
Crucified Through Weakness

Becoming Like The Lamb

“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God...” (2 Cor. 13:4).

We are seeing as never before that one of the great purposes of the Lord’s dealings in our lives is to make us to know in a much greater way *the weakness of Christ*. One author has said, “The highest purpose of God in the life of the believer is not to make him so much a powerfully used instrument, as to bring him to the fullest manifestation of Christ in every aspect of His character.”¹ Christ is so weak, so meek, so unable to take things into His own hands when danger or trouble comes — being simply cast upon Father. So many only speak of Christ’s power, His might and His “anointing.” Yet there is a weakness that Christ possesses characterized by His absolute dependence upon the Father, and *this is why God has given Him all power and might*. Likewise He longs to bring us ever more fully into the practical experience of this weakness, which is the only basis upon which Father will grant us His power, His might, His life — and that more abundantly!

You see, beloved, the two thoughts in the above scripture quotation are two sides of the same coin. Only as the weakness of the Christ life is made good in our experience can we subsequently know the life of power and resurrection in which our

Father so longs us to walk. We see this weakness embodied in Christ when He is spoken of as *the Lamb of God*. This lamb nature is so heavenly and different than anything we can muster up in ourselves — it is the fullness of *the divine nature being manifested in a Man*, the man Christ Jesus, and now God wants to get this very nature in us. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...” (1 John 3:1). How unspeakable — that all of His glorious virtues — His meekness, His humility, His perfect surrender and submission to the will of God, and so much more — that all of these could become a part of us! This is not to say that we are to become Deity, but rather, that the fullness of Deity’s nature is to be manifested in us!

The Lamb Upon the Throne

We must come to partake deeply in this lamb nature if we are ever to know the life of reigning with Him.

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Only the lamb can sit upon the throne, and only those who are as He is in the lamb nature will sit with Him there. Only that nature can be entrusted with the throne and not abuse it. For though He is the Lion (and this speaks of His awesome reigning power and might), yet the Lion is also the Lamb. The Lamb is His true nature, and the Lion is what God made Him because of His nature. How incredible!

So we are seeing that the chief and most important work that God is doing is fully stripping a people from the nature of earth and transforming them, through the power of the cross, so that they will be *exclusively governed by the nature of the Lamb*. Our author continues, “This can only be done in the winepress valley of fellowship with His sufferings. He was ‘crucified through weakness,’ and there were no signs and wonders wrought by Him to thrill the multitude at Calvary; but in His weakness and Lamb-silence in suffering and His poured out life, He did more for the world than when He healed the sick and cast out demons in Galilee.”² “If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him” (2 Tim. 2:12). It is only to those who suffer with Him that the Lord will grant a place on His throne and none else. Those who suffer “...are driven on out of extremity into resources which are to be found in God alone. They become more and more detached from all that earth holds dear, and they begin to practically dwell in the heavens with the reigning Lord.”³

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The Purpose of our Endurance

It is here, beloved, that the issue of our endurance comes in. Will we endure to the end, to the bitter end of dying to and denying of all that we are in the flesh, in the first Adam, and come to a complete transformation into the image of the Lamb, to whom alone will come the double blessing of the firstborn? Many think that they must endure this or that and yet become unrelated to the real purpose of endurance. We often get caught in a trial or test, and say, "Oh Lord, I must endure this thing until it ends." Well that is very weak beloved, and falls short of the Lord's purpose for our enduring, i.e. *so that more of the nature of the Lamb may be formed in us*. When we lose sight of this purpose, then we get into a bad situation where we endure trials and yet remain unchanged! We may have a long history of being tested but are no different than when we first began! We then become bitter, filled with our old ways, full of death, not life!

The Wilderness Journey

Israel endured forty years of testing in the wilderness, *yet remained unchanged!* Why? Because they lost sight of the purpose of their calling. God called them out of darkness and slavery because God had a need, a desire, and a passion: to have a people who would be delivered from the earthly nature and live in the good of the heavenly nature, as seen in His Son. Israel would not let the tests and difficulties of the wilderness journey break them

down and did not see God's purpose for them to die out to the self nature that they might fully enter into the promised land of living in the Christ life!

