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TONGUES OF FIRE

From the World's Evangelization Crusade on Apostolic Principles.

"Ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you . . . and be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth."
"There appeared . . . tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."

Vol. IV. No. 6. Lisbon Falls, Maine, March 15, 1898.

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"Beloved, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for THE FAITH which was ONCE FOR ALL delivered unto the saints."—R.V.

Tongues of Fire

Is published semi-monthly in the interests of the speedy evangelization of the world on Apostolic Principles.

Editor, F. W. Sandford, Bible School, Lisbon Falls, Me.

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Editorial.

THE CORNER STONE TO THE BUILDING FOR THE SICK

WILL be laid, God willing, March 17. God told us to have "a flint" stone, but as we were unable to secure one by Christmas, it became evident that another date was God's thought for that building. Then the reason became evident. The children's building which is to represent a burst of praise to our Lord was very appropriately supplied with a corner stone on the day that angels sang "Glory to God in the highest!" The other building, however, which represents war against disease, demons, etc., should have its corner stone laid on the day when our Lord "bare our sicknesses" on Calvary. Accordingly since we feel sure, with Prof. Totten, that our Lord suffered Thursday, March 17, we are to have that sacred date forever

connected with the history of this building through the above mentioned services. Our Lord was crucified Thursday, at 9 A. M. (the exact hour and day the Passover lamb was being slain) and gave up the ghost with the piercing, victorious cry, "It is finished!" at 3 P. M. Accordingly we ask the sick ones and the saints to spend from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., March 17, in prayer and fasting for the Almighty's signal blessing in the speedy erection of this house and an all-sweeping victory over diseases throughout the land. The corner stone will be laid (D. V.) at exactly 3 P. M. standard time, and will forever speak of a FINISHED WORK.

Unwittingly we have been led to set apart Thursday for prayer with the sick. Sick ones henceforth will be asked to fast and pray from the hour He began to suffer as He "bare their sicknesses" to the hour He Himself cried "It is finished!" We ask God's people all over the land to unite each Thursday in sending "the water and the blood,"—rivers of them—to diseased humanity north, south, east and west. God is rising. Hallelujah!

TO EVERY GROUP OF SAINTS

IN THE United States and elsewhere who are in deepest sympathy with apostolic religion as set forth in the Scriptures, and who see eye to eye with us the truth of God as set forth in this paper, we make the following proposition.

Meet regularly regardless of the smallness of your numbers; pray, search the Scriptures, immediately live every truth you find, and write us the hour and date of your meeting.

Someone in the upper room of the turret is at prayer each hour and day of the year. The notice of your meeting will be placed on the walls of this room and the evening you gather, your meeting will (D. V.) be specially remembered at the throne.

In this way Shiloh hopes to stretch out one hand to the saints of Israel scattered abroad and the other up to the God of Israel.

"GIFT OF GOD."

A LITTLE daughter was born to Brother and Sister Holland, Saturday morning, Feb. 26. "Theodora Faith" (Theodora, meaning "gift of God") is the name the Lord gave for her. God wonderfully answered prayer and His blessing is on mother and child.

FOLLOWING the notice "Boston next" came a flood of letters from the saints in Massachusetts telling of answered prayer for this very thing and great joy at the prospect of the work being opened up in that city. The following are some of the notes of praise received and calls to different places.

One dear man of God in Boston writes, "Come, and may the Lord *save the people.*"

A sister in Arlington says, "We were very, very glad to hear of your proposed visit to Boston and are anticipating it with *great pleasure.* May God give you a rich harvest of souls here."

Another saint in Boston writes, "Am glad to know God has called you to Boston. Come to Malden. The Lord needs you here. Come and help us. I asked God for His word and He gave me Acts 11: 29, 30."

A brother in Avon writes, "I hope you will come. Am heartily in sympathy with the work which has been going on in Maine and shall pray for the work in Boston as well as in Maine that the Lord may continue to bless more than we think or ask."

"Your paper just received," writes a sister in Roxbury, "My husband and I feel to rejoice in the movement concerning your coming to Boston to hold meetings. I feel that it is an answer to my prayers, as well as many others."

"All glory and praise to God!" writes a sister in Cambridge. "Come to Boston and awake the dead."

