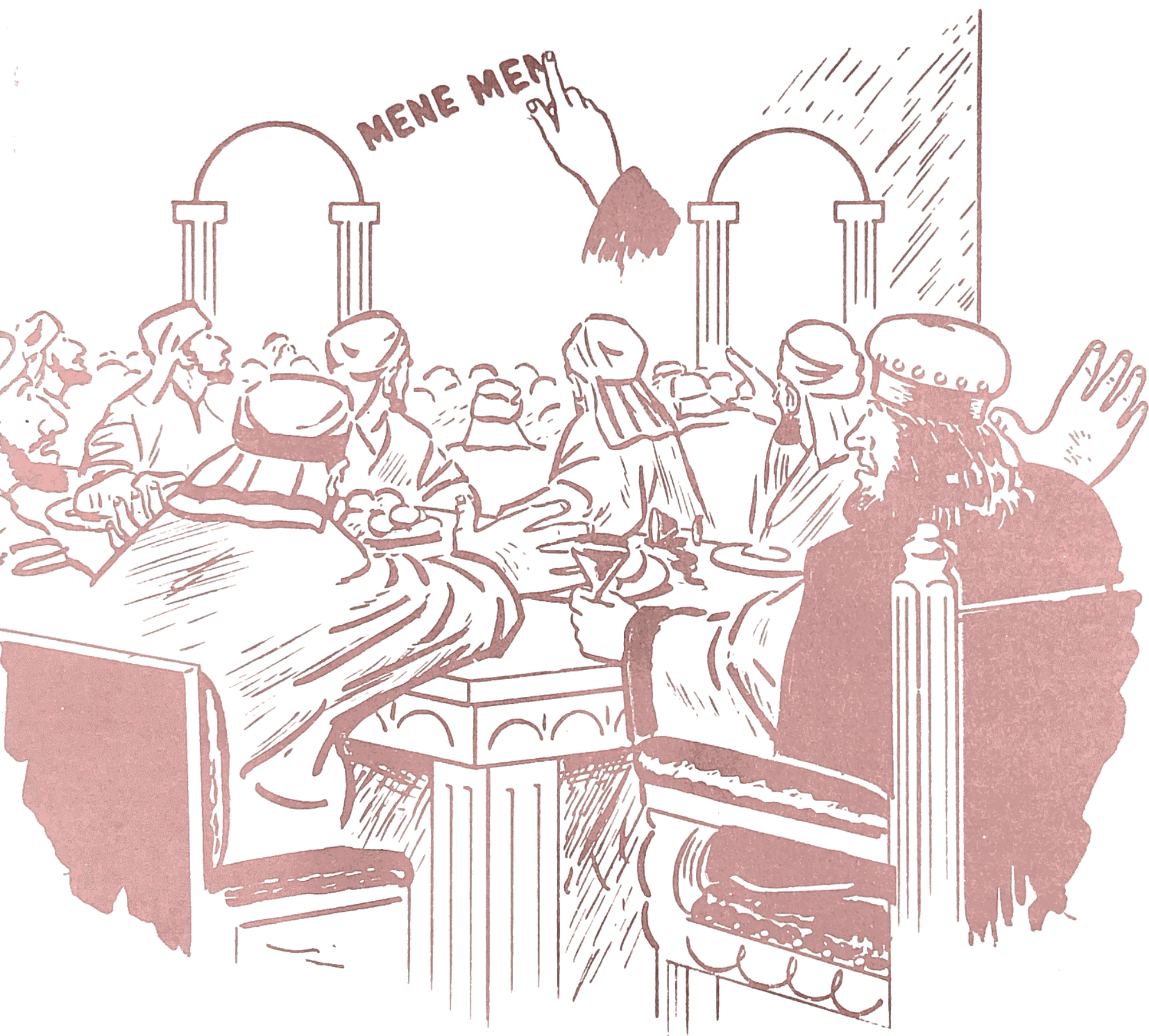


THE SHINDIGGER'S LAST SHENNANIGAN



By Dr. Harold B. Sightler

THE
SHINDIGGER'S
LAST
SHENNANIGAN
OR
BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

Also

WHO IS THE HOLY GHOST?

and

THE TITHE

For the originality of the title of this
booklet, I owe acknowledgment to my friend,
Rev. J. H. Lowe, Knoxville, Tennessee.

