



## HUMANITY'S CRY – GOD'S GIFT

### DEVOTIONALS ~ 5 – 11 JUNE 2022

*Adapted from: The-Holy-Spirit-Activating-Gods-Power-In-Your-Life-Billy-GrahamChristiandiet.com\_.ng\_.pdf*

Humanity has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness. Consciously or unconsciously, his inner being longs for both. There are times when man actually cries for them, even though in his restlessness, confusion, loneliness, fear, and pressures he may not know what he is crying for.

God heard that first cry for help, that cry for forgiveness, and answered it at Calvary. God sent His only Son into the world to die for our sins, so that we might be forgiven. This is a gift for us— God's gift of salvation. This gift is a permanent legacy for everyone who truly admits he has "fallen short" and sinned. It is for everyone who reaches out and accepts God's gift by receiving Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Paul calls it God's "indescribable" gift (2 Cor. 9:15).

But God also heard our second cry, that cry for goodness, and answered it at Pentecost. God does not want us to come to Christ by faith, and then lead a life of defeat, discouragement, and dissension. Rather, He wants to "fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; in order that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you" (2 Thess. 1:11–12, italics mine). To the great gift of forgiveness God adds also the great gift of the Holy Spirit. He is the source of power who meets our need to escape from the miserable weakness that grips us. He gives us the power to be truly good.

If we are to live a life of sanity in our modern world, if we wish to be men and women who can live victoriously, we need this two-sided gift God has offered us: first, the work of the Son of God for us; second, the work of the Spirit of God in us. In this way God has answered mankind's two great cries: the cry for forgiveness and the cry for goodness.

As a friend of mine has said, "I need Jesus Christ for my eternal life, and the Holy Spirit of God for my internal life."

If you believe in Jesus Christ, a power is available to you that can change your life, even in such intimate areas as your marriage, your family relationships, and every other relationship. Also, God offers power that can change a tired church into a vital, growing body, power that can revitalize Christendom.

Unfortunately, this power has been ignored, misunderstood, and misused. By our ignorance we have short-circuited the power of the Holy Spirit. Many books are written about this power; many prayers are said pleading for this power. Scores of Christians would like to have it, but they aren't sure what it is.

When the world looks at a Christian, certain mental cliches come to mind: it sees the believer as a stiff-necked, sober-faced person without a sense of humor; a person who can't make it himself so he uses "God as a crutch"; one who has left his brains in kindergarten.

Now, if this cold stereotype applies in any way to us or the Church, then we need to know about the exciting, revolutionary power available exclusively to Christian believers. No one can buy it, claim it, or use it without first knowing its source.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples, preparing them for what He knew was the end, His heart ached for them because He knew they were confused and sad. I can imagine that He moved from one to another, putting His arms around them. To each He explained in simple fashion, as we do to our children, the important truths He wanted them to understand. At one point He said, “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Her to you” (John 16:5–7).

There was a promise! The coming of the Spirit was based upon the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. No conditions were attached. Jesus didn’t say that He would send the Helper (or “Comforter”) to some believers and not to others. Nor did He say that we had to belong to some special organization or be higher on the scale of spiritual performance than someone else. He simply said, “If I go, I will send Her to you.”

When Jesus Christ makes a promise, He does not break or forget it. We may doubt the promises of friends or family; we may even doubt our own promises to others. But we have never been given a promise by Jesus that has not been a certainty.

Some people dismiss Jesus Christ as a “great teacher” or one of the outstanding religious leaders of the world. However, when it comes to promises, it’s interesting to contrast His words with other great religious and philosophical leaders. For example, as the founder of Buddhism was bidding his followers farewell, he said, “You must be your own light.” Or when Socrates was about to take that fatal cup, one of his disciples mourned that he was leaving them orphans. The leaders of the world’s religions and philosophies were unable to promise that they would never leave their followers.

The disciples of Jesus Christ, however, were not left alone. He said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:18). It is interesting that the Greek word for orphans is the same as the word used by the disciple of Socrates when he realized that his master was going to leave him alone.