A saint in Winchester writes, "I saw in your paper, 'Boston next.' Great joy came into my heart as I received it because there has been a silent prayer in my heart to that end. I hope the Lord will send you to Boston. I praise God for men of faith that He is raising up in these last days. May the Holy Ghost lead you according to His will."

A brother in Dorchester says, "I don't naturally like to realize what the Spirit seems opening to my spiritual vision of the dearth around but the prophecies given in Zech. 11, Jer. 24 and Ezek. 34 are very distressingly apparent around us. The 'Hub' certainly needs 'oil' and your reward will be sure. So may the dear Holy Spirit have His way with you. Some hearts here I know desire to hear the full gospel and doubtless God has reserved to Himself many who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

"We desire to express our sincere desire to have the work established in this city," declares another true one in Dorchester. "There are many hungry souls to be fed, and some we trust who desire 'the sincere

milk of the Word,' not a part of the truth but the *whole.* We are working in His name to forward God's blessed movement here in Boston. We extend a hearty welcome to you dear brother and bid you God speed."

An unconverted man in Boston writes, "In regard to your workers coming to Boston to take up the work here I would say for myself I should be very glad to see them. There is a great deal of work to do here and you people are the right kind to do us good. I hope and pray to see you soon." This man was afterward saved during the convention.

Another saint in Arlington writes, "My heart danced within me when I read 'Boston Next.' Praise the Lord! Somehow I have more faith for A—now as we are right in the vicinity of Boston and no doubt shall feel the effects of the fire. Would be so glad to have you spend *some* time out here if the Lord will LET you. My husband joins in this note of praise."

A dear brother in Malden writes, "A little band of the Lord's called out ones meeting together every week have your work on our hearts and continually present it before the Lord. We shall pray for you in this fresh advance and will ask the Holy Ghost to lead you to Malden.

"It is hardly necessary for me to say I am in sympathy with the proposition of coming to Boston," writes a sister in Medford. "My heart leaped for joy and my lips shouted, 'Hallelujah, oh hallelujah!' Shall praise the dear Lord if He lets you come this way gives me the privilege of having part in the work here. Shall greatly anticipate your coming and pray for the success of God's work in our midst. Yours in the good fight of faith, till He comes."

Below are a few extracts of letters received since the close of the convention.

A sister says of a certain service which she attended during the convention, "What that meeting meant to me only God knows."

"Glory! glory! glory!" writes a dear woman of God in Boston. "Isn't it wonderful, wonderful! God has been talking to me as never before, that is, He could not get the chance. I have been so busy, doing, doing—not still. I thought I was. O yes, but how the devil has tried to fool me. The city is all stirred. Glory! This is the first end. What is to come? He knows. He lets me have glimpses, yes, he does. Let us all let Him keep us O, so humble. I almost feel I must breathe softly."

"I was over to meeting all day last Sunday," writes a sister in Everett, "and yesterday we had an all-day Bible lesson on the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. It was fine, and I am hungry for more."

Brother Gleason writes, "Prayer is being answered for Boston. Monday night had a real feast of fat things from the Word. Two received the Holy Ghost. Yesterday, the all-day Bible study, was the most marvelous time I ever had. In the morning it was wonderful, in the afternoon it was more wonderful, in the evening it was *most wonderful.* Began to go through the Bible and to take up the passages on the Holy Ghost. Went as far as Judges. I never had anything like it in my life. The room was just swept for God. Every con-

trary spirit was conquered by His Spirit. There were spiritualists there in the evening with faces black as thunder clouds but they not even made so much as a contrary ripple over the meeting. Six received the Holy Ghost. They are getting Him so easy and definitely and how their faces shine! Never saw happier ones. One old man seventy-three years old received the abiding Comforter. His face was full of glory. How he drank in the truth. Came in the morning and stayed all through the evening service. I knew Shiloh was praying yesterday so thought I would let you know your prayers were answered. The most wonderful day I ever saw.

I believe the work in Boston is going to take in every hungry heart in Massachusetts. Hallelujah! When I left Lisbon Falls on the train to Brunswick the Holy Ghost sang in my soul, 'Sweep on in victory,' etc. and He has kept it up ever since. Hallelujah! He is doing it. One man, bound and bothered by, I believe, a demon of anger, which contrary to his choice would even make him get angry with God Himself, was liberated. He said a great many had prayed for him but he had never had victory before. Several also have been healed. People come here and are blessed and receive the Holy Ghost. Then they go home, get two or three of their hungry friends and come back the next night and they are swept in. "The harvest of the earth" here is ripe. "The God of glory thundereth" and "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth" in Massachusetts. Hallelujah!"

