

The Great Sacrifice

*A Message by
Fred Pruitt*



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A message delivered by Fred Pruitt

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We have some of the Word of God on our heart this morning that we want to deliver. We feel it very important for the saints of God to know, because we are living in perilous times. There are many things taking place today that ought to interest us as God's children, because we are living in the closing up days—I believe in the last of the last days—and these things are taking place very fast in these days. I believe we have a Scripture somewhere in the Bible that speaks about the Lord bringing things to a kind of a “jerk” (1 Thess. 5:2, 3) in the end that will come suddenly upon the people unawares.

We want to be prepared for the things that are upon us and for the conditions that are existing in the times in which we are living. If the enemy can keep covered up from us, God's children, he has the advantage of us; but if we can expose him and bring him out into the open where we can see him clearly, it gives us an opportunity to know how to come against him.

There are many different religions in the world—an abundance of them—but there is only one true religion, and that is the religion that the Lord Jesus Christ brought to us through salvation. While we have much religion in the world, we have only one Way and one Truth. Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” John 14:6.

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We want to bring to you something concerning the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:19). It is raging in the world at present more than some people think. Many people tell us that this is a literal battle; but we understand that the battle of Armageddon is a spiritual battle in the ecclesiastical heavens, which is truth against error. It is not being waged in Korea, but right here. Yes, there is something going on there; however, we have a greater battle on hand than they have there; and we have a Captain who never lost a battle. It doesn't matter how things seem to go, He will give us the victory in the end.

Let us read some of God's Word, beginning with Heb. 12:25: "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven." The Lord came from heaven to this earth. He spoke to us from heaven. In olden times they had the law, prophets, etc., then Jesus came, and He is speaking from heaven to us, and He is the one we must hear. When the disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration and a cloud overshadowed them, they heard a voice out of heaven which said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him." He is the one to hear, and He is talking to His people today. He talks to them; He reveals things to them; and He is giving it to us that we may know how to fight the good fight of faith and prove to the Lord in the end that we are willing to die for His name's sake. Only those who keep on the breastplate of faith and love and salvation will God take into the glory world—those who have on the breastplate of righteousness, faith, and love, and keep facing the enemy unto the end are the ones that get into glory.

Many of God's soldiers run well for a season, but in time of temptation they turn away. We find that there is a great falling away in Christendom now. Many soldiers have come on the scene, have

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proven unfaithful to God, and have lost out in their souls. God will stay with you only so long as you stay with Him. When you begin to back up and turn away from God's will and way, I say you are losing ground and losing favor with God. If you continue, it won't be long until you have no God in your soul.

The Lord has revealed some things to me. Somehow, He wants me to read just a little more. I didn't have this on my mind, but we want the Lord to have His way. I shall talk plainly because I am persuaded that we have not long here to fight the devil, and he must be dragged out in the open so people can see him and know where he is and how he works.

You know we have what we call a reformation. It started a good while ago—along in the 80's—and the Word of God went forth in truth and righteousness and the sword of the Spirit cut right and left and God got out a people to follow Him. But as time went on, the enemy got in his work.

I am going to read something to you out of the Word of God that will help you to know what God revealed to me about the condition that is existing with people who have taken up with the world and its ways. I say that many a soldier, **many a soldier**, has been slain in the battle. Many a one has laid down the sword, so to speak. They may go on with a profession and have a lot of the words that they formerly spoke, etc., and they deceive many people; but, after all, God has a true people who have never turned their backs on His Word and truth, and who are facing the enemy today with the breastplate of righteousness on, and they are holding up the shield of faith, warding off the fiery darts of the enemy. They are the ones who are conquering now, and they are the ones who will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air someday.

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We read in Jude, “Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father”—notice that Jude is writing to a certain class of people. No doubt there were many people following along in those days, but he was writing to certain ones to encourage them to be faithful, to keep right on contending for the faith. There were some, no doubt, who had already given up, and Jude knew that. That is why he wrote this letter. He says, “Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ and called.” Those are the ones he is writing to; and those are the ones God wants to talk to today. They are the ones who are in the battle; the ones upon whom God is depending to carry His truth right on against the forces of evil, the religious forces of evil, that are in the world. He says, “Mercy unto you”—He knew we needed a lot of mercy from God—and peace and love be multiplied.” He just wanted to encourage those who were standing true. “Peace and love be multiplied.” Be encouraged! I am encouraged today because we have the promise that God is going to give us the victory in the end. It may look like defeat sometimes to us. It looked like defeat to the disciples when God allowed the enemy to take the Son of God and crucify Him and put Him into the grave. It looked like defeat to them, and they were sorry and troubled over it; but it wasn’t defeat. The Lord came on the scene and resurrected the Son of God and He came forth, visited with the disciples, talked to them, and encouraged them before He ascended up to heaven. And He gave them a promise that they should receive the Holy Spirit and be endued with power from on high to face the enemy, to war against sin, against evil, against wickedness of every kind.

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and

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exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Oh, he wanted them to be of good courage. Brethren, be of good courage. Be of good courage! Earnestly contend for the faith in the face of the enemy, in the face of the foe, in the face of the religions of the enemy in the world. Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. You will save your soul and those that hear you.