Jesus said He would leave His disciples for a while, and He did. During the dreadful hours of the crucifixion, death, and burial, agonizing doubt gripped the minds of those who loved Him. He had not yet been “glorified,” so the promise of His Spirit was not yet a fact.

But we know what happened. God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory. Addressing Christians, the Scriptures say that Christ came “for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God” (1 Peter 1:20–21).

God had said to “wait” for the Spirit to come. Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by His disciples. Unable to grasp what was happening, they failed to recognize Him at first, and were frightened because they thought they were seeing a ghost. To confirm His physical reality, Jesus told them to touch Him, and even asked for something to eat. A spirit didn’t have flesh, did it? A ghost couldn’t eat, could it?

So this was truly Jesus, not the Spirit He had promised. However, He told them still to wait! The time was not yet.

***With God as our Leader, may we be prepared to live another year under His guidance.***

### **How can we pray for you today?**

- We grieve the passing of our beloved Wesleyan butterfly, Ms. Betsy Winkvist who passed away on Saturday, 21 May 2022. Celebration of Life Service is planned for 6 July 2022. More details will follow.

- We extend our prayers of miraculous healing for Ms. Jeri Barnett, sister of Mr. Brett (Ms. Mary) Barnett who is experiencing several medical concerns. “Lord, look upon Ms. Jeri with eyes of mercy. May Your healing hand rest upon her, may Your life-giving powers flow into every cell of her body; cleansing, purifying, restoring her to wholeness and strength for service in Your Kin-dom. Cards and notes of support and care can be mailed to: Ms. Jerri Barnett, C/O Mr. Brett and Ms. Mary Barnett, (Please add address)
- Bro. Richard Slade fell and bruised several ribs. Please send your love and encouragement to: Mr. Richard Slade, 741 Summit Court, West Bend, WI 53095.
- We extend our healing prayers to Mr. Tom Calenberg, who had hip replacement on May 4. He is home and doing well. Cards may be sent to: Mr. Tom Calenberg, 617 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., West Bend 53095.
- **Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church, we are in desperate and wanting need for you to step-up and serve on the Accountable Leadership Board (ALB). Your church is in grave and urgent need for fresh, creative and innovative leadership. All positions of the board are open. Please, please contact Pastor Clarissa (847.721.1826) to discern God’s call for you to serve your church. You may not think you have the gift, talent, and/or time to serve, however, “If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do.” (James 1:23-25) Good is calling you; inviting you to step forward and serve God’s church and God’s people. Will you say. “Yes?” We need you!**
- “I found I had less and less to say, until finally, I became silent, and began to listen. I discovered in the silence, the voice of God.” Soren Kierkegaard  
Base on many forms of church data, many churches will not exist in the next few years. FAUMC leadership has gone as far as to project that our church has only six to ten years of life left. As your devotedly committed and passionate Pastor and Spiritual Leader, I rebuke this death sentence. I have been eagerly attempting to energize the church (the people) and engage our members in a vital and relevant faith journey and discipleship. It all begins with serving (volunteering) God’s church and God’s people. Where are you being called to serve? How can you take the light of Christ into the dark and hurting world? Please join me as we lead revitalized ministries, programs, and outreach as we’re willing open to looking inward in order to have an outward influence that makes a difference to our community and the world. Come, where are you going to serve?
- We extend our loving prayers to Ms. Carol Flanders who has completed rehabilitation and has returned home. Notes and cards can be mailed to: Ms. Carol Flanders, 107 Cedar Ridge Drive #N122, West Bend WI 53095
- Our beloved Christian Sister, Ms. June Knowlton-Sengpiel has transferred to The Pavilion in Slinger. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Ms. June Knowlton-Sengpiel, Pavilion at Glacier Valley, 1900 American Eagle Dr., #415B, Slinger, WI 53086
- Bro. Bob Krell, prayers for strength and continued healing. Please mail cards and notes of prayer and encouragement to: Bro. Bob and Ms. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- We extend passionate love and support to Mr. John Abuya on his recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Card of love and support can be sent to: Mr. John Abuya, 328 East Washington Street, #1, Slinger, WI 53086.
- Many of our church family members and friends are experiencing health concerns. Please join me in praying for their healing and restoration: “loving God, I pray that you will comfort us in our suffering, lend skill to the hands of the healers, and bless the means used for to cure. Give each of us such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when we are afraid, I may put my whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.”
- Thank you, Fifth Ave. Family, for your wonderful financial support of the late Rev. J. Paul Singh’s family through the Easter Offering. Rev. Paul brought a special love and joy to us in his short stay. He will truly be missed.

