



"You will know them by their fruits." Mt. 7:16

From The Diary of John G. Lake

A number of years had passed since God had healed his wife, Jennie. During this time, he had continued practicing the ministry of healing. Every answer to prayer and miraculous touch of God created within him a greater longing for the deeper things of the Spirit.

During his business life, he made it a habit of speaking somewhere practically every night. After the services, he was in the habit of joining with friends who, like himself, were determined to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit as they believed the early disciples had received it (Acts 2:1-4). His prayer was, "God, if You will baptize me in the Holy Ghost and give me the power of God, nothing shall be permitted to stand between me and one hundredfold obedience." from "The Biography of John G. Lake"

Above we see Lake's condition while still merely saved. Apparently, he already prayed for healing, but received inconsistent results. Earnest Seeker

Lake's Crucible of Preparation

Some months before I was baptized, (1907) I sat in a cottage meeting at the home of Brother Fred Bosworth. Brother Tom was preaching. At the close of the meeting, he came to me and said, "Brother, what is your name?"

I said, "John Lake."

He replied, "John Lake, as I was preaching, Jesus told me, John and I are going to preach together."

I laughed, replying lightly, "I wish it were so, but I can't preach. I am not where I ought to be with God."

He said, "Never mind. Jesus is going to fix you up." Some months later as he visited our town again, one day I joined Brother Tom and Brother Fred Bosworth on the sidewalk. As we walked down the street, I stepped between them, taking each by the arm. Brother Bosworth turned to me, saying, "Lake, when are you going to surrender to Jesus?"

I said, "Anytime, Fred."

Tom turned to me saying, "Do you mean it!"

I replied, "I do, Tom." We all three fell on our knees on the sidewalk and right there I surrendered to my Lord. Then I sought God for sanctification and my Baptism in the Holy Ghost.

In October 1907 the Lord in His goodness baptized me with the Holy Ghost after several months of deep heart searching and repentance unto God at the home of a friend. In company with Brother Thomas Hezmalhalch, was called to my home at Zion City, Ill., to invite me to accompany him to pray for a sister who was an invalid and had been in a wheelchair for a number of years.

As we entered the home, I felt a great calm resting upon me. I did not feel to join in the conversation. Brother Tom proceeded to instruct the sister from the Word concerning healing, and I sat in a deep leather chair on the opposite side of the room. My soul was drawing out in a great silent heart cry to God. *O Jesus, I so long for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but I feel so unworthy; so far from thee. O Christ, if it be possible to baptize such as me, please*

baptize me. I am so hungry, so tired of trying, so weary of doing things myself. I am sick of sin, sick of self, sick of trying, sick of working, etc. etc.

Presently, a great quiet came upon me deepening rapidly into a peace such as I had never before known or experienced - a quiet of spirit, soul, and body. My being was soothed in a perfect calm, so deep, so quiet. My mind was perfectly still. I said, "O, Jesus, what is this - the calm of God? Is this the baptism of the Holy Ghost?" Presently, it seemed as if I had passed under a warm tropical rain that was falling not upon me, but through me. The realization of peace was such as I had never known. The rain continued to fall upon me. O, the rest of soul. O, the quiet of God. O, the peace of that hour. The peace - I cannot describe - that passeth all understanding. This condition of peace was **so great I feared to breathe**. It was as the silence of heaven. The saving rain continued to fall upon me. It soothed my brain. It soothed my body. It soothed my spirit. Would it ever stop? I feared it might. I said, "O God, I did not know there was such a place of rest as this."

*Here Lake enters into His Rest. He is delivered from **all sorrow**, and so becomes able to fellowship with Him without clouds to obscure. This is the "white stone blessing" of a pure heart. God rejoices to share His Presence and power with such souls made true. Below this is shown to be immediately evident in Lake's life!! Earnest Seeker*

Then I became conscious of a change coming over me. Instead of the rain, currents of power were running through me from my head to my feet, seemingly into the floor. These shocks of power came intermittently, possibly ten seconds apart. They increased in voltage until, after a few minutes, my frame shook and vibrated under these mighty shocks of power. Then as I shook and trembled, the shocks of power followed each other with more apparent rapidity and intensity. My forehead became sealed. My brain in the front portion of my head became inactive, and I realized the spirit speaking of His seal in their foreheads. I could have fallen on the floor except for the depth of the chair in which I sat.