Even so beloved, today, the Lord has the same purpose in mind. He has a people who are being led along an arduous way, and seeks to bring

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this people to an end of living for self. This way sometimes seems too difficult to bear. In fact, it is the way of Job, where we learn to trust and depend utterly upon God, because of who He is and not because of any benefit to self. God intends to make this way very hard, very painful, and very distressing to our natural life! Why? Because He desires that we, as Job, would lie in the dust of utter weakness and hopeless dependence upon Him, and yet say with faith unfeigned, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"! So beloved, all God is doing and will do is governed by one purpose, to make us to cease from being earthly and enable us to express the Lamb!

Some Hindrances to Entering In

Presently, there are many devices that are being used by the enemy to keep the Lord's children from seeing and entering into His intention, and to bring them into the state where they are cold, indifferent and insensitive to the Holy Spirit. There are two places in the Scriptures that we can prayerfully consider in order to

gain insight into those things which cause people to be turned aside. We would be wise to come very honestly before the Lord and allow Him to search us and speak to us to see if we are ensnared, and if so, to run to Him for complete emancipation! I think all too often beloved, we may read about such scriptural warnings and not apply them to ourselves, but to our "neighbor." How dangerous! We must pray that we may hear Him speak to our own heart and not assume all is well. We would be quite surprised to hear what He would say to us if we would sincerely ask Him what He thinks, and allow His Word to speak to us!

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses!

The first Scripture we will consider for our warning is Luke 14: 15-24. This familiar parable tells of a man of means preparing a great feast. Sadly, all of the invited guests offered excuses and did not attend. Finally, the man invited the poor and blind and lame of the town who came with gladness. We must remember two things when considering this story. First, all of the folks for whom the banquet was prepared and who were initially invited did not come. Second, this whole lesson was in response to the words of one at the table, in verse 15, who said, "*Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God.*" I'm sure that this has reference to the present feast, as well as to a future one! Many are called to feast now with Christ, but will not accept the invitation because of invalid excuses.

One said, "I have just bought a piece of land and must go and see

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it." Another said, "I have just bought five yoke of oxen and I'm on my way to try them." Still another said, "I have just gotten married so I can't come." Each of these excuses has to do with things that in and of themselves are not wrong and do not necessarily disqualify one from coming to the feast. The thing that was wrong was that when the final invitation was made to come, these things were more important to the person than the banquet that was prepared! The snare of self interest and getting caught up in the affairs of this life caused these folks to miss out on the feast, though, initially, they were invited. Jesus goes on to say, "*That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper*" (v. 24). Now that's serious! Are we failing to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit to attend the great banquet of the Master because of these kind of excuses? I hope not!

Another Scripture we do well to be mindful of is found in Mark 4:13-20. The parable tells of the seed sower and the different problems he encounters with poor soil and weeds. Let us not simply assume that only the "good soil person" was saved. Instead, let us pray that we would be able to see if at any time we should develop any of the problem characteristics herein described, and if so, seek the Lord for help!

One kind of snare is the wayside heart. This is when the Lord sows some seed of truth or word from Himself in us and the devil comes and snatches it! How we must be aware of this. Next is the stony heart, which receives the word with glad-

ness, but because of no deep root, endures only for a short time, and then when persecution and affliction arise, becomes offended. Then there is the thorny heart, which hears the word but because of the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for other things entering in, the word is choked out and it becomes unfruitful.

Remember beloved, we are looking at those things which cause us to fall short of the Lord's ultimate desire for our lives! It is often the seemingly small details, cares and

"everyday" concerns of this life that get us off track, and not always "big" and terrible things. Our focus must remain on Jesus and God's intention to make us as He is in nature — the Lamb of God — for the battle is raging and Satan is using everything he can to snare and sidetrack us, thus causing us to be unfruitful and to lose out in the race for the prize.

Heavenly Vision... Through Weakness

"...there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Cor. 12:7-9).

As we conclude this message on weakness, let us return to the thought that everything our Father

allows in our lives is for His great purpose of causing us to share more fully in the weakness and lamb nature of His Son. As, by His grace, we are enabled more and more to keep this purpose in view through our trials, the enemy will lose more and more of his power, and our vision of the Lord will remain steady and clear, even while in the midst of great affliction, suffering and working of the cross to the destruction of our natural life. Then we shall see that the waters, no matter how deep, the fire, no matter how hot and intense, the darkness, no matter how thick, *can never hide Him*. As Job, we will move beyond the mere "hearing of God" into the "seeing of Him." Then our testimony can rival that of the Apostle Paul, and we too shall be persuaded that the present trial, the present distress, the present weight upon the earthen vessel is not even worthy to be noticed, when compared to the all-surpassing glory which shall be revealed in us (and of which, even now, we are experiencing an earnest)! This is the victory beloved. This is what makes us more than conquerors, more than overcomers by Him who loves us!