- Mr. Walter Teague sends his appreciation for your cards and prayers during this medical crisis. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Mr. Walter and Ms. Joan Teague, 1144 West Washington Street, West Bend, WI 53095.
- Lord, you have taught us that faith as small as a mustard seed, can grow into an amazing tree. We continue to share our seed of faith to Ms. Lora Santiago, daughter of Mr. Peter and Ms. Katie Glaser, who was diagnosed with melanoma cancer. She is presently going through immunotherapy for her cancer. Ms. Lora is so appreciative of your continued prayers and support. Your seeds of faith through cards and notes can be mailed to: Ms. Lora Santiago, C/O Ms. Katie Glaser, N166 W21211 Glencoe Lane, Jackson, WI 53037.
- We send our prayers and support to Ms. Sandy Wamser. She has returned to Wisconsin. Cards and notes of continued healing and restoration can be mailed to: Ms. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.
- We ask for your continued prayers of healing and restoration for Rev. Jean Bartlett. She will move to a nursing facility where she will start both radiation and chemotherapy on 21 March 2022. We're also praying for Rev. Jon Bartlett for strength and courage. Cards and emails of comfort, healing and care can be sent to: Rev. Jean and Rev. Jon Bartlett, 813 Seymour Street, Waupun, WI 53963. Email address: [bitojon@gmail.com](mailto:bitojon@gmail.com)
- Thank you for your support and care of the family of Mr. Ted Meilahn on 7 March 2022 as we remembered him in love. Fair Winds and Following Seas, dear Shipmate.
- Mr. William (Bill) & Mrs. Ginger Hornung would love to hear from you! Cards or notes of encouragement or "just thinking of you" can be mailed to: W194N16744 Eagle Dr. Room 3, Jackson, WI 53037
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued prayers for healing and strength as she continues to struggle with illness. You can send emails of prayers and support to: [alankempf33@gmail.com](mailto:alankempf33@gmail.com); or cards and notes to Ms. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- Ms. Annie Griffin, Aunt of Pastor Clarissa (Bro. Martin), still request your prayers of healing and courage. Cards and notes for promises of healing, restoration and encouragement and can be mailed to: Ms. Annie Griffin, 1122 Hutchinson Ferry Road, Bainbridge, GA 39819
- Ms. Linda Green, sister of Ms. Debra Matthies, thank you for your continued prayers for strength and courage as her cancer has returned. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Ms. Linda Green, c/o Ms. Debra Matthies, 1466 North 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, West Bend, WI 53090.
- Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr., continues to face medical concern. Your cards and notes of support and well wishes for Mr. Len and Ms. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
- Ms. Trisha Funke, daughter of Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel. Cards of encouragement and prayers for continued healing and diagnosis can be sent to her parents: Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel, 629 Highland View Drive, West Bend WI 53095
- Mr. Roger and Mrs. Nobi Sacia, are grateful for your prayers and cards of encouragement. Mr. Roger and Ms. Nobi, 1626 Jefferson Street, Madison WI 53711
- Mr. Phil Heimerl, son-in-law of Mike & Fay Lewis. He was diagnosed with ALS and continues to request your prayers of healing.

Let us pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your humble Pastor & Servant Leaders:

*Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin*