank and very plain. Then he said, "I went on for a few years in the enjoyment of a good home and a happy family. Then my neck began to hurt me, and I was scared. I went to a doctor and he said there would be no trouble, I must bathe it and it would soon be better. But that did not avail; my neck got worse. I went to another doctor, and he said there would have to be an operation at once. That was not the only one, there was a second, and a third. Then the doctors admitted they could do no more. The trouble was a deadly, eating cancer. Other expedients were tried, but all to no purpose, and I am getting worse. My life is nearly gone." As I looked at that man, the Holy Ghost told me I was looking at a lost soul. He was worked up and prayer was long and earnest. He wanted to hear God speak to him again. He asked if he might go to a meeting, and we consented. Special arrangements were made with regard to ventilation, etc., and he came. It is very, very sad to see a man like that waiting to hear God speak. But God did not speak, nor did he speak the second night. Then he begged his friends to sit up with him and read the Bible. He hoped God would speak to him through His word, but God did not speak. The next night he asked to be left alone. "Possibly God will speak to me in the silence," he said. But God did not speak. In the morning, just as the sun was shining forth he moaned and said: "I am going to hell, I am dying and God is still silent. He has not spoken to me since I was a young man." I felt after that, I would warn people as I had never done before. What a warning is this. You who are here needing God, may be in the same condition. You may silence Him during the next two or three minutes, that He may never speak to you again.

It is clear God does not come to people who wait until they are on their death-bed before they seek Him, and it would not be at all unusual if someone here now were to be so placed tonight.

Would you silence God for ever? You may be determined to have salvation, yet wait until it is too late. God help you to decide — now.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 10

THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

Message Delivered at Penn,
Evening Meeting, March 29th, 1919

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God."

When the Holy Ghost gives an expression like this, it is always worthy of our obedience. When He calls our attention to a thing, it is not a moving picture show or a painting in oil, or something that will pass away with time, but it is something eternal. Jesus never mentioned the things that could be seen with the natural eye, except to draw attention to eternal things. He spoke of feeding them with bread, and then He told them of the bread of life.

Tonight we have our attention called to one of the most wonderful things that has ever been known. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." In the plan of creation, all that was created was for everybody, but the plan of redemption was for individuals who would meet certain conditions, and by simple faith claim the provisions that had been made for them. The sun shines on the just and on the unjust. The people who have cursed God today have had just as much of the sunshine as the people who have been praising God. The people who are serving the devil have just as much right to look at the sun as the people who are standing for God and Holiness. In the creation, everything was universal, in redemption, everything is personal, and there is nothing general about it.

Whenever people begin to talk about the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, they always mean to tone down something that God has said, they want to put their own interpretation on the word of God.

The deepest love was not expressed to us in creation, but in redemption, and it brought within the reach of everyone the plan of redemption that could save them. When the devil came into the Garden of Eden, and our first parents fell out of the image of God and they lost communion with Him, it was not the act of sin that was so awful, but because of that act the devil brought into their hearts the depraved nature, the carnal nature, that damnable nature from hell, that nature of the devil that will damn anybody that has it. When the act of sin is forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary, that nature of sin still remains in the heart, and so many have never heard that there is deliverance from it. That is why I specially believe in Holiness Meetings.

There is no other kind of meeting on earth that deals with the cause of sin. There is no ministry that teaches it, and there are no songs that mention it until you get to Holiness. There are thousands and millions today who are ignorant of the cause of their defeat. I believe the Holy Ghost will reveal

it to you tonight, and some of you, I feel sure, are honest enough to seek deliverance from that damnable thing. That is why I believe in preaching Holiness. When you think of these things, you can see that after the act of sin has been forgiven, many times people have gone back into sin again, and the last state has been worse than the first, but when the nature of sin was destroyed from the hearts of the hundred and twenty who gathered in the Upper Room, they never took another backward step. They had the thing taken out that causes others to backslide.

When God expressed His love in the plan of redemption, He did not simply deal with the act of sin. The act of sin is under your control, but the nature of sin is under the devil's control. It is the supreme work of hell, and was brought out to damn humanity. The devil hates this message, he keenly contests souls being delivered from this carnal nature which he put in the heart to defeat the thought of Divinity and to damn humanity. I will tell you how much I believe in Holiness. I believe in it enough to give my life for it. I believe it is a special message, and it will do special things in this country, and God will have the glory. Anything less than this will bring defeat.

When God made the plan of redemption in heaven, it was placed on the basis of faith, when the devil made his scheme in hell it was based on action. You can see the difference. The devil wanted to get them to doubt God, and he was successful in his attempt. Whenever he can get a person of any age, class, or color, to doubt the inspiration of the Bible and the power of the blood, and the purpose of Divinity to save humanity for time and eternity, they will be damned. You can never reach a person with a wrong doctrine as long as they hold to it. They are under a blighting, withering, damnable influence, and they see nothing in the light because they are in darkness, they see nothing in faith because they are in doubt, and they see nothing in Holiness because they are on the road to hell.

God purposes to place the plan of redemption in the reach of everybody. How does He do it? God knows all that the devil has done and is going to do, but the devil knows nothing of what God has done. He is as ignorant of the plan of redemption as he was when he fell out of heaven. God knows all about the schemes of hell, but the devil knows nothing about the schemes of heaven. That is the reason why sinners can come from the back of this room and, although they have the burden of sins upon them, and the nature of hell in them, God almighty can break the chains of sin and liberate them, and send the devil back to hell to advertise the victory. The devil has been a seeker, and he has desired to find out these things, but they are hidden from him, and also from the people who follow him.

That is a great inspiration to the children of God. All through the Bible we find that the devil knew nothing of what God was going to do. He knows what sin is, and he knows what hell is, he knows what doubt is, and he knows what the carnal nature is, but he knows nothing of the plan of redemption and the secrets of the Holy Ghost. That is the reason why the children of God, full of faith and the Holy Ghost, can go to the trapdoor of hell and plant the flowers of divine grace, and water them with their own tears, and gather bouquets after many years.

That is why the Bible says that God has all power, and He will give you power over all the power of the enemy. Right by the devil's power in every heart and in every life is the power of God, and as soon as you are willing to say, "Thy will be done," the work of God is begun. And so, tonight, we

are not throwing out a few paper wads, but we are taking the biggest sinner in England and preaching to him a salvation that will save from all sin and baptize him with the Holy Ghost if he is willing to meet the conditions. If you want anything better than that, I cannot tell you where you will find it.

The purpose of the devil in persuading Adam and Eve to commit the act of sin was not simply for the act, but by that act he was able to put the nature of sin in them. As a result, everybody is born with that damnable nature in them, but by faith everyone can be saved from sin and filled with the Holy Ghost, and be made partaker of the divine nature. This message is worth hearing, and it is the only message for the hour. It is the only message that has saved humanity. Pay no attention to the cost, and the prayers, and the tears. Will you live in sin and die and be damned, or will you be without sin and live holy and die happy? You can make your decision.

Now, sin has passed upon all men because of the act of Adam and Eve, and salvation is offered to every man, because of the sacrifice of Calvary. Some of you think you have always been good, but you are good enough for hell and to damn souls. Nobody is good enough except through faith, and through a change of heart. That damnable nature must be taken out of the heart. We are not afraid to preach this message, we are not afraid of hell. God has called us to preach His mess, and we will honor the Bible, and the blood, and the Holy Ghost, and He will do the rest.

When the Holy Ghost said, "Behold! He was not drawing attention to natural love and affection produced by circumstances and environments, but He was speaking of the real divine love. That love is always the same, it has not changed in its action or its judgment. God loved this lost world, and He gave His Son to die for it. God so loved that He gave, and you will never love God very much until you give everything to Him. As soon as that divine love is put into your soul you will begin to give, and there is no end to the giving. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Now, we are made partakers of the divine nature by an act of faith, and it is a personal matter, but the nature of the devil was by an act for which we were not accountable. "Death passed upon all men, for all have sinned." All have been under the fall, but faith puts an end to the fall when we surrender all and answer God's call.

Just throw yourself into the hands of God. And it is a wonderful thing that we can be called the "Sons of God," not by a church, not by a preacher, but by God Himself. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." It does not say we shall be called a church member, or a Methodist, or a Presbyterian, but a son of God. How do we become children of God? By being born again. The New Birth ends all activity in sin, there is no place for sin. Then the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire destroys the nature of sin and places in your heart the divine nature. You not only have the desire to do the will of God, but the Holy Ghost is there to work in and through you to the glory of God.

We can see that God knows everything that the devil knows, but the devil knows nothing of the plan of God. He knows no more about the conversion of a soul than he did when he first fell; he understands no more about the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire than he did when the hundred and twenty received it. That is the reason why the work of God has been a success and sin has been a

failure. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." The Divine personality dwelling within your heart gives you victory.

Some people speak of a universal salvation because Jesus died on the cross, but you are not saved because Jesus died, but because you accept the sacrifice that was made on the cross. While the sacrifice was made that all might be saved, none will be saved but those who accept the sacrifice. It is all ready, and it is left for you to see that the work is done.

As far as divine thought was concerned, it was done on Calvary, and it can be done in your heart when you accept it by faith. Our forefathers looked forward to Calvary's sacrifice, and we look back to it, but it is nothing to us until we appropriate it by faith. That is the reason why there is so much dry theology and empty profession; there is no divine nature, and souls are paralyzed and withered and damned by the carnal nature.

"Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." That was the climax of the plan of redemption. If Jesus had only saved man from the act of sin, then the devil and sin would have been a success, but He died to save man from the nature of sin and from total depravity, and from eternal damnation, and, thank God, He is able to do it.

If you go to one who has been wrecked by the act of sin, you can give him no hope if you cannot tell him that the nature of sin can be destroyed. The act has wrecked him, but you must remember that when the act is forgiven, the mind is still weak and the old carnal nature will begin to act again, but when God comes in and destroys the carnal nature, He puts the Holy Ghost in that weak body to take charge, and His presence gives that weak person complete victory.

Oh, I am getting so blessed, I like to think of the old devil being defeated and locked up. You do not know what you are missing. Everything is before you, and you can have all you need if you will believe God. For a long time I could see these things were for the other folk, but I was tickled nearly to death when I saw they were for me.

I have not got over it yet. Nobody could say they were not for me, because the Holy Ghost said they were, and I believed it. God is able to take any withered, depraved, and debauched piece of humanity and work a miracle of divine grace, right before the devil's face. That is the reason why Holiness is a success. Do not rub your head up against this thing, Holiness can live without you, and it will be in heaven when you are screaming in a devil's hell. You can make your choice.

I want you to see that this is a personal matter. You have nothing to do with the plan of creation, the stars are going to give light and people are going to eat and sleep, but as soon as you finish the act of sin, and the nature of sin is destroyed from your heart, then there is a personal thought and a personal working — out of God's plan.

The Holy Ghost says, "Behold!" Just look at that. Think over the few scattering fragments of truth, and there is nobody on earth or in hell that can answer them. The devil can meet brains, scholarship, tradition, and education, but he is silenced when the Holy Ghost speaks.

Now His purpose in saving your soul was not simply to stop the act of sin. When the act of sin is forgiven, there is power enough in every unsanctified soul to make them sin again, because the purpose of the devil can be worked out through the carnal nature. I am more than ever convinced that the devil does not mind what people profess, or what they preach, if he can keep them blind to the fact that the nature of sin will damn them.

I wish somebody would get a vision in this room tonight, I wish somebody would see their opportunity and their privilege of taking this message to some soul I may never see. When the acts of sin are forgiven, you have the consciousness that the burden of sins for which you were accountable has been lifted. But while the nature of sin remains it will exert itself and cause you to sin again.

So you see how important it is that sin should be destroyed. Your destiny rests upon your own decision, and the devil can never make you go back into sin against your will. It is a simple thing to lift your hand to heaven, but think what it means for God's hand to reach down to you; you can pray a simple prayer, but think what God does when He answers your heart-cry.