The Lord would want us to be very honest and open before Him, allowing Him to speak to us freely about any area of our life that has become "an excuse" we are using to refuse the call to feast with Him at the heavenly banquet prepared for all who love Him. And let us invite the Holy Spirit to search us very deeply, very intensely — our words, our habits, our lifestyle, our hobbies, our doings both public and private — and to reveal anything that does not correspond to the moral perfections of the Lamb nature of Christ. Our Father longs to have many sons

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Weakness...the Pathway to the Throne

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev. 3:21).

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and...the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come....And you hath he quickened....and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 1:18-21, 2:1, 6).

“...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me” (John 14:30).

We are so very aware that the throne is the place where our blessed Lord Jesus is now sitting, and in Him we too are seated there in spirit. Now, however, the Lord wants to make the meaning of the throne, and its place of power an actual thing working in us, and not just a doctrine we hold as being true positionally or judicially.

The power of the throne is not some authority being offered to us in order to give us the power to do what we want, or to become whatever we want or to get whatever we may desire. No! The power our Father longs to entrust to us *is that of complete authority over the works of Satan*. The throne is a place where Satan has nothing in us, and has no power over us.

We must remember that Satan’s

power over us is not only because of his authority as a fallen being, but is directly related to the fact that *he has a legal right over us*. The “dust” of our fallen humanity is the “serpent’s meat” — that is, Satan has a right to latch hold upon anything in us that is of the first Adam. Here we see the importance of being hidden in Christ, so that we can truly *“not give the devil a foothold” (Eph. 4:27, NIV)*.

So to come into the power of the throne is to get so much of the Lord Jesus formed in us deeply, (by virtue

“...God’s passion [is] to free us from all that holds us captive, no matter how innocent or ‘harmless’ it may be....”

of the fact that we are partakers of the divine nature), *that there will be no place for the wicked one*. That’s the throne beloved. In the age to come this throne will be made manifest in an outward way that all might see — but only in those who, in this present age, submit to the Father’s dealings so that the qualities of His divine character are formed on the inside. Or, as one author has said, that these divine attributes are “etched” into our very spirits.

The Throne is of a Spiritual Nature

All too often we may suppose that the throne is some kind of kingly chair all of gold, possibly arrayed in precious diamonds that we shall, some day in the future, literally sit upon. Well I think the throne is something of a spiritual nature, and is built by the moral perfections that are inherent in our

blessed Lord Jesus. Therefore, the throne is shared by overcomers only to the exact measure that we are built up on the inside with the incorruptible qualities that characterize His very person in glory.

We cannot separate the throne from the essential character that we presently possess in Christ. The two are inseparable. Many think that the throne is something “they” attain to and then use to establish God’s authority in the earth, *yet without coming to a complete end of self with all its evil and pernicious propensities*. Not so! This is a nice idea but subtly caters to the grasping of the Adam man for something he has no rights to!

Only the Son, and His unique character qualities, as they are truly wrought deeply and thoroughly in us, has any rights to the throne, and we share that throne in proportion to His increase in us, and no more. This throne is not official, not a title we buy or a doctrine we profess, but a spiritual inwardness we must come into as we submit to all Father’s dealings and are changed.

Thus the Lord’s great burden now is to get a people who will forsake all to get fully in line with the Lord’s heart passion, at any cost. There will be those who, by the subjective working of the cross in their lives, will be freed from the “man of sin” (the old wicked Adam nature and all his will and desires), and come to where God’s will and Christ’s interests are their all and all. This is the battle ground upon which we experience the fiercest attacks of the enemy. Satan will put into motion anything he can muster so long as it can get us off this all-

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important truth.