THE LIFE OF ESTHER.

BY ADNAH K. GUPTILL.

THE SIMPLE, unaffected, yet wonderful life of this queen who changed the destiny of the whole nation still lives. Her noble courage still remains as an inspiration to do and dare in the service of our King. In Esther's life we have a beautiful picture of the Bride of Jesus Christ who is to be chosen and prepared for the coming King. We see her using her office as queen to the glory of God and we have the wonderful results of her loyalty to His people in the liberation of thousands of souls from death.

I. The Queen Selected.

1. She was a Jewess.

Esther 2: 5,7, "Now in Shushan there was a certain Jew . . . and he brought up Esther his uncle's daughter." The Jews were a part of Israel, God's chosen people. They, as a nation, had disobeyed God's laws and disregarded His covenant. As a result He had allowed them to be carried into captivity. Notwithstanding this God still cared for them and watched over their interests. Especially did He show favor toward this Jewess maiden and chose her to be the deliverer of His people at a time when their utter extinction was threatened. In order that she might be the means of effecting this deliverance He placed her in the

most influential position in the kingdom, that of queen.

Just as this bride was found for the king from among the Jews to accomplish God's purpose, He now is selecting the Bride for His Son from the tribes of Israel that His plan for the whole world may be carried out through her. That the Bride of Jesus is to be taken from Israel is seen in Gen. 24: 4, that beautiful picture of Abraham sending his servant to find a bride for his son Isaac. He tells him not to go to the nations of Canaan and says, "Thou shalt go to my kindred and take a wife for my son Isaac." This is a plain type of God seeking a Bride for Jesus. Jesus was Himself of the stock of Abraham, and the Holy Spirit is sent to His own kindred to find a Bride. Again in Rev. 7: 4 we see an hundred and forty and four thousand sealed of all the tribes of Israel. The same company are seen in Rev. 14: 1-5 with the Lamb on mount Zion, singing a song which none beside this special class of saved ones can sing. Again in Rev. 21: 9-12 the New Jerusalem is distinctly called the Bride and is plainly Israelitish. Its foundations bare the names of the twelve apostles who were of Israel and at the gates are the names of the twelve tribes. Thus we see that from Israel, *i.e.*, the Jews, and the English speaking people, the two lost tribes, Christ's Bride is to be taken.

2. She Was a Virgin of Great Beauty.

"The maid was fair and beautiful," 2: 7. She was only a captive maiden. She had no wealth nor high position to offer to the king, but she had the one thing the king asked for, beauty. The Bride of Christ must be beautiful, not with the paltry beauty of face or form but the hidden beauty of the soul. She must have a heart that lays aside self life at every point, that springs to meet God on every line as He reveals Himself in His word, and that places God first in every way in her life. Her heart must be perfect, and from a heart perfect with God there will be beauty developed, fit to grace the very courts of heaven. Christ says of His Bride in Song of Solomon, "Thou art beautiful, O my love!" "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee."

The beauty which makes her a delight to the King and glorious in the eyes of all the earth is not something *in* herself to win merit. It is *all* of God. Upon each member of the Bride does the Holy Ghost put unsurpassed beauty. God says, "Thou wast exceeding beautiful . . . thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty, for it was *perfect* through my comeliness which I had put upon thee."

3. She Was Sought for by the King.

"Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king," 2:20. King Ahasuerus was ruler over one of the greatest empires in the world. His queen must be the very fairest and best, one who would be an honor to his position. To accomplish his purpose, he sent forth his servant to seek out the most beautiful women of the province from among whom he might choose one who was worthy to occupy that honorable place. God has sent forth His servant, the Holy Ghost, to take from among the children of men a Bride for the Son of God. He it is who searches out the beauty

in hidden lives. He is the One who brings out that beauty for the delight of the King and calls her away from the world into the Kingdom of God. In these days how loud the call is. We hear Him saying to every one who will heed, "Hearken, O daughter . . . forget thine own people and thine own house; so shall the King greatly desire thy beauty," Ps. 45: 10, 11. He calls her away from all her previous surroundings, even though they have been good, up to something higher, to a perpetual position on the throne with the King Himself.

