

New Zealand Sermons

(The following messages were preached by Smith Wigglesworth in Wellington, New Zealand, in May 1922. They were transcribed by the Rev. Harry V. Roberts and are published by the kind permission of his grandson, the Rev. Ian Bilby, president of the Elim Church of New Zealand)

Note: This sermon was preached during a time when the glory cloud of His Immanent Presence was manifest to provide. Smith is here exhorting his hearers to make use of this extraordinary opportunity to strengthen their position in faith and grace, and especially to enter His Rest. Smith did not write this. Others wrote down his words to bring them to us- grammatical errors and all! “Sanctification of the Spirit” is yet another euphemism for “His Rest” and “entire sanctification”. TP

Sanctification of the Spirit

I want to read to you a few verses from First Peter 1. I believe that God wants to speak to us to strengthen our position in faith and grace.

Beloved, I want you to understand that you will get more than you came for. There is not a person who hears me will get what he came for. God gives you more. No man gets his answers to his prayers. He never does, for God answers his prayers abundantly above what he asks or thinks.

Don't say, “I got nothing”.

You'll get as much as you came for and more. But if your minds are not willing to be yielded, and your heart not sufficiently consecrated, you will find that you are limited on that line, because the heart is the place of reception. God wants you to have receptive hearts to take in the mind of God. These wonderful Scriptures are full of life-giving power. Let us read the first and second verses. There are some words there I ought to lay emphasis on.

“Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you, and peace be multiplied.” 1 Peter 1:1,2

I want you to notice that in all times, in all histories of the world, whenever there has been a divine rising or revelation —God coming forth with new dispensational orders of the Spirit — you will find that there have been persecutions. You take the case of the three Hebrew young men, or Daniel, or Jeremiah. With any person in the old dispensation, as much as in the new, when the Spirit of the Lord has been moving mightily, there has arisen trouble and difficulty. What for? Because of three things very much against revelations of God and the Spirit of God.

First, humanity — flesh — natural things are against divine things. Evil powers work upon this position of the human life, and especially when the will is unyielded to God, then the powers of darkness arise up against the powers of divine order, but they never defeat them. Divine order is very often in a minority yet always in majority. Did I say that right? Yes, and I meant it also. You have no need to fear, truth stands eternal. Wickedness may

increase and abound, but when the Lord raises His flag over the saint, it is victory; though it is in minority, it always triumphs.

I want you to notice the first verse because it says *scattered*, meaning to say they did not get much of the liberty of meeting together. They were driven from place to place. Even in [the days of John Knox](#), the people who served God had to be in close quarters, because they were persecuted, hauled before judges, and destroyed in all sorts of ways. They were in minority but swept through in victory. So *may* God bring us into perfect order that we may understand these days that we may be in Wellington in minority, yet in majority.

Have you read the astonishing story of John Knox? What a read!! It is said that Mary, Queen of Scots feared his prayers more than armies. She was wise to so fear. John's prayers dethroned her Catholic Highness to end the cruel and grasping Popish hegemony over Scotland to usher in freedom and the Presbyterian Church. TP

The Holy Ghost wants us to understand our privileges, elect, according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the Spirit. Now this word “sanctification of the Spirit” is not on the lines of sin cleansing. [It is a higher order than redemption work](#). The blood of Jesus is rich unto all, powerful and cleansing. It takes away other powers and transforms us by the power of God. But when sin is gone, yes, when we are clean and know we have the Word of God right in us, and the power of the Spirit is bringing us to a place where we triumph, then comes revelation by the power of the Spirit lifting us to higher ground, into the fullness of God, unveiling Christ in such a way. It is called sanctification of the Spirit.

Make no mistake here! Read this with discernment! Smith is not discussing the pardon that comes with conversion or the power that comes with Pentecost but rather, the purity that comes to those who enter His Rest. TP

“Sanctification of the Spirit”, elect, according to the foreknowledge of God. I don't want you to stumble at the word *elect*, it is a blessed word. You might say you are all elect; everyone in this place could say you are elected. God has designed that all men should be saved — this is election. Whether you accept, and come into your election, whether you prove yourself worthy of your election, whether you have done this, I don't know. But this is your election, your sanctification, to be seated at the right hand of God.