Now listen, here is what he wanted to get to: “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” God, through His Spirit, when we were meditating upon the condition that existed, revealed to us the condition that existed in the reformation. Its own leaders had begun to love the world, had begun to love position and honor of men and money, etc., and gradually they lost God out of their hearts. Whenever God is out of your heart you are an ungodly man. It doesn’t matter how nice you seem to appear; how clever you are. You may have a lot of hospitality, you may have a great knowledge of the Word of God and be able to speak fluently and sway the people, but if God is out of your heart, you are an ungodly man. This reads, “They crept in unawares.” Nearly all of the saints were unaware of that thing creeping in. They weren’t aware of it. These men had their positions, they were in the lead, and they held the condition of things in their own hands—mostly—so they got the people attached to the world and many things that are evil and ungodly, catering to the world and worldly religions around them, until now they are no better than all the cold sects that are in the world—maybe in worse shape. Now, the same things will take place with us if we do not watch and see to it that we keep a love for this self-denying, crucified way in our hearts. The

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Word says that because they loved not the truth, God sent them strong delusion that they might believe a lie and be damned.

I say this is the Truth that we have. It is God's Truth. It was God's truth in the beginning. It was God's Truth when D. S. Warner preached it, and it is God's Truth now. It has not changed, and will not change. Men may change—men may turn it down—may go their own way, go back to the world and its ways and receive their salaries and ease and comforts of life and the honor of men and all that, but I say that the truth that God Almighty has brought to the earth, and that has been spoken to us through the Son of God is going to stand the judgment shock. You and I are going to have to love this Truth if we stay in it. You are just as subject to a delusion as anyone else. When sufferings come and distress and trouble, and it seems the enemy is pressing you beyond measure, hold your faith in God. Face the enemy with the breastplate of faith and righteousness. Hold up the shield of faith against the devil. Fight the good fight of faith, fight it unto the end—God will honor that and you will have a home in glory. If you don't face the enemy and remain faithful to God, you will lose your reward. You may gain things here in this world—you may gain the honor of men, fame, money, ease, and all such things, but you won't get into glory that way.

I just felt like the Lord wanted me to bring that out. We do not have it in for those people; we feel sorry for them. They are to be pitied rather than anything else. They have lost the battle, they have lost the fight, they have given it away, and they have been overcome. Oh, if we could just get hold of them and bring them back to where they once were so that we could have that sweet fellowship, it would be the delight of our souls, but we see they are gone and you can hardly reach them at all—very few of them. God is trying His best to get the truth to them, and He stirs them. Sometimes we see them

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splitting off and saying they are getting back to the old truth; but they don't get back to the old Truth. Why? They get back part way—just part way—but they don't throw off the whole yoke. You will find them going on just like the others went. I say they are going to have to make a clean sweep, going to have to make a clean sweep of the whole thing—get the roots out. Yes, cut them right out; not only chop the sprouts off, but also get right down and cut it out of the soul—become root-cutters. We want something more than just sprout cutters. God must have someone who will get right down at the root of this thing and cut it right out. Those things get into the hearts. That is why they were moved. We find in the Word of God, “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.” Whatsoever you have in your heart will issue out. Those fellows began to drink of the world, began to drink of it little by little and the more they drank of it the weaker they became, and finally they were just overcome by the world and its ways, and they go on like the others. Dear ones, we do not want to bring out anything from them. Leave it all there. Leave it with them.

Now we turn and read from Hebrews 12: “Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.” I understand by “earth” that it means these things that are taking place, like wars, the turmoil, and the troubles in the earth that are taking place—nations sometimes being overcome; other nations overriding them. The Word says He is not only shaking earth, but also is shaking heaven. Heaven is the ecclesiastical heaven where the spiritual warfare is raging today. It is not in the earth, so to speak, but it is in heavenly places. So we have a war on hand.

The apostle Paul understood this thing when he said at the end of his life, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course.” He fought a good fight. Oh, brethren, let us fight a good fight.

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“And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Oh, are we going to be shaken? Will you let things shake you, become trembling and weak and run from the enemy? God forbid that we do that. God does not want us to make any peace with the enemy. Make no peace with him. Face him. Hold true before him, and if you can’t do anything else, just stand still facing the enemy. Do not get your back to him. Hold your faith in God and watch God work. He will come in time. He may wait awhile, but He comes in time. God has us on the battlefield, and we are going to have to witness for Him or lose the reward. Many have been slain on the field; strong men, stalwart men have been slain on the field of battle. They have given up the fight; they have given way to easy ways. They have failed to keep loving the truth of God’s Word. Oh, we want to love the truth of God’s Word. If we do not, we shall be defeated; we shall go down. Verse 28: “Wherefore, we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; For our God is a consuming fire.” Oh, I say, He is a consuming fire. He is consuming your enemies for you. By His Spirit working in the world, He brings down high looks; He brings down the proud and lowers them. I say that when God shows Himself strong against the enemy, who is against you, you will find that the enemy just wilts away. The devil cannot stand against the power and Spirit of God that is working in the world.

Now let us read from Ephesians 6, the apostle Paul writing, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” The devil is a wily old fellow. He is a deceitful fellow. He is too strong for man. If we don’t keep Christ in our souls, we shall go down. Paul says, “For we wrestle not

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against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Spiritual wickedness is up in high places today. They have their strongholds, they are fortified for the battle and are as the sands of the sea in the world, just everywhere on every hand, and God’s people are just a remnant—just a small handful, one might say, in the world today. It might look to us like we should just sit down and quit. “Why,” we might say, “we can’t go against such a host of people as that. Just look at them forming over the hill, everywhere.” God wants us to get our eyes open like the servant of Elisha, to see what God has. We are just a small bunch of folks, but we have the hosts of all the angels by our side—an innumerable company of angels. Thank God! We have the victory. Get your spiritual eyes open and you will be braver than you ever were before. You know this is where the enemy gets the advantage of us. He gets our eyes closed. We become careless, maybe, and don’t pray much and don’t go up against the enemy—won’t keep on the spot like we ought to.