BY
DR. HAROLD SIGHTLER

THE SHINDIGGER'S LAST SHENNANIGAN

OR

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

DANIEL 5

Nowhere in the Scriptures is there such a vivid picture of the debauchery of the human mind as the picture in Daniel 5. In verses 1-4, "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels, which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink there in. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king and his wives, his princes and concubines drank therein. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stone."

Here is a "shennanigan" attended by 1000 of the closest friends of the king. Nothing was spared to entertain these "guests" with the wildest of affairs. What an insight to the moral fibre of the "lords". These were the elite group. They were the upper "600" of society. Not only did 1000 of them accept the invitation of the king but "Belshazzar led them into drinking wine." The pet weapon of Satan to inflame the minds and enrage the passions of men—"wine." The trend has never changed.

Can you imagine this picture? Can you not almost hear the subdued music? Can you not hear the shuffling of the feet of the dancers? Can you not see Belshazzar as he leads these into such a night of revelry, a night in which nothing was spared? With all that is vile, base and of the flesh; thus we see **THE SHINDIGGER'S LAST SHENNANIGAN**. The title Shindigger fits exactly for Belshazzar. A "shindigger" is a light-hearted, frivolous person given over to revelry. Such a "shindigger" fits right into a "shennanigan" which is an affair or gathering of such persons.

Note, second, **THE SHINDIGGER'S DESECRATION**. Verse 3 "Then they brought the golden vessels which were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem: and the king, his princes, his wives, and his concubines, **DRANK** in them." Not only does Belshazzar sink to a heart-breaking low

with his "shennanigan"; but he goes even lower by bringing in the holy vessels out of the temple of God and drinks wine out of them.

Is this not like the growth of sin and its power over the sinner? When under the sway and the power of sin; there is no limit to the depth sinners sink. Not only does Belshazzar defile his body and soul with this "feast"; but he steps into the realm of religion to defile that which is holy. Satan, not satisfied with moral desecration, leads Belshazzar into terrible sins of the spirit. He defies God and all that is holy.

Even while the "feast" was at its highest point; there must have been "the still small voice" entreating this king to turn from such. This voice, no doubt, warned of coming judgment for such revelry. Satan attempts to stifle out this "voice" by making the king bold and brazen in his defiance of all that is high and holy.

To accomplish this, the golden vessels from the temple are brought into this feast. These, already drunken upon wine, sink to a new low by actually drinking wine from the holy things. Such is the method of the devil today. Those who follow Satan into the life of moral debauchery soon awaken to find that there is a hatred for God and for things holy in their hearts. They hardly know how such ever came into themselves. It is there, nevertheless.

Let us go one step further. Note THE SHINDIGGER'S IDOLATRY. Verse 4, "They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stone." Notice, "they praised the gods . . ." They had sunk as low morally as possible. They had gone one step further and had defiled the holy things of God. Now, Satan has lead them on downward in this fatal highway by causing them "to praise the GODS of gold, silver, iron, wood, etc. . . ." Belshazzar's sin was three-fold—moral debauchery; spiritual debauchery and NOW perverted, idolatrous worship.

Is it not correct that sinners today travel the same path? The moral transgressions we see so common today lead to the second step of spiritual transgressions; and, then, ever downward to the inevitable perversion of true worship. Religion, today, affords the "shindigger" the same opportunity to this idolatry. Few preachers expose the sins of the people. Many are the folk who delight in "Belshazzar's Feast," on Saturday night only to take part in some religious program on Sunday morning. When Satan is successful in placing such an attitude in the minds of the masses, he has been successful in dooming

the souls of these into hell. Let no Sunday school teacher who has attended the Saturday night dance and who on Sunday morning will stand before some class, condemn Belshazzar. They are guilty of the same sin.