The word *election* is a very precious word. To be foreordained, predestinated — these are words that God has designed before the world was to bring us into triumph and victory in Christ. Some people play around and make it a goal. They say, “Oh, well, you see, we are elected. We are all right.”

They say they are elected to be saved, and I believe these people are very diplomatic (because) they believe others can be elected to be damned. It is not true! Everybody is elected to be saved, but whether they come into it or not is another thing.

Many don't come into salvation because the god of this world has blinded their eyes lest the light of the glorious gospel should shine unto them. What does it mean? It means this, that Satan has got mastery over their minds, and they have an ear to listen to corruptible things.

Beloved, I want you to see this election I am speaking about, to catch a glimpse of heaven, with our heart always on the wing, where you grasp everything spiritual, when everything divine makes you hungry, everything seasonable in spiritual fidelity will make you long after it.

Malign historical Baptist doctrines often subtly pervade. Observe the distinctions here. They allow the gospel to be uncommonly filled with light and mercy... TP

If I came here in a year's time I should see this kind of election going right forward, always full, never having a bad report, where you see Christ, and every day growing in the knowledge of God.

It is through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no sanctification, if it is not sanctification unto obedience. There would be no trouble with any of us if we would come definitely to a place where we understood the Word that Jesus said: "For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." (John 17:19).

No child of God ever questions the Word of God. What do I mean? The Word of God is clear on breaking of bread, the Word of God is clear on water baptism, and things like that.

No person who is going on to the obedience and sanctification of the spirit by election will pray over that Word. **The Word is to be swallowed, not prayed over!**

If you ever pray over the Word of God there is some disobedience; *there is some disobedience*; you are not willing to obey. If you come into obedience on the Word of God, and it says anything about water baptism, **you will obey**; if it says anything about speaking in tongues, **you will obey**; if it says anything about breaking of bread and assembling of yourselves together, **you will obey**. If you come into the election of the sanctification of the Spirit, **you will be obedient** in everything concerning that Word. In the measure you are not obedient, you have not come into the sanctification of the Spirit.

A little thing spoils many good things. You hear people say, "He's very good, but. . .," "Mrs. X is excellent, but. . ." There are no buts in the sanctification of the Spirit. *But* and *if* are gone, and it is "I shall" "I will" all the way through.

Beloved, don't have any buts, for if you do there is something not yielded to the Spirit. I do pray God the Holy Ghost that we may be willing to yield ourselves to the sanctification of the Spirit, that we may be in the mind of God in the election, that we may have the mind of God in the possession of it.

Perhaps to encourage you people it would be helpful to prove to you what election is. I am speaking to believers. If you had to search your heart (as to) why you have been attending these meetings, you would not say "because of Wigglesworth" It would be a mistake. But if you fit in you a holy calling, or strange inward longing for more of God, you could say it was sanctification of the Spirit that was drawing you. Only He who elected you could do that!

There are people of all ages here in this place, and if I were to say to you, "Stand up all who never remembered the time when the Spirit did not strive with you" it would be marvelous how many would stand. What do you call it? It is God moving upon you, bringing you in.

When I think of my own case, on my mother's side and on my father's side there was no desire for God. Yet in my earliest infancy I was strangely moved upon by the Spirit. At eight years, I was definitely saved. At nine years the Spirit came upon me (and it was) just the same when I spoke with tongues — elect according to the foreknowledge of God. There are people in this place who have the same experience.

It is a most blessed thought that we have a God of love, compassion, and grace who wills not the death of one sinner.

God makes it possible for all men to be saved. He gave Jesus, His well-beloved Son, to die for the sins of the people. It is true He took our sins. It is true He paid the price for the whole world.

It is true He gave Himself a ransom for many. It is true, beloved! For whom? For "whosoever will".

What about the others? It would have to be a direct refusal of the blood of Jesus, **a refusal to have Christ reign over them**. Whosoever will, and whosoever won't And there are people that won't. I say again the god of this world has blinded their minds lest the light of the Gospel shine unto them.

