

Smith Wigglesworth and Authority

Moderator (A. Strom) writes:

A while ago I wrote an article called "Great Healing Revivalists - How God's Power Came". It was about men and women of God who were not satisfied with an initial token of God's presence in their lives. They were hungry for more, and in their desperation for greater and greater depths in God, they smashed through every barrier and overthrew every obstacle to experience an ever-greater measure of God's holy presence and glory,- and to gain an anointing the like of which has rarely been seen since the days of the apostles.

It was MORE OF JESUS that they were hungering after, and He did not disappoint them, though the road was often narrow and winding. It was a path that few cared to travel. But it was simply not enough to be Spirit-baptized and speaking in tongues. They had to be ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH,- baptized with the Holy Spirit AND WITH FIRE. And they had to see God glorified in their day, in the most profound way possible. They could not bear to live any longer, the way things were. Where was the power, where was the glory of apostolic days? They took it upon themselves, and were almost driven onward by God - to find out.

And so, with fastings and prayer, with agonizing travail and wrestlings such as Jacob had with God, with ridding their lives not only of their sins, but of their fleshly, soulish "WAYS" also - the ways of man's strength and man's power,- they battled on, right into the very throne-room of God. And by the time they got there they were truly broken and humbled men and women, true possessors of 'clean hands and a pure heart'. And He met them there in the most profound way. Tell me, friend, do you hunger and thirst after more of God? Is it your one desire to love Him with ALL your heart and ALL your mind and ALL your soul and ALL your strength? And do you desire to see Him glorified on the earth to the highest possible degree? "And you shall seek me, and find me, WHEN YOU SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART" (Jer 29:13).

Below is the story of one of these men - Smith Wigglesworth:-

SMITH WIGGLESWORTH

-by A. Strom.

Smith Wigglesworth was without doubt one of the most anointed men of God that has lived in recent times. He was known as the Apostle of Faith, and if anyone deserved to be described as "full of faith and of the Holy Ghost", it was him. He lived and walked continually in the presence of God. And the miracles that accompanied his ministry were of the sort that have seldom been seen since the days of the apostles. People born blind and deaf, cripples - twisted and deformed by disease, others on death's door with cancer or sickness of every kind,- all were healed by the mighty power of God. Even the dead were raised.

Born in 1859 into poverty, Smith Wigglesworth was converted by the Methodists at eight years of age. Even then, he was hungry for God and hungry for souls. He was in the choir of the local Episcopal church. "When most of the boys in the choir were twelve years of age they had to be confirmed by the bishop. I was not twelve, but between nine and ten, when the bishop laid his hands on me. I can remember that as he imposed his hands I had a similar experience to the one I had forty years later when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. My whole body was filled with the consciousness of God's presence, a consciousness that remained with me for days. After the confirmation service all the other boys were swearing and quarreling, and I wondered what had made the

difference between them and me." (Stanley Frodsham, 'Smith Wigglesworth, Apostle of Faith', pg 13. -Most of the following quotes are also taken from this excellent book).

Later, Wigglesworth was fully-immersed in water by the Baptists. But please remember that all of his early years of ministry and seeking God came well before the 'Azusa Street' Revival and the early Pentecostal movement. Smith had a hunger after God, and he experienced many breakthroughs into new levels of anointing even well before *he experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues*. He was already renowned for his healing ministry, and had seen God move in great power, even well before the new Pentecostal experience was being talked about.

Unlike us today, who basically begin with Baptism in the Spirit as our first real anointing, for Smith this was the culmination of years of seeking and hungering after God, and so it was much closer to a real New Testament endowment of "power from on high".

Smith Wigglesworth: "I had the grounding in Bible teaching among the Plymouth Brethren. I marched under the blood and fire banner of the Salvation Army, learning to win souls in the open air. *I received the second blessing of sanctification and a clean heart under the teaching of Reader Harris and the Pentecostal League*. I claimed the gift of the Holy Spirit by faith as I waited ten days before the Lord. But in Sunderland, in 1907, I knelt before God and had an Acts 2:4 experience..."