Please remember these **THREE** downward steps of the sinner. There is the **MORAL** crime at the "shennanigan" the feast; then, the **RELIGIOUS** crime with the desecration of the holy vessels; and, last, the **IDOLATRY** in the worship of strange gods. The sinner who shall travel these **THREE** downward steps is headed for the same judgment and doom of Belshazzar.

Alas, something happens at this "shennanigan". There is **THE SHINDIGGER'S JUDGMENT**. Verse 5 "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote." Notice several things about this judgment. (1) It was right. No one would deny that. Here was one of the most sinful gatherings recorded in the scriptures. No sin was omitted. Nothing was denied the one thousand "lords" which would satisfy the lust of their flesh. God did right in sending judgment that night. God always does right in visiting judgment upon the sinner.

(2) This judgment was sudden. Before Belshazzar could send the guests home; before he could repent himself; the hand appeared upon the wall to write the doom of this wicked king. Prov. 29, 1 "He that being often reprov'd and hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy." In a moment the music stopped, the dancers stood still, the wine ceased to flow, the laughter was stopped. How like judgment upon souls today.

(3) This judgment was known. Belshazzar **KNEW** his time had come. Though he knew not the meaning of the words written; nor how they appeared on the wall; yet, he saw the hand and knew they were words of judgment upon himself because of his sin.

(4) This judgment was public. One moment Belshazzar was the greatest entertainer and host of all. All hands were loud in applause to him for such a feast. All the one thousand lords were highly honored to have been invited to such a feast. They were proud to have been in the company of Belshazzar, the king. Yet, in the midst of all the lords, God wrote the doom of this "shindigger."

(5) This judgment was authoritative. None of the soothsayers could read these words. These were not the words of common fortune-tellers; but the words of the Most High, Him-

self. None but Daniel, the man of God could read the meaning of them.

Next, Belshazzar, like all sinners, responds to the handwriting on the wall. Notice, **THE SHINDIGGER'S FEAR**. Verse 6 "Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another." "The king cried aloud to bring in . . ." Not the light-hearted shindigger anymore; but, a sinner "weighed in the balances and found wanting." He is like those of the Revelation who shall cry "for the rocks and the mountains to fall upon them to hide them from the face of Him that sitteth upon the throne."

Belshazzar experienced the truth of Proverbs 1,24-31 where God says, "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me, For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord; They would none of my counsel, they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."

Maybe some who shall read the pages of this message shall be warned to repent NOW. Sooner or later, your sins shall find you out. When the judgment of God falls upon you and your fear cometh, it shall then be too late to call upon God for mercy.

As in the transgressions of David, there is **THE SHINDIGGER'S NATHAN**. Verse 11. "There is a MAN in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of gods, was found in him . . ."

When the handwriting appeared upon the wall of the palace, the king sent for all the wise men, astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers to be brought in. When all had seen the writing none could read nor give the interpretation thereof. Though great gifts of gold, apparel and power was offered to the one giving the meaning of the words, none could read them. It is then that the Queen reminds Belshazzar, "There is a man . . ." She told them about Daniel.

God always has "a man". Never does sin become so open and so corrupt that God does not have a man somewhere who

shall stand against the forces of evil. God has a man everywhere who is not afraid even of the kings to declare the "whole council of God."

Indeed, this would be a morally corrupt world in which to live were it not for the forces of righteousness who hold back the forces of evil. Until the "rapture" God shall have his forces to withstand the forces of evil. The Holy Spirit is the marshal of the righteous forces against evil here on earth; and He shall let "until he be taken out of the way." We cannot imagine how far the liquor traffic would go were it not for the "Nathans" who stand against evil. The Devil has polluted society; yet, society's corruption is nothing to compare to what it would have been were it not for the restraining power of God's "Nathans."

Belshazzar's feast room became a mission station. His feast becomes the scene of revival. The noise of music gives way to the thundering voice of God's man, Daniel. The laughter of the merry-makers becomes the mourns of repentant sinners. The climax of a night of revelry becomes the altar call of a preacher. Praise God, God is almighty. The pride of a king becomes the fear of a sinner. The circle of the lords becomes a congregation of condemned sinners. The drinking of wine becomes the "wine of the wrath of God." The false prophets among the soothsayers is exposed by the clear ringing of God's word through His prophet, Daniel. The uncertainty of the soothsayers is accentuated by the announcement of "there is a man . . ." Belshazzar, who led his lords into the night of revelry, now leads them to the altar.

