24/7 PRAYER RESOURCES

Notes

A Cry for the Holy Ghost (Deliverance Ministry)

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Published in Power for Witness

September 1883

My heart ached at what a lady told me this morning before I came into this hall. She said, 'A friend of mine remarked, "You don't mean to say that you are going to call 4,000 people together to cry for the Holy Ghost?" She said, "Yes I do." "Well it makes me frightened. What if anything should happen; if something should be done?"'

Would to God something would happen; would to God something might be done that should frighten somebody. But oh, what did that reveal? Depths of infidelity and unbelief; and yet people's infidelity is increasing. Is it any wonder that infidels are laughing us to scorn? Is it any wonder that at Christian Evidence Societies men get up and say that the Christian system has become effete *[weak and ineffectual]*? No wonder when that is the state of the heart of the Lord's people.

People meet together, and pray, and talk, and sing, 'whiter than snow; and they don't believe it any more than the heathen. They pray for the Holy Ghost and do not so much as believe there is a Holy Ghost. They ask God to do something, when they never knew him to do anything and don't expect he ever will. The world is dying because of this unreality and being damned by it.

Josephine Butler says, about France, 'France is waiting for a *reality*,' and so is England, and so is the world waiting for a reality. God help us make us to make some real people! You believe, some of you, that nothing is going to happen. You don't believe that God is going to do anything—so he won't in your experience. If you had lived at Nazareth, do you think that Jesus Christ would have done anything for you? He would not. If you had been deaf and dumb, you would have remained so, for he would not have done any mighty works in you because of your unbelief! He is the same now; and if you don't expect him to do anything, brother, he will not. But some of us do *expect* him to do *something*. Some of us *believe* he is going to do *something*, and that by this little stone cut out of the mountain, without hands, he intends to raise a great kingdom. Jesus Christ is not going to be disappointed, and allow the devil to chuckle in his face for ever, and say, 'I have cheated you out of your inheritance.'

We will do something, or die in attempting it.

THE SCHEME OF RESTORATION

After all, what does God want with us? He wants us just *to be* and *to do*. He wants us to be like his son, and then do as his son did; and when we come to that he will shake the world through us. People say, 'You can't be like his son.' Very well, then, you will never get any more than you believe for. If I did not think Jesus Christ strong enough to destroy the works of the devil, and to bring us back to God's original pattern, I would throw the whole thing up for ever. What! He has given us a religion we cannot practice? I say, 'no, he has not come to mock us.' What! He has given us a saviour who cannot save? Then I decline to have anything to do with him. What! Does he profess to do for me what he cannot? No, no no. He 'is not a man, that he should lie: neither the Son of Man, that he should repent;' and I tell you that his scheme of salvation is two-sided—it is Godward and manward. It contemplates me as well as it contemplates the great God. It is not a scheme of salvation merely—it is a scheme of restoration. If he cannot restore me, he must damn me. If he cannot heal me, and make me over again, and restore me to the pattern he intended me to be, he has left himself no choice.

I challenge anybody to disprove by the Bible that he proposes to restore me—brain, heart, soul, spirit, body, every fibre of my nature—to restore me perfectly, to conform me wholly to the image of his son. If he could have saved me without restoring me, then he could have saved me without a saviour at all.

Notes

How do you read your Bibles? How do you read the history of the miracles—the stories of his opening the eyes, unstopping the ears, cleansing the leper and raising the dead? The Lord show us how us how to read it. He will heal you if you will let him.

These are the sort of words the world wants—the living words, living embodiments of Christianity, walking embodiments of the spirit, and life and power of Jesus Christ. You may scatter Bibles as you have done all over the world. You may preach and sing and talk, and do what you will; but if you don't exhibit to the people *living epistles*, show them the transformation of character and life in yourself which is brought about by the power and grace of God—if you don't go to them and do the works of Jesus Christ, you may go on preaching, and the world will get worse and worse, and the church too. We want a living embodiment of Christianity.

WE WANT JESUS TO COME IN THE FLESH AGAIN

Did you ever notice the tense in that passage—'he that believeth that Jesus is come in the flesh'—not that he did come or was come, but that he is come now. Oh, how people hate Jesus Christ in the flesh. You may be ever so devout, ever so Pharisaic, till you come to Jesus in the flesh, and then they will gnash on you with their teeth as they gnashed on Christ. They can't resist such people. This is what the world wants—holy people; and nothing else will do. We have tried everything else. You Christian people from other divisions of the Lord's forces, you have tried Bibles and preaching, and singing, and services and Sunday-schools. I have been lately to a part of the country where they told me that nearly every member of the population had passed through their Sunday schools and yet there are men who will drag a young girl down a flight of stairs and kick her till she is black and blue.

Now, I say, God is speaking to you in these things, if only you will hear him, and he is saying that the letter killeth, that circumcision, and baptism, and forms, and ceremonies, and going to chapel, and Bible reading is all nothing, when there is no Holy Ghost in it.

You want a real, living embodiment of Christianity over again, and if the Salvation Army is not going to be that, may God put it out!

TAKING THE DEVIL OUT

I was so touched, yesterday by hearing a story told from Paris; told by a young woman who has returned, and was telling me about my precious child. The story was this: A woman came one morning and asked for the lady. They tried to put her off, and asked, 'Will not someone else do?' 'No', said the woman; 'I do want to see the lady herself.' They said, 'You can't see her today, she is too ill.' 'Then', she said, 'when can I see her?' They appointed time the next afternoon, and this poor woman came, and she told this story: 'I did hear, six years ago, that there was somebody here could take the devil out. Now see, I have got a devil in, and he do make me wicked and miserable, and I do want him taken out, and I've been running about these six years to find somebody who could pull him out. I've been to lots of priests, but they could not pull him out, because they had a devil in them; and you see when there's a devil in me and a devil in them, we got to fighting and they could not pull him out.' What a comment on 'Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?' Of course nobody can put a devil out who has a devil in them. The poor old woman's sense told her this. 'And', she continued, 'a gentleman told me that this lady who has come here is able to pull him out and I have come to her to do it, for I do want him pulled out.'

'Oh yes!' I thought, that is what poor humanity wants all the world over. THEY WANT PEOPLE WHO CAN CAST THE DEVIL OUT—people who have in them Holy Ghost power to do it. Oh will you be such a one?