One of those men that led the van some time ago (by the name of Smith—he wrote some books) was quite an instrument in the hands of God. It is said they wanted to attach “D. D.” to his name, but he refused. Many of you know him. I am just making this plain because we love their souls, and we love your souls, too. We want to tell you the truth about these things. And so, they wanted him to put “D. D.” to his name, but he didn’t want to. He knew it wasn’t right. God had taught him better than that. But they brought pressure against him and said, “If you don’t—” Well, he knew what they would do, so he gave way to it. He lost the fight. He made excuses by saying they put him on the spot. I say, stay on the spot for God. Let the hosts array themselves against you. Stay on the spot for God. Be true to Him at any cost. Men have no heaven for you. Companies

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of men have no heaven for you. God alone has a heaven for you to go to. When they put him on the spot and the pressure was put against him, he yielded to it. May God help us to see how the devil works. He may try to pull the same tricks on some of us in different ways and manners. The old devil is wise; he is cunning.

Paul says, “Put on the whole armour of God.” The apostle Paul understood what spiritual wickedness was in high places. He was on the devil’s side at one time in those high places, persecuting the children of God, binding them, and taking them into prison; but God got hold of him and he became a warrior for God. The Lord won a warrior when He got the apostle Paul. He was acquainted with the tricks of the devil. It made him bold to go up against the enemy in different places and ways and manners, and he fought the good fight right unto the end in the ecclesiastical heavens, and he won the battle. He saw the crown in that day laid up for him.

The Word of God! I feel like jumping! I have a crown over there—I have to be faithful, though. We are going to have to be faithful. Praise the Lord!

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood.” Why? If it were just flesh and blood we were wrestling against, that would not be so bad; but when those spirits—religious spirits—get hold of men and claim to be God’s ministers, you have to go up against them. They have great influence in the world and over the people; you are going up against a host of people, and it means something to stand against them. Some people do not think the devil has any power. I tell you, he has much power; but our God has power above his power. God overrules him, and though it may seem that we are defeated at times and it does look that way, we know that Jesus Christ is winning the fight for us and He moves right on.

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Paul says, “Against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Sometimes you just do all you know to do, then just stand. Don’t back up; don’t turn your back to the enemy. God never furnished you a shield for the back, only for the front. He wants us to face the enemy continually. He says, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication for all saints,”—He says, “Praying always.” Prayers are swords; prayers are weapons. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. He wants us to be well acquainted with the Word of God. He wants us to have that and then wield it against the enemy right and left. Fight the good fight of faith. Move right on.

In times gone by when God was dealing with Israel, sometimes His wrath was so kindled against the people that at times the earth opened up and swallowed the people. Sometimes God allowed the enemy to slaughter them—there was a great slaughter of the people, a great slaughter of Israel. God allowed that because of their wicked condition.

In Ezekiel 9:1, we read, “He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.” The called-out ministers are no doubt the ones that have charge over the City of God. They are made responsible to watch over the flocks and keep out the wolves. The destroying weapon in their hand is the

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Word of God, for it will kill and make alive. People who reject its light will be destroyed. Their souls will be destroyed.

If you reject light, it will bring death to your soul. It is a destroying weapon in the hands of God's people—a slaughter weapon. I want to read from Jer. 15:3—but a little more here: “And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in and stood beside the brasen altar.” When a soul is saved, his name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life; but if that soul commits sin, his name is blotted out. It is just blotted out. God is taking care of the books. He writes the names down, and if a soul fails God, runs from the enemy, his name is blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life. This ought to be a serious thing with us.

Read on and you will see that they were to set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sighed and that cried for all the abominations that were done in the midst thereof. The Word of God in the ministers' hands is also called a “slaughter weapon,” and it will slay those who will not walk in the brighter shining light as we move on with God. Dear brethren, there is a great slaughter going on today in the heights of Armageddon's mountains; but those that stand true and against all evil and the hosts of the kings of the earth, God has His mark upon them and will preserve them.

Now let us read Jer. 15:3, “And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the Lord: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.” There are many spirits in the world that want to get hold of your soul. Some of them—He says here four kinds—swords to slay, and the dogs to tear. Do you know what the false preachers do

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today? They take this sword too, and they deceive the people and cause them to lose their souls. “The sword to slay and the dogs to tear”—There are all kinds of spirits in the world working against God’s children to destroy them, trouble them, and torment them in this way or that way; but we are to keep up the shield of faith. We are not to give way to those things, not to give down. They may tear you, may cause you trouble, may seem to be tormenting you this way and that way. Hold your faith in God. **Hold your faith in God.** “The fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.” Many fowls are coming on the people. We have them illustrated on this chart. An angel is calling them and they are coming to the great sacrifice that God has going on in the world. It is a sacrifice of souls. Men and women are going back on God—many of them. They are being deceived by the enemy, and there is a great slaughter of souls going on. These fowl spirits are carrying souls over into Babylon, into confusion, and holding them in their pens to be burned in the end.