Then, there is **THE SHINDIGGER'S GUILT**. Verse 22-23 "And thou his son O Belshazzar hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this: But thou hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of Heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drank wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified." If you will note these two verses they reveal a fivefold **GUILT** of this king. Note (1) Thou hast not humbled thine heart. The first cause of the fall of Belshazzar was pride. His father Nebuchadnezzar fell through the same sin. It seems that Belshazzar inherited the sin of his father. Daniel reminds him that he knew of the wrath of God which fell upon Nebuchadnezzar; yet, he did not humble himself. The Bible says, "Pride goeth before a fall." The sin of pride is the father of many other sins against God.

(2) Belshazzar lifted himself up against the Lord of heaven. Great is the transgression of the man who "would have none of the counsel of God." Great is the sin of ignoring God. Here is a man who became a god to himself. Here is a man who threw off the yoke of God. This second sin is a natural result of the first, the sin of pride.

(3) Belshazzar defiled the vessels of the temple of God. Again, is this not the natural step next for the sinner to take? First, he is filled with pride; next, he puts himself above God; then he actually defies God. He engages in a deliberate war with God.

(4) Then, there is the fourth sin Belshazzar was guilty of. He began to praise the gods of gold, silver, wood and stone, etc. Does this not naturally follow the first three? When men lift themselves above God and declare war against God; it is then that they set up idols in their rebellious hearts and begin to worship at those idols. Men today "are filled with their own ways." They have taken God from the throne and have placed the gods of pleasure, money, fame, religion upon the throne instead.

(5) The fifth sin was in failing to glorify God. Though in His hands is breath and life, yet Belshazzar did not glorify God. The chief end of man is to glorify God. All creation glorifies Him. The created beings in heaven all glorify Him. God is jealous of His glory. No man, nor thing in heaven or earth shall ever share God's glory.

Then, last, **THE SHINDIGGER'S DOOM**. Verse 30. "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." Rom. 6,23 "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life." Again, the Word says "The soul that sinneth it shall surely die . . ." This night the **SHINDIGGER** had his **LAST SHENNANIGAN**. His sin caught up with him. Not only was this true in the life of Belshazzar; but it is true in the experiences of all who give themselves over to sin. Sin ever has the same "bitter end."

So, all these things I have reminded you of came in "THAT NIGHT." It was a night of **DESECRATION**, a night of **IDOLATRY**, a night of **JUDGMENT**, a night of **FEAR**, a night of opportunity for God's **NATHAN**, Daniel, a night of **GUILT**, and a night of **DOOM**.

If you are without God, will you not consider this "NIGHT"; will you not examine your own life, will you not come to Jesus **NOW**? Please do not wait until it is too late. The Word says, "Today if any man hear my voice, harden not your heart."

WHO IS THE HOLY GHOST?

JOHN 16, 1-15

This is the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. All of heaven's interest upon the earth is channelled through the person and hands of the Spirit. The sooner we face this blessed reality and come to depend upon Him; the sooner we shall enjoy revival fires. Revival is of the Holy Spirit.

Men have considered the Holy Spirit as some sort of a passive and inactive part of the God-head. They have looked upon Him as a mysterious, unthinkable influence. Too, theology has placed the Holy Spirit in an unscriptural "third person" position in the Trinity.

Most of our lifetimes, we have heard preachers refer to the Holy Spirit as the third person. Such a division of the Trinity tends to lessen the importance of this "third person." Unconsciously, Christians have come to consider the Spirit as an inferior part of God; as an unnecessary part of the Trinity. This unscriptural division of the Trinity, by calling the Spirit the "third person," has led Christians to ignore Him. And rightly so, if He is the "third person" as He has been called; then the first two persons are of greater importance. Hence, we concentrate our attention upon the first two persons, only to ignore the "third."