(Pg 119). He described this experience as follows: "She [Mrs Boddy, a minister's wife] laid her hands on me and then had to go out of the room. The fire fell. It was a wonderful time as I was there with God alone. He bathed me in power. I was conscience of the cleansing of the precious blood, and I cried out: 'Clean! Clean! Clean!' I was filled with the joy of the consciousness of the cleansing. I was given a vision in which I saw the Lord Jesus Christ. I beheld the empty cross, and I saw Him exalted at the right hand of God the Father. I could speak no longer in English, but *I began to praise Him in other tongues as the Spirit of God gave me utterance*. I knew then, although I might have received anointings previously, that now, at last, I had received the real Baptism in the Holy Spirit as they received on the day of Pentecost." (Pg 44).

After this experience, there was no stopping Smith Wigglesworth. He was a flame for God, and the fire fell wherever he went. He said: "I believe God's ministers are to be flames of fire. Nothing less than flames. Nothing less than mighty instruments, with burning messages, with hearts full of love. They must have a DEPTH OF CONSECRATION, that God has taken full charge of the body, and it exists only that it may manifest the Glory of God. A Baptism into death in which the person is purified and energized..." He was certainly possessor of an audacity, a daring, a boldness the like of which has rarely been seen in Christendom in modern times. It was not uncommon for him to announce in his meetings: "Every sermon that Christ preached was prefaced by a model miracle. We are going to follow His example. The first person in this large audience that stands up, whatever his or her sickness, I'll pray for that one and God will deliver him or her." And the first person to stand, even if they were the most deformed cripple, would be healed!

On another typical occasion, a man came forward for prayer for stomach pain, and, commanding the pain to be gone, Wigglesworth punched the man in the stomach so hard that he was sent half-way across the room (completely healed)! This kind of thing happened more than once. Wigglesworth believed in COMMANDING the sick to be healed in Jesus' name. His was an aggressive, holy faith. He was a "violent" man, taking ground from the devil by force. And yet he was also a man of great compassion, as well as of great authority. The devil certainly felt it when Smith Wigglesworth hit town!

A number of people were also raised literally from the dead under Smith's ministry. Here is his own account of one occasion: "My friend said, 'She is dead.' He was scared. I have never seen a man so frightened in my life. 'What shall I do?' he asked. You may think that what I did was absurd, but I reached over into the bed and pulled her out. I carried her across the room, stood her against the wall and held her up, as she was absolutely dead. I looked into her face and said, 'In the name of Jesus I rebuke this death.' From the crown of her head to the soles of her feet her whole body began to tremble. 'In the name of Jesus, I command you to walk,' I said. I repeated, 'In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus, walk!' and she walked." (Pg 59). Not only was this woman raised from the dead, but she was instantly healed from a terrible illness also. She began to testify to people of her death experience and restoration. It has been recorded that Smith Wigglesworth raised 23 people from the dead in total, over the years of his ministry.

One time when Smith was waiting at a bus-stop, a woman was having trouble getting her small dog, which had followed her, to go home. First she tried sweet-talking it, and asking it to please go home. But after awhile of trying this to no avail, the woman suddenly stamped her foot and said severely: 'Go home at once!' The dog immediately took off home, with it's tail between it's legs. 'That's how you have to treat the devil', said Wigglesworth, loudly enough for all those waiting at the bus-stop to hear. And this was his attitude toward the devil, every moment of every waking day. He literally travelled the world in the 1920's and 1930's, and thousands were saved and healed everywhere he went. Often he would arrive in a place almost unknown and unheralded, but within days there would be thousands thronging to hear, the power of God demonstrated in his meetings was so great. God was truly glorified everywhere he went.