You know it is proper to ask for things. When you go to the store, you ask for what you want. You do not say, "Oh, anything will do," and yet when people come to God they stutter and stammer and hardly know how to ask. Others are not willing to pay the price.

One day, after they raised the price of tickets in our country, I was standing in the station waiting for the train, and a man went to the booking office and asked for a ticket; the clerk told him how much it would cost, and he said, "Oh, I am not going to pay that," and the clerk said, "You are not obliged to do so." I went to the train, but that man sat still in the station. I do not know how long he sat. What did it matter to the railway company? They have made the plans and arranged the fares, and if people do not pay they cannot have the benefits. What does the railway company care? That is just how much God cares when you go to a meeting and will not walk in the light.

Some people think that Holiness cannot make any headway without them, but they are mistaken. It went along before they were born, and it will continue without them. Some have the impression that God cannot do without them, but it is a mistake. They ought to see that they cannot do without God. It is a wonderful thing that He pays any attention to us. I was thinking the other day what a wonderful thing it is that God has made a plan of redemption that can reach everybody.

The Holy Ghost can meet every extreme need of the human heart. There is not a desire in your heart that cannot be satisfied if you will allow God to save you and to baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

The devil has made a great many people believe that the life of Holiness is abnormal, but that is not so. It is natural and supernatural. You can live the normal Christian life when that old carnal nature has been destroyed. It has caused you many a doctor's bill, and as soon as it is taken away your health is better.

Holiness gives you good health. That old, mean disposition that the devil brought out of hell and put in you before you were born is an awful thing. You are not accountable for having it, but you are accountable for keeping it. You know there is something the matter, and you think it is your liver, but it is the carnal nature.

People go to the doctor when they ought to go to a Holiness Meeting, that is where the Holy Ghost can deal with the case and destroy that nature of sin. He can do it in an instant. A man was in a meeting and he had taken advantage of another person. The Holy Ghost spoke to him, and he came to the altar. I had the privilege of praying with him, and he saw he had to make restitution. As soon as he went and put things right with the person whom he had wronged, they, too, wanted to go to the Holiness Meeting.

Carnal nature produces jealousy, envy, backbiting, and all those kind of things, and when God made the plan of redemption He never intended that nature to remain in the heart of man. Why, being angry for ten minutes is worse for you than ten years hard work, and there are people today who are so controlled by their passion that they are not fit to be amongst society.

Somebody says, "I haven't a nature like that." You have that nature, and it will take you to hell, and it will laugh at you after you are damned. Refinement and education may restrain it for a time, but it will go to hell, that is its place, and that is its environment. It came from hell and it is going to return.

God, in giving His Son to die for this lost world, produced a salvation that destroys the works of the devil. Why could He do it? God knew what the devil would do, and so before He made man He thought out the plan of redemption. The devil made his scheme in hell and put carnality in the heart of humanity. God made the plan of redemption and sent the personal Holy Ghost to destroy the works of the devil, to take charge of you and to take you to heaven and introduce you to the angels and the blood-washed. Why does He stay with you for ever? Because you are not safe for one minute without Him. If He left you the devil; would have a chance to defeat you, but He will stay with you for time and eternity.

I wonder if you realize how much it is worth to this community and to this country to have this meeting here tonight. I have been to many places, and I have seen many things in the country, but the greatest thing I have seen is this Independent Holiness Movement. People do not realize it, and carnality hates Holiness. If you take notice, you will see that the religious people are not fighting the sinners who are being saved, but they are fighting the Christians who are being sanctified wholly. They turned against Jesus, but He had done nothing wrong, He blessed everybody. The blind received their sight, the deaf were made to hear, and the sick were healed. Why did they kill Him? Because they hated Holiness. They wanted to crucify the Son of God. It was Holiness they hated. There is not a thing outside of hell that is hated so much as Holiness. I am not saying these things in a hurry, I have stood up against the hostility of hell nearly all my life, I am against its damnable onslaughts and its subtle power.

They hate me because I preach Holiness. If I would only entertain them with a talk on the Boxer Movement they would be satisfied. If I were to announce that I would speak on my travels next

Saturday night, you would have to arrange for a larger hall. Carnality hates Holiness. After they had killed Jesus, and the one hundred and twenty had received the Holy Ghost, they wanted to kill them. Not one of those early disciples died a natural death. Look at the case of Paul. He had papers in his pocket and authority to go and kill the Christians and to stop the Holiness Movement and put it in hell. He had been sitting at the feet of Gamaliel, and he was on his way to Damascus when he fell in the mud, and you know what happened — he found salvation. Afterwards, he received the Holy Ghost, and then they wanted to kill him. They were on his track continually. They stoned him and left him for dead, but he crawled out and he went on preaching Holiness until they took off his head. Why did they do it? Because that damnable carnality hates Holiness.

Mark what I tell you, if you press forward with this message, some are going to get the light, but martyrs crowns will again be worn. We are not out for play we are not out to make friends, we are not out to measure our salaries, but we are out to stand against sin as long as God gives us breath. We are going to have a hearing in this country, and the people are going to have a chance to hear the message. God's love is as much expressed in allowing people to go to hell as it is in taking others to heaven. I never count numbers, all the Holy Ghost called me to do was to carry an unanswerable message to hungry hearts, and I have given my life for it and to it. The atmosphere in this meeting is rare, you could go to many places and find nothing like it.

I want you to see that God's love is expressed as much in judgment as it is in mercy. His love has given its final expression in the plan of salvation. So you see the tremendous opportunity and the great responsibility, and you can see what the Holy Ghost and purity and unction means to a living soul.

I do not suppose you will be troubled with many messages like this, but if any of you do not believe it, I want to ask you how you can evade it. I have no secondary motive. I simply want you to get this message. You have no time to lose. Do you want to keep the nature of hell or will you let God destroy it and give you the nature that comes from heaven? You can make your choice.

I want to thank God that He made the plan of redemption to save man before He took the dust in His hand to make man, and that He established Holiness in heaven before there was a hell, and He defeated the purpose of the devil before the devil had a purpose.

If you think Holiness is a little thing, you are mistaken. The devil cannot touch the plan of redemption through time or through eternity. Just think of the Holy Ghost saying, "Behold!" People go miles to see their friends, they take long trips to see certain sights. We sat out on the deck to see the Southern Cross. I had heard of it, and I saw it, but tonight I can see the cross, and God has put it in a place where it can never be taken down. There are people who would not come across the street to this meeting, but the Holy Ghost has brought some a long way to "Behold." To behold the decisions of the Peace Conference? No. To behold the love of God that reached down before the devil did a thing. You think you have a right to sin and to weaken your body and damn your soul. You have; and you have a right to the precious blood and to the Holy Ghost and the tree of life. You have a right to carry a burden and a right to shed tears that will water the flowers of divine grace that are placed in your heart by the hand of God. Why, if there was no hereafter, if there was no heaven and no hell, a man is a fool to live twenty-four hours out of the will of God.

I feel like thanking God that I ever heard about the blood and the Holy Ghost, and that He ever found His way to my poor hungry heart. I simply ask you to make your choice. It is not a question of numbers, or of joining something, or wearing a label, but it is a question of having that thing, the works of the devil, taken out of your heart.

The act of sin is ended when you confess and forsake your sins, and the nature of sin is destroyed when you are baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire, when the Holy Ghost will come to abide for ever. I never did have such inexpressible gratitude in my heart as I have tonight. You are strangers to me, but I want you to get acquainted with the Holy Ghost, and then we will soon know each other. He took me when nobody else would, and now He can keep me. It is a personal matter, and I want you to think honestly and seriously about it. It is worth all your thought and all your attention.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 11

THE WISDOM OF HOLINESS

Message Delivered at Penn,
Sunday Morning, March 30th, 1919

"He answered nothing."

I have wondered what this meeting would be if we could get a conception of God and what His thought is for it. I do not think I was ever in meetings that had more connected with them than these. The network of the Holy Ghost which precedes a meeting and that which follows is just as essential as that which takes place in the meeting itself. A great many people do not recognize that. A meeting is not over in thirty minutes or an hour; a meeting in the Holy Ghost lasts for ever. Other services are a little entertainment, a little pastime and pleasure, and they are over in thirty minutes. The Holy Ghost can show you a vision this morning that you will look upon for ever, and it will be more in a million years from the time He shows it to you than it is now. That is the difference between the temporal and the eternal. The world knows it has to give changes, it has to meet the changes of carnality, but the eternal things are the same yesterday, today, and for ever. That is why a life can be so restful and so fruitful when it is saved from sin. This world is more than ten million miles from the first letter of the alphabet in the Holy Ghost, and when you see these things you can begin to say and do.

One thing has deeply impressed me and that is the need is greater than the supply. This country has produced workers for everything except Holiness. Millions were ready to die on the battlefield, millions are willing to fill all the places in industry, but there is the need now for fifty men to go with the message of Holiness. The Holy Ghost is faithful in His work and He knows what He is doing. I am glad this morning that we do not have to urge this. If people recognize the fact that it is the work of the Holy Ghost, they will be obedient and walk in the light.

"And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto Him, 'Hearst Thou not how many things they witness against Thee?' And He answered him never a word."

He answered nothing, and He answered him never a word. We find there are a great many people who, through tradition and education, have a very deceptive notion in their minds of the plan of redemption. What a person believes makes him what he is, and the reason why more people are not standing for God and Holiness is because they do not believe it. You see that is true because every effort and every energy of mind and body is expended in the thought of returns and rewards every investment is made with the thought of how much a man will get out of it. And, beloved, when you see and have a vision, that the giving of a life to the Holy Ghost, mentally, physically and financially, spiritually and eternally is more than spending that life in any other way, why, then you will give

your life freely and completely. Until you do see it you will never do much. We cannot urge people and show them these things in haste.

Now the plan of redemption is a success because it has defeated all the plans of the devil. Christianity has lived so differently and acted so differently that a great many people have not understood it, and while the thought of God has been slow in being carried out, it has never been a minute late. I want you to notice how carefully the plan of God has been made for the redemption of a lost soul, and God has made man a free moral agent. Your own decision decides your eternal destiny; there may be impressions, and there may be environments that have much to do with your action, but you make your own decision. When God made Adam and Eve out of the dust of the earth and placed them in the Garden of Eden, they were pure and holy and they were in a place of plenty, they enjoyed communion with God. Now to make a man a free moral agent he must have the power of choice. Adam and Eve had this privilege. Then the serpent crawled out of hell and came to Eve and through her he reached Adam. He told them that God was a liar and that if they would help themselves to the forbidden fruit that they would be as gods. They listened to his suggestion and they fell. They lost all they had ever enjoyed, they lost communion with God. They made their choice and everyone has made their choice since. People choose sin instead of Holiness, they choose to wear fig leaves instead of the clothing of God. Every piece of clothing worn by the human race is an acknowledgment of that tragical fall.

Now, the plan of redemption was made before the earth was made, and before the serpent crawled out of hell, and before there was a hell from which he could crawl. God was ahead of the devil. Salvation is older than sin, and Holiness is older than hell. The people of this country make a great point of showing respect for age, so if you wish to respect the oldest, you must respect the man that is sanctified wholly. God had the plan of redemption before man fell, and he was made a free moral agent so that he might accept it or reject it, and he has been choosing or rejecting ever since.

Now, when Jesus was born in the Bethlehem manger, it was a great event. Holiness was born in simplicity and humility and it has lived there ever since. You have never found a holy man or a holy woman who was not living a simple, humble, childlike, victorious life. While Holiness is born in simplicity and humility and lives in purity, it always dies in victory. You never find it fighting for victory, but fighting with victory. It never fears anything it has to face.

Now, if Jesus had come in great pomp and with authority, He would have been accepted of the Jews, but because He was born in a manger and cradled there, they never understood Him.