To be sure, the Scriptures teach the truth of the blessed Trinity. However, the Trinity is not divided into the "first," "second," and "third" persons. No, the Trinity is **THREE PERSONS**; but they are co-equal one with the other in **POWER**, in eternity, in **GLORY**. Jesus is not subordinate to the Father. No; He said, "ALL power is given unto me in heaven and earth." Paul said, "In **HIM DWELLETH** the fullness of the Godhead bodily." So, the Spirit is not subordinate to the Father and the Son; rather, the Spirit is **EQUAL** to the Father and **EQUAL** to the Son in power, eternity and glory. So, you see, we need to come to recognize the Spirit as **GOD**. He is **GOD**.

Can any of you name any one thing touching man and his relation to heaven and to the things of the soul; but that, that thing is not channelled through the Spirit? The Spirit is the agent who calls preachers into the labour; who organizes new churches where they are needed; who gives the challenge to missionaries to carry the message to the heathen; who comforts the believer when his heart is broken; who shall guide the saint all the way home; who inspires the song writers to pen great melodies about Jesus; who makes Jesus sweeter than the "honey

with the honey comb"; who opens the Word to our hungry hearts; who guides and alters the steps of the righteous; who shall present the bride to the bridegroom "some golden day-break."

If the Holy Spirit is the agent of revival and the blessing of the saint with "all spiritual blessing," then, it is not unreasonable that we would ignore such a person. My prayer is that through the words of this message you, as a believer, may get a NEW vision as to who the Holy Spirit is; and thus, may come to love Him and to recognize Him.

Let me answer the question of the subject of this message with the following truths about Him. Who Is The Holy Ghost? First, **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO REPROVES AND CONVICTS.** John 16, 8 "And when He is come he will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of the judgment." How did you come to know Jesus? Who brought you to a knowledge of your guilt before God? Who caused you to abhor yourself? Who led you to repentance? The Holy Spirit is the answer.

No man shall ever come to the fountain "opened in the House of David" for sin; except he be drawn by the Spirit. No man ever repents except the Spirit lead him to repentance. Thus we owe our knowledge of Jesus in saving power to the work of the Holy Spirit as the "reprover and convicter" of sinners.

All of our preaching and testifying is to no avail except the Spirit moves upon the hearts of the hearers. The Spirit takes the Word and by that Word "breaks up the fallow ground." It is not by great high sounding words of man's wisdom; but "by my spirit sayeth the Lord." Oh, that we may come to see our utter dependence upon Him, the Holy Spirit, to anoint the message as we give it out. Until and unless He moves upon the hearts of the unsaved masses there will never be evangelism.

Second, **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO REGENERATES.** John 3, 5 "Jesus answered and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God . . ." Men become "children of God" by birth. This birth is from above. It is a spiritual birth. John 1, 13 "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, **BUT OF GOD.**"

If these verses are true, and they are; then, it is the Holy Spirit who gives birth to the souls of trusting sinners. Spiritual birth does not come from being good, by keeping the commandments, by church membership, by reformation; **BUT BY THE SPIRIT.** The Holy Spirit becomes the "mother" of your soul. It is reasonable that we would ignore the one who birthed us into the "royal priesthood"? Ought we not love the One who

attended our birth? The One who regenerated our spirit and placed the "divine nature" in our bosoms?

Though the Spirit is all this, and more; yet, He is not recognized. He is grieved away. He is being "quenched" by religion. He is considered as not very important; as being inferior to the Father and Son. God help us to rightly understand the Person of the Spirit and to come to recognize His important ministry among the bride.

Third, THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO SEALS. Eph. 1, 13 "In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, YE WERE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT of promise." Not only does the Spirit convict, not only does the Spirit regenerate; but He seals the new born babe. He places heaven's mark upon the new convert. He seals that we may be SECURED as we journey from earth's lowlands to heaven's bliss.

Eph. 4, 30 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit, whereby ye are sealed until the day of redemption." That is "the redemption of our bodies in the rapture." It is He who keeps us from "falling" until we are presented to the waiting bridegroom. As the "servant of Abraham" placed upon the arm of Rebecca the bracelet; so the converts are given the Holy Spirit as the mark or as the seal. All heaven recognizes this seal; all hell, too, recognizes this seal. The inhabitants of this earth some day, also, shall know the power of this seal and shall come to recognize it.