Again a change. The shocks of power lessened in intensity and now have taken hold of my lower jaw. It moved up and down and sidewise in a manner new to me. My tongue and throat began to move in a manner I could not control. Presently, I realized I was speaking in another tongue, a language I had never learned. O, the sense of power. The mighty moving of the Spirit in me. The consciousness it was God who had come.

Obviously, brother Lake has just received the pentecostal infilling with the Spirit- right there in the same sitting! I believe all the other heritage souls obtained His Rest separately- except for Finney who received the evangelists' mantle at the same time. Wigglesworth, for instance had been walking in His Rest for several years before he received this pentecostal power. Observe that first came His Rest and the reformation of character that it brings, and then came His Spirit and the addition of power. First comes grounding in Him, and then comes equipping. Earnest Seeker

Then Satan came and suggested, "It is not real power. It is only imagination. There are not currents of real power. It is only physic phenomena."

I said, "It's power. I know it, and God in His loving mercy proved it to me." At this point Brother Tom, not yet having observed what the Lord had been doing with and to me, motioned me to come to pray with the sick woman. As I stood up I was trembling so violently I was afraid to put my hands upon her head. Knowing the honeycombed state of the bone in many rheumatic cripples, I was afraid lest the trembling of my body might dislocate the rigid neck. It occurred to me to touch the top of her head with the tips of my fingers only.

Permitting the joints of my fingers to be as thus, no jar to the sick one was [given]. As I touched her head I could feel the currents of power shoot through me into her. Brother Tom was still so engaged with the sister, he had not yet observed that Jesus had baptized me. I opened my mouth wide, thus not permitting the moving of my tongue to produce sound. Presently, Brother Tom said, "Let us pray," at the same instant.

Taking one of the sister's hands, at that instant a shock of power shot through me and down through the sister into Brother Toni. He instantly dropped her hand and drew back, apparently not realizing what had happened. He again lifted the hand and started to pray. As he prayed the Spirit deepened on me. I could keep the sounds back no longer and as I prayed the Spirit prayed through..... me in another tongue unknown to me. For years I had been used of God in laying hands on the sick. God had given wonderful healing at times, but there was no seeming continuity of healing power. As I prayed the Spirit said, "What shall I give you?"

I said, "O Jesus, my soul has coveted the gift of healing." And I felt that thenceforth, God would use me in that ministry.

So, brother Lake in one sitting has now: 1. entered His Rest 2. been filled with the Spirit, and 3. been given the gift of healing. Whew!!! Obviously, the Lord has plans for this vessel!!

Consider the implications of this! Was this the normative process experienced by the primitive church and foretold by John in Matthew 3:11? "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." NKJV Earnest Seeker

Following my baptism in the Holy Ghost came six months of the most terrible fightings, sometimes victory, sometimes defeat, sometimes awful chords and soul storms, with glimpses of God's sunshine. The Spirit talked to me of going up, "All." I did not know what that would mean, but O, brothers and sisters, when we say *all* to Jesus it means much. My home, business position among men, friends, family, even my dear wife could not at this time understand. God said, "Go and preach."

I said, "I will nights, but I must go on with my business." After some months, I found my interest in commercial and worldly affairs was passing away. A man would come into my office. I could not think of his money. I could only think of his soul. O, was he saved? Could I bring him to Jesus? And many times it ended in my telling him of this wonderful Savior and having to pray instead of talking business at all. O beloved, when the Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Ghost, comes, it is Jesus' own passion for souls. You must love them. You can't help it. Jesus died for them. The Holy Ghost is His Spirit. He loves them still. He loves through you. Again, the Lord said, "Follow Me," and like Matthew, I closed my office, arose, and followed Him.

The above follow-up is shared by all who enter His Rest, since the Lord initiates a process of reconciling the outer circumstances and commitments to the new consecrated realities in Him. This too is deliverance -so that the soul may be freed up outwardly to live in accordance with the inward Life of Christ that has now been created. Earnest Seeker

Preparing for the Mission Fields

One day about April 1st, 1908, I went to Indianapolis, Indiana, for a ten-day visit with Brother Tom, who was preaching there. Then I assisted in the services and work. While visiting at the home of a Brother Osborne, as we prayed before retiring, the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and God talked to me concerning Africa.