After Jesus was baptized with the Holy Ghost He was tempted by the devil. He was tempted as the Son of Man but He overcame as the Son of God. He received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, not for the destruction of sin, but as a preparation for His life's work and as an example to His followers. Now, when the devil came to Jesus it was a real onslaught of hell. The devil wanted to defeat Him. He said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Jesus answered, "It is written." There was no room for argument. When you have the knowledge of forgiveness of sins and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, all you have to do is to give the devil the word of God. He hates it. It is one of the strongest weapons in the Christian's hand. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away." Jesus answered the devil with the word of God. "Man shall

not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." He was ahead of the devil. Then the devil tried to meet Him with His own weapon, but he made such a mess of quoting the scripture that he has never tried since. And all the followers of the devil make a mess of the Bible. A person that has the Holy Ghost can have the victory in his soul all the time. I never like to hear people in argument. It is not the work of man to convince people of the realities of salvation and Holiness, that is the supreme work of the Holy Ghost. He did not send out the hundred and twenty to convince people, He sent them out filled with the Holy Ghost to preach the message of full salvation.

Now after the devil had made a fool of himself and failed, Jesus quoted two passages of Scripture. He quoted Scripture to the devil three times, but the devil only quoted it once and then he left the best out of it. The devil is leaving the best part out of the Bible today, the carnal preachers are leaving out the best, and that is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. And, beloved, with all due respect, there is no way of getting the light to others unless you have it yourself and are walking in it. Argument will not do it, explaining the Scriptures will not do it, but they can never get around your simple testimony how God has saved you from sin and baptized you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

Carnality hated Holiness so much that it was determined to get rid of Jesus by some means or other. Only one person of the Godhead has ever been allowed to be handled by carnality, they could not handle God the Father, He appeared and disappeared, He thundered from Sinai, He appeared at Abraham's door, He spoke to His people, but they could not get to Him, they could not shake hands with Him, they could not look into His eyes. Man fell so low that the Son of God had to come down and take upon Him the likeness of flesh and He condemned sin in the flesh. Carnality had a chance at the Son of God from the time He begun His work until He was crucified. You know what they did, they hated Him, they did all they could against Him until they killed Him. God looked down on the scene, and the only time He turned His back on His Son was just that moment when He bore the sin of the world. It brought from the heart of Jesus the cry, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

Before Jesus uttered that cry He had prayed that the Holy Ghost might come to abide for ever. It was mentioned so much that when He, the Holy Ghost came, He would stay. He came, and carnality has never been able to get to Him. The people have hated Him and sought to kill those who have received Him. They have sought to express their awful hatred in that way. They can kill the people that have Him, but they cannot kill Him, although He is a real personality, the third person of the Trinity. Today, He is carrying out the thought of God.

When you start a Holiness meeting, there are some people who will try to stop it. They will call the committees, they will give their authority, some will have papers in their pockets and they will seek to stamp it out. Holiness was born in a manger, and just look at that hell-bound king. He said, "Go and find where He is, that I may come and worship Him." He should have said, "I will come and kill Him." No one knew how Holiness came in the manger, no one knew how it came into Jerusalem or on Olivet's hill. Holiness is on the mountain tops, and in the dungeons and the dangers, and amidst the deserts and the sands, and it is living today where nothing else can live.

I have the same impressions and convictions that I had the first time I ever came to this little room. I have thought about them and prayed over them, and talked of them while crossing the ocean. I have come back after a few years and the Holy Ghost has been and is carrying out those very convictions. I did not see much then, but you have the biggest thing on hand today that you have ever had in Penn. God is going to honor someone here, and it is going to defeat all hell, you will never hear the last of it. That is a fact. I want you to know that there is nothing in hell or out of hell that can ever touch Holiness.

The Holy Ghost is faithful. Faith never rests upon things that are seen and heard, and, beloved, when you are conscious that you are in the will of God, it does not matter whether you are hated or beaten or at the Cross. There is no way the devil has of getting to you if you will walk in the light.

Before the Holy Ghost came Jesus said, "I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." Carnality can never understand the secrets of the Holy Ghost, it never understood a life of fasting and prayer, it never understood the baby born in the manger, and it never understood the dead man in the tomb. But when the Holy Ghost came they understood. Persecution, starvation and isolation has always been the ground work of revelation. We would never have had the Bible if they had not suffered the persecution, and we would never have had the last book of the Bible if one had not been willing to receive the Holy Ghost, and as a result of his testimony, he was banished to the Isle of Patmos. If he had been placed out there with carnality in his heart, he would have hated his persecutors, and tried to make good his escape. Instead, he recognized that God had allowed him to be put there, and so he laid his head on the burning sand and received those special revelations from heaven. On a Sunday morning, and on that hot sand, under the hot sun, he had a Holiness meeting. He said "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." It is a wonderful thug to have the Spirit within you and to stay in the Spirit. It is quite possible for people to have the Spirit in them and yet they are not always in the Spirit. You can have the Holy Ghost in you, but if you are not careful you can let some little thing or some environment hinder, so that you are not in the Spirit.

He was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and he looked up and saw. He could not have seen these things if the others had been around, with Judas amongst them; he could not have seen them when the five-thousand were being fed, but he could see them in isolation, and the Holy Ghost gave him a book that has staggered people for twenty centuries. We have the Bible, it has been given us by the Holy Ghost and by holy men and holy lives. The Holy Ghost comes to talk of the things of Christ and reveal them unto us. The Bible is not yours while you have carnality. You can get an answer to prayer for salvation, and God will answer your prayers for other things, but when you come up to the light of Holiness, you cannot get an answer to prayer if you do not walk in the light. When you come to the light you become regenerated, but when you walk in the light you get sanctified. You cannot find a condition that is not covered by Holiness.

Now when Jesus was before Pilate, His life was being tested, and He was silent. His silence answers all the queries of man. A living salvation is more than dead talking, and there at that supreme moment, that was the supreme answer. When He met the personal devil, He answered him with the word of God, but when He met a product of the devil, He answered in silence. When you get into the secrets of God there will be times when it will seem you ought to speak, but you will be silent.

There is nothing in hell and carnality that can get a word out of Holiness when it ought to be silent. Silence brings great conviction. What does God want now, in this country and in our country, and everywhere? He wants people saved from sin and baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire, people who will live just the same, no matter what their surroundings.

People often say, "Cannot you answer this question?" I cannot, and I am glad of it, I am glad there are a lot of things I do not know. Salvation is at your nose and toes, and I want to encourage some of my crowd. I really believe some of you do not know much more than I do. The Holy Ghost is faithful and there is nothing that will open the door of opportunity to everybody but the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. I believe I would have been in hell if I had not received the light. There is such gratitude in my heart for the light, and I just mean to spend my life in taking it to others. Now, if you attempt to answer the arguments of carnality, they will keep you talking all the time, but when you get to the place where faith gives you victory, and you simply believe God has carried out His plan, you can afford to let carnality run its length.

"He answered nothing." They wanted to get hold of something. They wanted Him to say something, but the silence of Divinity made the old governor open his ears, and he said, "My! my! here is a man condemned to death, and He is as still and as silent as a stone and as comfortable as a star. I cannot understand it," I want to tell you that persecution and privation and the burning stake and the dungeon have produced characters that have brought conviction on the world. He had all power, but He did not use it. He had all wisdom, but He did not say a word. He could have spoken one word and Pilate would never have spoken again. He could have spoken a word and Pilate would have fallen dead. That is the secret, and when you can take the criticism and the crusty looks and the cold shoulders, the devil knows he cannot down you. I do not mean that you are not a free moral agent, but God will give you such a revelation that you will see more in living in the will of God than you see in living on the outside. Man is a free moral agent before he is saved and he is a free moral agent after he is saved from sin. It is impossible to reach a place where you cannot sin, but you can reach a place where you are free from sin, and you do not want to sin. There are a great many things you can do, but you leave them undone because you do not want to do them. The devil cannot make you sin, and it is none of his business. His is the sinning business, but God is interested in the Holiness Movement.

Now, when the Holy Ghost comes He does an instantaneous work of destruction, but He also brings the plan of God, and His supreme work is continuous. He comes to reveal the thought of God for your individual life and to adjust you to all the environments where you are to perform all the will of God. When people say, "You cannot do that," I always think I can. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." When we get that thought in our hearts we see that these little barking dogs and these little obstacles have nothing to do with God's thought. The stoning of Stephen had nothing to do with God's thought, it just made Holiness go further up the road, have a good time, live on nothing, and shout the victory for ever. Holiness was born in humility, lives in simplicity, but it abides in victory.

Now the purpose of Jesus in being silent before Pilate was to let him see that His work was finished. He answered the devil with the Bible, but Pilate was a product of the devil, and He answered him in silence. No matter what the devil does, he cannot keep the plan of God from being

worked out in a holy life. Somebody says, "You are preaching predestination." I am preaching full salvation, and if you will behave yourself after you get it, you can always shout the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. While carnality has made hell on earth, Holiness brings heaven on earth and in the heart. It brings heaven here and hereafter. I am ready for the Lord to come, and I am looking for His coming, but all those matters are in the hand of God. The plan of God is more than a hole in the ground, or a hole in the sky, and it is worked out by simple faith. Paul knew the secret and he said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." If they killed him, he would only go on ahead and be for ever with the Lord. I like to believe the Bible, it just glistens with truth and food and fruit and fire and unction. It is full of comfort and consolation, inspiration, and blessing. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away."

"He answered nothing." They could do what they please, but He had come to do the will of His Father. God's thought goes on through the prison as well as through the pulpit, and it is carried out on the cross, and all the devil has to tell is that it is victory. You go on as though everybody in the community was standing by the Holiness Movement.

This is a dear place to me, and always will be so, but I want to tell you that it all came in answer to prayer. They have let me come to this country to preach Holiness when they would not let others come to see the sights. I have no words to express my gratitude for this privilege. Do not miss the thought of God or you will regret it for ever.

In the silence of Divinity there was real victory, and all you have to do is to get in the plan of God, and then have sense enough to stay there. Do not criticize the people who persecute you and do not try to understand the things that come from hell, but treasure the secrets revealed by the Holy Ghost to your heart.

Pilate walked away, he could not understand it. The Holy Ghost can give victory anywhere. Words are nothing unless they are spoken in the power of the Holy Ghost, but when you get into the realm of the supernatural and the unspeakable, you can put a dagger in the heart of people that will take real effect.

While carnality has authority and intellectuality and brains, yet God is able to give such victory in silence that will answer all the arguments of carnality. "He answered nothing." The answer of Holiness to carnality, for time and eternity, is in the silence of Divinity.

Now, you can make your choice, I have made mine. We are free moral agents, and if you have enough sense to pass out through that door you can be saved from all sin and stand before the brains of this country in simplicity and in victory. The question is, Will you do it?

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 12

THE PERSONALITY OF GOD

Message Delivered at Leicester,
Sunday Morning, April 13th, 1919

"I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning: and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt."

To a great many people God is not a personality — He never has been and He never will be. Others have a mental conception of Him, and they believe He is in heaven, and that He has all power, but He is nothing to them. There is no reality. There is a great deal of difference between thinking about a crucifix and having the Christ; and while so many have these vague impressions they will never receive anything from God. To many, He is a God afar off and very difficult to reach, their only way of approach is by means of the priest or through forms and ceremonies. They have no thought of the nearness of God, or of what He could and would be to them if they would trust Him.

These conditions have brought disappointment and dissipation, and I do not think we ever came up to Easter with more infidelity and unbelief than at the present time. It seems that the great majority have sought for everything but God, and they have found almost everything but God. To the preacher in the pulpit and to the man in the pew the most unsatisfactory vision presents itself. There is very little said about the personality of God.

When God speaks, He always speaks as a person, and He speaks to persons, and not into space. When people get that thought in their hearts they have a foundation for present reality and present victory. God says, "I have seen, I have seen." He did not wish them to be uncertain about it, and so He repeats it, "I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them."