4. She was Chosen to Take the Place of One Who Had Failed the King.

"Let there go forth a commandment that Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus and let her royal estate be given to another that is better than she," 1: 19.

Vashti the queen willfully refused to obey the commandment of the king. The result was she was thrust aside from being queen and one who would be submissive to her lord was chosen to fill her place. This one was Esther. The same is true of spiritual things. In the beginning God selected the Church to be the Bride. Now we see how the so-called church has departed from the faith, chosen her own ways, disregarded God's commands and made His word of no effect. She has willfully turned aside from what God chose her to be. Instead of one church of the Living God there have sprung up numerous sects or denominations, no two of which agree. She who should be the Bride of Jesus is not seeking the interests of the Lord with a true heart but the advancement of the cause, or church which is practically exalting herself not God. She is corrupted. We find little of the true purity and beauty which belong to the Bride in the present day Christianity.

After Jesus' life of thirty years on this earth and His death and resurrection, He ascended into heaven. He sits on the throne no longer as the Man of Sorrows, but as the glorious King "henceforth expecting till his enemies are made his footstool." He is waiting to take His Bride to Himself. But she must be perfect not having spot or wrinkle before she can be the wife of the Lamb. She must be absolutely separated from everything of this world if she expects to be prepared for such a place in the kingdom of our Lord. She must separate herself from the worldly churches and become truly a peculiar people. It will bring her much persecution but with it, great glory. It is in this separated people that Jesus will find one who will satisfy and delight His heart for she will have shared every experience of her Lord upon the earth, even to being "rejected and despised of men." As she endures the suffering with Him she will be privileged to reign in the same triumph as He. "If we suffer with him we shall also reign with him." It is this separated people now being called out who are to take the place of the rejected, pleasure-loving churches.

5. The Choice One.

"Gather together all the fair young virgins. Esther obtained great favour in his sight more than all the virgins," 2: 3, 17. Esther was one among many

fair virgins. She had no more, seemingly, to commend herself to the king than the others. Each went before the king and he chose the one to be queen who perfectly satisfied him. The others were pure and beautiful. They were all virgins but one alone was chosen. Every maiden might have desired to be queen as well as Esther but only *one* was chosen and that was the one who pleased and satisfied him on every point. "Many be called, but few chosen," Matt. 20: 16. He will choose the one whom He has proved and knows will not fail Him. Many persons call themselves the Bride who have little real knowledge of what it means to be a part of that company. They have simply been through a mental process on their own part and concluded that they were the Bride. The Bride of Jesus is the very highest class of saved ones who stand every test of love and loyalty. "There are threescore queens, fourscore concubines and virgins without number but my dove my undefiled is but *one*, she is the *only one* . . . she is *the choice one*." Insist on coming up to God's highest thought and thus be chosen by the Almighty King to stand by His side.

6. She was Prepared for the King.

(a.) By Obedience.

"Esther did the commandment of Mordecai," 2: 20. As she was constantly obedient to the one caring for her it was a preparation for the place to which she was called. The Holy Ghost has the care of our lives. As one obeys all His commands each moment and triumphs in each test it will prepare them to become His Bride. Each person shows by complete obedience to Him their faithfulness and fitness to fill this position.

(b.) By Patience.

"Every maid's turn was come to go into king Ahasuerus after . . . twelve months," 2: 12. Before she could come to the king she had to go through a long period of purification. This time of waiting prepared her to find favor before him. The Bride is earnestly looking for the time when she shall meet her Bridegroom and is praying, "Lord Jesus come quickly." The time seems long to wait but during this time the work of purifying her is going on. She is not waiting in vain. Her very patience in His work in her life is fitting her for that day. When the Bridegroom sees her complete and her work accomplished then He will take her to Himself.

(c.) By Simple Confidence.

"Then came every maiden unto the king, whatsoever she desired was given her. Now Esther . . . required nothing but what the keeper appointed," 2: 13, 15. Every maiden was permitted to have adornment, apparel, attendants, anything she wished to make herself pleasing to the king. Whatever choice was manifested by her was granted. Nothing was forced upon her. Being intimate with the king, the attendant knew what would please him. Esther had confidence that he would give her all that she needed and would take nothing else, not even what she might think to be necessary.

So the Bride of our Lord is satisfied with the preparation the Holy Ghost gives her. He knows just what is essential in a person to make them acceptable to the Bridegroom. Just what adornments to give them. As they are submissive to Him He will put on them the adornment of "a meek and quiet spirit," clothe them with "garments of wrought gold," and make them beautiful for the King. The Bride will not trust to her own choice but will rely upon the Holy Ghost entirely, will lay aside her own will and submit herself to Him whether things seem to her to be right or wrong. Then it is that she appears before the King in matchless beauty and finds favor. He will have no fault to find. She will be all He desires.

II. The Queen Accepted.

1. She was Beloved by the King.

"The king loved Esther above all the women," 2: 17. So the Bridegroom loves his Bride. He is not simply satisfied with her but He loves her. "Thy banner over us was love." His great heart has been waiting for His Bride all these many years. What delight and joy it gives Him as He sees the one He loves turning to Him with all her heart. He looks upon her now even before she comes to Him and His love is poured forth upon her as He sees her being arrayed in matchless beauty for the marriage.

2. She Had Royal Majesty Conferred Upon Her.

"He set the royal crown upon her head," 2: 17. He made this lovely maid, queen of that powerful empire. She received a position which many a maiden might have coveted. To the churches Christ said, "He that overcometh will I grant to sit with me on my throne." The Holy Ghost through Paul writes, "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" The Bride who overcomes all while she remains on earth will be the one who is fitted to judge the world when she is placed on a throne. As she overcomes in this world the royal majesty which belongs to the King's bride will begin to appear right here. God's word says that she shall sit upon the throne. His word is just as good as the fulfilment and she is queen now in spirit and in her bearing in this wicked world.

3. She Was Greatly Honored in the Kingdom.

"Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast," 2: 18.

It was not enough to make Esther queen alone, but the king called together all the nobles and principal people of the kingdom to a feast in her honor. What a picture of the magnificent feast which is to be made in honor of the Bride of Jesus. We have a description of it in Revelation. "I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude saying, Alleluia; Let us be glad and rejoice for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife hath made herself ready." "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb," Rev. 19: 7, 9. What if there are scoffs and persecutions here now? The time is coming when all heaven and earth will be at the feet of the Bride, giving honor to her, as the Lamb's wife.

4. She Co-operated with Mordecai for the Deliverance of Her People.

Es. 4: 7-17. An enemy of the Jews had conspired for their destruction. This meant that both Mordecai and Esther the queen, as well as all the rest of this people would be slain. When the decree for their slaughter was known to Mordecai it caused him great grief. Esther perceiving this inquired as to the reason and was informed of her own and her people's peril. Mordecai sought to find a way of escape but the king's decree could not be reversed. The only thing that could be done was to gain his good will in their behalf. It was their only hope. How could it be accomplished? No one dared go to the king. There was no one to make intercession for them. But there was the fair young queen, could she, dare she go and plead for them! Mordecai sends a message that she must go to the king. She replies that she cannot, her life would be endangered if she did, for even the queen could not approach the king unless sent for, unless she obtained special favor. Back comes the word to her, "Think not that thou shalt escape in the king's house more than all the Jews. . . . Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" How her timid soul shrinks from it! What if she fails! Can she do it? At last she answers, "I will go in unto the king which is not according to law and if I perish, I perish." She counted the cost and lay down her life then for her people just as much as if she were actually slain.

Just as Mordecai caused Esther to intercede with the king, so the Holy Ghost, seeing and realizing the need of this world, pushes out the Bride into intercession with the King of kings for His people. He sees their peril. Satan is seeking to blind men and in every way possible keep them from accepting the gospel, that they may fall into the horrible snare he has laid for them. Unless an intercessor is found who will break through the snares of the devil and set them free, they will sweep on to certain death. God works but He can only do "according to the power that worketh in us." Eph. 3:20. The Holy Ghost shows their condition to the Bride and she can co-operate with Him, by entering into the very presence of God in continual prayer for them. In just the proportion that she is exalted, loved and honored, is her responsibility and power in procuring deliverance for captive souls. In order to do this she must lay her natural life down at every point and live a supernatural one, her very life a prayer for the poor, lost world.

