

THE GREATEST NEED IN THE CHURCHES TODAY

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March 2003

Without question, the greatest need in the churches today is the infilling of the Holy Ghost! Those of us, who are old enough to look back and remember 65-70 years ago, know well enough that Spiritual Power in the churches has decreased year after year. In spite of huge sums of money spent on great buildings, in spite of thousands of new workers, and in spite of all the fleshly activities, spiritual power has waned.

Why? Because, there is a grieved and quenched Holy Ghost in our midst. The Gift of the Holy Ghost to an individual is the crowning Mercy of God. The foundation of Christianity is the Holy Ghost sent to indwell the individual. It is this Spirit of Christ in the people that elevates Christianity above every other form of religion. This is the central element; it is the vital need of the soul of man. There is no spiritual good brought to any of us except by God's Spirit. This same truth applies to those who sit in Message Churches and believe that God sent an End-Time Prophet. We must have the Token!

The flood gates of heresy are broken up in America, and are pouring forth their deadly poison in various streams of doctrine. Now, more than ever, should the churches remember the words of Jesus and, **"Hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."** But, how shall the people hear who do not have the Spirit? In some cases, people in our Message are to puffed up by a sense of what they believe about a Prophet, and by what they suppose they are doing for God, to seek what He has promised to do for us, which is fill us with the Holy Ghost!

We can get so occupied with trying to convince the people of a

Prophet that we forget that they first need to have the Holy Ghost Teacher. When He comes in, He will lead them into *all Truth*. How often have we changed the thinking of some precious people, so that they can see intellectually, that God sent a Prophet, and then when they line up with the teaching we indicate that this BELIEVING has placed them in the Kingdom. But, this *intellectual believing* can take place without the Holy Ghost life!

Can we face the solemn fact that the greatest need in our Message Churches is the Holy Ghost? If we could somehow convince 50 times more people that Brother William Branham was God's prophet, the churches would be no better off spiritually unless God should grant a fresh outpouring of the Holy Ghost. No church is strengthened by the increase of its unconverted members. Countless books and tracts of the Prophet have been distributed world-wide, and God knows we are not against that, but are the church members more Christ-like now than a few years ago? Has the standard of personal holiness been advanced? Are they more separated from the world than the last time we visited them? If not, then we can only conclude one thing, they do not have the Holy Ghost Token!

There is a grieved and quenched Holy Ghost in our midst, and until the people seek His infilling there will be no improvement. In St. John 14-16, the Lord Jesus was having His last discourse with His Disci-

ples. They had followed Him throughout His ministry and now the time of His death had come. In the chapters mentioned above, Jesus had made repeated mention of the Holy Ghost Spirit. Although, the disciples had truly been called and their sins forgiven, they did not yet have the Holy Ghost Comforter. They were Justified, but not Spirit-filled. Jesus said to them, **"I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever."** (John 14:16)

In verse 17, Jesus said, **"He dwelleth WITH YOU and shall (at a later time) be IN YOU."** In verse 26, Jesus said, **"I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you."** Here He made reference to the Upper Room, where He would come back to Earth in Spirit form, and actually enter into the hearts of the 120. In verse 26, He said, **"The Comforter is the Holy Ghost...and He shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you."** In John 15:26, Jesus said, **"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth...He shall testify of me."** In John 16:13, He again said, **"When He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all Truth."**

But, in spite of the Lord's repeated references to the Holy Ghost Spirit, it seems that His teaching on the subject is met with much neglect and perverted ideas about what the

New Birth is. Multitudes in the denominations have set out to serve the Lord without having had a new nature placed in them. And may I respectfully say that some in our beloved Message have done the same thing! Why do some, who believe that God sent us a Prophet, fail to believe in Holiness and separation from the world? The answer is simple; the Holy One has not yet taken up His abode in them! If He was there, He would teach them the truth about His Holiness Laws and separation from the world.