He was a man who walked and lived in the very presence of God. And yet, in many ways he was a very natural, down-to-earth man. And neither was he afraid of issuing the odd stern rebuke. His object was to be in constant, unbroken communion with the Father. He had spent hours and days fervently seeking God in his early years, but later, "Although his life was a combination of incessant prayer and praise, and every word and work was an act of worship, he was not given to protracted periods of fasting and prayer." (Pg 122). Instead, he had learned the secret of being in continuous, intimate communion with God (sometimes withdrawing quietly into himself for this purpose), even when he was in a crowd of people. He walked by faith, and he was "in the Spirit" at all times. This was one vital secret to his success. He said "*There are two sides to this Baptism: The first is, you possess the Spirit; The second is that the Spirit possesses you.*" (See 'The Life of Smith Wigglesworth' by Jack Hywel-Davies). He had counted the cost, and everything was God's. He was a man who truly understood GODLY AUTHORITY, and he WALKED in it by faith.

He said, "'Be filled with the Spirit,' ie., be CRAMMED with the Spirit, so filled that there will be no room left for anything else." That was the way he lived. Full of audacity, full of daring, "full of faith and of the Holy Ghost."

On one occasion, he recalled, "I was travelling to Cardiff in South Wales. I had been much in prayer on the journey. The carriage was full of people whom I knew to be unsaved, but as there was so much talking and joking I could not get in a word for my Master. As the train was nearing the station, I thought I would wash my hands... and as I returned to the carriage, a man jumped up and said, 'Sir, you convince me of sin,' and fell on his knees there and then. Soon the whole carriage of people were crying out the same way. They said, 'Who are you? What are you? You convince us all of sin'..." (Stanley Frodsham, 'Smith Wigglesworth, Apostle of Faith', pg 80). This episode reminds me very much of another bold, forthright and anointed evangelist - Charles G. Finney, who had found after a mighty Baptism of the Holy Spirit some years before, that even passing comments that he made

pierced people to the heart with conviction of sin. He had gone on to become one of the greatest Revivalists of all time. (He died in 1875).

Smith Wigglesworth placed great emphasis on purity and holiness, like all true Revivalists. He said, "You must every day make higher ground. You must deny yourself to make progress with God. You must refuse everything that is not pure and holy. God wants you pure in heart. He wants you to have an intense desire after holiness... Two things will get you to leap out of yourselves into the promises of God today. *One is purity, and the other is FAITH, which is kindled more and more BY PURITY.*" (Pg 125). This one statement contains what is probably the key secret to Smith Wigglesworth's outstanding success in God. And it is obviously a key that is well worth remembering for us also. Another point to remember is that Smith was very aware of the dangers of money, and guarded himself carefully against the possibility of covetousness entering in. He was truly beyond reproach in this area also.

It is my belief that Smith Wigglesworth was a kind of direct "forerunner" of the kind of ministries that are about to arise in our day. I believe that the coming apostolic ministries, who will be bearers of true Revival in these last days, will combine the daring, miracle-working faith of a Smith Wigglesworth with the deeply convicting 'repentance' preaching of a Charles Finney. And they will move under a mighty anointing that combines the best of both of these types of ministries. What glorious days these will be! Smith Wigglesworth himself died in 1946 at the ripe old age of 87, a flame of God to the very end. May he be an example to us all.

from: Andrew Strom at 'NZ Revival' prophetic Supersite-
<http://crash.ihug.co.nz/~revival>

Editor's Note: From the content on the rest of this website you can appreciate how special Wigglesworth was.

He was saved, sanctified and then filled with the Spirit by *three* separate and distinct acts of grace. Most of the Great Awakening ministers did not go on to receive the Spirit with tongues as we know it. Smith was made alive in all three dimensions to compare with their two. Andrew is correct in saying that this will be the pattern for the future. That is my reason for preparing this website. (www.EnterHisRest.org)

Smith was a rare NORMAL Christian!! I am a long-time charismatic that some years ago entered His Rest, but went years not being able to put words to the experience. I have found that the two post-salvation experiences indeed work together just as Smith suggests: "*One is purity, and the other is FAITH, which is kindled more and more BY PURITY.*" I experience constant unhindered rapid growth in faith and joy even within the severe limitations imposed by life-threatening illness. As I type these words the anointing is with a relentlessly strong rock-like solidity that suggests the radiant white stone of Rev. 2:17.