Now let us read a little in Jer. 48:10, “Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.” The devil would like for us to keep the sword back from blood, make it easy on the people—not be so hard on them. He wants us to withhold the sword from blood when God wants us to let it cut this way and that way. If we get timid and withhold the sword, the Word says, “Cursed be that man.”

I think of what Bro. C. E. Orr told me one time. He said when he was a young minister with Brother D. S. Warner, he was holding a meeting at one place. He said Bro. Warner was coming down on sectism and letting the old sword go right and left, and Bro. Orr said he was just sitting there flinching for the people. He was feeling so sorry for them. On the way home he said to Bro. Warner, “Brother

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Warner, you were pretty hard on them tonight, weren't you?" Brother Warner answered, "Young man, if I had had a few 'Amens' out of you, I could have done a better job than that." I tell you, God wants the Truth to go forth. He does not want us to withhold the sword. It is a day of slaughter. We have a slaughter weapon in our hands. I say God will back up the Truth. Souls will be slain and go to their reward, but the Truth will gather out the just and clean from among the defiled and dirty and unclean. It is going to take that, dear ones, to get them out. They are in the garbage, so to speak. They are in a bad place. They are mixed up; they have been deceived. They have all kinds of things and they are in misery in that. There are honest souls tied up in those cages of men. God wants the old sword to go forth and cut them loose so they can get out of those things. Show up the thing. "Spare not," he said.

I could say much about this, but perhaps I will not have time to go over all of it. I want to hurry along with this; but I believe I shall turn and read from Isaiah, 9th chapter. What I want you to see, if possible, is that whenever you get saved and Christ is in your soul, you have a battle to fight. The devil wants to rob you of God. He wants to kill that life in your soul. God wants you to be brave and face the enemy. Keep on the spot for God. I feel that I know more now what it means to keep on the spot for God than I ever knew in my life, and I believe that God wants us all to understand why we need to be willing to bear the reproach of the cross, to sacrifice, to give up to God's will in any way and keep right on the spot for God. Let the world hate, let the religious people slander, let them scoff, and let them scorn. Bear the reproach and rejoice in it. Love this truth. Just love this truth. Thank God that you are in this way. Thank God that you can bear the reproach of the cross. Just love it. Have a love in your heart for it. You won't backslide if you do that. You won't backslide.

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In Isaiah 9:5, we read, “For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.” “Every battle of the warrior is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood, but this—” talking about our war. “Every battle of the warrior”—in a literal sense, talking about literal wars—is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood,” literally speaking in the world. That is a good description of literal battles. Many times with a great confused noise they go against their enemies and there is bloodshed. Garments are saturated with blood. Some are slain here and there. That is going on in the world, even now in Korea. But this war that we are in is not that kind of a war. “But this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.” It is the Spirit of God working. He just burns His way through.

In the last chapter of Malachi, we read, “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” They are going to be burned up in the end. A great host of them will be burned up. The fire is burning. The Holy Spirit is burning; He is cutting this way and that way. He is separating the clean from the vile. He is doing something today. I tell you that the true ministers of God who are sending forth the Word in its purity are filling sectism with converts—souls that won’t measure to the truth. They hear and in their hearts say, “This is a hard saying.” They turn away from the Truth and get into the pens of sectism to be burned in the end. There are some not doing it, but I say there are many doing it. I say we are filling sectism. Someone says, “Why, you are not doing anything, not getting anyone much converted.” We are doing more than some folks think. We are doing a lot of work folks do not know about—filling sectism. God wants His work to go on. Souls are being slaughtered because they won’t measure

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to the Truth and are filling sectism today, and God is expecting His ministers to be true. Send forth the Word; face the enemy; let the sword cut where it will; let the clean come out of her; let the vile go their way. Someone says, “Oh, don’t you have any pity?” We have just as much pity as God has. Someone may say, “Why would God open up the earth and let the earth swallow the people by the hundreds in olden times, literally, and sometimes let them go against the enemy and the enemy would slay them by the thousands? Why didn’t He have pity?” They were rebelling against God in their hearts. God was slaying them. I say people who have rebelled against the Truth in their hearts and will not receive a love for it, will be taken off, cut off with the sword, and their blood, spiritually speaking, will run out and around, and the earth around about will be covered with the slain. God will have no pity. Cursed is the man that withholdeth his sword from the blood. Cursed is that man. Whenever you begin to do that, you are weakening, you are weakening. God doesn’t want us to weaken.

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” If you want your soul to flourish, get in the battle. If you want your soul to flourish, keep on the spot. Keep on the spot for God. Do not be ashamed of Him. Jesus says, “If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before the Father and the holy angels.” Oh, if you want the blessings of God on your soul, keep right on the front, keep right against the enemy; face him, bold in the Lord. God will give you the victory and your soul will flourish and become fat. Many a soul has let the devil cow them down until they have a miserable experience. They will do some things, but they won’t do all that God wants them to do. They will do some things, but there are some little reproaches that they

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just won't bear and their souls just suffer and suffer. God won't use them, can't use them.

“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Now, we're going on in this. I want to turn and read just a little from the 14th chapter of Revelation. We want to get to these charts before us—that's why we have them here, because it seems that it would be easier to get hold of the truth with a chart than just speaking about it.

