

Where He Reigns

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In these the closing days of this dispensation, we are seeing that the external finds its counterpart in the internal. "OCCUPY UNTIL I COME." There is no doubt in this commission that Jesus had reference to more than just His *external* coming--which will shake the continents one of these days. Have we not many times limited the scope of its meaning to that event *alone*?

"Occupy until *I* come!" We are to do business *until* HE comes, and then HE will take over the rule and it will no longer be I, but CHRIST who not only *liveth* but *ruleth* and *reigneth* in me! It is not merely subscribing to the historic fact of Calvary--even though that subscription be orthodox and in order--but it is RECEIVING *WITHIN* THE CHRIST OF CALVARY! To receive *within* the Lord of Glory includes dying *with* and *IN* Him; crucifixion, burial and resurrection *in--with--and through* Jesus the Christ.

It is being IDENTIFIED WITH HIM until the self-life moves out and the Divine Life moves in! We find, then, that HE IS OUR LIFE! For He has declared, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. He that believeth on Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." He is showing us that we have to die that He may live. There cannot be *two* lives in authority. "Now this I say, brethren, flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." I Cor. 15:50.

We recognize Him as our *Life-life* for body, soul and spirit! This Divine life is manifest commensurate with the extent of *our* MOVING OUT! As we decrease, He will INCREASE! If we *refuse* to decrease, we hinder Him in His *increase*. Enoch, we are told, walked with God! He had sweet and blessed communion! Undoubtedly there became less and less of Enoch, for the time came when ENOCH WAS NOT! Good "*took*" him.

Flesh Must Capitulate

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom. The Adamic can never enter the gates. Flesh and self, human reason and understanding--of which we have been so proud--must capitulate before the flow of the Spirit. He must reign *within* before we can share in His reign *without*. Then, if we allow Him to sit on *our* "throne," He will raise us to sit with Him on HIS THRONE, and we shall reign with Him forever and forever!

We do not “understand” this life--we BECOME it! It is too infinite for us to *understand*. It is too eternal for us to grasp with our finite minds. Can the part contain the whole? Can we encompass God with our *reason* or embrace Him with our understanding? The world by wisdom has never known *Him*. It is only as we learn to *live* in the FLOW of the Divine Spirit that God will *reveal* Himself and open the eyes of our spiritual understanding of Himself, His Word and His Truth!

There is no need for us to ask Him to *explain*. The thing that is happening *within* is that we are “being become!” for “except ye *become* as a little child, ye shall in no wise enter in.” This is CREATIVE LIFE and not the child of *reason*. Faith becomes substance--the substance of God--not dependent upon our *understanding*. If reason could embrace all God has for mankind, without the illumination of His indwelling, there would be no need for the impartation of *His* faith.

The *faith* which *He is*, and which He imparts, is not our struggling to believe. It is not the affirmation of our *will* that we will accept anything in spite of every obstacle that impedes our way, but *faith* is there just like light is there when the sun shines through. If He dwells *within*, why prod we reason in a struggle to believe. The fact that God is sufficient is so overwhelming that one does not have to struggle at all to believe Him. In fact, it is not believing it, but rather it is letting *Him* BECOME faith in us!

His Kingdom

“In that day when I *set up* My Kingdom” That is what Christ in *actuality* is doing! He is SETTING UP HIS KINGDOM, and we are now coming into the REIGN OF CHRIST. It is not through our understanding, but we are justified by Christ who is our Justifier! It is not that after a period of reading we have accepted certain dogmas and creeds and the fact that we are called “orthodox,” but it is because *within* there has been a REVOLUTION and an abdication; and a NEW RULER IS ON THE THRONE! CHRIST REIGNS! He has conquered the kingdom within you and within me. HE IS VICTORIOUS! He is getting ready for the setting up of His Kingdom *without* by setting up His Kingdom *within* those who will rule and reign with Him.

We are being overcome, that we might be overcomers. We are being trained for ruling by allowing *Him* to rule in us! What we have commonly called *faith* has been an incessant struggle on our part to *mentally believe* and accept things which were beyond *human reason*. The result is that the battle of self-abdication has never been completely won! Such a means, method or process was purely metaphysical and not spiritual and therefore of no avail in the realm of the Spirit. Such is not the “faith,” which is of God! HIS FAITH staggers not at “impossibilities” but cries “IT SHALL BE DONE!” Before *such* FAITH, reason cringes and intellect and education bow. The astrologers and soothsayers have to bow out when God's Daniel walks in!

Believing God

We *believe* GOD--with or without understanding! HE leads us into experiences and, though we do not understand them, we *believe* GOD! “Abraham *believed* God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.” He went out--not knowing whither he was going. He went BELIEVING GOD! Should *we* not trust Him? Will He ever lead us astray? Great as His promises are--is He, Himself, not greater?

As He leads us through places we do not understand, we sometimes see--as did one of old--the “hinderparts” of God, and we recognize that *He* LED us through! We see His presence in the experience. Faith believed Him all the while, because it was HIS faith. He was on the throne, and whether we understood or not, it was all the same. In the Spirit we see Him, hear His voice and KNOW that He is leading His children through.

Many times we go through experiences and it is not until we reach the other side that He gives us understanding. Afterwards it is easy to see and say “God was in this place.” We are like Jacob at Bethel who, because he was not as fully yielded and surrendered as was Abraham, did not understand that God was with him in his dilemma, and in the midst of his trial.

Once again, it was not while Jacob was *struggling* to believe, but while he was asleep that the vision came! In these days we would explain that it was “when he *let go and let God!*” When he was through the experience he saw the Lord! He saw the Lord had been in it all the time! His difficulty had been that he *thought* erroneously. He had not yet discovered that the thoughts of God are higher than our thoughts and His ways higher than our ways.

An Overcomer

It is only *when we are overcome* that we enter into the experience of the *overcomer*. The mental faculties and natural understanding of the overcomer have been superseded by the *faith* of the SON OF GOD! We can never develop that faith. It is the FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD and no man can have it who does not possess the Son! We look to Him and BEHOLD, WE LIVE! There is LIFE for a look at the CRUCIFIED ONE! We behold Him and we are eliminated!

We are called upon to DEAL WITH GOD and to deal with Him alone. The apostle Paul counted everything else but dung! All of the things he thought he knew--all of his past experiences--his prestige--his position as an educated man and as a Pharisee--all these became loss that HE MIGHT WIN CHRIST! He threw everything overboard that he might make room for the reign of the One within who was willing to take over the government of his life.

It was the Christ, whom he had persecuted, Who led him into the deserts of Arabia. There Paul began to know the love of God which passeth knowledge. He

began to understand things which cannot be “understood.” He experienced the unfolding of mysteries in the Spirit! Is it any wonder that he came out from that “desert” experience having seen and met God and thundered forth his declaration that “the world by wisdom cannot know God.” From that moment on, he was dealing with God alone.

The True Fruit

We must not forget the rich man in the Old Testament who looked around at his possessions. Bursting with the pride of self-life, and exulting in the amount of his possessions, he declared, “I will pull down my barns and build greater.” But--he never got the chance to build. The Voice from Heaven cried, “O, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.” Are men not foolish when they insist on building on the sinking sand of their Adamic nature? Can the Christ life be builded or manifested in temples which are still dedicated to the pursuits of the flesh?

Can pure and sweet waters flow from the same fountain? Was not that the burning truth Christ gave to His disciples on the way to the Garden? It was the sermon on the Vine and the branches. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, for it is the LIFE OF THE VINE that goes into the branches. It is the life of Christ which flows in us and through us and is the only fruit-bearer! It is not enthusiasm. It is not zeal. Such cannot bear DIVINE FRUIT. It is not service apart from the presence and the energizing power of our Lord. It is not doing *for* Him, but it is *letting* HIM do through us. We must learn to DEAL WITH GOD and with God alone.

Divine Understanding

Like the man who builded his barns and then decided to build greater, the Adamic nature has been continually engaged in the process of “*getting*.” We have been struggling to get *this* and to get *that!* No doubt some of this may have been in Divine order, but we may have failed to GET UNDERSTANDING! “Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore, get wisdom and *with all thy getting*, GET UNDERSTANDING!” Proverbs 4:7. That, however, is DIVINE UNDERSTANDING! As we become surrendered to the Lord and relinquish our *human* understanding, the *Divine* understanding of God takes over.

If we will let Him, the Spirit of the Lord will reveal to us that truth. He has told us that we are not to lean to our own understanding. Shall we sacrilegiously put the revelation of His truth through the “mills” of our *human reason*? Modern so-called “religion” is the human mind trying to *understand* God, but the Salvation of our Lord is *God revealing* HIMSELF to a *yielded* and *surrendered* man. “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated; full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.” James 3:17.

His Command

Could it be that this insistence upon the use of our own understanding and our determination to put all revelation through the mills of our intellect that made God choose the weak things of the world to confound the mighty? No flesh should glory in His presence! Not even educated flesh! Not even cultured flesh! No matter how you dress flesh up, it is still flesh! It has to go. *He* must reign and rule within. If we are *justified*, it is because the *Justifier* takes over. We are accepted--bought and redeemed! HE *purchased* US! We belong to Him!

Why should we not then come to Him and, in acknowledgment of our weakness and indeed the helplessness of ourselves without Him, say "Lord, I am yours! With all my lack and with all my failures, I surrender to Thee! I am Thine, O Lord! Rule and reign within!" Then, by His grace, the EXCHANGE is made! It is our *limitation* for His *illimitable* supply! Our will for His will. Our way for His way. Our life for His life. Christ becomes ALL AND IN ALL!

