

OPEN TO THE SPIRIT.

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ISSUED BY
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE
ON EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord.

The fulness of our life means what we are about to do. I must have a life which is more abundant than my own poor nature. I must take the power of Jesus and have inside fellowship with him.—Babcock.

Wherever the Deity dwelleth within us, he will be unfelt and a stranger to us till we abandon ourselves to the duties and aspirations which we feel to be his voice; till we renounce ourselves and unhesitatingly precipitate our life on the persuasion of our disinterested affections. While his "Spirit bloweth where it listeth," yet certain it is that they only who do his will shall ever feel his power.—Martineau.

Give up yourself to God without reserve; in singleness of heart, meeting everything that day brings forth, as something that comes from God, and is to be received and gone through by you, in such a heavenly use of it, as you would suppose the holy Jesus would have done, in such occurrences.—Wm. Law.

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IT IS SAID that Benjamin Franklin stole the lightning from the clouds. This does not do justice to the truth. It was rather Nature's gift to him because of a simple law obeyed. The electric current descends when it finds a path, and the silken cord suspended from the philosopher's kite touching the overcharged clouds, rendered it impossible for Nature to be untrue to ordained law, and hence her gift to the one meeting the conditions. To obey the divinely appointed laws of any sphere is to compel the forces of that sphere to yield themselves to our disposal. Obey the laws of the body and the body will obey you. Obey the law of the Spirit and the Spirit must obey you. Thus you become master of forces outside of yourself. You set them at your disposal. Your life becomes one of power in proportion as your obedience to divinely prescribed laws compels other forces to yield themselves to you. All things are yours, yet you may never have had a share in them, because of indifference to the conditions upon which their inheritance depends.

There is an inheritance awaiting you beyond the sea. You have heard so and are persuaded that you are entitled to it. You engage legal talent and thus you get into direct communication with those holding what belongs to you. Thus your obedience to the common laws of the land in which

that inheritance is kept, brings it across the sea into your coffers. These truths are easy to understand so long as we view them along temporal lines; but how difficult they seem to become, when we try to understand the common law as it applies to the gifts of God to our spiritual life.

The highest life is realized here, alone as the kingdom of heaven takes possession of the heart. This, Jesus says, descends from above and is to dwell within. The only way of reviving it lies in meeting the conditions, and this means, first, getting into touch with spiritual sources, and then living in true obedience to the laws controlling them.

The heaven-life is born in us from above, through obedience to the will of God, as revealed to men through their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a blessed truth, for as we obey it God comes to us and we to him, and as we abide in him we may seek what we will and God must honor our wishes, if expressed consistently with his will.

May a Christian of today so come in touch with and abide in God as to be instructed in all that pertains to Christian living? May this be known as other facts are known? Scripture answers our question in the affirmative. These are facts within the category of reason and faith, received by all Christians with but small variation. There is a God. There is a Christ. There is a Holy Spirit. Man is a conscious entity. He communicates through spirit with Spirit. He believes. He has not only tuitions but intuitions. He looks upon the life he is to live, and measures the work to be done, and asks reverently, "What may I count upon from

God as a matter of help in the life and the task in hand? God—man—life—work—these not only suggest, but imply a sequence. When man is spiritually co-ordinated with his God, then God will work through him in those things which are well-pleasing.

Yonder is a large dam lying upon the upland. What units of power are held within its grasp! There is a long mill-race sleeping under the over-hanging willows; here is a mill with garnerers of wheat to be floured. There is a law which if obeyed will place these three in working relations; though separate now, they will be as one in achieving results. The miller ascends the steps; he utters not a word. Stooping, he grasps with strong hand a lever which lifts the flood-gate, and thus invites the waters on the mill-race to enter the large buckets of the overshot wheel. The wheel begins to turn, and the machinery to move, and now the dam, the race and the mill are unitedly doing their work, for the pure white flour is running from the hopper. In him we live and move and have our being.