So God has eyes, and when you think of God as having eyes, and having them for the purpose of using them, it is a great inspiration to His children. Think of what God has looked at during the past centuries, think of what God sees this morning, think of what God sees in the human heart, think of what He sees in the human race. Think of what God sees this hour, after man has become the biggest devil out of hell, and the greatest disappointment of all His creation. He has made a fool of himself and nearly damned a world under his touch and under his fall. God is looking at it and He sees it. The only time God refused to look at sin was when His Son was dying and offering Himself up for a sinful world. He has seen everything else and everybody else. His eye has carefully and scrutinizingly looked into the details of creation and redemption, humanity and eternity.

Just think of man, made out of mud, becoming so deceived by the devil and so nearly damned that he will shrug his shoulders and shake his head in the face of God. It is abominable. He has a little sense and it deceives him, and he has enough of sin to lock him up in hell. He has looked down in the bowels of the earth and dug up treasures, and he has reached beyond the stars and brought down the currents to accommodate humanity, but he has missed the mercy seat. He will make his bed in hell because he would rather believe the lie than the truth. There is enough of pride in the heart of humanity to damn souls eternally, and what do we have to be proud of in this hour, but a wrecked world? There are more broken hearts and disappointed lives than ever, and the pressures, mentally, financially, and physically, placed upon us by the devil are indeed heavy. No power, no hand, no scepter, no authority can lift them, they rather increase them. And think of a man walking the streets of this city, or the paths of this country, and opening his eyes to the beautiful sunlight this morning, or the silent star last night, and closing his eyes without a prayer and without God.

"I have seen." God is never in a hurry. In the quiet of eternity He made the plan of redemption. He never asked an angel to stay awake and watch, and He never waited for fallen humanity to agree with it. And then man steps around and kicks the dust off his feet and laughs in the face of Holiness. It is an insult to the Almighty, and it seems that it will damn humanity. "I have seen." Get that thought into your mind that God is watching you, and, it will be worth a world to you. I have not received a letter for months without the call to pray. Why? Because God's eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth.

We become interested in a little spot and a few faces that we will meet at the judgment day, but what does God see? "I have seen." What did He see? A hell-bound king, the glistening sand, the burning sun, a people down there making bricks without straw. What does He see today? People resisting Holiness, a powerless pulpit — not sufficient power to convict a grasshopper, theaters and moving picture shows, and lustful devices of hell that are placed on every street corner. Formality, carnality, and infidelity reigning supreme.

They say they will not have Holiness, they will have nothing to do with the Holy Ghost. They will let the people die and be damned before they will allow Holiness to be brought over the threshold. That is what God sees. They are getting ready for Easter, but they have no message, they are preparing to meet depraved and fallen humanity, but they have no reality and no victory. God have mercy upon them.

"I have seen." "I am not taking the words of another, I have not sent an angel down to write out the report and to read it to me, I have seen. His eyes went right down to the glistening sand and He saw them when they were trying to make bricks. He saw the whole thing. Just begin to think what God sees and you will see it matters very little what you see. A man needs not to be bright and brainy to get the secrets of God out of the Bible.

God has taken plenty of time, He has not been in haste about this thing, but He has it all planned out, and I want to tell you that if you think the plan of redemption and the incoming of the Holy Ghost a little thing, you are wonderfully deceived. You are face to face with the greatest thing that God ever sent to the heart of man. You cannot tell God of a thing that He does not see, you cannot think of anything that He does not see. He sees it all. He had a photograph of you before you were

born, and He has a plan for your life, but the devil has made such a fool of you that you have missed it.

God always speaks very pointedly and very practically, and when He sees a thing, He sees it just as it is. There is never any coloring to it, there is never any covering over it, and God speaks of it just as He finds it.

I am glad, this morning, that when He looked down upon the fallen condition of humanity He saw the need. When God looked down He saw the need, when you look up you can see the supply. And, He said, "I am come down to deliver." He came to seek and to save that which was lost. God is always looking down and when man is looking up they see each other. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

When Jesus fed the five-thousand they had only five loaves and two fishes, but He saw their need, and they looked up and there was the supply. He saw the blind and they looked up and received sight; He saw the deaf and they looked up and they could hear; He saw the man who was sick of the palsy and he looked up and was healed. God's eye is always looking down, and you have and need that cannot be supplied if you will look up. Somebody says, "I do not believe it." Well just keep looking down, but you will never get anything by looking down. You cannot find satisfaction by looking down. Nothing that Divinity offers to humanity can be obtained by looking down. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." You can come down, but you must look up; you can kneel down but you must look up.

Of course if I were to tell you that everything for time and for eternity was to be obtained by looking up, some of you would not believe me. But it is true. You have been in the habit of looking down so long that you find it difficult to look up.

What is this world looking at? Confusion, the result of the tragical war. While they look down they see trouble, if they would look up they would see God.

Now when God sees a thing He does not minimize it. One reason why people see so little in Holiness is because they minimize sin. You cannot minimize sin and make people hungry for Holiness.

God is a personality, and He not only sees but hears. He says, "I have heard their groaning." He did not hear much rejoicing, He did not hear much singing, but He heard groanings.

There is something very peculiar about a groan. When the Holy Ghost comes to abide, He "makes intercession with groanings." The groanings of the Holy Ghost always have divine attention, and that is the reason why everybody should receive Him. God heard. The burdens were so heavy that the groans came out, and then He heard their groanings. Just think of the helpless and extreme condition. The devil makes things extreme and man spoils everything he touches. He has spoilt this world until it is hardly fit for a person to live in.

The need was there and God saw it. I do not say He did not pay any attention before, but He records the fact that He heard their groanings. Think of what goes up to the ear of God from the broken hearts of the human race. I do not believe there is a cry from a broken heart or a needy soul, from any corner of this earth that God does not hear. There is nothing imaginary about this. You can go into a little secluded spot and cry to God and get an answer to prayer. It does not matter about the kind of room, it does not matter about the architect who made the plans, and it makes no difference how it is ornamented, but from the place where you call, God hears you. "If we know that he hears us, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Now He heard their groanings. When you get to the place where it is useless to ask the help of man, then you find it is a special time to ask God. While you are content to ask man for things, God will let you go on, but when you are helpless, then you give God an opportunity to do something for you. That is the reason why I believe God is going to do something special in these last days. The case is urgent and the time is short, but God is hearing and He is going to answer prayer. So many are still expecting to hear from a formal church and a backslidden ministry, but they are getting nothing to satisfy their aching hearts. Never expect to find satisfaction in formality and carnality because you will be disappointed.

Now, after God sees and hears it matters not what the need is, or how great it is. The scepter may be in the hands of man, but God will hear and answer prayer. It matters not about the ignorance on the throne, the need is there and God will meet it. The ignorance about the reality and the personality of God in this hour is truly appalling. Machines and other things have been invented for destruction, everything has been done that rains could do, but God is left out and souls are going to hell. You say that is pessimistic. That label will not stick at the judgment day. This message must be carried and someone is going to get the light. All that man can do is being done, but I want you to notice the silence of God. He is just letting the devil go to the limit because his time is short. God has a plan and He is interested, although He is silent. He is watching and a plan is being carried out. The devil means it for destruction, but God means it for salvation. He is likely to appear on the scene at any time and take charge of affairs. Some people think things are about to be finished, but they are just about to begin. God will come down some of these days and He will let them know that He is almighty and that He can do the impossible things.

He says, "I am come down." It always means a great deal when God moves. It does not matter what direction He takes, whether it is to the hungry multitude, to the sick person, or to the dead man. When God moves, it always means the carrying out of His plan. Everyone knows the record of what took place after He came down. People think the case is hopeless and nothing can be done, but notice that the limitations of man afford an opportunity for God. When conditions are such that man can do no more then God comes down and takes charge and does everything. I know it is often said that God helps those who help themselves, but you will find that God does the most for the helpless.

Many times our actions hinder the thought of God for our lives. We think we can put a few finishing touches, but we spoil the whole thing. Many a time God has sent a dagger into somebody's heart and another has come along and made a few remarks and eased the conviction and the devil has had a jubilee in hell.

God looked down and He listened, then He came down and you know the result. You know how they were led and how they were fed, you know how the skies, at the command of God, gave them bread. He did not need any authority, He did not need any help. He could take a cloud and lead them by day and He could take a star and lead them by night. It is a wonderful thing when He comes down. What would He do if He came down now? I am not concerned about the Holiness Movement, it will go up in the air and never return. God is not limited. At this extreme time we can still depend on what He says. It has been a long time since I worried about anything that God had taken in hand, that I scarcely know how to sympathize with those who do; it has been such a long time since I had a care that I scarcely know what to say to those who still have cares. He said that as far as I was concerned, He would take care of me, and I have just trusted Him to do it.

Now the action that God takes is always final, there is never any higher authority, so you see how important it is for people to get to the place where God can deliver them. God came down, not to see the thing, but to deliver, and I want to tell you, beloved, when God says He is going to deliver a person, they are going to be delivered. There is no question about it. God always means what He says. Deliverance is a very important thing, and God did not stop until they were taken from the Egyptian sand into the land where there was plenty, and where they could eat bread without scarceness.

People are so easily affected by hearing others say, "God cannot do this and that." I do not know anything that God cannot do except save a sinner against his will or baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire the Christian who is not willing to walk in the light. God cannot save you against your will. You can live in selfishness, carnality, and formality if you wish, or you can place yourself at the disposal of the Holy Ghost and live for ever.

I have heard people say they did not like our country, but that is no more to me than a little dog barking at the moon a thousand years ago. In the first place, they say it because they do not know it, and then they say it because they know nothing about it, and would you take their testimony? I was born there, I was brought up there, I have traveled from one ocean to the other. I have been on its mountain tops, and I have been in its valleys, I know its people, it is my country, and for anyone to say they do not like it — what is that to me? My home is there, I was saved there, I received the Holy Ghost there. I can go to other countries, but that is still my country. It has just the same relations, just the same inspiration as it had before they said it.

Once in a while I hear people say that there is nothing in Holiness, they do not see anything in living without sin, and they do not believe a person can be sanctified wholly. What do they know about it? Where have they been? I have been saved, I have received the Holy Ghost, I have had answers to prayer. They can say what they like and they will die and be damned because of their unbelief, but I am going to heaven.

When I heard that the Holy Ghost could come into my heart and abide for ever, I believed it. People have looked on and they said it would not work, but it has. God has a thought as large as heaven and as boundless as eternity. This meeting is timed for an hour, and we are here. But, beloved, you can get into a realm this morning and go no more out for ever, if you will walk in the light when God speaks to you. God has a thought for your life, and you are a fool if you miss it.

There are just a few of us here and what would it mean if you pass into the realm of the supernatural? It may mean the salvation of thousands of souls. What does it mean if you miss it? Those thousands will possibly be doomed and locked up in a devil's hell and you will be responsible at the judgment bar.

"I am come down to deliver." He did not come to simply give them water from the rock, or bread from the sky, but He came to deliver them. These little things were tokens of His presence, their deliverance was His chief purpose.

You may have had many little touches and you may have had a drink by the way, but when the Holy Ghost comes you can cross right over into the promised land and live there and always have plenty. You will be sanctified by faith and set perfectly free from sin. Someone says, "I do not believe there is such a place." Well, you can stay just where you are, I am not going to urge you, but God says He has come down to deliver. His thought was not just to make people feel better but to save the sinner from all his sins and to baptize the believer with the Holy Ghost and with fire, and put him in a place where he can stay for ever.

God is a personality and a reality, He has eyes, and He sees; He has ears, and He hears; and He has come down to deliver.

Now there is another thought I want you to get. It is one of the supreme thoughts. He says, "And now come, I will send thee into Egypt." He is pleased to use human instruments. He uses humanity to carry out the thought of Divinity. He says, "I am going to use you, I am going to depend upon you, take the shoes off your feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." To be sent as a deliverer is the greatest honor that has ever been conferred upon humanity. You must be delivered first, and then you can be a deliverer. You must first be saved, and then you can go and save others; you must receive the Holy Ghost and then you can go and take the message to others.