The seal, also, is the guarantee that we shall some day come into the full possession of the "purchased possession." The indwelling Spirit becomes "the earnest of our inheritance." As surely as we now have the seal, the indwelling Spirit, we shall "when we see Him be made like unto Him." Heaven is ours. Even now we have part of heaven in us, the indwelling Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is commissioned not only to "call the bride" but to lead the bride all the way home. When Rebecca followed the servant of Abraham, she did so by faith. She had never been to the tents of Abraham. She neither knew the way. However, there was one with her who had been where Abraham was and who knew the way back home. What this servant was to Rebecca, the Holy Spirit IS to the bride today. We can and do have confidence that He is able to lead us all the way. Though there be many hard and dangerous places along the journey, He is able to guide. Many robbers and wild beasts may lurk along the pathway; yet, He knows where these opposing powers lurk. He is able to SAFELY lead us all the

way home to the waiting bridegroom, Jesus.

Fourth, **THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO GIVES BLESSED ASSURANCE.** Rom. 8, 16, "The Spirit, Himself, beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Gal. 4, 6 "And because we are sons, God hath sent forth the spirit of His Son into your heart, crying, Abba, Father." The birthright of every Christian is the witness of the Spirit. Nothing will so hinder the believer as doubt. It is not the will of God that His children doubt; but that, we have blessed assurance.

It is the ministry of the Spirit which supplies this assurance. It is His "still small voice" which whispers words of encouragement when the clouds of doubt hang heavy over our souls. God forbid, we ignore such a one as He who gives this "blessed assurance."

Some of you do not have this assurance. Rather, you are defeated and discouraged. The Devil has arrayed himself against you and the weapon he uses is the weapon of doubt. Why not "steal away" to some secret place of prayer and fellowship and tarry until your heart becomes flooded with the Spirit who shall bring the assurance you need. When God's Spirit begins to bear witness with our spirit; the clouds of doubt are then gone. The sunshine of victory will burst in upon your soul.

Could it be that the reason some of you do not have blessed assurance is because you have ignored and grieved the Spirit? Yes, there can be no doubt about it. The Spirit cannot work to bless and to encourage until you permit Him to move. Until you come to recognize Him as God. Praise the Lord, He is real to my heart.

Fifth, **THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO PRODUCES CHRIST-LIKE GRACES.** Gal. 5, 22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." Here are listed nine fruits of the Spirit. These are Christian graces which ought to be seen in every believer's life. If we are to "be like Him," we **MUST** develop these graces. The natural man cannot produce these. Religion can never produce them. Neither by the effort of human strength can these graces come forth. Only the spirit can develop them within your heart.

All of us have seen Christians divided one against another. Our hearts have been grieved over carnal believers. Why is there carnality among us? There is no answer except that the Spirit has not been recognized. He and he alone can develop these graces of Gal. 5, 22. Do you want to be like Jesus? Do you want to be a "living epistle" known and read of all men?

Surely you do; then, let the Spirit have His blessed way with you.

Sixth, **THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO MAGNIFIES CHRIST.** John 15, 26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the father, even the spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the father, He shall TESTIFY of me." It was Dwight L. Moody who said, "It is foolish and folly to try to do the work of Jesus without the power of the Spirit." No man can magnify Jesus unless he has first been anointed by the Spirit and filled with His power.

Long before I ever knew the ministry of the Spirit I promised God, to the best of my ability, I would honor Jesus. That I would magnify His wonderful name. Little did I realize then, the utter impossibility of magnifying Jesus without the power of the Spirit. Nothing so dishonors Jesus as powerless Christians who are like "clouds without water," who are like trees without fruit; who are like rose bushes without roses; who are like fig bushes without figs.

The Spirit filled Christian by the countenance of his face can glorify Jesus' name. The very words of his mouth are to the praise of Jesus if these words are seasoned by the Spirit. The Spirit can take "the foolish things and the things which are not" and confound the wise and the mighty. Out of the mouth of babes shall praises come forth.

