

EDITORIAL... The March of Events

We rejoice as word comes to us that God is moving in many quarters. The Gifts of the Spirit are being restored to the Church and, as a result, multitudes are receiving deliverance from diseases and afflictions and many are being recovered from the snares of the enemy.

From the beginning, Brother Branham and others have preached that other sign-gift ministries were on the way, and now we see this prediction rapidly coming to pass. Revivals are springing up in unexpected places. Congregations are on their face in prayer and fasting before God. Divine Visitations are being marked by the restoration of the Gifts of the Spirit.

A Warning

Let us not be numbered among those who miss this great, and no doubt, final revival. The vast majority of the people which comprise the body of true believers are accepting gratefully this new move of God in our midst. Yet it is too much to hope that all will receive it. All the weight of history is against the established church receiving it. We do well to give heed to the words of the late Dr. Charles S. Price, given shortly before he died:

"I presume that many of you will not love me for the statement that I am about to make, but I cannot be true to the Lord and my soul unless I declare what I believe to be the truth. Like every previous outpouring this glorious experience which is about to burst over the world will not be the product of an established system. Established systems may experience it and enjoy it and flow along in the clear stream of its beautiful onward flowing. Even then they may not do it as systems, but only as multiplied thousands within their borders, who are hungry for God and are spiritually conscious of the fact that there is more to follow."

We hold no brief for those who may be given to excesses, or who have a tendency to over-emphasize certain phases of the truth. Nonetheless, through faulty human instruments, God is doing His work and will accomplish His inexorable Purpose whether we go along or not.

We would give three admonitions at this time which we believe if heeded will keep this movement along Divinely chosen lines:

1. **That leaders and men whom God has chosen as instruments in this move of God, be careful to keep the work on Scriptural lines, to avoid excesses, strained interpretations of the Scripture, but at all times adhere closely to the pattern of I Corinthians 12-14. More than that, to maintain a sweet humility and at all times to labor for the unity of the Body of Christ.**

2. **That no one allow themselves to become so busy in the work of the Lord that they do not have time to really know what**

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON DIVINE HEALING

12.—Does God ever send sickness upon people, or does the devil always do it? The writer further inquires, that if the answer to the above is "No," then what about II Samuel 12:15, and II Chronicles 21:18, Acts 12:23, etc., where the Lord speaks of bringing sickness upon certain people?—J. S., Boyne City, Mich.

A.—We believe the Bible clearly answers this question. Nothing in this world can occur unless God permits it. In the Death of Christ on the Cross, Romans 8:32 declares that God "spared not his own son but delivered him up for us all." But other Scriptures show us what we all know to be true, that God did not actually put Christ to death, but the ones who were guilty of this crime, were ungodly men who took the Saviour and "by wicked hands have crucified and slain." Acts 2:23. These men were controlled by the power of darkness, another term for Satan and his evil angels. "When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Luke 22:53.

Let us notice two scriptures that speak of those guilty of the death of our Lord. Matthew 27:1-2 indicts first the chief priests and the elders: "When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor."

The other Scripture speaks of Pilate being responsible for delivering Jesus to be crucified: "Then (Pilate) released Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified." Matt. 27:26.

Now although these Scriptures speak of three different parties being responsible for the delivering up of Christ to death, everyone understands that Pilate and the chief priests were the ones who were guilty of the crucifixion of Christ.

God was not responsible for the death of

His beloved Son. True, He delivered Him up, but only in the sense that He permitted Him to come under the power of evil hands that He might die on the Cross, to accomplish the Redemption of lost humanity. Every Christian fully understands that it was Satan or the power of darkness who controlled the hearts of wicked men that conceived the daring plot to put the Redeemer to death. Likewise, it was Satan that entered into the heart of Judas and caused him to betray his Master. (John 13:27.) But as Jesus said, they could have done nothing had not God permitted them free course of action (John 19:11.) *In this sense only, God delivered Jesus to die.*

Now the Scriptures show that the same thing is true in the matter of sickness and disease coming upon the individual. The devil said to God, concerning His servant Job, "Put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will curse thee to thy face." Job 2:5. Satan knew that nothing could touch Job except God permitted it. In fact, as the devil knew only too well, the Lord had built a Hedge about Job, and though he had slyly skulked about the property of Job for a long time, he had never until now been able to get at the patriarch. But now God gave His permission for sickness to come upon Job. *But it wasn't God Who sent the sickness!* He just withdrew His protection. We are taken as it were, behind the scenes and are given the opportunity to see just who it was that put the boils on Job. It was the devil, as the next verse plainly declares. "So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." Verse 7.

God sends sickness only in the sense that, when certain circumstances arise, He permits the Hedge of Divine Protection to be broken down, so that Satan can do his evil work. As the Proverbs tell us, "The curse causeless shall not come." In the March issue of *The Voice of Healing*, in the article "Sickness as Divine Discipline," we gave the reasons for which the Hedge was broken down in the case of Job.

Freeman Meetings

Brother Freeman has been inactive for the past two months, but is scheduled to begin in San Francisco, April 17; Glad Tidings Temple.

THE VOICE OF HEALING CONTINUES

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St. Louis Meeting

The recently scheduled Branham campaign in St. Louis had to be closed prematurely, due to inability to get the Kiel Auditorium, as previously planned. These are circumstances entirely beyond our control, nevertheless we wish to apologize to our readers who may have been inconvenienced by the change.