A characteristic of the sanctified is their extraordinary power with God in prayer. If they make a faith-project on any matter they will surely obtain their goal (-especially if there is more than one of them working seriously on it- see "[Revival in the Hebrides](#)" on this website...)

Now let us examine this "Authority" further with the excellent help of Jim Rinker.
T. E. Plumb



Authority

Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

The issue with authority is simple. Unless one who is stronger (has more authority) comes along and by force binds the strong man, the strong man cannot be overthrown.

The Centurion understood what this concept meant.

KJV Matthew 8:8-10

8. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

9. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

10. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

The Centurion understood the concepts of both authority and responsibility. The centurion was able to recognise that Jesus was stronger (had more authority) than sickness and death, ie: those who RULED over sickness and death. But he not only recognised this fact but also took the necessary step(s) of faith that unleashed the POWER of that authority, namely to call on Jesus to heal his servant.

So we have two concepts here that we need to look at, namely authority and responsibility for they can never abide alone but are a package deal. There is no authority without responsibility and no responsibility without authority.

Anyone who wishes to align themselves with the plans and purposes of the Father MUST must accept responsibility and gain authority. Without the willingness to be responsible you will never be given authority and without authority you will never really be able to help anyone.

Oh, there is one more concept that I forgot, perhaps this one is the key to the door. This would be vision. Without vision you will never see the need for authority nor understand what is happening around you or why. Vision leads us to authority. Perhaps a better phrase for vision is destiny and purpose. If we cannot understand who we are and why we are here then we will never really gain vision.

Now you may say "aren't these one in the same?" Partially. Vision is what we get when we ASK. All who SEEK shall FIND, to all who KNOCK, the door shall be OPENED. We ask because we begin to understand that we have a destiny and purpose. Vision unlocks the door because FAITH comes by hearing. Faith is another key (one of seven in 2 Peter 1:5-8).

Hearing comes as we diligently seek Him. This diligence comes via knowledge. That knowledge comes when we decide to know Him better which comes by the Word of God (Romans 10).

Now, when we have begun to understand that we have a destiny and purpose, and then diligently seek Him by asking and knocking, we gain vision because the Father will give the HOLY SPIRIT to all who ask Him (Luke 11:13).

It is only once we have vision that we will have the faith to take and accept responsibility. Responsibility is when we become responsible. It is a sign of MATURITY and ADULTHOOD. It is the end of ADOLESCENCE. Authority is given as the signs of responsibility begin manifest themselves. Take your job for instance. Once your boss sees that you not only can perform your current duties but have taken INITIATIVE (the WIFE has made herself ready) to begin to take on more responsibilities, he/she will then endow you with more AUTHORITY (power) to be able to perform those responsibilities. Those who only do what they are told and show no initiative are not given the same authority as those who show initiative.

The authority is given because you have PROVEN that you are both worthy and CAPABLE of handling that responsibility. Jesus life is a perfect example. The first recorded miracles did not occur until after a period of intense TESTING (Matthew 4). Jesus was DRIVEN violently by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested.

Jesus agreed to this because He understood who He was, what He was destined to do, and the authority He needed to carry out His destiny and purpose.

Thus, after defeating Satan in the wilderness, He was fully equipped to tear down Satan's kingdom. Now you all have read this far for a PUNCH LINE and thus I will not deny you of it.

It took Spiritual gifts (power or authority) to free others but it took Spiritual Fruit to go to the cross and be completely to the Father (be an overcomer). Notice that not all the authority in the world did Jesus any good at the cross. It was only the fruit of the Spirit that did Him any good (love, humility, patience).

The point is that we need BOTH. But to go further, since we see so little SPIRITUAL authority (in other words, authority in the spiritual realm to free others and tear down Satan's kingdom, not authority over one another) today we can only conclude that we are lacking in one or all of the mentioned concepts that lead to authority, whether that understanding be destiny and purpose, or having vision, or taking responsibility, or all of these things which define ADULTHOOD.