It is the Spirit who makes Jesus "sweeter than the honey with the honey comb." Without the Spirit, Jesus is a "root out of dry ground." Without the Spirit, He has "no form nor comeliness" and there is "no beauty that when we see Him we should desire Him." But, through the ministry of the Spirit, Jesus becomes "fairest of ten thousands." He becomes "the lily of the valleys." The Holy Spirit to Jesus is what the frankincense was to the unleavened bread in the tabernacle upon the table of shewbread. Here was bread which the priest had to eat continually; yet, bread which to the natural taste was undesirable since it was unleavened. However, God commanded that the frankincense be placed upon each of the twelve loaves. The frankincense made the bread tasteful and desirable. So, the Holy Spirit is to Jesus. Jesus to the natural man is unleavened bread. Yet, to us who have learned of Him through the Spirit, He is sweeter "than the honey with the honey comb."

Seventh, **THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO HELPS US TO PRAY.** Rom. 8,26, "Likewise the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what to pray for as we ought; but the Spirit maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The lost art of the saints of these latter

days is the art of prayer. We seem to know well how to do great religious works; yet, few know how to pray. Few are there who pray.

I suppose, the most difficult thing Christians are commanded to do is to pray. Because of the difficulty we face in praying, most of us simply do not do much of it. We neglect this great matter. The church is not praying. The reason we do not advance any more than we do is because of the weakness and lukewarmness of our prayer life.

My friend, the reason the prayer life of the average Christian is no more healthy than it is, can be understood here. Christians just do not pray unless they are encouraged to do so by the Spirit. It is He "who helpeth our infirmities." The Spirit of man may be willing BUT the flesh is weak. It is only as we are helped by the Spirit that we will pray as we ought.

It is my honest opinion from observation of churches and Christians all over the country in my meetings; this is our **WEAKEST LINK**. Not many are praying earnestly before God. The reason, again, is that we have failed to recognize the Spirit who alone "helpeth our infirmities". Spirit filled Christians are praying Christians. Praying Christians are a blessing to others.

Eighth, **THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO GUIDES IN THE STUDY OF THE WORD**. John 14,26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Human knowledge can **ONLY** know about the Word, while the Spirit can take "the deep things and the hidden things" and reveal them unto the babes in Christ. The tap root of modernism and liberal thought is the rejection of the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. The Bible is a sealed book to those who refuse the Spirit. It is spiritually discerned, thus, never understood by the natural man.

Ninth, **THE HOLY GHOST IS THE ONE WHO EMPOWERS FOR SERVICE**. Luke 24,49, "And behold, I send the promise of the Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Power to serve God does not come from education, seminaries, and the like. These things, to be sure, are good and needful; however, without the Spirit all this is "tinkling symbol and sounding brass."

The Word has declared, "it is not by power nor by strength, but by my spirit, sayeth the Lord." The church needs a new experience with the Spirit. It needs a new filling of the power of God. What mighty victories the church could attain if we

came into this supernatural power through the Spirit. Saints in yesteryear have enjoyed this power. God has visited before upon His people, could He not do it again? Have you been filled with the Spirit?

My prayer for all of you as you face again the truth as to the Person of the Spirit is that you may yield yourself to Him

THE TITHE

Lev. 27, 30

Please notice six things about the tithe clearly taught in the Scriptures. As I send this message forth I do so with a prayer that many Christians will see the truth about tithing.

1. WHAT IS THE TITHE?

- a. A principle—not a law. All have heard the objection given that tithing is under the law. No, tithing as a principle was established long before the giving of the law.
- b. A privilege—not a burden. To tithe is to enjoy the privilege of entering into labour with God in the vineyard of souls. This is not a burden but, indeed, a joy.
- c. A plan—not a scheme. God's plan for the financing of the Gospel story. God's plan in sending the Gospel to the heathen. To some unspiritual and unthinking persons the tithe is a scheme to raise money. Nothing could be further from God's purpose in the tithe.
- d. A just and equal amount for all. The tithe is according to God's nature—JUST. The tithe is 10 per cent of the gross income. In no other area of life is man treated so justly. In economics the poor pay the same as the rich for gasoline, food, medicine etc. but with the tithe all pay according to their income.