From my childhood I had been much interested in Africa, especially South Africa, and for years I had felt that one day God would send me to Africa, but never possessing what I regarded as the Divine Equipment necessary for a successful Christian worker, I had banished the thought and stifled the voice within. Then I now had a large family - myself, my wife, and seven children. The way seemed impossible. God gave me at this time a spiritual vision of Africa, especially of the Zion work there, so accurate that when I arrived in Africa four months later, I found it correct in every detail. As my ten-day visit closed, I found myself being drawn strongly to return at once to my business, but God would not give me liberty to do this. And this has always been to me one of the strange workings of God in my life.

My affairs needed my personal attention much. It seemed suicidal to put my complicated business into another's hands to close up. As I said, being overpowered with desire to return to my office and put my affairs in shape, I decided to do so, and then commenced spiritual and physical chastisement so terrific, I felt as though my reason must surely be dethroned. While in this turmoil of soul, one day I met Brother Pearce, now of Australia, a precious, godly man. He said, "Brother Lake, the Lord has been laying it on my heart to invite you to come to my home that we may have an evening of prayer together."

I said, "I will come tonight at 8 p.m." I was there. Brother Pearce, wife, and daughter, and myself made up the praying company. As we knelt to pray, my soul was in such anguish, I felt I must hear from heaven or die. Within a short time after kneeling to pray, I felt myself being overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. Then commenced the most vivid spiritual experience of my life.

The Lord brought to my remembrance from my childhood on every occasion when He had tried to woo me to His way, and I had turned to my own way instead. O the many, many times He had called when I did not heed, times long since forgotten by me. O, how He showed me His love for me. His anxiety to help, but I would not. He showed me the lost world, dying souls, the sick, and suffering, saying, "All this I did for thee. What hast thou done for Me?" until my heart broke in anguish. I cried and told Him I would go all the way with Him, even unto death.

Then the Spirit said, "Will you go?"

I said, "Yes, Lord, anyplace, anywhere. But O, Jesus, the burden must be Yours. The responsibility Yours." Then a series of visions of different cities came before me. First of Zion City, Ill., where the glory of God overshadowed the old Dr. Dowie Tabernacle in Shilvapor as a heavenly light and radiated out over the entire city. O, what a Spirit of Prayer was in me. My soul flowed out in a cry for the lost and perishing world. Then He showed me the downtown district of the city of Indianapolis, Ind., and the same illumination of God's glory, only in a smaller compass. This I understood to be the extent of God's blessing on each place through our ministry. Then Johannesburg, South Africa, and a wonderful illumination of God's glory lighting up the whole land. My soul continued to pour out in a stream of prayer. Then two other places were shown. Again, I heard the voice, "Will you go?"

"Yes, yes!" I cried, "If You will prepare and equip me and go with me." I prayed. "When will I go?"

The Lord said, "Now."

Again I prayed, "Where will I go?" And at once commenced to roll from any mouth in another tongue a single word repeated over and over, perhaps twenty times. I said, "Lord, what is it? What does this word mean?" And at once, the interpretation came, *Indianapolis*. I cried, "Lord, I will go! I'll go at once!" When I arose from my knees it was to find the household in great fear, believing I must have lost my reason. I comforted them, assuring them it was God. On looking at my watch, I was amazed to find I had been on my knees for four hours. The first time in my life such a thing had occurred.

I returned to my own home and told my dear wife. The Spirit so rested upon me that I spoke in tongues or prayed the entire night. In the morning, I packed my suitcase and went to Indianapolis, where I joined Brother Tom in his meetings. As I entered the Hall, he said, "I knew you were coming. Take a seat here by me." The following night as I stood to testify, the Spirit impelled me to say, "Brother Tom thinks he is going to Colorado, but he is not. He is coming to Zion City with me."

Tom laughed, saying, "Not unless the Lord sends me."

I replied, "You will hear from heaven." Some days later while he was praying, the Lord told him to go. O, what a wonderful series of meetings. That was how God poured out His Spirit at one meeting in the upper room of Brother Hammond's Faith home, The Haven. Twenty-five were baptized in the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. In perhaps twenty minutes the Spirit of God fell on the meeting like a cloud. Instantly, one after another commenced to speak in tongues. O, what glory. O, what high praises of God. O, what rejoicing. It was estimated that several hundred received the baptism of the Holy Ghost during this series of services lasting, I think in all, about six months.