This is not today's "foreshortened gospel". Smith is not only introducing Pentecostalism, but also His promised Rest as a pure foundation for it! TP

Through sanctification of the Spirit, you will find out that you get to a place where **you are not disturbed**. There is a peace in sanctification of the Spirit, because it has a place of revelation, taking you into heavenly places. It has a place where God speaks and makes Himself known to you. When you are face to face with God, you get a **peace which passes all understanding**, lifting you from state to state of inexpressible wonderment. It is really wonderful!

**"O, this is like heaven to me,
Yes, this is like heaven to me;
I've crossed over Jordan to Canaan's fair land,
And this is like heaven to me."**

Now look at verse three:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

Lively hope! We cannot pass that, because this sanctification of the Spirit brought us into this definite line with this wonderful position of the glory of God. I want to keep before us the glory of it, the joy of it, a "lively hope." Now a lively hope is exactly opposite to dead!

**Lively hope is movement.
Lively hope is looking into.
Lively hope is pressing into.
Lively hope is leaving everything behind you.
Lively hope is keeping the vision.
Lively hope sees Him coming!**

Lively hope, you live in! You are not trying to make yourself feel that you are believing. The lively hope is ready, waiting, filled with the joy of expectation of the King. Praise the Lord!

I want you to know that God has this in mind for you. If you possess it, you will love others towards God. They will see the real joy of expectation that will come forth with manifestation, then realization. Pray God, the Holy Ghost, that He will move you that way.

Come now, beloved, I want to raise your hopes into such activity into such joyful experience, that when you go away from this meeting you will have such joy that you will only walk if you cannot run!

Now I trust that you will be so reconciled to God that there is not one thing that would interfere with you having this lively hope If you have any love for the world you cannot have it, because Jesus is not coming for the world. He is coming to the heavenlies, and all the heavenlies are going to Him. There is nothing but joy there! The pride of life is contrary to the lively hope, because of the greatness of the multi-magnitudinous glories of eternity which are placed before Him with exceeding joy.

(Interpretation of Tongues: "The joy of the Lord is everything. The soul lifteth up like the golden grain ready to be ingathered for the great sheaf. All are ready, waiting, rejoicing, longing for Him, till they cry, 'Lord Jesus, we cannot wait longer'")

What a wonderful expression of the Holy Ghost to the soul is in interpretation! How He loves us, hovers over us, rejoices in us. Our cup is full and running over. The joy of the Lord is your strength. **You have a right to be in these glorious places. It is the purpose of God for your soul.**

“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled. And that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:4

First, incorruptible. Second, undefiled. Third, fadeth not away Fourth, reserved in heaven for you. Glory to God! I tell you it is great, very great. May the Lord help you to thirst after this glorious life of Jesus. Oh, brother, it is more than new wine. **The Holy Ghost is the manifestation of the glories of the new creation.** *An inheritance incorruptible.*

Incorruptible is one of those delightful words God wants all the saints to grasp — everything corruptible, everything seen, fades away. Incorruptible is that which eternal, everlasting, divine, and therefore spiritual. It brings us to a place where God is really in the midst. This is one part of our inheritance in the Spirit, one part only. Oh, how beautiful, perfected for ever! No spot, no wrinkle, holy, absolutely pure, all traces of sin withered.

This is far beyond His mere Pardon, as glorious and necessary as that is to all! TP

Beloved, God means it for us this morning. Every soul in this place must reach out to this ideal. God has ten thousand more thoughts for you than you have for yourself. The grace of God is going to move us on to an inheritance incorruptible, that fadeth not away.

Fadeth not away! What a heaven of bliss, what a joy of delight, what a foretaste of heaven on earth. Cheerfully go to the work you have to do, because of tomorrow (when you) will be in the presence of the King, with the Lord for ever, an inheritance that fadeth not away.

Perfect Rest

I would like you to read Second Corinthians 10:4-5:

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

Now the Holy Ghost will take the Word, making it powerful in you till every evil thing that presents itself against the obedience and fullness of Christ would absolutely wither away. I want to show you this morning the need of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, by which you know there is perfect rest when you are filled with the Holy Ghost. I want you to see perfect rest in this place.

I want you to see Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Ghost. The storm began so terribly. The ship filled with water. He lay asleep. Perfect rest. When the disciples cried, “Master, we perish” Jesus rose, filled with the Holy Ghost, and rebuked the wind and spoke His peace.