Rev. 14:14, “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.” Now listen, he said he looked and beheld a white cloud, “and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown”—He had many crowns; he had won many victories. In his hand was a sharp sickle. And another angel came out and cried “with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap: for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” Just think of it! The harvest of the earth is ripe! There are two gatherings in the last day. There is a gathering of the wicked to be burned and there is a gathering of the righteous to be taken to heaven. There are two gatherings, and the same ministers that are gathering the righteous together, are also, in a sense, gathering the wicked together. The same ministers. “Thrust in thy sickle”—hear the angel proclaiming it—”Thrust in thy sickle and reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” “And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on

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the earth; and the earth was reaped.” Jesus Christ has thrust in His sickle today—it has been thrust in and the earth has been reaped. “And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.” Now these represent God’s ministers. “Another angel.” God’s ministers are termed angels, and the Bible speaks of them as angels.

“And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry unto him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.” He didn’t say the vine of heaven. There is a difference between the vine of earth and the vine of heaven. God has a vine that is the true vine in the world to gather, but there are many false vines in the world to gather—those are the vines of the earth. “And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.”

Dear ones, I want to tell you, God’s wrath is being poured out upon the people of this world. They have forsaken the holy way; they have gone astray; they have taken up idols of different kinds. They have made up their own idols, trying to get up to God’s heaven in some other way than God’s chosen way. God’s wrath is poured out against them and the sickle is in today, and I say, it is reaping the clusters. Great companies of men are being swept into men’s pens to be held there to be burned in the end, because of the wrath of Almighty God against them.

“And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.” “Blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles”—that denotes the slaying of souls. Blood represents the killing, the slaying, and the blood came

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out of the winepress even unto the horse bridles. Just think of it! The false prophets will tell you that is the battle of Armageddon, and the real, literal blood is going to flow someday unto the horse bridles. Just think of it! The devil has all kinds of inventions to deceive God's people, if possible. The enemy is getting a multitude of people to believe his lies. God's wrath is being poured out upon the people, and He is putting in His sickle, and the sword of the Spirit is cutting right and left; and He tells us not to withhold the sword from blood. Just let the sword of the Word of God go forth in all of its purity and cleanness; reap out the clean, get out the vile, put them in the winepress, let them be trodden, and just let the blood run. Do the will of God and you will have the glory in the end. Glory to God! It is wonderful!

That's about all we have on that, so we shall turn and read a little more about this. There is something else here in the 19th chapter of Revelation, beginning at verse 11: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse." Now we turn to this place, another scene in the end of time, in this day. These things are taking place today, folks. He is looking at the ecclesiastical heaven, where the fight is going on, where this spiritual war is raging. These elements and powers and spiritual wickedness, etc. are lifted up in high places. They have themselves fortified in strong places in the world, and God's people are going to have to go up against the thing. Use the sword; dare to do God's will. Let it cut where it will. Get out the clean and let the vile go their way. God's wrath is upon them. **God's wrath is upon them.**

"Behold a white horse"—purity, cleanness—"and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True"—yes, Jesus Christ—"and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." God's people are to have on the breastplate of righteousness and faith and love, going

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forth in that condition, facing the enemy with the sword of the Spirit, letting it cut right and left, taking the clean from among the vile, and separating them. The vile get off in these other places into the pens of men, in sectism, in this company and that company, and some other places, but the clean are separated out for God and they are attached to the true vine and will be ready to be taken up to glory.

“His eyes were as a flame of fire”—He sees everything, and there are none that can look against Him with any degree of pleasure because His eyes are just like a flame of fire. When the Spirit of God is working against the enemy, you will find the enemy wilting before His power and might. He is faint and weak when the Spirit of God is working against him.

“And on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called the Word of God.” “And he was clothed in vesture dipped in blood”—that brings us back to the cross. We are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and it is said that they overcome the enemy by their testimony and by the blood of the Lamb. They wouldn’t bow to the enemy; they wouldn’t give way to him. They testified against the host of the enemy that they were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, were His redeemed people; they stood against those things and got the victory over the devil.

“And the armies which were in heaven”—look, here come the ministers following Jesus. They’re on white horses. They “followed him upon white horses”—purity, cleanness, holiness—“clothed in fine linen, white and clean.” Just clean and white; oh, glory to God! That describes the host that is following the Lord today, that is fighting the battle with the Lord, and that is going to win out. I say the people which make up this host are letting the old sword cut to

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the right and the left, this way and that way, gleaning out God's people, gathering them together for that great day. Someday the Lord is coming. Oh, get in the battle. If you are not in the battle, get in the battle and stay in the battle. **Stay in the battle.** I would rather be in the battle when the Lord comes than any place I know of. Stay right in the battle.

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword.” Now this is the battlefield, the ecclesiastical heavens, and that is what the devil was cast out of. It was not in the heaven where God was. It is this ecclesiastical heaven, this raised up spiritual condition that is in the world today. At one time the devil ruled the whole Roman Empire and had sway there in idol worship, and the angels of God with Christ fought against that “red dragon” power that was reigning in the whole world at that time, and they overcame him, it is said, by the word of their testimony and by the blood of the Lamb, and he was cast down out of his place in heaven—the ecclesiastical heaven—and the children of God triumphed over him in the early time. He went down in defeat and was down for a thousand years, or more, but the Word says he shall be loosed for a little season. The devil is loose again today, that old power; and he is making war against the saints to overcome them. That is what we are going up against in this evening time. He is loose and clothed with Communism.