The need of higher inspiration for daily life is everywhere apparent, and besides, it is the most practical thing in the world. It is also man's greatest necessity. Two spirits made for each other are still living apart. Yet near at hand the God-man, who by his incarnation has opened and consecrated for us a new and living way, by which to find full access to God and the sources of Divine power. Our spirit must be opened toward God.

There are so many who see no higher than the roof of their dwelling, and, in conse-

quence, they have no message for life from beyond the limits in which they live. This ought not so to be, since Jesus came to restore spiritual relations between God and man, and to make the latter conscious of his absolute oneness with the Father. This consciousness of entire oneness with God is now possible to all mankind. We may now both live and walk by the Spirit; and to be thus spiritually co-ordinated is to be spiritually minded, and this is life. Prayer; unbroken communion through daily service; the study of the revealed Word; the use of the means of grace; these are helps to the perfect maintenance of the spiritual union. Then will God work through you mightily. Your life will be in harmony with the higher laws and forces.

Jesus said, "I do these things not of myself, but by the will of my Father who quickeneth me." This is yet a possible fact in Christian experience. What may such a soul not hear? What may such a soul not be? What may such a soul not do? Finding the eternal source; getting into full accord and sympathy; all things will become possible. Thus shall our spirit be "put into gear" with the spirit of God.

When a mere boy, I remember hearing the names of the earliest reaping machines—the Buckeye and the "Old Hussy." Our neighbor had one of the former type, and my grandfather one of the latter. Many a time, as a child, do I recall climbing into the large iron seat of the "Old Hussy," and with my small hand taking hold of the lever which moved to and fro, upon the end of which was placed a set of strange-looking cogs

which fit into another set of cogs, fastened to the guide wheel, I was conscious, even in my play, that when I pulled this lever toward me I was throwing the machine, as the older folks said, "in gear." It was ready then, when power was applied, to do its work. To be in gear with God, is to pull the work wrought by God's Son toward us, into our hearts, to appropriate it by faith, as we say.

Oh, when we have learned the lesson of yielding and uniting our all with God, then whatever our office or calling, our lives will mean the power of God demonstrated through human flesh to all mankind. There will be an inspiration, an inbreathing of the Holy Spirit for the special needs of each day. The prophets had it; all the good and great have walked with God and partaken of his inspiration. Why may not we? This promise is as much for you, as for any soul living and toiling within the days that have been. "If ye follow me ye shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

The higher and more spiritual your inspiration, the nobler and better will your life and work be. Go to your work under its power. Whether you are a merchant, an accountant, a salesman, or a man of profession; or whether your life lies in the midst of domestic cares, come to feel that in your sphere you are called upon to live by the inspiration that cometh daily from above.

This will lend dignity and perfectness to your endeavors, and it shall come to pass that no one shall in any true sense fail. You may well know the outer form by which each of these tasks is to be performed, but

you need to know more than this; you need to know that you possess for your life-work the complement of the heavenly grace. Open the channel! Keep your life clean! Look above! Be true to God and to yourself! Wait for the Spirit's leading, and again you shall hear God saying within the quiet of your soul "This is the way, walk ye in it."

Whitfield moved the multitudes, because God was permitted at will to move through Whitfield. He was inspired for his work. Moody and Meyer have touched the souls of thousands with their message of truth, because God is welcomed through surrendered wills, to utter his truth through them. They, too, are inspired. What Christmas Evans, the Welsh preacher, stopped on the mountain this side of Cader Idris to pray for, was a soul thoroughly opened for the Divine blessing. He said, "I was weary of a cold heart toward Christ." What sermons he preached after that God had removed the coldness, and warmed him at the altar of consecration. He, too, was inspired, for God breathed through his ministry with exceptional power.

Take thy life today! Open thy spirit to the Father! Wait for the quickening from on high; and under its constant promptings go to thy task, and the days to come shall hold for thee none of failure or uncertainty. Thou shalt accomplish, within thy sphere, that whereunto God hath sent thee, by the aid of that wisdom which shineth upon thy life from above.