

dispensation to have the Holy Spirit within. Not just believing in the truth, the doctrine, the statement that it is so, but being in the good of it, knowing it to be true: The Holy Spirit is in me, and the Holy Spirit is teaching me, and the Holy Spirit is showing me what God means by His Word. I am coming, as the Holy Spirit teaches and instructs and illuminates, to see God meant more than ever I realized He meant when He said that and that and that. You see, it is a living relationship by the Holy Spirit. And when it is like that it is Glory. The burden goes, the strain goes, the onus (the burden) goes off of us, it is Life, it is really Life—indeed, it is Glory.

Now it is a fact, you see, that you can pass from one realm into the other even as a Christian; pass from that realm where, though you believe in the Lord and you have the Lord, and you know you are saved, and yet, there is a dome over you. A brass dome over your head where the Word of God is concerned, and you fumble and try to find your way about, and what does it all mean? And then you can have that dome removed or split, and the Spirit shine right into your spirit and the whole thing becomes illuminated. It is the same Word, but it is two different dispensations.

Well, I have stated the facts, and I know them to be facts; but you, if you do not know what I am speaking about, well, you go and have some dealings with the Lord on this matter. It must be like that, for the ministrations of the Spirit is Glory in relation to the Word of God.

Chapter Four

The Urgency And The Way Of Spiritual Reality

I want to read a few verses from the Book of Ephesians. Chapter three from verse fourteen to twenty-one:

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, from Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, that ye may be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inward man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that you might be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen” (ASV).

And, then, a few short sections from other Epistles. Beginning in Romans 8:28, just the last sentence of that verse: “Them that are called according to His purpose.”

And verse thirty: "Whom He foreordained, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified."

1 Corinthians 1:9: "God is faithful, through Whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

Galatians 5:13: "For ye, brethren, were called unto liberty or for freedom" (KJV; ASV).

And then finally: 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14. "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, for that God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto He called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our chief passage is that passage in Ephesians, which begins with these words, "*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father.*" The apostle has a reason for being very concerned; he is very urgent and very earnest about a matter, he is right down on his knees before God over it. And the matter which is concerning him is a matter, which whether we realize it or not, also concerns us very seriously. I am going to call it the urgency and the way of spiritual reality. The urgency of spiritual reality. And you notice we insert the word and the way, because if something with God is of great importance, of great account, He always provides the way to it. You know the Word of God is always the Word of His grace. He does not just say, 'Now, go and do it.' Rather does He say, having shown us what He wants, 'I will do it.'

Yes, there is not only an urgency for reality, but there is a way to it.

I think we all who are here today want things to be real. I do not think we would spend an afternoon sitting here unless we felt there was something of great importance bound up with it. We want things to be real. And I think we know that in the world today nothing but reality carries any weight. It is a very critical world and in some ways it thinks itself a very enlightened world, and it watches. And so many people today look at Christians, look at us, and perhaps they turn away. Perhaps they have to turn away a little disappointed, they say, 'No, I do not think that is it.' We want that to be reversed so that in our simplest and least way, whatever else it is, it is real. As Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 4:2, ". . . *Commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*" Whether people like us or not, whether they approve of us or not, their conscience registers that this is it, this is real. And God is working with us to reduce everything to the thing itself, not to the ideal, but to the actuality.

And so what is this great burden? This great urge in the heart of the Lord's servant? Well, it is just this: that the Supreme Reality which he has recognized and seen as existing, that Reality should be transmuted into a people who accept it. Because the revelation, that is to say, the unveiling, the eye opening that Paul has had, is to see the Reality behind everything! The Greatest Reality, the Supreme Reality, is Christ Himself. Remember how He said, even in the days of His flesh, "*I am the Truth.*" You cannot get beyond Me. "*I Am the Reality.*" And, dear friends, there is something unreal, there is something temperate, something flimsy, about everything that is not Christ. So, when everything else

passes away, He Abides. The only bit of reality about us is the bit of Christ that is in us.

Yes, Paul has seen the meaning of Christ. And in seeing the meaning of Christ, he has seen the meaning of everything. He has seen the meaning of all existence. He has seen why this universe exists. He has seen why man has been brought into existence, what the human race is for. And he has seen that there is an end, that there is a goal, to which Divine Purpose is moving, of which the very meaning and realization is bound up with a Person, and that Person is Christ.