God's Burden: To Release us from Earth's Strongholds

If the heart is dull and "the eyes of [our] understanding" not clearly focused on this issue of our emancipation from all of the power of the old creation, we are already getting sidetracked by the enemy's devices. He has already begun to seduce and lull us into sleep, and we are at risk of being turned aside from bringing supreme pleasure to our Lord — coming to bridehood. Surely, the need for a "revival" is apparent. But if this revival does not produce an awakening unto God's passion to free us from *all that holds us captive* no matter how innocent or "harmless" it may be, and does not release us from earth's hold into heavenly passion for heavenly realities, then such a so-called revival falls short of God's thought and is ultimately going to do more harm than good. We need a move from heaven so as to bring a real crisis to our very beings. Too many are serving strange gods — the god of money, the god of pleasure, the god of privacy and self-preservation, the gods of Christian service and ministry, the gods of honor and esteem by men and family — the list goes on and on. How deeply we are in need of an encounter with the Man in Glory, causing the brightness of His countenance to shine upon all the darkness of our earthly existence!

The only Man who has any right to the throne is the Lord Jesus. It is "unto the Son" that the Father said, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever" (Heb. 1:8) and only those who are made after what He is on the

inside will know the power of the throne. God's end can never be realized in us and through us until, through the cross, He implements His loving judgment to bring an end to the old creation and fully establish the newness of His life. Yet such dealings are very costly. One must *lose all things*, counting them as dung, if one will come to win the prize. Many are willing to associate with such a doctrine but when the heat comes and the Son begins to turn up the fire and the heart is tried to the ultimate, many abandon their

confession and turn from the light into darkness. Nevertheless, God will have a small remnant who will go all the way through and come out the other side as gold purified in the fire and to them shall He grant "...power over the nations: and [they] shall rule them with a rod of iron..." (Rev.2:26, 27).

May the Lord give us much grace to see and to hear what His Spirit is saying and to respond, "Yes Lord, so be it in me and in all of those in your church who have ears to hear!" Amen.

Blood Washed Pilgrim

*I saw a blood washed pilgrim, a sinner saved by grace,
Upon the king's great highway with peaceful shining face.
Temptation sore beset him but nothing could affright;
He said, "The yoke is easy, the burden is light."*

*I saw him in the furnace, he doubted not nor feared,
And in the flames beside him, the Son of God appeared.
Though seven times 'twas heated with all the tempter's might,
He said, "The yoke is easy, the burden is light."*

*'Midst storms, and clouds and trials, in prison, at the stake,
He leapt for joy, rejoicing, 'twas all for Jesus' sake.
That God should count him worthy was such supreme delight,
He cried, "The yoke is easy, the burden is light."*

*I saw him overcome through all the swelling strife,
Until he crossed the threshold of God's eternal life.
The crown, the throne, the scepter, the name, the stone so white,
Were his, who found in Jesus the yoke, the burden light!*

*Palms of victory, crowns of glory,
Oh, the victory I shall wear!*

Traditional Hymn

The Costliness of Winning the Race

“K now ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (1 Corinthians 9:24).

In these days in which we live, we must remember that all the Lord’s dealings (which will become more intense as “that day” approaches) are governed by a most definite purpose. From the very beginning God reveals Himself as the great Divider — between light and darkness, day and night, clean and unclean. Our God is not a God of mixture. This governing purpose is ever seen in His dealings towards us. He is constantly dividing — going to the depths of what we are in order to prepare for Himself a people who will be willing to entirely follow Him; a people to whom He can not only entrust the power of the throne but who will, ultimately, put under their feet the last enemy, death itself!

Gideon’s Remnant Army

Turning to the book of Judges we find the story of Gideon and the great victory the Lord wrought through him and his small army of sold-out men. As the story begins, Israel is being plundered by her enemies and war is in the air! Gideon, moved by the Spirit of the Lord, blows a trumpet, signifying the call to war. 32,000 men respond to this initial call. Yet the Lord was not at all ready to commit Himself to that group of people.

Then began the process of divine sifting. The first point of division was that all who were afraid and fearful were to return home. Out of 32,000 men, 22,000 returned, leaving 10,000. Yet the Lord was

still dissatisfied. Then came the test of the manner in which the men lapped water from a stream. Only 300 men passed the test, and to them was granted the joy of going on into the battle! The others were sent home.

Notice it was only to these men that the Lord entrusted the weapons

“Christ is not looking for men of power or men of renown, but men who hear the Spirit’s cry to die!”

of His warfare, which were not carnal but mighty. The breaking of the earthen vessels so the light could come forth was the way in which the Lord brought the victory through the company who had come through all the tests and were thus qualified to fight in the battle! How incredible!

This whole story is just one example of so many in Scripture which teach us that the Lord will have only one kind of people who will be qualified to walk with Him in the age to come, and who will know at the present time, the powers of that age. Many respond initially to the call of the Lord to battle with Him against the spirit of this world. Yet, only a very few out of that great number ever come to where they are “fit vessels” to bear the Lord’s glory, His power, His authority, and His name!