Without the infilling of the Holy Ghost, a Justified Christian will remain worldly. Sins forgiven and believing the End-Time Message does not necessarily mean the Holy Ghost has come in. In Acts 19:2, Paul asked some believing Disciples, **“Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?”** They replied, **“We have not so much as heard there was such an experience.”** Today, a Message Believer has heard that there is a Holy Ghost, but too often is told that if he believes the Message, he has Him. Dear Friends, that is only a part of the proof needed in order to know we have a new nature. Religious knowledge, even if it is concerning God’s true Message, is not at all the same as Spiritual Life. A Prophet said, **“Without that LIFE, we cannot be Bride and go in the Rapture!”**

How desperately we need to get back to the old time preaching of Salvation. Do we suppose that we are so good natured within ourselves that we are easily persuaded to become Christians? If this were true, then there would be no need for the Holy Ghost to put forth His mighty power, to do for us what we can do for ourselves! If Salvation consists merely of believing I am lost, that Christ loves me and died for me, and that all I have to do is accept Him as my personal Saviour and rest upon

His finished work, then any man can be saved, at any time, by exerting his own will power.

It is true that we must accept these powerful truths, but many a good person has mentally accepted these truths, who are not converted. Why is this? It is because in many cases there was no supernatural working of the Holy Ghost to bring a heart-felt **CONVICTION**. Man tries to make Salvation something he can do for himself, but the Lord God has planned it otherwise! That is why the Lord Jesus said, **“No man can come to Me except the Father (by His spirit) draw him.”** (John 6:44)

Dear Friends, it takes more than just a decision of our own will to become a Christian, though that is part of it. Without the Holy Ghost doing His work, we all have minds that are **“Enmity against God,”** (Rom. 8:7) and **“There is none that seeketh after God.”** (Rom. 3:11) **“The heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”** (Eccl. 8:11) Without the power of the Holy Ghost, it is evident that the heart of a lost sinner is not changed by the power of his own will! God’s Spirit must be present to change rebellion to submission, and hatred of God’s Laws to loving them.

There is no better proof of the New Birth than when one believes the Word for his age, then lives a holy, clean life, separated from the world. And there is no better proof that one is not yet converted when he loves the world and its programs and bypasses certain of God’s Laws.

QUOTE: DEMONOLOGY PAGES 78-79, “Like a little baby. I noticed my little baby back there, his mother trying to put his little jacket on him this morning. He wanted to get his little arm in the sleeve. He couldn’t put his arm in there, he don’t know how. You’ve got to guide his arm in there, but he’s just

beating all around it, he never gets to the sleeve. He knows he’s not in the sleeve.

And so do you know you’re not right with God, when you’re still backbiting, lying, doing everything. You can’t be right with God, I don’t care how many churches you belong to, until your soul becomes converted. Brother, that’s old fashioned, but that will boil down and put soup in your soul. Right!

Try to put his arm in, he’s got to have someone to direct him in, how to put his arm in. Then when he gets his arm in the jacket, he knows he’s alright. That’s the way it is with ever Born-Again Christian. When he really gets into God, he watches his life with God’s Word, and he realizes he is lined up with every bit of it. He’s got long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, power, faith, love, joy, peace. He ain’t tossed about like the troubled sea. He ain’t worried about every little thing. He ain’t jumping here and there, like a bottle stopper on a windy ocean. He is set. His heart is pure. His thoughts are pure. His intentions are pure. His alternative (motive) is right....All Hell can’t move him, he’s lined by the Word of God.....he’s abstained from the things of the World, they’re dead to him, he don’t want them anymore . Why, you couldn’t make a Holy Ghost girl put on a pair of the ungodly looking clothes, and get out there for nothing. No Sir!

CONT. QUOTE: “Now there is no need to go and tell her she is wrong, because she won’t believe you, because that’s all she knows. That’s her joy. The woman puts on those little things to get out of the evening, just when their men come home....and tell me that’s right? Woman, I don’t mean to say you’re evil. I don’t mean to say you’re immoral. But, you don’t realize, Sister, that’s an unclean spirit that’s got a hold of you.”

“Your church puts up with it. Your preacher is afraid to say anything, afraid that you won’t pay in your tithes any more. That’s the reason. That’s the trouble. My goodness! How you going to preach to a bunch of buzzards, less you get them converted and right with God to begin with? They’ll root their nose in dead stuff all the time. What you need is a dumping out, an old fashioned revival sweep from coast to coast, and get men and women right with God.....If you love the world or the things of the world, the love of God is not even in you.” (End quote)

According to a Prophet, and the scriptures, where many have gone wrong or that is to say “missed Salvation,” is that they have given a mental assent to the Scriptures, supposing that a man can make himself a true believer whenever he pleases. In doing this, the supernatural element of the Holy Spirit is many times not waited for. But, salvation God’s way is much more than just mentally agreeing with scripture. The soul has to be supernaturally quickened by the Holy Ghost, and made aware of its awful lost condition. We must realize that nothing we can do on our own, without the Power of God working in us, can bring us to that Divine resting place that we call Salvation.

The Faith we need for the saving of the soul is a Diving Gift, delivered by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:8-9) it is not a work that the creature can do for himself. It is “**The operation of God.**” (Col. 2:12) The same God that commands us to believe, (I John 3:23) must also send the Faith to believe. (Eph. 6:23)

Cannot we see, Dear Friends, how impossible it is for a person, using only his own will power, without the supernatural work of the Holy Ghost, to place in himself the Nature of God. The New Birth is the

Nature of God coming into the soul and the Lord Jesus Christ is the only person who can accomplish this greatest of all miracles. It is very true that He is grieved by our supposed “SELF ABILITY” to “Receive Christ as our Personal Saviour.” Do we really believe the words of Christ when He said, “**No man can come to me, EXCEPT the Father which has sent Me draw him.**” (John 6:44) When we come to the place of truly believing this statement, then we will understand that until the Spirit of God CONVICTS us, we cannot even repent, and without true repentance there is no forgiveness, and without forgiveness we are still in our sins and have not even been Justified.

In the statements above the Prophet said, “There is no use to tell her she is wrong (for dressing immorally) because she won’t believe you, because that’s all she knows.” How many times have we been discouraged by trying to cause a lost person to see and admit their sins? We have used our own words and arguments without results, and the lost person continues blindly in their lost condition. There is only one way to win the lost to Jesus Christ, and that is to preach His Word that will convince them they are LOST, and then trust in the Word to CONVICT them for remaining in that state.

The Word of God is Spirit and Life. When read out of the book, or quote it, the Spirit of Life flows out of the Word. Though we do not understand it, there is power in His Word to convince of sin, then convict of the same. Our duty is to preach the parts of it that pertain to salvation, then pray and believe the Lord that His Word will never return void. It will both save and condemn, but it will not return without accomplishing God’s will for it. It is not our place to condemn the lost sinner,

God reserves that time and place for Himself. We are to pray for the ability to love them in their rebellion.

A Prophet said, “Love is the strongest force on Earth.” Is that not what pulled you and me out of the muck and mire? Love lifts up, and draws and pulls the sinner, while to condemn him drives him further into the mire.

In our quest for the souls of men, we must have more, much more, than just enticing words of our own in order to pull them away from the world they were born into. It does not enter into the lost sinner’s mind that he should be in the world, but not part of it. They are not strangers in the world; they love it, with all its shiny baubles. They greatly desire to be accepted by its society. They want to have its treasures stored up for themselves, ready to be used to satisfy the lust of their flesh. Their treasure is not above, as is that of the Born-Again man. They are of the world, and therefore, this world satisfies them.