And, dear friends, miss the meaning of Christ and you have missed the meaning of everything. He is the meaning! And, oh, that great range of meaning as to moral character, as to position, as to ultimate destiny, that is all centered and focused in One Person. Well, it is an unveiling: it is a vision that Paul called "*the unsearchable riches of Christ*" (Eph. 3:8), it is unspeakable, but he has glimpsed it. And then he has seen that the One in Whom God has placed all, and Who is invested with all the Glory of God, that Person becomes the very Life of those who are joined to Him. That in salvation we become united to this Person, and we are caught up into God's intention for that Person. In other words, the Christ in all of His infinite Glory. It is God's intention that He should be embodied and expressed in a people.

And the expression of Christ is the expression of reality. You see that? When that reality is found in us operative, actually happening, you can say, 'There it is, that is reality.' And everything less than that becomes meaningless, and pointless. God is concerned to translate everything in His beloved Son into terms of reality in our lives. That is what we exist for, that is

what the Church is: it is the expression, the embodiment of the Son of God in a spiritual way.

Well, perhaps that sounds rather big to some of you, but let us get down to the practical detail. You see, this dispensation of the Spirit which began on the day of Pentecost is the dispensation of reality, because before Pentecost, if you like before Christ, the Old Testament period and all the ages that preceded, the best they were was a dispensation of preparation, or a period of groping toward something. The very Word of God, the Old Testament, was only foreshowing the Reality which was to come. But when Christ came, the Reality was here, God was here! And when the Holy Spirit was given, God became real in man, Christ became real in man.

The First Effect of The Spirit's Coming Was Light

I want to stay with that for a moment. We were reminded this morning that when the Holy Spirit came, when this dispensation began, everything was no longer outward and external, it became inward. And the first effect of the Spirit's coming was light, it was light. And the light means what has been hidden, what has been dark disappears, and you can see.

And the first effect of the Holy Spirit's coming was to see the meaning of Christ and the meaning of salvation and the meaning of how to know God. Why, on the day of Pentecost the first thing that happened was light, was it not?

You see, Peter, when he rose up to speak on that day, the first thing he said was: "All of this that has happened, all this is that which was spoken of by the prophet." Do you remember that? This is that! And he went on to say that David said certain things, but David

did not know what he was talking about, it is Christ that is the meaning of David speaking about resurrection. In other words, the Holy Spirit illuminated those who received the Spirit, to see the meaning of things. It was light. And if you and I are to have any light on spiritual things, it will be only by the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit alone can enlighten us.

You know in the knowledge of God, in the knowledge of Jesus, our own capacity and mental ability will not take us through, and will not get us there at all. Those of you who have just started this new life, I do say this to you, 'Trust the Holy Spirit to teach you. Trust Him to show you the meaning of the Word of God.' Oh, what a wear and tear it is in trying to be clever and understanding it all. God does not want that, He says, "*When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all the truth*" (John 16:13). He will show you everything. And if we are to understand, if we are to have light, dear friends, all of us need to depend much more upon the Holy Spirit, much more to say, 'We know nothing of ourselves,' and to ask the Lord to teach us. You know, our natural independence can come into these things so much, we can try and find out ourselves. And I believe the Lord wants to bring us to real light, to real understanding, by our being Spirit taught, beginning to know what it is, to see what He means by things, because He is teaching us Himself. We cannot stay with that because we want to come to the next, the effects of the Spirit's coming. The first is Light.

The Second Effect of The Spirit's Coming is Power

Now listen, the second is power, Power! That means an energy coming in that is entirely supernatural, it is

not just the human ability or strength or anything else, it is another power coming in. And the mark of Pentecost was, of course, "*With great power did they give witness*" (Acts 2). There was an energy in them that was not of themselves.

Now so many Christians today, as well as the next, will look at what happened in the early days as sort of a beautiful ideal and say, 'Was it not wonderful, how they were all filled with power?' Yes, but what about us? 'Oh well, we do not have power, we just read about it and have sermons about it and so on, but of course, they had power.' Now that needs to be removed far from us. We are in the same dispensation, and the same energy, the same power, the same Holy Spirit is for us to know as a living reality. Yes, we are in the time when it all ought to be in power and reality. The kingdom of God is not in word, but in Power.