The Lord is after those who will lay all things down — mother, father, sister, brother, lands, fields, and dreams, even our very lives, and take up our crosses to follow Him. To where do we follow Him? Well, where did His cross lead Him? To death. That is where we must follow Him if we are to know His life in abundance. The crossless Christian message today is inspired by Satan, seeking to create “followers of

Christ” who do not know the cross, except in word alone. Such a message is the “other Jesus, other spirit, and other gospel” of which Paul speaks! In this kind of Christianity, men follow Christ, but retain “their” own life, never seeing the utter filth of what they are as mere men, never coming to see that a complete exchange of one kind of life for an altogether different kind of life is the only valid “Christian experience” — the true definition of what a Christian really is and does.

Christianity is an actual *metamorphosis*, in which we are changed into the exact kind of nature and character as Christ Jesus! Any “Christian message” falling short of this complete and total transformation contains leaven leading to ruin and spiritual decay!

Life Through Death — Strength Through Weakness

There needs to be a genuine heavenly recovery of what the Lord is after, and a deep, penetrating movement of the Spirit in the hearts of all who profess His name, so we may rediscover the urgency of the Lord’s heart and experience a renewal of passion to be severely dealt with by Him so as to be qualified to be martyrs for His name’s sake! Christ is not looking for men of power or men of renown, but men who hear the Spirit’s cry to die! Men want life with no death, honor with no dishonor, strength with no weakness, good report with no evil report, power over death with no lying in death. Men want heavenly treasure and wealth without selling all to follow Him. Men seek the Comforter and will not

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forsake worldly comforts. Men want God to show Himself strong on their behalf, but will not be brought to a place of utter hopelessness so God may have opportunity to show Himself strong.

The Lord must get a people who will not only agree doctrinally with the truth of coming to an end of self and coming into a situation where there is no hope in the natural (for example, that of Lazarus), but *who will actually walk such a truth out in their experience*, perhaps for years! At that time, the need to believe will be imperative. Now it may be easy to "believe," because perhaps we have not known this kind of darkness and discipline, but this is the way the Spirit is moving, and only those who are willing to let go of everything will endure to the end, coming forth as gold, even as He is! Our very soul must die, if we are to know His life in fullness. Jesus said that if we lose our lives (our souls' desires), then will we find His life, which is a life free of soulish mixture. A pure river flows out from the city, one that is not tainted with the desires of men mixed with the desires of God in some kind of religious life. No, beloved! The Lord will divide soul and spirit and will separate what is out from Him and what is out from soul.

The Cost... and Glory of the Cross

There will be great cost to the man who will endure the dealings of God bringing him into utter hopelessness, and who will allow the soul and all its unruly, inordinate passions to be once and for all laid into death — but what a place to be,

in Him where He alone is what matters. Out of such a death will arise something of the unspeakable beauty of Jesus, a life no longer lived to the will of men, the will of soul, the will of flesh, the will of religion, but to God alone! "For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (1 Pet. 4:1b). Oh, may God stir passion in the hearts of His people to know such suffering, which results in such glorious fruit. Oh beloved, how the Spirit cries out to all who will hear, asking, who will become the Lord's vanquished ones, the Lord's conquered ones, in whom the life of the risen Lord is freely flowing? Yes, before we can be overcomers, qualifying to overcome death at His appearing, we must first in this life become His overcome ones, those who have been utterly overcome by Him even to the point of death to self, to Satan, to sin and to all that pertains to this old wicked life.

"Out of...death will arise something of the unspeakable beauty of Jesus, a life no longer lived to the will of men, the will of soul, the will of flesh, the will of religion, but to God alone!"

So many have deeply held aspirations within their hearts. To all who have such aspirations, may I show you one that surpasses all — and goes way beyond anything you could ever hope to attain to or possess? It is just this: desire to be the captive of the Lord, His slave, bound by the unbreakable bonds of His love and branded by the marks of His cross, through which you come to a complete end, and out of that arise in the newness of His life, ever increasing in the fragrance of His beauty. Why is it that the Lord's

people seem to fall so short of knowing Him in these depths? The answer from His heart is so clear, so sweet, so to the point. He says, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Lk. 12:34). This is the whole issue. What do we really desire of Him? That will be exactly what we get! May the Lord stir deep desire among all His children for the things above, and make a path for all who long to know Him in fullness, a path that leads to the darkness of the cross, from where one passes away and lives anew, *unto Him, by Him and in Him*, in deep longing for His appearing and our complete transformation!