5. She Came Into the "Inner Court" in Her Rightful Attitude as Queen.

"Esther put on her royal robes, and stood in the inner court," 5: 7. Esther had a petition to lay before the king. Her life was at stake in making it. She came into the very presence of the king in her royal robes. She came as the chosen one, the one he loved. As she stood there, her very boldness to come into a place where no one was allowed to enter unless they were sent for, won the king's heart. It was not in presumption and defiance to the law he had made that she came, but as his queen, one who had rights with the king. It pleases God to have the Bride come to

Him in her rightful attitude. He is glad to have His people recognize what he has done for them. He has "raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus," Eph. 2: 6. He has really placed us "far above all" and it is not presumption to take Him at His word, and act as if it were true. Instead of it being an insult to God for us to approach Him in bold confidence, it is simply honoring Him by taking our rightful place. This does not mean we can come in any presumption of the flesh, clothed in "filthy rags" of self righteousness, but through the blood of Jesus by which we "have boldness to enter into the holiest."

6. Her Intercession was Accepted by the King.

"When the king saw Esther standing in the court she obtained favor in his sight . . . then said the king unto her, what is thy request? It shall be given thee." Repeatedly, we hear the king saying, "It shall be given thee," or, "It shall be granted." She had not failed. Her intercession was accepted. She had prevailed. All through the word of God we see the same thing said to the people of God. "If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it." "Ask and ye shall receive," etc. With these wonderful promises the Bride can step up and obtain of the King whatsoever she asks. Prayer will not be in vain.

III. The Queen Empowered.

1. Being Accepted in Her Intercession, She Had Power to Rebuke the Enemy.

"The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman," 7: 6. When her petition was accepted and she knew that she had obtained the good will of the king what a strength and firmness it put within her. Although Haman was in such close relationship with the king and next to him in power, still he was the enemy of her people. She had prevailed and so had power to expose him. "Then was Haman afraid before the king," when he saw that the queen had laid bare his plot, the king's anger was turned against him and he was destroyed. As the Bride has power with God, she will have power over the enemy. She will rebuke sin and evil, anything that is not in strict accordance with God's word. She will expose sin even though it is in professed Christians. Satan's power in the world is next to that of God Almighty. He is the arch foe, but the Bride with all the power given her will overcome him with the blood and word of her testimony, Rev. 12: 11. God Almighty will judge him with everlasting punishment. Rev. 22: 13.

2. She was Granted Unlimited Power.

"Write ye as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name may no man reverse," 8: 8. The king trusted her with the privilege of writing in his own name so what she wrote was just as powerful as though he had written it himself. She could write anything she pleased and it would be carried out. What trust and confidence he had in her wisdom and

her loyalty. Jesus has just the same confidence in His Bride. He says, "I give you power over *all* the power of the enemy." "*Nothing* shall be impossible unto you." "If ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it." This is not a mere theory but a real fact that Jesus has absolute confidence in the way His Bride will use His name on this earth and so has given her "all power." It is unlimited. When the Bride says anything in the name of Jesus it is just as if Jesus Himself said it. Oh the wonderful privilege of using that name, which is above every name! All the work of evangelizing this world will be accomplished through it. The work God has given her to do looks small when she recognizes that she has unlimited power at her command.

3. She Faithfully Used the Power Given Her.

By the Persian law a decree once made by the king could never be reversed. The king had decreed that the Jews should be killed. The word could not be changed. They were captives and had no weapons with which to defend themselves. What then could Esther do? Though she had found favor there was the law. But the king's name had been given to her. A writing was accordingly made in his name that all the Jews be armed for defence against the destroyers. How faithfully Esther made use of the power given her. She did not exult in the fact that she had power but she employed it in behalf of her people. The Bride of Christ also will not rejoice in the fact that God has entrusted her with unlimited power, but will use it in empowering God's people to break away from everything binding them. God has sent forth the decree, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." It is written, "All have sinned." The statement cannot be reversed, but a way of escape has been provided through Christ, and it is the Bride's work to minister to the people the power to enter into what Christ has already purchased, absolute *victory*.

IV. The Queen Rewarded.

1. The People of God were delivered. "The Jews smote all their enemies," 9: 5. What joy it must have given Esther when she saw the Jews were escaped and instead of their destruction their enemies had fallen. How glad she was that she had stood every test and been used to free them. The same gladness will brighten the heart of Christ's Bride as she sees that the result of her being true to God is the deliverance of many captive souls. She will not be sorry that she gave up her life in intercession for them.