2. WHEN OUGHT WE TITHE?

- a. As Children. Parents ought to teach their children the principle of tithing. Children ought to be given the opportunity to place part of the tithe in their churches with Mother and Father.
- b. As youth. When the first job is taken, then youth ought to begin in this ministry of tithing.
- c. As business-men. When God blesses and money is freely made men ought to give to God that which belongs to Him. Sometimes at this period it is most difficult to tithe. When the income mounts up to large figures and the tithe becomes large, the Devil will tempt the business man to forget the tithe. At this time men ought to determine to tithe.
- d. As old folk. Yes, the old and the retired ought to continue in this blessed joy of tithing. The aged ought to tithe their

retirement benefits. Tithing is our joy until life is ended.

- e. When it is easy or when it is hard we ought to tithe. Be assured the Devil will see to it that tithing will become hard. He will tempt you to believe that you cannot "afford" to tithe. I submit, you can get along better on the 90 per cent with the blessings of the Lord than you can with 100 per cent without God's blessings.

3. WHERE OUGHT WE TITHE?

- a. At the church where you are a member. Please I must qualify this statement by saying "if your church is true to Jesus and the Word. If souls are being saved and fed." It is sinful to tithe to a worldly, modernistic compromising church.
- b. At your feeding place you ought to tithe. Any Gospel ministry which is a blessing to you and feeds your souls is worthy of your support with the tithe. It is wrong to feed at one place and give your tithe to another place.
- d. Not at the Red Cross or The Community Chest. These may or may not be worthy causes: That is beside the point; the fact is, the tithe is the Lord's and is to be invested only in the Lord's work.

4. WHY OUGHT WE TITHE? Because—

- a. The Bible teaches the tithe—
 - 1. Abraham commenced it. Gen. 14, 12 "And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hands. And he gave him tithes of all."
 - 2. Jacob Continued it. Gen. 28, 22, "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house; And of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."
 - 3. Malachi Comanded it. Malachi 3, 10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts. If I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it".
 - 4. Jesus commended it. Matt. 23, 23 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites: for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."
 - 5. God ordained it. 1 Col. 9,14 "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel."
 - 6. Paul explained it. 1 Cor. 16, 2 "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God

hath prospered him, that there should be no gathering when I come.”

- b. **OF THE BLESSINGS FROM TITHING.** In Malachi God says “—prove me and see if I will not open the windows of heaven to you and pour you out a blessing—” God is under obligation to keep His promise to the faithful tither. He will.
- c. **TITHING TEACHES SELF-DISCIPLINE.** When Christians learn to handle their money they have mounted up to great heights in grace and self-denial.

5. **HOW OUGHT WE TITHE?**

- a. We ought to tithe with regularity. As Paul says,— “on the first day of the week lay by him in store as the Lord hath prospered—”
- b. We ought to tithe with determination. Except we have this spirit of determination the tither will soon cease from the privilege.
- c. We ought to tithe with discernment. We ought to **KNOW** where the tithe is going and just how the tithe is to be used. As Christians we will be held accountable for misplacing God’s tithe.
- d. We ought to tithe with honesty. The tithe is 10 per cent of the gross income. Some have the idea they are to tithe only what they have left after all the bills are paid. No, we are to tithe first.
- e. We ought to tithe with **FAITH** to believe that God is able to help us to supply all our needs.

6. **WHY I TITHE TO MY CHURCH.** I offer my personal testimony as to why I give my tithe to the church where I am a member.

- a. Because souls are saved there. I could not recommend you to tithe where no souls are being saved.
- b. Because of the missionary program of my church. Great effort is made at Tabernacle to get the Gospel to the heathen. The church supports full and partly 32 missionaries.
- c. Because of the economy of the program here at Tabernacle. No money is wasted. No suppers are paid for out of the tithe. No recreational programs use the tithe. No unnecessary staff of workers.
- e. Because of the way the money is handled. The tithe is handled by a committee of deacons. An annual accounting is made by a Certified Accountant.
- f. Because it is my duty to support the church I am a member of. That is, as long as the church is true to Jesus and the Word.

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