I am glad, this morning, that Divinity can control humanity for time and eternity, and use it in sacrifice and service. This is your opportunity. All that has preceded and all that is in this meeting and all that will follow after ought to make this the most wonderful day we have ever known.

Do not miss a ray of light, do not grieve the Holy Ghost, and do not miss a single thread that He wants to weave into your life during these days. He is able to deliver you now, and to baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire — completely destroying the works of the devil from your heart.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 13

THE POSSIBILITIES OF FAITH

Message Delivered at Leicester,
Good Friday Morning, April 18th, 1919

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

I am glad for this privilege and providence which we enjoy this morning, but I hope that we will not forget the millions that do not have them. The only way or them to have the light is for us to take it to them. I think if the Holy Ghost had His way, thousands and possibly millions would be reached by this nucleus here this morning. I believe the Holy Ghost will give us a vision, but it is useless to have a vision of Calvary unless a vision of lost humanity is connected with it.

I have been coming to your country for a number of years. I have been deeply impressed. I like your country and the character of your people, but I have left every time disappointed and dissatisfied.

There was a desire in my heart that something might be brought here, not by tradition, not by education, not by popularity, not by intellectuality, but by the supernatural work of the Holy Ghost. I have never seen anything to satisfy that desire until now. I am leaving in three or four days and going to the field of the world's tragedy and the supreme work of carnality which has been gathering for twenty centuries. I am not going just to see something, but I am going there to have woven in the fibers of my soul a thread that could not be gotten by print or from any tongue, but by prayer and walking over the fields, and standing in the place where the supreme sacrifice of humanity has been made. I know I will have your prayers. I am leaving much when I leave. It is not in haste, but by special prayer and special providence.

A great many people do not understand what we are going to say this morning. I do not know that they ever will; but it is true, it is experimental, it is supernatural, it is inexplicable and it is inexhaustible. This meeting has not been produced as a pastime, and it has not come into Leicester on the waves of the wind or on the breath of the air, or by carnal preparation, but it has been dropped down from heaven, and I think you are honored with one of most supernatural nuclei that this world has today. Be careful how you treat it, take the lessons you get from it, sacrifice for it, and the world will be blessed by it.

I have read this morning of the topless, sideless, measureless, and unknown secrets of the Holy Ghost in the inspired word. There is no bottom and there are no sides. It has not been discovered by

brains, it can only be found by faith. It is staggering and inspiring; it is educating and refining; it will lift every burden from every heart; it will destroy sin, and eternity will bring results from it.

The union between God and man by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is the final work of Divinity for humanity, and it lasts through time and eternity if we walk in the light. Now, in this union there never enters affection; in this union there never enters friends or foes, climate or country, tradition or education. This union is supremely the work of the Holy Ghost. There is nothing that will stand before a man who is filled with the Holy Ghost, everything crumbles beneath his feet, and everyone is blessed by the presence of that man. I am speaking now of one man, a man from any society or locality, any color or class, of any age, with any talent or lack of talent, brains or lack of brains, ability or lack of ability. God has coined out some of His choice gems from the scrap iron piles that have been neglected by human thought and society, and He has placed them where they will shine for ever and ever. He has taken out characters, and He has so changed them that they do not seem to have any relatives, they simply recognize what God has done. The world has buried them in the sands of neglect and despair. Just let the Holy Ghost pick out the man, choose him where He will, and let Him do a supernatural work in his heart, and it will stagger hell and defeat the devil. He is able to do it.

Faith has no defeat, faith knows no defeat. Feelings are treacherous and dangerous and damnable, friends may become the mightiest foes. Riches may fly away on the wings of the morning, and leave one in the depths of poverty, a millionaire may become a pauper, but a man filled with the Holy Ghost treads on solid granite which has been laid by the hand of God. Martyrs and missionaries and holy men have walked upon it, and they speak to the world today, and say there is nothing better. I want you to see that the little flickering flashes and emotions that are stirred by the tongue of eloquence and the knowledge of man, will fade away. They are shallow and disappointing, and they will send people to hell, but the revelation of God, born in eternity and brought by Divinity to the heart of humanity lasts for ever. There is no defeat in the realm where the person lives who has the abiding presence of the Holy Ghost. "But," somebody says, "I don't have victory." That is your own fault, not mine. Faith never spelt defeat, faith never read a book with defeat in it, faith never walked a carpet with defeat under it. Every other thing has been defeated, and every other plan has crumbled, but faith lives when it cannot speak, it lives when it cannot feel. It lives in simplicity, it lives in humility, it lives in time, and it lives through eternity. It lives in God. It lives. It lives and never dies! The germ of faith is in the broken heart of Divinity and it is revealed by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and it has produced results that will last through all eternity.

I have thought of numbers of places that I would like to be in this morning. I have a message not simply for this place, but for the world. God woke me early this morning and begun to speak to me. The first thing I asked for was an answer to prayer, and I believed I would get it. I got out of bed and I wanted a fire. I went to the match box and I looked in, but there was no match. I took the box to pieces, but I could not find a match. There were three ornaments on the mantelpiece, but they were empty. They were like some of you. When people are empty you can put anything in them, when a preacher is empty you can put anything in him, and when a Church is empty you can fill it with the moving picture show and the rummage sale, and every other damnable thing that is being used by hell to please carnality in the twentieth century. In one of the ornaments there were some burnt matches, but I knew it was useless to try and use them. I went back and prayed a little longer, and

the Holy Ghost said, "You can have a fire, sure, you can have a fire." I said, "If You say I can have a fire I will have one." I went again and I started with my match box. I went to the next place, and the next, and in one of those ornaments there was a big match. I took that match and thanked God that He answers prayer today, in the same old-fashioned way. It blessed me nearly to death.

I have been to so many places this morning and I hardly knew when it was time to come to meeting. I want to tell you that our selfishness and our tradition has nearly damned us. Answers to prayer are hanging on the door knob and the bed posts. The devil said, "Oh, ring that bell and you will get some matches." But I got out of that swan with its head to the east an answer to prayer. I went to New York, and wanted to come here, and the authorities said, "You can't have a ticket." I left the office and went down and looked at the water, and the Holy Ghost said, "You can go. I took the train and went back home, and Mrs. Stalker said, "What did they say? I told her they said I could not come, but the Holy Ghost said I could. A few days later I went to hear a man speak. I don't very often go, but I went that day, and that man got up and said it would be an impossibility for anyone to cross the Atlantic without special authority, and the people believed it. I sat back there and the Holy Ghost said, "You can go."

I was just about to come when the war broke out, and I went to the agent, but he advised me not to go. I went home and went to my room, took my Bible and prayed a little, and the Holy Ghost told me I could go to Central America. I went down there and everything was all right. They had malaria and people were afraid I should get the disease, but I was not a bit afraid. I stayed there four months, never slept on a bed and never had a meal in a house, but some people received the Holy Ghost and have been going on ever since. I was entertained in one beautiful place, and they drove out the hogs while I had my supper, luncheon or tea. I returned thanks and ate willingly, and the folk came to the meetings and were saved from sin. The hogs have never been back since, but the Holiness Movement is going on. I want to encourage some of you who are thinking that Holiness is just for a little select company. The world is dying for this message. I want you to see that the faith that was answered down in Central America was answered this morning on my mantelpiece. That is exactly it. There is no defeat to faith. Faith picks out of a little thing, made by a man's hand, an answer to prayer. Faith can go to Central America, with malaria all around, and get answers to prayer.

Faith never has been defeated and it never will be. I don't say you are defeated — some of you look as if you are, but I say faith never is. A man filled with the Holy Ghost was never defeated, he has never spelt defeat. He has stood under hell's artillery, he has gone without a morsel of bread, he has been on the mountain top at midnight, he has been on a rough sea, and all but faith has been defeated. I want you to see this morning that when you get that faith, burned in you by the Holy Ghost, you can be a source of blessing to a lost world. If you miss it you will be a disappointment to God, and you will be locked up in a devil's hell, asking for a drop of water. I am not saying these things in haste. I am giving you the secrets gathered from the most sacred places on earth, from the darkest hour of the midnight, from the most extreme conditions. I have prayed over them and I bring them to you this morning, as a most sacred trust. If you do not see them all in a minute, if they do not glisten with diamonds that are said to be in them, if the change is not so radical, if you will meet the divine conditions God will do a real work. The Holy Ghost is faithful.

When you go into the mental realm you go into a limited realm, A man only has so many brains. Some have business brains, and some have other brains, but, beloved, the mental realm is limited, people can only go so far. In the physical realm you can only do so much, you can only stand so much pain, you can only bear so much sorrow. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. I want you to get this thought this morning because of what the Holy Ghost wants to speak to your soul. You are limited, you can only go about so far, and about so long, then you must rest, you must sleep.

I was talking to an engineer who had been working extra hours and he had not slept for a long time. He said his engine was running along and he was sound asleep. The fireman reached over and shook him and told him he dare not sleep with his hand on the throttle. He said he would have passed any station, he was so fast asleep. His mind could not stand the strain. His responsibility was the same, his hand was on the throttle, the people were in the sleeper and they were expecting to arrive at their destination, but the man was asleep.

That, truly, is a picture of the modern Protestant pulpit, with its educated ministry, controlled by carnality, and entertained by intellectuality. It is asleep. Asleep, there it is. And he said, "Mr. Stalker, I do not know how many stations I would have passed, my hand was in its place, but I was asleep." That is the way man is made, he can only stand so much. He is limited. When the Holy Ghost comes to take possession of the mind and the body, He takes you into the realm of the unlimited, the realm of the supernatural. He takes you into the place where you can drop down in any little sod house and have an interest in the world's redemption, and after you have been in heaven for a million years you will have people come to you and tell you that your prayer and your obedience in Leicester was the cause of their being saved in China, or in Africa, in Japan, or the islands of the sea. I believe it as much as I believe I am here.

Oh, this narrow conception of life, a little something to eat or wear, and some people to flatter you. It is child's play, it is chaff, it is cheap, it will do for hell, but the Holy Ghost will take you into a realm where you live in the heart of God and in the heart of needy humanity. You will not need a house much. Jesus did not have any house. I have one, but I use it very little. When one started to follow Jesus, He said, "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." Beloved, when you get a vision of Calvary's cross, outside Jerusalem's wall, with the long-haired Rabbis, with the doomed and almost damned city, you will not live in a little space, you will not live in a little corner or crevice, you, will live in the great will of God. The waves of the will of God touch every broken heart for whom Jesus died, and you are willing to go and live in them. This thought of living like Carnegie in his five million dollar mansion is only cheap stuff. I would rather live in a sod house, I would rather have no pictures on the wall, and go up to the judgment bar of God and hear "Well done."

Faith knows no defeat, and a man filled with the Holy Ghost is just as victorious when they are picking up his ashes after he has been burnt at the stake by the persecuting forces of hell. Paul was just as victorious when his head rolled from the block as he was when he stood on Mars Hill. He was just as victorious in the shipwreck and when he went to land on the board. Madam Guyon was just as victorious in the Bastille as she was outside. Many of you have looked down when you ought to have looked up, you have gone down when you God wanted you to go up. Get the Holy Ghost, not

a profession, not a little success; let Him come in and take control and there will be fruitage in eternity.

The most lonesome character that the sun ever shone on is the man who is filled with the Holy Ghost, he cannot go with his family and his friends. Some of you do not see that, but you will never see the center or the circumference of the will of God until it is revealed by the Holy Ghost. John was taken to the Isle of Patmos by his persecutors, and he was so lonesome. They landed him on the sand on a Sunday morning, and he had a Holiness meeting, he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. I saw my family, — I was next to the baby — I saw my father and mother with tears in their eyes when they took my hand and I said "good bye." I have never seen them since. I used to be in their presence, but the Holy Ghost came and He called me out. You do not realize all it means. I am not saying that for sympathy. I am saying that for God to burn something into your hearts. You cannot go with your family, you must go with the Holy Ghost. A preacher cannot go with his congregation, they are going to hell. He can go with them as long as he will entertain them and satisfy their fancy, but when he goes into the Holy of Holies and he gets secrets at the midnight hour direct from the Holy Ghost, they will leave him and he will be lonesome. You cannot go with the people and go with the Holy Ghost. Such characters are isolated, they have found their secrets in the sand and they were precious. They were inspired by the Holy Ghost and we read them today. Think how lonesome Daniel was when he went into the lion's den. He prayed in the upper room with his window open. They meant to stop him praying, but he was filled with the Holy Ghost and he knew God so well that when they put him in the lion's den he said:

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take;
These things I ask, for Jesus' sake.