2. The people became a terror to oppressors. "No man could stand before them for the fear of them fell upon all the people," 9: 2. Not only were they delivered but they were a terror to their enemies. The very weapons given them through her intercession of the queen made them invincible against everything that rose up against them. So the power which the Bride ministers to the children of God through the intercession will not only protect them from surrounding wickedness but will make the scoffers and every enemy terrified at their presence. Nothing shall stand before them.

3. The nation was filled with great joy. "On the fourteenth day rested they and made it a day of feasting and gladness," 9: 17.

The great sorrow of the Jews was turned into very great rejoicing. The sorrow and sin now existing in the world is going to be put away. Satan is to be bound. Then the joy and gladness of all the world will break forth. All nature will burst into praise when the curse is removed and all the land has obtained rest from every enemy. Then the Bride will rejoice that she has been faithful in performing her office of ministration to all people in prayer and intercession. Rejoicing will fill her heart that God has used her in perfecting His plan and ushering His glory into the earth.

THE WORK OF CHRIST THROUGH A WOMAN.

NEARLY three thousand years ago God by one of the prophets spoke of the coming of the Holy Ghost, saying, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; . . . and upon the *handmaids* in those days will I pour out my Spirit." On the day of Pentecost Peter declared that this prophecy was then fulfilled, Acts 2: 16-18.

Of the work of the Spirit through the "handmaids" in these last days, we have a striking illustration in the work of Mrs. Dora G. Dudley, Grand Rapids, Mich. For many years she was an invalid and a great sufferer. Healing, through the atonement, was brought to her attention and after much prayerful consideration of the subject she made an entire consecration of herself to God and accepted as her own—what she saw was clearly taught in the Word of God—perfect health through Christ.

After passing through great trials, and severe testings, (during which she trusted only in the Great Physician, from whom she received frequent quickenings in her body and was mightily strengthened to endure) she was at last rewarded. God gave her not only health for herself but a precious ministry for others through the gifts of healing. Some time after she was led in the work to which God had called her to open a home in Grand Rapids where all afflicted and in need of help or teaching could come. In this home there have been many most blessed and wonderful cases of healing. In the book she has written entitled "Beulah," that being the name of the home, she says:

"We have seen hundreds healed, and all manner of diseases, including broken bones and dislocated joints—the bones coming into place without human touch by the power of God alone in answer to prayer, showing us that it is very easy for Him who has made the bones of the human body to put them in place when out, and to mend them when broken, if fully trusted to do so."

Beside the large number of persons healed, there have been many saved from sin in this consecrated place, some of whom are on the foreign field today preaching the full gospel of Jesus Christ.

Often times people have been healed before they

were prayed with, in several instances receiving the touch of God in their bodies upon simply coming into the presence of this woman of prayer or, within the walls of this house. We quote from her book:

"One lady for whom we had prayed was advised by physicians in Chicago, where she had been for treatment, to return home and arrange any matters she might desire before they operated upon her for cancerous tumor. She was induced to come here before returning to Chicago. Upon her arrival while passing through the hall she was converted and healed, and was well the last we heard.

An old lady came in great pain. While coming up the walk to the house the pain left, and the Holy Spirit filled her. As we met her at the door she exclaimed, 'Truly this is holy ground.' "

Aside from this work of teaching and prayer in Beulah, Mrs. Dudley travels thousands of miles each year ministering to the sick and suffering. Her little book contains many testimonials of wonderful healings, including diseases of every description but perhaps none more marked than the first case healed through her ministry. We give the incident as related by herself:

"About a month after my consecration I had repeated requests to visit an old lady who was suffering from the effects of a fall. One Monday morning the Lord laid the burden upon my heart to go and see this lady. The city missionary, who had invited me to visit her, and who lived in the lower part of the house, met me at the door with an exclamation of joy, saying she had been praying for me to come all the morning. We went up stairs and found Mrs. Shepley sitting in a large chair, with her arm in a sling and her hand badly swollen and inflamed. She was the picture of distress and despair. She said: 'Mrs. Griffin, my arm is bad and my head is worse. If all the bones in my body were broken, the pain could not be as bad as the pain in my head. I begged of my husband not to take me to the assylum if my reason left me.' Mrs. Shepley had also suffered from catarrh many years. I asked her if she believed God was able to heal her. She replied: 'I do.' I asked her if she believed He was willing to do it. Her reply was, 'I do.' I then said to her, 'Do you believe Jesus will heal you?' She said: 'Yes, I do.' I read to her the account of Mrs. Judd's healing, in the 'Prayer of Faith.' I then took the Bible, not knowing what I would read. The Lord gave me the 103 Psalm. I do not know that I had ever read it before, and I little thought what precious lessons on Divine Healing it contained. As I read, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases: who redeemeth thy life from destruction,' etc., she took her arm out of the sling and laid it upon her lap, saying, 'I feel the healing power to the ends of my fingers.' When she spoke of feeling the healing, her hand and arm began to shake so violently that it shook her whole body. When I first went in, she tried to move that hand a very little with the other, and the suffering was depicted on her face. When we arose from our knees she slipped the