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron.” Someone says, “Why, is he ruling today?” Yes, he is ruling today. You may not realize it, but it is so anyway. The rod of iron is, no doubt, the Word of God and the Truth, and there is power in back of it. God is backing His Truth up, backing up the Word of God. Jesus Christ is ruling with a rod of iron today over the nations. Someone

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may ask, “Why do we have all of this wickedness going on, and evil, in the world today if Jesus Christ is reigning?” Because men want to have it that way. If men would turn away from the devil, wickedness and evil would not be here. But men love darkness rather than light. Their deeds are evil and wicked, and they wrest the Scriptures to keep themselves in darkness. The devil has his preachers in the world by the thousands. I dare say Satan has one thousand preachers in the world to God’s one—turning them out of colleges, just thousands of them, year after year. I say God wants us to know what is going on so we can face the enemy with boldness and not give way to the powers of evil and wickedness that are in high places in the world. That spiritual warfare is going on in the ecclesiastical heavens and God is putting His people up against these things, and if we do not prove faithful, He will raise up someone that will prove faithful.

“And he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” God’s wrath is being poured out upon the people today. “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Glory to God! KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS. Oh, I would to God that the saints would live up to their privileges. Recognize them. Just dare the devil to encroach upon them. Stand their ground against the old fellow. Exercise their privileges in the Lord. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He is King over all the world. Jesus said, “All power is given to me both in heaven and earth.” What more would He want? What more power would a king want than “all power in heaven and earth?” I say Jesus Christ is reigning and ruling today over the powers of wickedness and He is bringing a lot of people into the winepress of His wrath and fierceness, and they are being trodden down today in that winepress by the power of God.

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“And I saw an angel standing in the sun.” Listen! He saw something else. This is in the ecclesiastical heaven. It is taking place in the world at present. “And he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven.” Turn there to the 18th chapter of Revelation. “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Every unclean and hateful bird—just think of it! Do you want to stay over in that place? “Come out of her, my people.” “Her” has reference to everything that has those things in it. “Come out of her.” Separate yourself from that thing. Get away from the vile and unclean or you will be pressed in that winepress with the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God—if you don’t get out of that thing. Time is short. It is closing up with a jerk in these last days and men are going to have to do something—going to have to move.

The devil has many people deceived at present. There are many folks in the world—and they call themselves “sects” too—who say all of God’s people are mixed up in all of these denominations, that you will find good people in all of them, that His church is in all of them. “Why,” they say, “We have the Church of God Baptist, Church of God Methodist, Church of God Campbellite, Church of God Nazarene, etc., why, God’s people are in all of them.” This is a lie of the devil. He wants to deceive their souls.

Bro. O. B. Wilson said there was a man who used to preach this same Truth just like you are hearing it this morning, who wrote him a letter. The man had lost his vision. He said, “We don’t need to think that any people or group of people have a corner on God or His Truth.” If we preach unity, we ought to practice that glorious

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truth. He was upholding himself for going around in these different sects.

See the blindness? There is a blindness in the world today. Whenever you lose the love of the truth out of your heart, you are subject to any old fowl spirit that comes along. That is why I say we need to cultivate a love for the truth—a love for it, I say. Not just think, “Oh, maybe it is this and maybe it is that.” The first thing you know the devil will have you and be gone with you. He has his fowl spirits right after you today. Whenever you let up, those fowl spirits will swarm right down and one of them will get you. I had a fight with one of them one time. It was a fierce fight, but the Lord gave me the victory over the thing and then the Lord gave me a vision of what took place. The Lord wants to awaken our minds to what is going on in the world. We are not fighting against flesh and blood. No, we are fighting against spiritual wickedness in high places. And the Lord showed me that old fowl when he got the whipping, why, he took his flight and went away and sat down in a tree, looking kind of sick, and he made a kind of noise. When he made that noise, pretty soon away off down in the hollow somewhere another one answered him. They have mates around. **They have mates around.** Oh, I tell you, there are many spirits in the world—wicked spirits, religious spirits—and they are in high places. They are lifted up. They have their stronghold, and God’s little ones are just going to have to go up against them. Oh, the devil is just as mean as he can be, but God is going to give us the victory. Glory to God!

I got a good thought from what Bro. Chandler said one time. He said, “When I get into a battle, I start rejoicing because I know the Lord is going to give me the victory.” He didn’t have to wait until the battle was all over to shout because he knew God was going to give him the victory. You know that is true. God is going to give

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us the victory. It may look like we are defeated sometimes. We are fighting in this warfare. Sometimes a member of God's family may become sick. The devil afflicts one and the saints of God rally and pray for that one. God shows mercy and eases the pain and the one seems to be better, but still is not completely healed, but that one is not giving up. The children of God do not give up. They continue to pray right on for that soul and that soul holds his faith in God, won't resort to remedies, won't turn away from God. They keep their faith in God, and God is watching the battle. The saints are right into it, and are praying for that one. They seemingly get victory sometimes and they think they have it, but the enemy goes charging around in different ways and comes in and gets the one down, maybe again; but the saints do not give up. They just keep praying, praying. Finally, after a while, maybe that one dies, and we might say, "Oh, we have lost the victory." We haven't lost the victory. Neither has the one that was sick lost the victory. He stood true in the sickness and is in glory. The saints have stood true, and they still have the victory. I say when the wind-up comes, God is going to show "who's who." The little group of despised saints in the world at that time will fly away to meet the Lord in the air and the whole host of the enemy will be burned up and their souls go down to hell. We haven't lost the battle. We haven't lost out because one dies on the battlefield now and then. We haven't lost the battle. We're moving right on.

"That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men." Yes, some great men are slain in battle. Oh, those fellows that are lifted up! The fowls get to feasting on them, too. All kinds of people in the world have become subject to the fowls of the air in these times. Those fowl spirits swoop down upon them.—"and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

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“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth”—not of God. God’s people are kings of heaven. These are kings of the earth. Here he is facing Christ Jesus and God’s soldiers in the world. He is of the earth, not of heaven. “—and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.” He is arrayed against God’s people today, against Christ and those that follow Him. All the hosts of the earth and the kings of the earth are arrayed against them. There are many of those spiritual kings in the world and they are of the earth. The majority of great radio preachers are of the earth and are preaching great things. They have great companies under their influence. They seemingly have a governing influence over the people, and in that sense they are called spiritual kings of the earth. They are not of heaven, but of the earth. There is one at Oklahoma City—a fellow by the name of W—. He sends his radio programs out over the earth and the people just flock to him. They just worship him—a number of people do. He is a king of the earth. He has a ruling, governing power, seemingly, to sway the people. It was told me that this man wanted to hook up with some other lines for his radio speeches and he wanted the people to send him \$20,000.00. It is said that the people sent their money in until he had \$60,000.00 on hand. Kings of the earth. People are holding them up today all over the land. Sometimes I wonder how much of the saints’ money goes to such places. Shame on us! We ought to know better than that. That is why we need this truth that we are giving you today. Get away from those kings of the earth. Do not support them with your means. Do not listen to them. They have poison for you. I say God wants us to come out clean from the thing—come out clean! Do not mess up with the world. God has a clean people and that is the only kind of people He will ever have. If you want to be free, get loose from the world. Cut loose from all these things. Jesus said, “If the Son makes you free, ye shall be free

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indeed.” Sometimes we preach on worldliness and some folks do not like it. They say, “You are not going to bring me under bondage.” They are already under bondage. That is what is the matter with them. If they would measure up to the Word of God they would be free, wouldn’t be under bondage any more. The truth is what makes one free. If you dabble around with the world and fix up like the world a little, more or less, it weakens you, IT WEAKENS YOU, and you will not love the truth like you ought to love it. God wants us to love this truth. Love it! Oh, if we love it, folks, we just embrace it and we just love to go down the street saintly dressed, even if people say, “Look at that old fogey going down there. Look at that woman going there with that girl. Why, look at that long dress on that little girl. What’s the matter with her?” They just eye you. I say, stay on the spot for God. Keep free from this world. Do not tog up like this world. Do not be associated with this world. Show to God that you love Him above these things. God will be with you and you will have freedom.

Someone might say, “You just ought to listen to that radio preacher. Oh, what a great sermon he preached!” Ah, you didn’t know he was baiting you. He has some poison there. [A lot of people won’t go to a sectarian meeting house, but they will just let the sectarians come in through the radio and hold a meeting in their homes.] I say when these fellows go to gobbling over the radio, you had better shut it off. Turn it off. You will poison your children. You will have them poisoned and will have them going out after sectism. You know, we do not want to be associated with that class of people. We live on the mountain top. They are in the fog. Do you want to get down there with them? God wants us away from them. God says, “Come out of her, my people.” “Touch not the unclean thing and I will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters.” God will be a father to you, if you will just get cleaned up. There are

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so many things to get cleaned up from. There are so many things that the devil gets on people. You may clean up from one thing and the first thing you know there is something else. The old gospel plow got to working one day on my heart and it turned up some things that I did not want to own, but they were there. Say, we had better own the thing and get rid of it. You know what David said, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Psa. 66:18. If you have something wrong about you that you sort of love, it will cut God off from hearing your prayers—some evil thing. Someone says, “I do not see why God does not hear my prayers.” You just look a little. Let the old gospel plow turn some things up and then be ready to get rid of them. If you keep loving the thing, you will go right on anyway. Get rid of it and God will hear your prayer. Take the thing out of the way. Let the Lord burn it up for you. The Lord doesn’t want us to hold on to any of these things. To regard anything is to have respect for it—have a love for it, a kind of concern for it. If you have some questionable things you are holding on to that you will not let loose of, they will hinder your prayers. David said, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” He will not hear you if there is something about you and in you that you love, are holding on to—it may be some little worldly thing, some little trinket, maybe you just want to adorn with some little thing (some of these young fellows may want to have a coat with a make-belief handkerchief sticking out of the pocket, just a little thing. Someone may say, “Oh, this little old pin, this little old thing, it doesn’t matter.”)—let’s get rid of everything.

The devil’s preachers make a big show in the world. I tell you, if we preach the truth, we had better live up to it. I know I have preached the truth and gone home and taken a cry and asked God to help me to live up to what I preached. I tell you we had better do it. God will help us to do it if we furnish the willingness. We had better

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live up to what we preach. If we don't, we won't be loving the truth and the first thing we know we will be getting a delusion from God because we love not the truth, and will be damned. That's the way they go. Just a little. People have given way to the world, gone back on God. I say, God's wrath is being poured out. This winepress is running out blood to the horse bridles because the whole world today, seemingly, religiously speaking, is turning its back on God, having a form of godliness and denying the power thereof.