The world may wonder why we do not accept "invitations" when such surrender has been made; but we no longer move at the invitations of men. We move at the COMMAND OF THE LORD! Where He leads us, we follow. To go without *His leading* means defeat. No matter what enthusiasm we put into it; no matter how much it may seem right so to do; *defeat* is inevitable. *We* cannot conquer, for *He* is the *only* Conqueror! Before He can conquer *through* us, however, He must first conquer *us*! What a glorious exchange this is--for us--in the development of His eternal plan.

He Reigns Within

We can never *possess* our vessels in patience until the *Author* of Patience reigns *within* us. "Come, blessed Lord Jesus, come with Thy sceptre and rule and reign within our hearts! Make us Thine obedient subjects! *Breathe* into us, as well as through us, the *revelation* of Thy will! *Infuse* us with the faith that does not ask the reason why, but which is the identical faith that the Son had in the Father and the Father had in the Son." It is the faith *He* gives to us that He would have us place in Him!

We are the temples of God and it is the Father's purpose to *indwell* us! Having been made clean by the washing of regeneration--through the death of His Son--so united do we become in the Son and He in us that when the Father looks at us, He sees only His Son! We are clothed upon with His righteousness and are the possessors of His faith. One child of God, when it seemed that death was near, prayed: "Yes, I am willing to die, if You will come and get me; but I am not turning this body over to the devil. This is Your temple!"

Perhaps, in the past, we have come to the Lord as if He were on the outside, importuning Him to reach out and touch us and we have petitioned Him—"Lord,

heal this body.” When the *fullness* of the manifestation comes, it will be the recognition that WE ARE HIS BODY, and the Resurrection life of our Lord, operating from *within*, will be more than sufficient to cover every need of body, soul and spirit.

Nothing can stand in the HEALING WAVE of that flow Divine. It is more than Divine Healing. It is DIVINE HEALTH! It is more than being “repaired,” it is being “kept in constant repair!” It is more than asking for His life to come and “patch” the breaks and the infirmities in our lives. It is recognition of the constant flow of His life in us and through us that will bring us the victory.

All Things

Remember the “all things.” “I can do ALL THINGS through Christ which strengtheneth me.” That is the secret. THROUGH CHRIST! When we say we “can do all things through Christ,” we mean--in reality--that CHRIST can do all things *through us*.

The viper bit Paul and the barbarians, standing around, saw the venomous beast hang on his hand. They said, “No doubt this man is a murderer whom, though he has escaped the seas yet vengeance suffereth not to live.” But Paul shook off the viper into the fire and felt no harm. “Howbeit they looked, WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE SWOLLEN, or fallen down dead suddenly. . . .” But the thing that they were looking for did not happen. His hand did not swell, and he did not die! He was living--moving--thinking--under the reign of Christ! That rulership was in authority and no external influences or powers could overcome it or overthrow it.

No wonder Paul said that he was persuaded NOTHING--here or hereafter--things present or things to come, human principalities or human powers--no, not even life nor death should be able to separate him from that burning, flaming love that was abiding within. Christ was on the throne of his life. All else was subservient to HIM!

The River

How we have robbed God! Robbed Him in more than tithes and offerings! We can give Him ninety percent or even ninety-nine percent and still rob Him. He is asking now for the *one hundred percent surrender!* Not one hundred percent *perfection*--but one hundred percent *surrender!* Not one hundred percent *attainment*, but one hundred percent *yielding*. Not one hundred percent *possessing*, but a one hundred percent *giving up!* When we are willing to do the giving up, *He* will attend to the possessing part.

When we have *Him*, we have *all*--for Christ is all and in all; and we can triumphantly sing “We have all things in Christ.” Are we not robbing Him when we

keep His purchased possession from Him? Did He not die to redeem us? We are not our own--why then should we insist upon *keeping* ourselves? Are we not robbing *Him* when we yield our members in obedience to others rather than to Him? When He calls us, He does not say, "Give me your time or give me some of your service." He says, "GIVE ME THINE HEART!" Does not the heart represent all that we have and all that we are?

When we surrender our heart and yield completely, He moves in and takes possession. How sweet the sound of His voice! How wonderful the consciousness of that Divine indwelling! When we hear Him speak, we do not hear from the head or the understanding, but reach out to God from our innermost being. When we hear others speak in the Spirit, and know that their lives are hidden with Christ in God, we become like sponges absorbing the Divine life which flows from within.

We cannot have Divine life flowing *without* unless we first receive the flow *within!* The "river" comes from beneath the Throne--but only when He is on it! When He is not there, the river ceases--for in one sense He is the "river." He is the life. He is the way. He is the truth. It is in that flow Divine that we become permeated with the power of His Resurrection!

Listen to His sweet voice! Yield to Him today! "My son--my daughter, give Me thine heart! Let Me rule! Let Me reign! Turn it all over to Me! Let Me come in with all My radiant fullness to live and reign within! Then in Me you will live and move and have your being!"