And so we come to this great burden of Paul, he cries to God for the saints. What for? "*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, that you may be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inward man*" (Eph. 3:16; ASV). Now listen, this is not just being filled with power so that we can have power, not at all, but "*With power through His Spirit in the inward man.*" What for? "*That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*" (3:17).

The effect of the Spirit being here is that you and I may know the indwelling Christ as a reality. That you and I may know Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith. Our great need and urgency, dear friends, is to know the indwelling Christ. It is really to be able to say, as Paul could say, "*Christ liveth in me*" (Gal. 2:20). Now here we get very near to the heart of what it means to be a Christian. A Christian is a person who is not just living

his or her life, it is Christ living; it is Christ dwelling in the heart through faith.

Yes, we know because we have received Him as Saviour, because we are born of the Spirit, Christ is in us. If you have trusted the Lord as your Saviour, remember Christ is in you, no doubt about it. God's Word said, 'If Christ be not in you, then you are none of His' (Rom. 8:9). But you are His! Christ is in us. But what is lacking? What is really lacking? Because our great need surely is evidence, proof that we are people of another order, that we have another Person, Who really dwells in us.

We need much more evidence, dear friends, that Christ Himself is the secret of our life. That we are not just people who hold certain doctrines, but that there is Another Person that you have to reckon with when you meet us. Is not that it? It is an urgent thing that we should be a people who know that He dwells in our hearts through faith, that His dwelling is a powerful working reality. That we are not continually baffled and defeated by every little thing that comes because we are meeting it ourselves. But we are going through things and over things because we have a far greater secret than anything to do with what we can produce.

The secret of Christ dwelling within us is something that the Holy Spirit wants to make real. And if that secret by the Holy Spirit is made real, we shall be a people at rest, a people with balance, a people with strength to meet the days as they come. However is the day to be met: a day of darkness, a day of clouds, a day of weariness; unless we know the indwelling Christ as an abiding reality we are going to be defeated on every turn.

The Apostle Paul would be the first to tell us that he cannot face life, let alone serve God, without this mighty fact, that Christ has come to dwell in his heart through faith. Oh, how great Christ is! You see this One, Who is the fullness of God, in Whom is all the qualities that we need, taking up residence in our puny frames, why that ought to become a mighty source, not only of our own satisfaction, but of influence and power and reality.

And dear friends, if Christ is not really living, if we are not really living by faith in Him, day by day, well, there is not much reality. We are talking about spiritual reality, and I believe this is the first key to it. It is the indwelling Christ: the indwelling Christ. I believe otherwise, we present to the situation that word—empty shell—of what we are in ourselves. Really, Paul just calls himself an earthen vessel, he says that does not do it, it is This Treasure in the earthen vessels that is the secret. It is Christ in us that is the hope of glory, is it not? The only hope of any glory during the day is Christ in us, is it not? What a pity that we should have an unglorious day. Every day should have something of glory about it, whatever be the calling of each one of us in practical terms. It may be the home. It may be going out to work. It may be a hundred and one things; but glory ought to mark the children of God, because Christ is dwelling within us.

Yes, and that is where we come to this word about the Holy Spirit. I believe that though we believe as it were about the Holy Spirit, and believe about Christ being in us, that something is needed of a putting forth of a Divine Power to make things real: "That you may be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell" (Eph. 3:16, 17; ASV). And I believe the practical application for everyone of us, and do try and get this, in order that it may be really Christ, dear friends, I believe that we need a new ap-

propriation of the power of the Holy Spirit, a new appropriation. You have the Holy Spirit if you are a child of God, but a new appropriation and trusting the Spirit of God to make Christ very real as our life. Perhaps, you do not think that matters, I believe it matters very much. And this is the cause of why the Apostle Paul bowed his knees unto the Father, that the saints might know this Great One as their indwelling life. Well, we must leave that, but it leads to the next thing: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love."