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

I tell you the fowls have a big feast in the world today. These old fowl spirits are just getting the people by the thousands, and getting them under deception here and there. And they are working up a world religion today, calling it “Union,” the great church of God. There was a time when there were not so many churches of God. In D. S. Warner's time, I do not suppose there were any besides what he preached, and it was quite different from what it is today. They tell me there are about forty or fifty different brands or bunches calling themselves “The Church of God.” That Scripture is being fulfilled over in Isaiah, chapter 4: “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach.” They just take what they want out of the Word of God; they just eat what they want, and clothe with just what portions they want to clothe with, but they won't take the whole Word of

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God. They want the name “Church of God” because they know it is the correct name, and they want that name. I am ashamed of some of these churches of God that are in the world today. I think of what happened at Guthrie one time. A preacher came into the office selling Bibles. He was quite talkative, and after he had talked awhile he asked, “Of what faith are you?” I kind of hesitated. We have four churches of God right around there close. Some of them are almost a disgrace to the Lord. I hesitated awhile, then said, “Well, sometimes I hesitate about saying I belong to the church of God because we have so many churches of God around here and some of them are doing in such a way I kind of hate to say I belong to the church of God.”

“Well,” he said, “I am an independent holiness preacher, and that is the way it is with me. Every old scoundrel that gets kicked out of the different churches gets to be an independent holiness preacher.” He was in a bad shape too.

The world is in an awful shape. It is in AN AWFUL SHAPE! That is why we must get this truth to the people. This thing must go forth. The sword of the Word of God is going to have to cut here and there, this way and that way.

If I have time, I would just like to say a little more about those three unclean spirits like frogs that came out of the mouth of the false prophet, the beast, and the dragon. It won’t take so long. I believe we need to know something about that.

Rev. 16:12, “And the sixth angel poured his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” According to Smith’s Bible dictionary, the word “Euphrates” means “good and abounding.” “Good and abounding.” This Euphrates being dried up symbolizes the kings of the earth, these fowls of the air to come in

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and get possession. That is what we are fighting against now. We are fighting against spiritual wickedness in high places.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” Now the dragon represents that old red dragon power that ruled the whole world through the Roman Empire when Christ was here and the disciples followed Him. The Bible describes it in Rev. 12:9, “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.” The saints had to fight against that power, and they overcame, it is said, by the word of their testimony and the blood of the Lamb. That old power, called the Devil and Satan, was cast out of heaven—ecclesiastical heaven—and went down in defeat. But there arose up another power under the cloak of religion, which the Bible calls the beast power. It went about to deceive the people, and for one thousand years or more they ruled and had authority. They slew the children of God. They were slain by the thousands during the dark ages of Catholicism. That was the beast power.

And then came the false prophet, which is sectism. This came on the scene and began to rule, have authority, etc.; but Euphrates (spiritually and true holiness in sectism) dried up and made room or opening for the kings of the east to come in, spirits of different kinds, and take hold of people who have dried up spiritually. Their salvation is dried up, and now they are subject to any kind of old spirit that comes along and gets hold of them. They have no power to resist them and the spirits just flock down on the people by the thousands, swarming down on the people today, taking them in.

And then we find after this, those unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the old red dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. “For they are the

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spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Not the kings of heaven. God’s people are kings of heaven, kings and priests unto God. But the kings of the earth go forth to deceive the people.

Dear ones, that is going on in the world today—unclean spirits like frogs are working miracles. Someone may say, “Well, I wonder where they are? They must be an awful looking class of people to be in that condition.” No, they do not look so bad, just to look at them—pretty nice kind of folks, very religious, friendly, hospitable. Oh yes, just a lot of them are in the world. Say, we need to love the truth. We need to keep a love in our hearts for the truth. Those spirits like frogs are in the world working miracles. Just a lot of this miracle working in the Pentecostal and other movements is nothing but the unclean spirits coming out of the mouth of the false prophet, working miracles to deceive the people in some damnable thing that will cause them to lose their souls in the end. We may well put these things right where they belong. Let the people know where the devil is working. Keep away from those things.

“Three unclean spirits like frogs.” I am told that a frog has barbs on his tongue. When an insect gets close to a frog, he snaps out his tongue and brings the insect in. “Oh, I think I will go down there. Those people are very spiritual down there. I think I will go down and see.” You had better stay away from there. Many a one has gone down there from curiosity and the old thing snapped out his tongue and hooked them in. Better stay away.

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” Jesus is coming. Just think of it!

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Oh, we could say so much along this line. This is just a little of it. I just wanted to bring this out because it came in with this message so clearly. I feel that we need to be warned about these things, the influence and power of those spirits. That is what we are working against. It is not flesh and blood. It is spiritual wickedness in high places. They have power, they have influence, and they are coming against you. They want to kill your soul and drag you off into some pen somewhere and keep you for the burning. Jesus said, “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit . . . If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.” I say, if you are losing out with God, you are subjecting yourself to men of this world—the spirits that are in the world will grab you and take you off into a pen somewhere to be burned in the end. They may call their pen the church of God, or church of Christ for deceptive purposes. The devil is working that way. We need to watch these things and keep clear from them in the world. Oh, God has a people in the world, but they are not tangled up with this world. Jesus said to His disciples, “Ye are not of this world even as I am not of this world.” He was talking to the religious people of His day, and He said, “Ye are from beneath. I am from above. Ye are of this world, I am not of this world.”

Dear ones, when we get saved, we are born from above. Our knowledge and wisdom and grace comes from God out of heaven, and we are no more of this world than our Lord and His disciples were of this world. Amen.

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