The old lion was tied by the rope of prayer, or possibly he would have joined him; but its mouth was closed. Daniel could say it and, out of that den, that dark, dingy den, with the strongest of beasts, that lonely character could get an answer to prayer that has staggered carnality and the authorities for centuries. That is what you get in isolation. Everybody who has received the Holy Ghost has been different from the rest of the family.

Listen, there is a little place tucked away on the hill yonder. Some carpenters live there and a few other classes, and from that little isolated place One came. The people had said, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" It seems to me there are some choice places. "Can any good thing Come out of Nazareth?" Faith. They said to Paul, "Don't go down there, they are going to kill you," and they put their arms around his neck and hugged him. He put them off, he clipped affections. "What mean ye to weep and to break my heart? I am ready to die." "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Good-bye, no affections ever crossed over the threshold of a man's heart who was filled with the Holy Ghost. He will tread upon the fine cords of affection as if it were a mud road. He will see faces filled with tears, but he will walk steadily on. He will pass by every tender, touching thing and press his way through, he will have victory. Many a husband is going to be damned because of his wife, many a parent is going to hell because he has failed to take his proper place in his family, and many

a family is going to be wrecked because there was no odd one who would step out and go with God. A man filled with the Holy Ghost lives and dies in the will of God. He gets in and he never wants to get out. This old world has no attractions and no fascinations, the things that take the attention of other people are tossed up like tops and toys, he lives in the will of God and there is nothing for him outside of it.

The germ of faith placed in the heart of the pure always lives under the blood and under the direction, the comfort and the counsel of the Holy Ghost. That is where it finds its life and that is where it has its fruit.

God wants to speak to somebody about a country this morning, He wants to speak to someone about a community, He wants to put a dagger in somebody's soul that they may have a larger outlook from this hour. I do not say it because of the presence of anyone, but the atmosphere that has been thrown around me by the nucleus of faith and prayer has enabled me to tell out by the fireside some secrets that have not been worded for years. This old world is not ready for them. A man filled with the Holy Ghost has no life, no inspiration, no object, no cause for living outside the will of God. When he is out of that he is out of his environment, when he is in that he is content.

This morning God wants some people who will receive the Holy Ghost and give their brain cells, fresh and clear, for Him to use, some who will have enough vitality to get the secrets from heaven and give them out to others. There may be too much activity, and too much noise, but there never has been too much meditation, too much revelation, or too much prayer. We are coming up to Easter, but how many are going to get anything out of the open grave? How many are going to stop with the sign "Christ is risen?" How many are going to stop with the crowds and the new hats and the new dresses? How few are going to get out of Easter what is in Easter. If the sun ever shone on an Easter-time when we needed the secrets of the Holy Ghost, it is now. Let us walk softly and prayerfully and get something from heaven.

A man filled with the Holy Ghost lives in the supernatural. He lives away up yonder, ahead of the crowds. Beloved, the hardest thing I have to deal with is to know that there is before every heart a life in the Holy Ghost that few ever enjoy. It is a very important thing. I would not urge, I would not over-reach, but I would have everyone who is not sure that the Holy Ghost has come, to enter into a covenant and let Him in.

Supernatural possibilities, eternal realities and constant victory lie before all who are willing to step out with God and honor the Holy Ghost. I have not said a thing this morning that you cannot find in the Bible. It has been produced by holy character and holy lives. I want to say, beloved, there is no competition; you have a field all your own and there is a world almost damned that is waiting for this message. Mrs. Stalker and I stood for hours, under deep conviction, as we saw the hungry multitudes come up. They were sick and they were suffering and they came to the idol that was made of stone. Its head was rubbed, its sides were rubbed, the hands were rubbed nearly off, and the feet were scarcely there. Why? So much of the world's need had come there. They had come, and if their sides were hurting they had rubbed the sides of the idol. They expected from that idol what they must have from the broken heart of the Son of God. They went away sick.

We have come to the day when the Holy Ghost alone can do the work, He alone can give the vision, He alone is equal to the emergency and the opportunity. Beloved, you can miss it; you can sit in meeting and miss it; you can go out of this meeting and go to hell.

Ananias and Sapphira did. You can be where the silken thread of the cord of the Holy Ghost has been handed down and the waves of prayer have come from the ocean of God and you can go out and hear the hissing of serpents, and the weeping and wailing and the gnashing of teeth. You will never be the same again when you leave this meeting; you cannot sit in this atmosphere and ever be the same. You are nearer hell or nearer heaven. You are more sealed and withered by carnality or the germs of faith are gripping and grasping the need of the hour.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 14

THE OPEN GRAVE

Message Delivered at Leicester,
Easter Sunday Morning, April 20th, 1919

"He is not here, for he is risen. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

This was the time of the greatest disappointment that ever came to man. There had been expectation and anticipation, there had been burden and there had been blessing, and after the tension and the strain, they came to the grave and found it was empty. It was the greatest disappointment they had ever had.

We find that God has a plan and a purpose, and He carries it out. This is the only open grave that everyone has had an interest in. There are family graves, and there are graves that a community is interested in, but this grave was of interest to all. There has never been a grave like it, and there never will be. There has never been a grave with which so much is connected.

We must remember that it required the same faith to follow Jesus then as it does now, all His followers expressed the same faith. A great many people think it was child's play to follow Him and hear His messages when He walked on this earth, but it took the same faith then to leave father, mother, sisters, and brothers. There are some who think they had an easy time of it, but it meant just as much sacrifice and faith as it does today. I believe that the strain was intense, especially after He was taken from the cross to the grave, and His followers must have felt lonesome. They came early to the grave. It shows how eager they were, and what an interest they had. And when they came, these were the words that they heard, "He is not here, He is risen." "You need not take our word, come and see where the Lord lay." They came expecting a closed grave, they came expecting the soldiers, the seal, and the stone, and to hear this announcement made was a real disappointment to them. He had told them before, He had warned them, but the words had a different meaning now.

We come to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone of Christianity, and that is the resurrection. Thank God, He is risen, and He lives again.

Now the devil had done his supreme work in the burial of the Son of God. He had placed the stone there, and the seal, and the soldiers, but God raised Him from the dead. After the devil had done his worst, and fixed everything up, God can use His little finger and thwart the plan of the devil and produce Holiness. You cannot smother Holiness, you cannot bury Holiness, it will crawl out on the other side of the grave and sing

"Is not this the land of Beulah,
Where the sun is always bright?"

You can put it in a closed place, but it will come out; you can put a heavy stone upon it, but this movement will go on. Let the people who are looking on see the dust that you cause to fly up in the road as you move on with God.

Now, I can see another thing in this message. They did not receive what they expected, but they got what they needed. They got the message of the resurrection, and that is the message of new life. That is the message that has to be carried to this lost world. When a man or woman is saved from sin and filled with the Holy Ghost, all they have to do is to take this resurrection message to this world. This message brings vitality, reality, and victory. You can take it to the ends of the earth. That is your opportunity and the responsibility is resting upon you at this hour.

They expected a closed grave, but it was open, it is the only open grave there is in the world. Every other grave is covered, and covered by law, but this is open. That is of special significance. If it had been closed, there would have been no hope for humanity, there would have been no comfort in the hour of death, there would have been no message from the Bible, there would have been no sermon for the preacher, and no Holy Ghost for the believer. But it is open, thank God! Let us walk carefully this morning, that we might see what there is for lost humanity. I believe that God will show us something that we can carry and that we can tell. I believe we can leave this meeting this morning with a message that is worth living for and dying for. Until you are willing to die for it, it has no power, no purpose, and no plan.

The thought of God in living is one thing, but the message that I have in my hand this morning was brought by the martyrs' death and by the sacrifice of people who have seen more with their eyes closed, and have heard more than the people of this world. It is useless for you to start in to see how you feel, start in with your life and for life, to live with this message and die with this message. You can give your life voluntarily. The law compelled men to go and fight, you have to pay your tax, you have to do many things, but God never compels a man to do anything.

The sweetest sacrifice that God or man has looked upon has been given willingly and gladly without any reservation. It was given because people had a vision, and because they saw Calvary.

Once in a while I have wished I could compel people, when I have seen the possibilities that lie before them, but after all the sweetest part of it is that the red road of martyrdom has been trodden willingly and gladly by holy men and women. There has been no bondage, no iron shackles, and it stands today, after twenty centuries of opposition from hell's artillery. Give yourself willingly and gladly, and your reward is sure. There is nothing touches me like the life that has been abandoned to the Holy Ghost, and there is nothing that is so precious in the eyes of God.

After dealing with the people of all classes and color and all climes, I have a real conviction that few abandon themselves to the Holy Ghost entirely and eternally, when they do, they scarcely ever lose their experience. I do not say it is an impossibility. This emotional and mental conception of Holiness is damnable, but the heart reality and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is the divine preparation for a life of sacrifice and service. If you are going in with any other motive, you had better turn back at once. Make your choice. Very few people touch the supernatural, and unless some of you here this morning get a vision, there is something up the road that you will not be ready to

meet. In this atmosphere of faith and prayer you can have something from heaven that will defeat all hell and spread Holiness. Thank God, He is able to do it.

I was down in Central America, and we had some meetings in a tabernacle. I do not know how it was made, but much had been done there and God had greatly blessed. After the morning meeting, I went to a tree and gathered some bananas and had my lunch. When I had finished, a man and woman came to me and asked if I would go with them, and I consented. We walked along, passed the colored meeting house — they were praying and singing in there. We went on down the road and into a field. Away over the field there was some barbed wire round a little plot of ground, and there was a stone that had been white-washed and placed at the head. This is the story:—

Their little girl had died a few weeks before out in that lonely spot. They nailed some rough boards together and the man took the silk lining out of his hat and made a little pillow for the head. They took a little clean dress and placed it on the dead child and then they placed a smooth box lid over it and nailed it down. They took that little precious one out in the field and dug with their own hands a little hole in the ground and deposited that rough box to wait for the resurrection morning. Why could they do that? The father says he is willing to lie on that side and the mother says she is willing to lie on this side when her work is done. Why could they do that? Why could they close that grave in that informal way? Because of that *open grave*. There was not a regret, there was nothing but a tear to stray down the face with a smile on the top of it. No wonder the angels stand on tip toe and look down to see what God has put in the heart of fallen humanity. If His grave had been closed they would have had no hope, but it is open and they had perfect confidence and a living hope.

You can talk about other things and you can offer your arguments, but you could not stand in a place like that without feeling that nothing but the supernatural could have produced that faith. The message that we have this morning is not a local one, it is for the world and the world is dying for it. It will be lost for ever if it does not get it. What is there in life unless you take life to others? What is there in a selfish life? There is simply nothing in it.

I was in China and spoke to some missionaries on Sunday morning. The next day one of them came to me. He had been in China for a number of years and he said he had been saved and knew he was a child of God, but he did not have what I had been speaking about the day before. I told him that was no sign that he could not have it if he would pay the price. He said, "Let us take a walk." and so we walked out into the cemetery. They never dig graves in China, they make the mounds on the top of the ground. We walked round until we came to rather a large mound and we knelt down. He said, "I felt yesterday that I must have the Holy Ghost, and I want Him now." He had taken a medical course, graduated with high honors, had been very successful in his work, had a burden for the lost, but had never received the Holy Ghost. He knelt by that dead Chinaman's grave and received the Holy Ghost. When he and his wife came back to our home, he said that the step he took in receiving the Holy Ghost had meant more to him than all he had ever done before. God had wonderfully blessed and used him.