The Lord is Moving On

The Lord is saying to all with great earnestness, "Who will go on with Me?" Who will, as Elisha, refuse to settle for something less than receiving the double portion of sonship? Elisha was several times bidden by Elijah to remain in the place to which he had arrived, even though Elijah was going on, and the Lord is testing His people today in the same manner. Many have been led by the Lord to a certain place in Him and are involved in certain work because of Him, but it is not the Lord's ultimate purpose. The Lord even seems to be saying, "Stay here, continue along this way" — just as Elijah said to Elisha. But the fact was that Elijah had a higher purpose and was testing the commitment of Elisha's heart to see whether he would continue to move on. Amidst the present activity and spiritual stature of many believers today both of these spiritual

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dynamics are in operation. The Lord seems to be saying, "Stay here, continue along this way" and yet at the same time He Himself is moving on, testing the hearts of His children to see whether they will lay down what they are doing and move on unto fullness. Many will sense the Lord moving on but will be unwilling to lay down what they are doing because they have gotten attached to *it* rather than to *Him*. Where are you today, beloved?

Will We Allow His Dealings in Our Lives?

Beloved, the issue is not His love for us, that does not change. The issue is this: who will cry out to the Lord with a whole heart until He visits with the flaming gaze of His eyes revealing all that is unlike Him — until the sharp, two-edged sword that proceeds out of His mouth pierces even unto the division of soul and spirit, and the brass of His feet brings divine judgment on all that is not of and by Him in our lives, homes, and places of fellowship? Who will be reduced to

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the Lord's battle plan, using nothing more than broken earthen vessels with the Light on the inside as the whole source of victory? There is so much talk on the need for brokenness and the work of the cross and very little genuine groaning for their reality to be wrought in our lives. There is so much savoring of the writings of the prophets of old who spoke of these things, but very little of that fire will we allow to knock at our door.

We must shake ourselves from the comforts of our religious lives, from the joys and pleasures that we derive from "things" (including the Lord's business itself), and must pray for the return of an insatiable hunger for *the Lord alone*, and a grace that will enable us to endure the darkest, blackest nights of the cross. Many have settled for a measure of light, a measure of brokenness, a measure of fruitfulness but, beloved, *the Lord is moving on*. He will continue to move on until His heart is satisfied in preparing a people for complete transformation. He is moving on, beloved. May He give us ears to hear and eyes to see that we may follow on with Him, laying everything aside that we may gain Him.

May the Lord give us a holy fear, a fear of drawing back, shrinking back from His dealings, lest in so doing we forfeit the prize. The Lord is intending to give a heavenly gift to a heavenly people. There is nothing in our Bibles telling us of the Lord reserving immortality, the throne and the overcomer's crown for an earthly, soul-driven, heart-divided person. It's simply not there! Every single, individual person who will come to know bridehood must bear His cross and

come to an end in this life. This is, simply, what Jesus Himself taught. May God give grace and courage to everyone to hear the Spirit's call and unhesitatingly say, "Yes, Lord. Have your way in all things." May the sweetness of Christ Himself ever abound in the midst of the temporary bitterness that comes when the soul is being unfettered. May we never draw back or give up in light of the bitterness, but steadfastly look unto the One who promises to always make the bitter waters sweet. A day will come, beloved, when the sweetness of His radiance will be so real we simply will no longer notice the bitterness of earth. That day is even now! "*Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life [soul] shall preserve it*" (Lk. 17:33).

Lord, have mercy on us all, and grant to us a movement by Your hand calling us out of the ease of this life into a groaning for Your life to come forth, not by the easy way, but by the way of the cross, even unto the loss of all things for Your sake. Amen.

Becoming Like the Lamb

(Continued from page 3)

who are as His only Son, sharing in His character and nature. For only then can He grant the power, the throne and the victories of the age to come to them!

¹ Jessie Penn-Lewis, "Sons of the Cross," *The Overcomer*, (November 1995), p. 17. (Note: this excellent issue can be obtained by writing to Rev. D. N. Carr, Willow Cottage, 435 Painswick Rd., Gloucester, GL4 9BY, England).

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, p. 16.