One day in October, I went out with a young man to saw down a large tree for firewood. I had been praying about guidance for future work for the Lord for some days, believing my mission at Zion City to be fulfilled, when again the Spirit spoke to me and said, "Go to Indianapolis, rent a large hall, prepare for a winter campaign, and in the

spring you will go to Africa." I again obeyed without question. On arriving there, I found a little company of saints holding an occasional meeting in a small hall. I told them what the Lord had said and God witnessed to them. It was His message.

We had no money, but we believed God, we prayed, and in a few days had no less than \$100 handed in for the Lord's use. We commenced the work in a large hall and from the first, God greatly blessed in saving, healing, and baptizing many in the Holy Ghost. An operation of God occurred at this time. I feel it good to record. For many months Brother Tom and myself had been praying for greater power for the healing of the sick and the casting out of demons. At this time, one morning in coming to breakfast, I found I could not eat, but felt well. At noon it was the same, this continual [illegible] great desire to pray came upon [illegible]. On the evening of the 4th and 5th day, as I knelt to pray, the Spirit of God spoke to me and said, "**From hereafter thou shalt cast out demons.**"

On the following night a young man came to me inquiring, "Do you believe the motto up there?" pointing to a painted motto in large letters on the wall. It was, "In My Name shall they cast out Devils."

I said, "Yes, Brother, I do."

He said, "Are you sure, for I am in earnest?"

I replied, "My Brother, with all the earnestness of my soul."

"Well," he replied, "I have a brother in the asylum. He has been there two years and the doctors cannot give us any hope or, in fact, seem to be at a loss to explain the reasons for his condition." I then inquired under what circumstances his brother had went in. He told me that the brother had been attending a revival meeting and was seeking sanctification and was a religious man who had trained his family in the fear of the Lord. That he had suddenly went insane. They had to put him in the asylum. His family was in great financial distress.

The Spirit of the Lord impressed me it was a case of devil possession, and we arranged the brother should be brought to the meeting on Sunday afternoon. He came in charge of his brother, his sister, and an attendant. He came at once and was persuaded to kneel at the altar. I then called a number of saints whom I knew to be vigorous in faith for healing and casting out of demons. Brother and Sister Flower, their son, Roswell, Miss Alice Reynolds, and others. Then I stepped down, put my hands on his head and rebuked, bound, and cast the devil out. He was instantly delivered and sat up quietly. Three days after, he was discharged from the asylum and went home well, returned to his work in a grain elevator. Four months afterward, his mother, sister, and brother returned to the mission to praise God, saying lie was perfectly, permanently delivered. The power to cast out demons continues to abide upon me.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1910

A remarkable case of casting out a devil took place after the evening service. A Mr. Cornelious, possessed of a devil for about one-and-a-half years, said that in a vision, God showed him Brother Gordon Hinds and said he was to come to our tabernacle, and that Brother Hinds and Brother Lake would lay hands on him and cast the devil out. We did. As we prayed, he fell backward on top of the platform, then slipped down into a sitting [position] on the floor with his back against the platform. The devil caused him to cry out and fight with his fists, but in a few minutes he was overpowered by the Holy Ghost and cast out. Throughout the struggle, Brother Lake held his head firmly between his hands [and] at the same time in the name of Jesus commanded the devil to come out, which he did. When the devil was cast out, the glory and praise of Jesus filled his soul. In a few minutes the Holy Ghost [had] such possession of him that he spoke in tongues and praised Jesus. (from p.78-85)

Christ Dominion

Every student of the primitive church discerns at once a distinction between the soul of the primitive Christian and the soul of the modern Christian. It lies in the spirit of *Christ dominion*.

The Holy Spirit came into the primitive Christian soul to elevate his consciousness in Christ, to make him a master. He smote sin and it disappeared. He cast out devils (demons); a divine flash from his nature overpowered and cast out the demon. He laid his hands on the sick, and the mighty Spirit of Jesus Christ flamed into the body and the disease was annihilated. He was commanded to rebuke the devil, and the devil would flee from him. He was a reigning sovereign, not shrinking in fear, but overcoming by faith.

It is this spirit of *dominion* when restored to the Church of Christ, that will bring again the glory-triumph to the Church of God throughout the world, and lift her into the place, where, instead of being the obedient servant of the world and the flesh and the devil, she will become the divine instrument of salvation in healing the sick, in the casting out of devils (demons), and in the carrying out of the whole program of Jesus' ministry, as the early Church did. (from p. 779)

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