The Love of Christ

Yes, the love of Christ is the next thing. We need the energy and the enabling of the Holy Spirit to manifest and to know the Love of Christ. Love is not a thing that we can produce, it is a supernatural thing. It is something for which we need Divine energy. And I believe God would have us to take hold of Him for the love that we have not *got* to be made real in us. Oh yes, we talk about love, but how little of it seems to come off. It has got to be something Divine that we appropriate and count upon continually: The Love of Christ. Not our love, but His Mighty Love. "*The Love of Christ constrained us.*" What is love? Well, for this we need one another, "*That ye may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge*" (Eph. 3:17-19; ASV); to apprehend with all the saints. What a privilege to be together, in order to know the Love of Christ, to learn this supreme secret of love: His love!

We are put together, dear friends, in order that we may know the Love of Christ. And when it speaks about

being filled with the fullness of God, it comes immediately upon this matter of love. There is no fullness of God where there is no love.

You know I think that not only is the apostle bowing his knees, but I feel that he is calling all of us to bow our knees, that we may be on our faces before God for the reality of all this: "*That we may be strong to apprehend with all the saints.*" As though it was our pursuit and our quest together. Do let us find out the Love of Christ. Let us learn what it means. Yes, and I am quite sure we would have plenty of opportunity of learning, plenty of opportunity inwardly, let alone outwardly, we have got to learn what it really means to love one another, really what it means!

What is love? Surely love is where self is dethroned. That nothing is left but love when we are out of it: "*Love seeketh not its own, love taketh no account of evil, love beareth all things*" (1 Cor. 13; ASV). It is as though there is a threat to us of our rights or our feelings and we are just going to take it on and we say, 'No, love beareth all things,' even that. Something evil happens and we are just going to resent it, but love taketh no account of evil, what a terrific thing love is! Just imagine if all of us were doing that. I do not think we would stay on the earth very long do you? I think that the gravitation upward would be too much, we would go. And just a little bit of love like that is heavenly, is heavenly. Yes, it is costly because we cannot make someone else lovely, or shut up to ourselves over this. It all begins with number one, does it not? I have got to go away and find out what this means and so have you.

But it is a tremendous thing that the Reality of God is bound up with our love together, with all things; the Reality of God. It is as though where love is not, God

withdraws. And Satan is always wanting to turn our most valuable and wonderful faults about the things of God into pure theory. He says, 'Yes, you have got wonderful ideals have you not, but as long as it does not work, I do not mind in the very least, I do not mind at all.' And we might leave this place this afternoon and say, 'Oh dear, I do want to show love, I do want to be loving.' That is not the answer, the answer is to be strengthened with might by His Spirit, it is really the Holy Spirit that can do it, and I do believe that is the Gospel in this message, the good news in it. That we are in the dispensation of a mighty, living, powerful Holy Spirit, Who says, 'I will do in you that which you cannot do and make you love it.' And make that disposition which is Christ in you, which means: that self is dethroned. Self is dethroned!

I think we were all very moved by that word last night about the awfulness of our own natural makeup, with all its selfishness, its possessiveness, and everything else. What can we do about it? Well, praise the Lord, He has gone to the Cross to deal with it. And at the Cross that old thing has been put away. And we always have got to go back to the Cross and appropriate the mighty putting away. But on the positive side there is a new nature, and a new power imparted, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

I was talking to a young brother this morning after the meeting, wondering how it could be made real, and we were talking on this very thing; you cannot do it yourself, the Holy Spirit must make it real! Will you trust Him to make it real? And I believe this is a real issue, I believe we have got to get to grips with this, to cry to the Lord, as Paul did for those saints, that we shall be so strengthened by the Spirit: Spirit energized, that

the reality of the thing will be found in us, and increasing us.

The Holy Spirit Came to Glorify Christ . . . And He Is Here to Make Christ Real in Us

Now, we have stayed for some time with that passage in Ephesians. But we come to something that is an explanation, if you like, of the whole New Testament. You know when the Holy Spirit is moving amongst us and working, He is always striking the same note, and you are always noticing how things connect up, and you know the Holy Spirit, when He came, He came to glorify Christ. He came to glorify Christ. And that means to bring Christ into view, that we could see Him. And not only to bring Christ into view, but bring Him into Reality in our lives. The Holy Spirit is here to make Christ real in us.