“Come a little nearer. I want you to see that this Holy Ghost, this divine Person, has to get so deep into us that He has to destroy every evil thing. Quick, powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow.” (Heb. 4:12.)

Some people get pain in their life after being saved because of soulishness. Any amount of saved people are soulish. They’re in Romans 7. They want to do good but find evil. They continue to do the thing they hate to do. What is up?

They need the baptism of the Holy Ghost, for then the Holy Ghost will so reveal the Word that it will be like a sword. It will cut between the soul and the spirit, till a man can no more long for indulgence in things contrary to the mind of God and the will of God. Don't you want rest? How long are you going to be before you enter into that rest? God wants you to enter that rest.

“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” Hebrews 4:10-11

Enter into rest, get filled with the Holy Ghost, and unbelief will depart. When they entered in they were safe from unbelief, and unbelief is sin. It is the greatest sin because it hinders you from all blessings.

There is another word that would be helpful this morning, and I want you to take notice of it because it is important. It is verse 12 of Hebrews 4:

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

How we need the Holy Ghost! Now probably when You go outside you will say, “He preached more about the Holy Ghost than anything”

It is not so. My heart is so full of this truth that Jesus is the Word. It takes the Holy Ghost to make the Word active. Jesus is the Word that is mighty by the power of the Spirit to the pulling down of strongholds, moving upon us so that the power of God is seen upon us.

[Interpretation of Tongues: “God hath designed the fullness of the Gospel in its perfection and entirety that where the breath of heaven breathes upon it, the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation makes everything form in perfect union with divine power, till the whole man becomes a lovely hope — filled with life, filled with fidelity’] Remember that Jesus is all fullness. Remember Jesus was the fullness of the Godhead. The Holy Ghost makes Him so precious that: “It's all right now, it's all right now, For Jesus is my Saviour, and it's all right now” I want you all to have a share! Oh, for the Holy Ghost to come with freshness upon us, then you all could sing, “It's all right now!” Let me encourage you. God is a God of encouragement. Now turn to Hebrews 4:13: Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

No creature is hid from His sight, all are naked before Him. When God speaks of nakedness He does not mean that He looks at flesh without clothing. He looks at our spiritual lack, and desires that we are clothed with Christ within. He sees your weakness, your sorrow of heart. He is looking right into you now. Oh, what does He see?

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. Hebrews 4:14

What is our profession? I have heard so many people testifying about their profession. Some said, “Thank God He has baptized me with the Holy Ghost” That is my profession, is it yours? That is the profession of the Bible, and God wants to make it your profession. You have a whole Christ, a full redemption. You have to be filled with the Holy Ghost, a channel for Him to flow through. Oh, the glorious liberty of the gospel of God's power!

Heaven has begun with me,
I am happy now, and free
Since the Comforter has come,
Since the Comforter has come.

It's all there. I know that God has designed this fullness, this rest, this perfect rest. **He has designed it, and there ought not to be a wrinkle, a spot, a blemish. The Word of God says "blameless".** Praise the Lord for such a wonderful, glorious inheritance, through Him that loved us. Hallelujah!

Beloved, you must come in, every one of you. This morning's meeting is to open the door of your heart so that God can move in so that if you were to go away to live in some solitary place, you would be full there the same as in the Wellington Assembly. It would make no difference. The authorities tried to destroy John and sent him to the Isle of Patmos, but on a desert island he was "in the Spirit" It is possible to be in the Spirit wherever you are, in all circumstances.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15

There He is! There is the pattern! There is the Lord! You say, "Tell me something wonderful about Him' I will tell you this, He loved us to the end. He had faith in us right to the end.

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Heb. 4:9). Some say, "O, yes, it is a rest up there." No! No! No! *This* rest is here, where we cease from our own works, this day!

I came to this meeting this morning entirely shut in with God, and if ever God spoke in a meeting He has spoken this morning.

I may have been straight and plain on some lines, but I had such a vision of Wellington. I saw clearly people were resisting the Holy Ghost, as much as when Stephen said, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51).

Oh, if you won't resist the Holy Ghost the power of God will melt you down. The Holy Ghost will so take charge of you that you will be filled to the uttermost with the overflowing of His grace.

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