Now you can carry a burden until that burden carries you. He had a greater burden than ever after he received the Holy Ghost, and just spent his life out there. We had a cable the other day. He had gone out and had been so burdened and had had such poor food that his strength was gone. He had

slipped off to heaven and to rest. There is a grave out there not far from where he received the Holy Ghost.

While I was praying this morning the Holy Ghost gave me an inspiration and I believe I will see that grave. Others may not be willing to go, but I must. The vision of a lost world staggers and stuns me. I have enjoyed this tenderness and this worship, these touches are heavenly, holy, and inspiring, but, beloved, we cannot stay to enjoy ourselves. We cannot stop with our friends always. The Holy Ghost wants somebody this morning to step out with Him and never have a grave in England. I believe there are people here this morning who will never have their friends to attend their funeral if they follow the Holy Ghost. We have little two-by-four plans, and we are expecting to have a funeral and go to heaven, but before we consider getting to heaven let us consider carrying this message to a lost world. Before we consider our funeral let us consider our farewell; before we consider enjoying ourselves let us consider the honor of taking this message to the people who have never heard it, and our funeral will be all right.

When I was back of the plow the Holy Ghost came and He said, "If you will honor me I will take care of you." I have hardly thought of going to heaven since. I have never thought of my funeral since. Heaven is all right, but there is something bigger than a mansion, and that is to have people rise up and call you blessed when you enter the pearly gates. Let the Holy Ghost come in and plan for you, He is faithful.

Now in this open grave we see salvation for every sinner, in this open grave we see Holiness for every believer. There is victory for everyone who is defeated, there are riches for all who are poor, there is the supply for every need of humanity for time and eternity. We would never have seen it if the covering had not been taken off, we would never have seen it if the epitaph and the tombstone had been there, but Christ walked out the other end of the tomb and He took from the grave its terror. I never think of the grave with a bottom to it. I never think of the grave dug as deep as a spade can dig it, I never think of it with a bottom five or six feet down, I think of a bottomless grave. If a man dies in sin his grave has no bottom to it, and if he dies saved from sin and sanctified wholly his grave has no bottom. Christ went down in the grave and took the keys of death and went to hell and announced in the regions of the damned that the thing was finished. Then He went to heaven and He is there today.

It is an open grave and everybody can look in it. You do not have to go through the priest, you do not have to go through the plan or the arrangement of man, thank God, you can go yourself and look in that open grave, and find in it everything you need.

I want to thank God this morning for this open grave. Every other grave is closed by law, and rightly so, but this grave will never be closed. The devil tried to close it, he tried to put the epitaph and the tombstone, but he could not do it. It is not only an open grave but it is an empty grave. All the sin of humanity can be put in that grave, and the disappointments of humanity can be put in it, and the failures, and all the devil has brought to the human heart can be put in that grave. You can put carnality in and get Holiness out. You can put in failure and take out faith. There never was such a grave. You could go to other graves and only take out a few bones or a casket, but you can put into this grave all that you want to be rid of and take out everything that you need for time and eternity.

We have been thinking and talking about our need, let us talk about our supply; we have been talking about the calamity, let us talk about the victory; we have been talking about carnality, let us talk about the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, the positive side that gives real deliverance.

I see the millions of the earth coming to that grave and they can get out of it everything they need. "He is not here, He is risen." There are some people who say they cannot do anything, but, beloved, you can do all that God wants you to do after you have received the Holy Ghost. I look over the few years of service that God has given me, and I say it for the glory of God, I would not go back to the spot where I was for anything.

Little did I dream that the plan of God was such as it is. I believe there are people here this morning for whom God has a plan as high as heaven and as boundless as eternity. It comes by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and by walking in the light. I will not choose, but let the Holy Ghost choose whom He will. You cannot afford to miss the thought of God, if you miss it you miss everything. Will those things last for which you are giving your life? Everything He gives will last for ever. I do not want you to go out feeling you cannot do this or the other, I want you to go out knowing you can, and there are not enough devils in hell or infidels on earth to close the door of your "cannery." If you are going to see how you feel, stay where you are; if you want to know how things will work out, stay at home; but if you are going with the Holy Ghost, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." It is a sad thing, but there are many people who know too much for God to use them. God never uses you in the place and the way that you tell Him to use you. I have seen places in this country — I would like to see others, but I have not seen a place for which I have not had faith. I believe a great deal more could be done than has been done. This resurrection message has to be carried to this lost world.

The great need of the hour is for a message of faith and the Holy Ghost. The need is so apparent and so impressive that no other message will meet it. It is not a question now of what others are going to do and say, but it is a question whether you are going to walk in the light and honor the Holy Ghost. It is individual obedience that brings victory. I am doing things all the time that people said I ought not to do. I do those things more than those things which they tell me to do, because I know so many people look at the outside and the environments. God wants us to look at things with our eyes shut, He wants us to see things with the eye of faith. "The just shall live by faith."

There was a man down in sin and serving the devil, he was tramping about in our country, and one day he was standing by a box car where they were unloading oranges. He stood by the side of it eating an orange, and a man stepped up from the other side and said, "What are you doing here? And he said, "I am eating some fruit." The man said, "God has something better for you than to be waiting around here eating fruit, come with me." And he took him to his home. He said to his wife, "Wife, I have brought a friend of mine and we are going to have some prayer. You can find plenty of friends if you begin on that crowd. It is a little hard on pride, but it is a good thing to kill some folk. They prayed with him and of course he got through. They gave him something to eat and some money. Just think of it, away down in Florida, eating an orange, taken to a home and prayed through. He walked from Florida to Chicago and went to a Holiness meeting. It was a great change, you know. Some of you think it is a great change from a refrigerator to an incubator. They told him he could be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire, and he believed it and received the Holy Ghost.

When we were on a trip round the world we were in his home. God called him as a missionary, and people listened to his message in a foreign country. Only a tramp. If God could do that for that man, He ought to do something tremendous with you people. You cannot afford to miss His plan.

This meeting is not over tonight, it ought to tell in thousands of lives, and it ought to be more valuable to you in ten years time. Go out to live a holy life and God will honor it with fruit.

I am glad this morning that they were disappointed and they found the grave was opened, and I am glad that the Holy Ghost came to abide for ever. He is able to keep us for ever. There are latent powers and possibilities in this meeting this morning, and blood in the veins of those who hear me that should be given to God. It is possible for this company to plant Holiness in every part of this country as easily as you can walk. God is able. I see the opportunity and the victory before you, because the Holy Ghost is a reality. Those of you who have grieved Him and lost out in your soul, and are not where you once were, I would have you make a covenant with God that shall never be broken. God will help you.

When I took the precious girl who is now my wife, and we went to the altar to be united in the bonds of holy matrimony, and Brother Rees gave the word that made us husband and wife, the vow was made to end with death. Other vows are made and they all end at death, but when we enter into a covenant with God, the Holy Ghost comes to abide for ever. Death is passed and when He mentions it, He says, "Oh grave, where is thy victory? Oh death, where is thy sting?" It is an everlasting covenant. Let friends turn to foes, let sorrows hang over your head, let the future be black with persecution, let the heavens be brass and the earth bars of iron, but if you will go with God and the blood and the Bible, there is no power in earth or hell that can stop the flame of holy fire which you can take to this lost world. Death is a little toy when you come to deal with God. Sorrow is wiped away by the angel's wing, and the Holy Ghost comes to take charge of that tenement of clay, that man with his limitations, that body with its weakness, and that soul with its possibilities. He says, "That man has abandoned himself to Me, I will take him through the fiery furnace and through the lion's den, and I will never leave him or forsake him." When the death sweat stands on your brow there is One who will be with you, and it will be the sweetest of all hours. There will be One when you do not have a friend, and when you do not know which way to turn. I am so glad the Holy Ghost ever found His way to my poor hungry heart, and He is more to me this morning than He used to be in a month. He whispers sweetly that everything is all right. Time is going over the ragged edges of eternity, and the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Some have expressed their gratitude for my coming with a handshake. Some of you appreciate the messages God has allowed me to give, but do not think a handshake is enough. If you want to express your gratitude for any message you have received, — it is because the Holy Ghost came to my heart — you can do it by carrying this message to everybody on this earth who has not heard it. I am glad for your handshake, I am glad you appreciate the message, that is all right. But, beloved, that is a small thing compared with taking this message.

I am so glad He came, and if you have not received Him, let Him come in this morning. Do not go out into the sunshine this resurrection morning, and do not allow the silent stars to shine over your

head until you have made a covenant with God and abandoned yourself to the Holy Ghost, making a pledge that everybody on this earth must have this message, and God will take you through.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

HOLY GHOST MESSAGES

By

Charles Henry Stalker

Message 15

GO! THE DIVINE COMMISSION

Message Delivered at Leicester,
Monday Morning, April 21st, 1919

"Jesus came and spake unto them, saying: "Go!"

The words of Jesus were always very impressive, suggestive, and comprehensive, they were never understood by carnality. After He had spoken all they could stand or understand, He said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." It seems that His heart was stirred because He could not express Himself to them.

Now, you never find that word "go" amounts to anything or means anything until after the Holy Ghost has come. When people attempt to go before He has come to their hearts, the result is failure and fraud, deception and discouragement, waste of time and money. But there is something very special about the word after the Holy Ghost comes, it is the only word that is necessary after a person has consciously received Him. This word, only two letters, coming from the heart of the Son of God, sets the whole life aflame in sacrifice and service.

One thing that makes this word very impressive is the way and the time it was spoken, and the people to whom it was given. It was never to be carried out until they had tarried and received the Holy Ghost; and, I say again, beloved, the failure of this hour and the tragedy of the present time is the result of people going before the Holy Ghost has come. Why have you been defeated in so many places? Because He has not come. The Holy Ghost, in any place, in any hour of the day or night, in any test, in any trial, is always triumphant. A person filled with the Holy Ghost always has the consciousness of victory.

I want you to get these thoughts this morning because the destinies of thousands may depend upon you receiving them.

A great many people think that a mental conception of the truth is sufficient, but that is not so. The instantaneous work of God in the conversion of a sinner is supernatural, the instantaneous work of God by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is also supernatural, and then God sends us forth to demonstrate the fact.

Many see the supernatural and hear about it and believe in it, but they never reach it, and never live in it. You can go over this country with this message and plant Holiness here if you go in the supernatural, but if you go without it you had better stay at home. People can get an intellectual conception of these things and they go as far as they can see, they go as far as they can hear, they go

as far as their friends will let them go, or as far as tradition will let them go, but only one in a thousand ever go out with the Holy Ghost.

Paul did not commence his work until God had finished His; Paul never preached a sermon until the Holy Ghost had finished His work in his heart. After he fell in the mud and the scales fell from his eyes, he lived in the supernatural and he died in the supernatural, and under no circumstances could they thrust the darts of hell into that man's life. When you touch the supernatural, you are not striking a little emotion or a little physical exercise, but Divinity, and it lasts through time and through eternity.

You have the experimental, a number of you have been saved from sin and baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire, but unless you go on in the thought of God and live in the supernatural, mentally and physically, financially and spiritually, you will be dissatisfied, discouraged, and defeated. I say again, that no intellectual conception is sufficient for the realities of this hour, we must go further, we must so abandon ourselves to the Holy Ghost that we will be at His disposal and we will be under His instruction, and then one will be able to chase a thousand, and two will put ten thousand to flight.

This will take you beyond the limitations of your family, and from the people who spell their name like yours, and it will press you out, and you will not understand all the ways God will lead because "His ways are past finding out." There are some here this morning who will never see the supernatural, but there are others who are going to live in it, and God is going to bless them. In a great many places people have their emotions stirred, and they are satisfied, but I want you to see that if you stay with your own blessing and your own emotion it would have been better for you if you had never been blessed. The thought of God revealed to the heart of man gives him an experience and prepares him to go through at any cost.