Why did Paul write these letters? Romans; Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; and all the rest of them. Why did he write them? Simply because the Holy Spirit had taken hold of him, with the one intention of making Christ real in all the saints, that is all. That is all the Epistles are about. Here are groups of real Christians, people who have Christ in them, but all sorts of things that are not according to Christ, all sorts of things are not real. You see, it is not the real thing when Christians are quarrelling is it? It is not the real thing when they are living defeated lives in sin. That is not Christ, not really. It is not real when there is not the fullness of love and fellowship and relatedness. We want those things. Well, my message today is that the Holy Spirit is here to do it,

to make it a fact that we are a people full of the love of Christ. We can trust Him to do it.

But come to the Epistles. What is the Holy Spirit here to do? When we turn to the first of the Epistles, the Epistle to the Romans, it says: "*Them that are called according to His purpose*" (8:28; ASV). Now those of you who know your Bibles, know that the primary chapter concerning the Holy Spirit is Romans, chapter 8. The primary chapter in that letter is chapter 8. And the Holy Spirit is doing everything, everything. You see, in the earlier part of the Epistle, the way of salvation has been made clear. And the way of deliverance from sin has been made clear. In Romans 6, you have seen that with Christ we are dead to sin, and alive unto God. And by the end of Romans 6, you are rejoicing and saying, 'Well, praise the Lord, sin shall not have dominion over me.' Yes, but why is it that chapter 7 goes into a sort of muddle again? It seems all wrong, because you have got free from sin in chapter 6, but in chapter 7 there is an awful battle going on trying to make it real. You know a lot of people are trying to make it real; an awful effort and strain to make real the thing that somehow or other God has been speaking about, and then in chapter 8, you get the secret: it is the Spirit of Life that makes it real. It is the Holy Spirit Who makes Romans 6 real. Romans 8, is really only Romans 6 made real, is it not? It is the Holy Spirit making real. Why, "*The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and of death.*" Yes, of course, it was the Cross that really delivered us, that is Romans 6, but the Holy Spirit makes real what the Cross has done. And I believe that everyone of us has to come to the actual reality of Romans 8 and say, '*Lord, I trust You to make Calvary real as my deliverance, and I trust the Spirit to maintain*

me in this new position, which is in Christ Jesus. I trust the Holy Spirit to do it.' And the Word is, "*You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit*" (verse 9). It is the Holy Spirit.

Yes, but what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit applying the Cross? Because there is a lot of application in Romans 8: There is a lot of suffering, there are things happening to us; it is not just a doctrinal position, you get to verse 28, "*For all things work together for good to them that love God.*" And we usually use that verse about people having some awful trials do we not? Whenever anyone has a dreadful time we say, well, Romans 8:28. Yes, that means that when you are having an awful time it is working together for good, in what way? "*For them who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He did foreordain to be conformed to the image of His Son.*" The purpose is likeness to Christ: it is being changed into what Christ is.

Yes, in fact the Holy Spirit is here set upon this one thing, to change us, to change us into that Image, to change us into that Likeness. And all of our trials and all of our disciplines are to change us, to transform us into the likeness of His beloved Son. That is what's happening, but the Holy Spirit is doing it as we trust Him, as we obey Him.

Fellowship with Christ and Fellowship in Christ

What does Corinthians say? One Corinthians, verse nine says: "*God is faithful, through Whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Not only the reality of likeness to Christ, but the reality of fellowship with Christ, now try and follow

this, fellowship *with* Christ and fellowship *in* Christ. We are called into the fellowship of His Son. God's intention here and now is that we should have real fellowship with Christ: "*Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son*" (1 John 1:3). Our supreme life secret ought to be fellowship with His Son. If we are not in communion with Christ, dear friends, our whole life and its influence is nothing. What a battle there is for fellowship with Him, but that is the secret, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*" (Proverbs 4:23).

Yes, it is communion with Him that is the very life source of everything that happens in our life; it has got to be fellowship with Him. Now we have been called in close fellowship with Christ. How are you getting on in that matter? Are you meeting the Lord every day? Are you in touch with the Lord, does He speak with you and you speak with Him? Or do you just read your Bible as a book, and just pray your prayers as a kind of duty; is it fellowship with Him?

Well, we have been called, we have been called into the fellowship of His dear Son. You say, 'I cannot pray. I cannot get on with my quiet time. I find it so difficult.' What is the answer? The Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit, "strengthened with might by His Spirit," you see, "that Christ may dwell." Everything that seems impossible is possible to the Holy Spirit. And you and I can say, 'Lord, I want to become closer to You, I want to know You better, and I do trust the Holy Spirit to lead me into more real fellowship with Yourself.'

Yes, and we will find that something is beginning to happen that has not happened before, the Holy Spirit is doing it. Yes, but not only fellowship *with Him*, but fellowship *in Him*. Oh, how the Lord wants to deepen

our real kinship with one another in the Lord. I believe He wants to do that, and will, as we trust Him: Fellowship *in Him*.

And, you see, Corinthians was a church in which there was so much that was not fellowship with Christ, and so much that was not fellowship with one another. The Apostle Paul became the vehicle of the Holy Spirit to say to them: 'This is not right and this is not right, let us get it right, let us come to the Cross with all these things that are not right and be done with them.' And you know, as they responded to that word, responded to the pleading of the Spirit, something happened in them. We believe that something did happen, because in the Second Letter things were very much better. He was able to write a loving letter to them, and rejoice that things were so different. They responded to the Holy Spirit, and the fellowship became a reality.

We Were Called unto Liberty

And then another great privilege for us who are God's children, do try and get this, is liberty, is freedom. We are not under law; we are not a people just bound hand and foot by rules. We are a people who have a glorious liberty in Christ. "*Ye were called unto liberty*" (Gal. 5:1, 13). Yes, you can get the wrong idea about liberty. You can think it is doing what you like. No, real liberty is a freedom in the law, but also a captivity in Christ. It is a strange paradox, servants, slaves, bond-servants of Jesus Christ; under the Law of the Christ: yes, but freedom from all bondage, external bondage.

Now that liberty can only be really known as the Holy Spirit strengthens and governs our lives. "*If ye be led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*" You see that? "*If ye be led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*" If we want

to be free people, we shall be free people as we are Spirit-governed people. Now that does not mean license in doing what you feel led to do, we get a hold of the wrong end of this matter, but it means a life really God-governed, and that will need getting very close to Him to know what that means, but once the Spirit is governing our lives, we are brought into an ever greater freedom, enlargement, emancipation: an emancipated people.

He Called You . . . to the Obtaining of the Glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ

And finally, that wonderful word in Thessalonians, "*Whereunto He called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (2 Thes. 2:14)—the obtaining the Glory! How can we obtain that which is the actual, excellence, beauty, wonder of what Christ is? How can we obtain it? The Glory of our Lord Jesus, what a thing beyond our puny grasp that seems, the Glory of our Lord Jesus: His moral quality! His purity! His meekness! His Love! Everything that Christ is, we have been called to obtain it, to become partakers of it; for *that* Glory to become real in our makeup, so that we are like that: we are meek and lowly, we are pure in heart, we are as He is. You say, what a hopelessly high standard, but dear friends, that is exactly what we are here for: that we '*should show forth the excellence of Him, Who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light*' (1 Pet. 2:9; KJV; ASV).

Now, the Lord is not satisfied if we do not obtain, if we do not enter into something of what Christ is. We are so utterly unlike Him in ourselves, and God is determined that we should be like Him; He is working that we shall be like Him. How are we to come to any

measure of that reality? Well, I believe again, that the Holy Spirit is here to make all of this true. And I would say, before we close, that the Holy Spirit works in two ways: to *make real* what is ours in Christ, and to *make real* Christ in us. Two ways: one way is that He makes the Word of God real, the Word of God. We need to come to His Word not for information merely, but to come to the Word of God in order that it should become real in us. That what we see there shall happen in ourselves. That is what James says, 'The Word of God is like a mirror, that you look into it and you see what you are like.' And then it says, 'The wrong thing is to go away and straightway forget what kind of person you were' (James 1:22-25; ASV). The right way is to look into it and to continue therein. To say, '*Lord, this is quite true, I want this to be true in my life, and I am going to trust You to make it real.*' Do you know when we do that, the Holy Spirit does begin to make it real!