splints and bandage from her hand, when lo! the swelling and inflammation were all gone; the flesh and skin were perfectly restored, and nothing was left to mark the place of the loathsome sores but the appearance of a newly healed wound. Instantly she threw her arms above her head and ran toward me to embrace me and thank me for healing her and taking away all the pain, saying, 'I don't feel any more pain in my head, arm or body than there is in that stove.' I said, 'Oh no; don't give me the praise. It was not I, Jesus healed you. Let us kneel and give Him the praise and thanks.' She said, 'Call my husband first.' When he came in, he sank into a chair and said, 'What does all this mean?' She replied, 'The Lord has healed me, and I am so happy.' She plead with him to come to Jesus. He seemed to yield himself and there was a great change in them. A few moments after prayer Mrs. Burton was called. She had dressed the arm in the fore-noon when she saw it, a raw mass of corruption. But as she looked and beheld the wonderful change she nearly fainted, sinking pale and trembling into a chair. When she could speak she said, 'Truly it is restored whole as the other.' I left them praising God. After this, I heard Mr. Shepley testifying in meeting that the Friday night before the healing he ran for neighbors and children to see his wife die.

Another case:—

"One evening an old gentleman, dragging his right foot and with his hand hanging helpless by his side, called asking for prapers. Perceiving that he 'had faith to be healed' Mr. Dudley and I anointed him in the name of the Lord and prayed with him. He began praising God for the healing, and arose, leaping for joy. He went out of the house like a bounding youth, filled with the life of Jesus. The next day he went at his carpenter work, climbing about and using his saw and hammer as well as ever.

Another gentleman came whose right side was paralyzed. He had no power to hold anything in his hand. Mr. Dudley and I had prayed with and anointed him in the name of the Lord. Before we could give him a pencil he had taken his own from his pocket and boldly written his name and walked away rejoicing in the strength of the Lord."

Still another, the testimony of Mrs. George Waters:

"My eldest son was also a sufferer from infancy. The doctor said it would be impossible for him ever to do a hard day's work. That he might possibly live to fourteen years of age, but would never reach twenty. He was troubled with inherited diseases of liver, kidneys and bladder, often kept under ether for days at a time, because of great pain. The least weariness would throw him into one of those distressing spells, and then he would lie for weeks under the doctor's care, being bloated so that he was a sight to behold.

Oh, how I praise God for the time when I found Jesus a healer!

I first met Mrs. Dudley at an afternoon prayer meeting. I remember well the first lesson I heard her give, its subject 'Faith.' Oh, how I praise God for that les-

son; it fed my very soul, for I was then sure that was the only way to become well!

I had been going to these prayer meetings for about four months when we were all taken sick with la grippe, all excepting my husband who had typhoid pneumonia instead.

He was a very sick man, his temperature at 103 degrees. The doctor said the fever could not be broken, the disease must run its course. I was nearly distracted, as there was no one to wait upon us. It was truly a house of pain and woe.

In the evening Sisters Dudley, Nevins and Coryell came to see us. It seemed as though they brought the very presence of God with them, for they laid thier hands upon me in the name of Jesus, in an instant I was healed, and my three children also in the same manner. My youngest son, who was about four years old, jumped up, and clapping his hands, exclaimed, 'Jesus makes me well.' My eldest son has been in perfect health since. My husband's fever left him, and the entire household was made free in Jesus. It is about four years since we were healed, and my son is strong and well. I can truly praise the Lord, and His praises are continually in my mouth."

In all these cases of healing we see the work of Christ even as when He was on earth and went about healing the sick. It is wonderful yet nothing incredible since Jesus Himself promised that these things should be done in His name, Mark 16: 17, 18. It is the same Holy Ghost now in the believer which was in Christ Himself. To Him be all the glory.

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