These things being true, we will not be able to change them, apart from the supernatural workings of the Holy Ghost. Unless the Lord places His Spirit in them, they will always prefer the world ahead of spiritual things. The things that we preach and witness of, such as everlasting life, peace in our hearts from knowing and obeying Jesus Christ, Divine Healing and all our material needs met, by One who is invisible to their blinded eyes, seems to them to be fairy tales.

At the same time, if they should be told of a great business opportunity, in which they are certain to make a fortune, or of a way they can be honored by the world’s society, they are at once all ears. In their unredeemed state, these things are worth seeking after, but the things of God are of no importance to them. So, we should be able to see what

we are up against in trying to bring them to Christ apart from the power of the Holy Ghost. They cannot be talked into leaving the nest of the world for such far away things as Heaven and peace with God.

In some places, even in our Message, we have apparently decided that if we can't get the people to Christ the old fashioned way, the New Birth, then we will take them in the new fashionable way, which is on the grounds that they believe in our Prophet, go to church two or three times a week, live as good as you can, support your pastor financially, and above all, believe every word Brother Branham said, and you are ready for the Rapture.

But, you can do all these things and still not have the LIFE that comes with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost, Himself, is LIFE. In HIM is the Faith to believe all His Word. In Him is the ability to separate from the world and its KNOWLEDGE and live holy, clean lives. When He comes He makes you to be a radical to those around you who do not have Him. Does not the scripture say that the Mal. 4:5 Prophet was to restore the Faith of our Book of Acts Fathers? This is His promise, and we say again that the greatest need in the Message Churches today is the Holy Ghost. It was the Holy Ghost in the Prophet who spoke the following statements through his mouth.

QUOTE: GOD OF THIS EVIL AGE, PAGES 20-21, "And the world today is dedicating themselves to the knowledge which came by Satan, and man's day is glorified,

not by the Word of God, but by the knowledge that he has. Now think, let that soak in. and when you play this tape back, **ON THIS POINT HERE, STOP FOR A WHILE AND THINK.** His works are exalted above God's Word and manifested works. The wisdom of Satan which he gave to Eve at the beginning...now listen, don't miss this. The wisdom of Satan is exalted to the Throne of Worship in man, above the vindicated Word of God for the hour. Our churches prove that by their seminaries, schools of learning, that's learned more than God's Word knows about it, they think. And there, Doctor so and so, and Teacher so and so, and Professor so and so has exalted their own knowledge, so-called, from Satan, truth above the vindicated promise of God, made clear right before them. And man fall for it. See? (End quote)

QUOTE: GOD OF THIS EVIL AGE, PAGE 23, "Now, we know that Satan's gospel is a Gospel of Science and Progress. He preached it in Eden, not God, Satan did, the Science of Progress. **SCIENCE AND PROGRESS IS SATAN'S GOSPEL.** Look where he's led us today with it. See? (End quote)

QUOTE: GOD OF THIS EVIL AGE, PAGE 24, "And notice, he preached that kind of a scientific, social, educated, progressive gospel to Eve, and Adam's bride believed it. **AND HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN FILLING THE SO-CALLED BRIDE OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH OF THE SECOND ADAM, WITH THE SAME AR-**

GUMENTS. THAT'S RIGHT. (End quote)

Yes, it is true, even in our beloved Message many have believed Satan's gospel, neither will they confess that they have been deceived. When the Third Pull Message is preached, only one here and there believes it, and is pulled out from the mass of so-called Message Believers. There is coming a day when the line between the regenerate and the unregenerate will be clearly drawn. The catching away of the regenerate will settle the question forever! The Born-Again will leave, and those without the Oil will go into Tribulation. (Matt. 25:8)

The new plan in some Message churches seems to be to bring the world and its programs into the Church. In this way, we can include a far larger number that many are believing will be raptured. But, God's way has always been to sever a people from the world, and separate them unto His Word. God's plan has not changed; He is still calling those whom He did predestinate; a people who will bring Him Glory by perfect Faith in His Word. And we say clearly and definitely, that without the Holy Spirit coming in to transform the soul, such faith is impossible!

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