Yes, I do not know really how any of you got saved, but I can tell you how most people get saved, they usually get saved by believing what the Lord says; they see that the Word of God says: '*He took our sins away.*' Well they do not feel it, but they say, '*There it is, well I believe that is true, Lord, I trust Your Word that it is true, that my sins have been taken away on the Cross.*' You know if you really believed that Word, it is not very long before something happens inside, and you know your sins have been taken away. The Holy Spirit makes real what the Word of God says, because it is true.

Yes, and when anyone receives Christ into their life, they rest upon His promise that He has come in, and they thank Him. And little by little the Holy Spirit says, 'You are quite right, He is in you. You are quite right,

Christ is in you'. You find that what God says is true in your own life.

Yes, but that is only an example of the whole wealth of what is here, that He wants to make real. Do you see that? Suppose God's Word says, "*By love serve one another,*" (Gal. 5:13). *You say, 'Oh dear, I do not know much about that.'* We ought to say, '*No, but I want to know what that means. Lord, show me how that applies practically in my case.*' You know, if we have exercise over that Word, the Holy Spirit will show us the meaning. We can be quite certain He will. If the Lord shows us that we need humbling, then we should go alone and say, '*Lord, I want to humble myself because Your Word says this to me. I trust You to make this true of me.*' So the Holy Spirit is all the time not wanting us to read a book and say, '*Is that not beautiful,*' but to make the thing an actual happening in us. He is here for that purpose, to make the Word of God an actual fact in our lives.

The Holy Spirit Making Real the Cross in Us, In Order That He May Make Real Christ Our Life!

Yes, but there is another thing that the Holy Spirit will make real, and that is the Cross of the Lord Jesus. Yes, the Cross! You see, there is so much about us that is not Christ, it is not glory. Oh, what a mass of contradictions and selfishness and weaknesses and strengths, everything that is not Christ, we are in ourselves.

Now the moment a child of God says, '*Lord, I want You to be glorified, I want all this that is not of Christ, I want it to be dealt with.*' The Holy Spirit begins to work, and He brings us into actual experiences one by one, and

we go through all sorts of difficult times. But that is the Holy Spirit getting rid of something that is us, to make room for something that is Christ. The Holy Spirit making real the Cross in us, in order that He may *make real* Christ our Life! Christ our Character! Christ our Glory!

The Holy Spirit Is Here To Make Real The Fullness of Christ

And I close with this, the Holy Spirit is here to *make real* the fullness of Christ, because that is the vision the Apostle Paul had in Ephesians, "*filled unto all the fullness of God*" (3:19). He had seen that we, the members of Christ, ought to be just flooded, as it were, with Christ Himself; flooded so that there is just not any room for anybody else. That when we meet each other we are meeting so much of Christ that it is fullness. Now is that not it? It is the fullness of Christ.

And you know whenever we come to this matter of fullness, there is a peril of our seeing it as a beautiful idea, and then leaving it up there. Dear friends, I believe God's challenge to us is to bow our knees. I really do! I believe He wants us to seek Him earnestly, individually and together, that by the working of His Spirit we shall be saints who know the indwelling of Christ in a way that we have never known it before. That we shall know the Love of Christ in our relationship with one another as we have never known it before, that whatever is not of love shall be found out and shall be put away. It is worth praying about, is it not? It is worth our bowing our knees about, because everything hangs on what is in the Word of God being made an actual real thing in us.

THE CROSS AND THE ETERNAL GLORY

And I close with a little word of comfort. Praise God for all the measure in which we do know the reality. Yes, we do not say that just to, as it were, pump each other up, but we do encourage one another with this: that by His grace, we are tasting something of the Love of Christ, are we not? Tasting something of the fellowship in the Spirit! Tasting something of the Lord Who is dwelling in us as our very life!

Well, surely having tasted that the Lord is gracious we want much more, we want the blessed Spirit of God Who is here to mightily strengthen everyone of us, and to strengthen us all together. That Christ may dwell, that we may know the Love of Christ that passes knowledge. That we may be filled unto all the fullness of God, and that is the passage that finishes, "Now unto Him that is able to do it." So that in the Church there shall be Glory, the very Glory of God shall be realized in us.

Well, you may not be able to follow all of that, but I believe the secret is this: That the Holy Spirit is here to make all this absolutely real difference. And I feel that we can together trust Him to do it. And He surely will, to His Own Praise and Glory!