I am not thinking this morning of the isolation as much as the revelation that is given for a life that is abandoned to the Holy Ghost. We have tradition, we have education, we have our preconceived notions and it takes holy fire to burn them out, but the Holy Ghost goes right beyond all these, and when Jesus said "Go," it was not for a little sport or a little play, but it was a divine commission. It is the message for this hour. I do not say that everybody is ready to go, I know some of you are not. There are but few who have a vision from God and are ready to go. Some may go and give their testimony, and some may go for a little while, but I am thinking of those who go and never stop, those who go and carry the message and plant Holiness in this lost world so that hell cannot defeat it.

"And Jesus said unto them, Go." He knew the suffering it meant, He knew every hungry heart it would reach, the greatest privilege that Divinity has given to humanity is to carry this message to a lost world, and when you take it, you take something that they will hear, and some will heed, and God will get glory and honor to His name. I am always deeply impressed when I hear people talk of going, there is always something very touching about it. You have no idea what it means until you go and I would warn everybody never to go with uncertainty, never to go with a doubt, it will damn them and others too. Never go to anybody until you have victory in your own soul, never go to a doubtful world that is nearly damned unless you are full of faith and the Holy Ghost. I would stop you before you start. I would have you know beyond a doubt that the Holy Ghost is a reality and a

personality, and that He has charge of you, and you expect Him to abide in you for time and for eternity.

I was in the mission field and I saw missionaries die and curse the people who sent them there; they were buried under the hot sand and under the burning sun. I want to tell you that what this world needs is the message of the Holy Ghost. It has had everything else, and when I heard those people curse those who sent them out, I said, "Thank God, I am glad I never walked the gangplank until God gave me the Holy Ghost." Now I will go anywhere with this message. You think it a light thing, but when you take a person from the place of plenty and send them out to have fever several times a year, and they backslide and die, it is tragical. And that is being done. When God wanted me to go round the world, I found backslidden missionaries, I found people who had broken their covenant with God, and I found scores who had never received the Holy Ghost. I found people who wept like babies and said they were so glad somebody had come to tell them about the supernatural.

I have the world on my heart, and I am expecting some of you to get a burden and a vision you have never had before. You must see more than the people who have been raised like you and educated like you, you must take this message to the corners of the earth.

God will give you His plan, and it will go beyond your families and your friends and you will see a lost world. "God so loved the world," not a few white folk, not a few of the different nationalities. No, God loved the world. His heart was too big to center it on a white man or on a millionaire; His heart was too big to center it on a class or a country. He loved the world.

The Holy Ghost was sent to reprove a few at Jerusalem? No. He was sent to reprove the world. The Holy Ghost had a plan to start me out and He has kept me out; I am out now, and I say it for the glory of God. He can take anybody from any place and put them in the will of God, and if they choose to stay there, the devil himself can never take them out. He is able to do it.

When I lifted my hands from the plow handles, the purpose and plan of God was uncovered, and if I should live to the age of Methuselah, I could keep traveling in that plan, there is no end to it. If you will go far enough in God's plan, the passing waves will not strike you. Before we go over the bar, the little boats are all around, they cannot stand the rough sea, and they cannot cross the bar, only the ocean steamer, with plenty of fuel can do that. Many have gone as far as the little boats could take them, but God wants some to get on a liner and leave the gossip of the centuries and He will take them to their desired haven.

I want you to see His plan and His thought in the word "Go." He wants some "Goers." When the Holy Ghost came He told me to go. It seemed I had nothing with which to go; I had no education I had not been able to learn anything at school, but He said "Go." I went to my neighbors and I went to the school house and I went further, and it has just been "go" ever since. This morning the "Go" is bigger than it has ever been, there is more in that word now than when I started. It is a divine "go." "Jesus said unto them, "Go."

Now there is a thought in this that I would not have you lose, there is something so fascinating and inspiring about living in the supernatural that when the hundred and twenty touched it the devil

could not make them give it up. I believe today that it is a very rare thing for a man or woman who is baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire to break their covenant with God. Hundreds may have a mental conception of Holiness, but I am speaking of the real heart experience. They went through fire, they went through water, they were stoned, they were beaten, but the powers of hell could not beat it out of them. They could not saw it out with an old rusty saw, and I believe God wants to baptize somebody with the Holy Ghost and fire so they will know it is done, and it will last.

The natural has its limitations, but when you get into the supernatural, time is the same as eternity. We look at the clock because other people use it; we hear it strike and we wonder.

When I heard the clock strike last night I thought the opportunity was gone and I might never have another chance to preach to these people. The very striking of that clock sent daggers of inspiration to my soul. The meeting is set for a certain time, but we must stop when the Holy Ghost is finished, never before. A meeting will last more than an hour. The people of the world can go to the dance and dance all night, and they can go to the theater and stay out late, and we can have a meeting that will last more than an hour and the people will not be sleeping. We never find that God spoke about time when He was making the plan of redemption; we never read that the hundred and twenty spoke about time when they were passing through persecution. Paul never spoke about time when he preached all night and the man fell out of the window, and he raised him up and then went on with the Holiness meeting. I want to tell you, beloved, that when you live in the realm of the supernatural, time goes over the edge into eternity, and eternity goes over into time, and God has charge of both. Meetings have been closed when God wanted them to be continued, and people have run away just at the point where God was going to bless, and cords that God was going to drop down to humanity have been eternally lost. I am not thinking of taking the clock down, but time is only to be used for God, and when it becomes a burden and a pastime, the meeting is not a meeting in the Holy Ghost.

Not only is time nothing in the realm of the supernatural, but distance is nothing. Ten thousand miles is no more than ten miles. When God says "Go," He is at the back of it, and He is in the "goers," and He takes charge of the distance. I must go thousands of miles in the next few months, but that is no more to me than walking along the street, and that ocean is no more than a river in the eye of God. He made it, He formed it, He fathomed it, He has control of it, and He can take care of the goer as he goes across. You say you cannot go there. You can go anywhere. "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go." Thank God for the privilege of going with the Holy Ghost.

There is another thing that impresses me, and that is that people think when they have given of their time and means, that they can do no more. But when the Holy Ghost comes we give our all. No stingy or lazy man ever received the Holy Ghost, if he did he would be too lazy to keep Him. Some people are too lazy to know God, and too lazy to get the secrets from the Holy Ghost, and some people are too stingy to get an answer to prayer. You may not know them, but God does.

Not only is it a great privilege to go, but it is a great honor. God says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." "My presence shall go with thee." "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee." He says, "My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus." He tells us so many things after we have started that we are so glad we obeyed Him.

The secrets of God are found in the lonely places of the earth, and the very heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Men have bowed for honors, they have compromised and begged for honors, but the people who are filled with the Holy Ghost never ask this old world for anything. They never expect to receive anything from it, and they are not disappointed. We are not going on our own charges, but we are going with the honor of God and that is enough to satisfy anybody. Not only is it an honor, but there is to be a great reward for those who will abandon themselves to the Holy Ghost and leave home and father and mother, brothers and sisters, and everything for His sake. Read the promises that are given, and they are worth their weight in gold.

When God says "Go," there is always a purpose in going and a place to go to, and there is a reward for going. Be careful you do not miss the reward that God has promised. I have scarcely known what home is since the Holy Ghost came, I am away about ten months of the year, but that is all in the covenant. The reward comes by keeping the covenant and obeying God.

While I was at school, examination day was always an easy day for me, I was so easily examined. My brothers and sisters were so bright that it took them a long time to do their work, but I was always the first to reach home, and the last day was always a delightful day to me. Then the teacher had the last day, and she said something that meant more to me than anything else I had heard at school. She spoke to her scholars, and she said, "I have taught you all I can, I have been interested in your lives, but now I am going to do what God wants me to do, and I hope you will all do the same." That struck me, and I said, "I will." I put my head down on the desk, and I thought if that teacher can do it, I can. That was the last day, I never had another.

Do you know what it meant for her? God called her to go as a missionary. Her mother was not in favour, and her father opposed it, and said she should not go, but she went. The day came for her to go to the little station and to go to New York on her way to Africa. She thought her father would certainly consent when the last day came, but he went in and put on his best clothes and went out through the door, across the fields. She looked out of the window and saw him hurrying away, and she went out and called after him, but he would not answer. She ran to overtake him, but he ran and he never came back. She went back to the house brokenhearted, and with tearstained face, and she said to her mother, "The Bible says, 'When thy father and mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take thee up.'" They finished packing and the mother went with her to the little station, and she saw the train take her away. She went to New York and sailed for Africa. She lived for God and Holiness for five years, and then the cable came that she had gone to heaven. That is what it meant. She not only said she would do what God wanted her to do, but she did it.

"And Jesus said unto them, Go." That is the final word, and where did they go? They went into the darkest places of the world, they faced hell's artillery, but they went through in victory. It means something to go. I could take a dozen from every meeting who would like to travel, but God wants people to go with a burden and a vision, with unction and with a message. When He says "Go," you can go, and there is no limit to the going. He said unto them, "Go," and they went, and not one of them died a natural death, but there were no regrets, and the reward is sure. There is salvation by faith and there is reward for service. People talk about the rewards of this world, they talk of a few letters written by some authority, and they talk of a few gems, but what are they compared with the

reward of the faithful. I want you to notice another thing, the reward is only to the faithful. It is not to the successful, to the rich, or to the learned, but to the faithful. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

If we wear the crown of victory we will wear the crown of glory by and by. We shall have a white stone, and in that stone a new name which none will know but those who have it. It will be a God-given name, and He will call you by that name. Other people know the name your mother and father gave you, but He will give you a new one. Only those who have the Holy Ghost will receive it.

I say again, that the reward is to the faithful and it is for sacrifice and service. Do not think that the person who spends a little time and prays a few prayers is going to receive the same reward as the one who gives his life. There will be a time when the sweat drops upon our foreheads will be of greater value than all the jeweled crowns of the centuries. We are not following cunningly devised fables, and the reward is to the faithful.

Beloved, if you have uncertainty, if you have a doubt, if you have carnality, it will wither your life and it will bring darkness and damnation. You can never be the same after you have been under the divine touches that have been given in this convention. Something has taken place and God alone knows all that has been accomplished. I believe that some people have resisted light, and possibly they will never have light again. I feel there is a finish to this meeting, and I have a burden I cannot express. God is speaking the last word and giving the last look to more than one soul.

He said unto them, "Go!" And the message for this meeting this morning is "Go!" But you cannot go until you have received the Holy Ghost, you have no message to carry, you have no victory to take, and you have no commission to go. I would not have one of you miss the thought of God in the hours of this supernatural trip, I would not have you miss it for the world, lest you never have another opportunity. We do not know what there is in the future, but do not go out of that door until there is a finished work done in your soul by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, and you know that He has come to abide for ever.

Beloved, we go out to responsibility, we go out to sorrow, we go out to test and to trial, before we go, let the Holy Ghost come. It would not surprise me if the finishing touches are being put upon some and they will slip into heaven shortly after this convention; and it would not surprise me if some are having their last light and they are preparing for hell. It would not surprise me if somebody goes from this meeting to carry a broken heart, it would not surprise me if the cloud of sorrow should settle down as never before. Are you ready for it? If not, do not leave this place of prayer, but seek the place of mercy. If you are not conscious that you are living a life in the supernatural and that the Holy Ghost has entire possession of you, just throw away the fraud and the dust and get down to where you know the work is done, and thousands will be made glad. Go to a lost world, go to the people in prison, go to the blind, go to the rich, go to the poor, go to every class and every company with this message, and you will have a hearing. I am going. I am not asking you to do what I am not prepared to do myself. I am going to follow. I never followed until after the Holy Ghost came, but I have never stopped since He came.

Do not miss the thought of God, do not miss this God-given opportunity or you will regret it through all eternity. "Jesus said unto them, Go!"

Let us bow our heads in prayer.