Many are beginning to understand who they are "in Christ" and many others are through diligently seeking and knocking are gaining vision. These are all positives for sure. But what we really need is AUTHORITY. Because unless we are able to bind the strong man all that vision is really meaningless. It is just good intent. It can comfort and console but will never have the ability to heal.

So the Lord today is calling all of us to responsibility, ie: ADULTHOOD. Watching a war on TV and seeing the devastation and wanting to help is good but in reality it never really helps anyone. This is what vision is like. Vision is to lead us to responsibility. It moves us away from that "TV" set and into INITIATIVE where we begin to seek out how we can gain the authority to really set free (in the case of those war torn) the captives. Only by binding the strong man will we ever free anyone.

The Lord is calling today "Will you be one who steps out in faith and says "yes Lord!"". Then and only then will we truly be able to carry out the marching orders the Lord has given us.

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Ideally, all three empowerments are put into a clear diligent and persistent application. The more is invested in Him, the more there will be magnificent fruit. Edit.

With these perspectives in view, let us hear Smith on these things:

[From "Ever Increasing Faith" by Smith Wigglesworth]

There was a man who had a large business in London who was a great church-goer. The church he attended was beautifully decorated, and his pew was delightfully cushioned- -just about enough to make it easy to sleep through the sermons. He was a prosperous man in business, but he had no peace in his heart. But there was a boy at his business who always looked happy. He was always jumping and whistling. One day he said to this boy, "I want to see you in my office." When the boy was in his office he asked him, "How is it that you can always whistle and be happy?" "I cannot help it," answered the boy. "Where did you get it?" asked the master. "I got it at the Pentecostal mission." "Where is that?" The boy told him, and the next thing was, that the man was attending. The Lord broke him up there, and in a short while he was entirely changed. One day, shortly after this, he found that, instead of being distracted by his business as he formerly had been, he was actually whistling and jumping. His whole position and his whole life had been changed.

The shout cannot come out unless it is in. There must first be the inner working of the power of God. It is He who changes the heart, and transforms the life, and before there is any real outward evidence there must be the inflow of divine life. Sometimes I say to people, "You weren't at meeting the other night." They reply, "Oh yes, I was there in spirit." I say to them, "Well, come next time with your body also. We don't want a lot of spirit here and no bodies. We want you to come and get filled with God." When all the people will come and pray and praise as did these early disciples there will be something doing. People who come will catch fire and they will want to come again. But they will have no use for a place where everything has become formal, dry, and dead. The power of Pentecost as it came at first, came to loose men. God wants us free on every line. Men and women are tired of imitations; they want reality; they want to see people who have the living Christ within, and are filled with Holy Ghost power.

I received several letters and telegrams about a certain case, but when I arrived I was told I was too late. I said, "That cannot be. God has never sent me too late anywhere." God showed me when I went that something different would happen to anything I had seen previously. The people I went to were all strangers. I was introduced to a young man who lay helpless, and for whom there was no hope. The doctor had been to see him that morning and had declared that he would not live through the day. He lay with his face to the wall, and when I spoke to him he whispered, "I cannot turn over." His mother said that they had had to lift him out of bed on sheets for weeks, and that he was so weak and helpless that he had to stay in one position. The young man said, "My heart is very weak." I assured him, "God is the strength of the heart and thy portion forever. If you will believe God, it shall be so today."

Our Christ is risen. He is a living Christ who indwells us. We must not have this truth merely as a theory, Christ must be risen in us by the power of the Spirit. The power that raised Him from the dead must animate us, and as this glorious resurrection power surges through your being, you will be freed from all your weaknesses and you will become strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. There is a resurrection power that God wants you to have and to have it today. Why not? Receive your portion here and now.

I said to these people, "I believe your son will rise today." They only laughed. People do not expect to see signs and wonders today as the disciples saw them of old. Has God changed? Or has our faith waned so that we are not expecting the greater works that Jesus promised? We must not harp on any minor key. Our message must rise to concert pitch, and there must be nothing left out of it that is in the Book.

It was winter time, and I said to the parents, "Will you get the boy's suit and bring it here?" They would not listen to the request, for they were expecting the boy to die. But I had gone to that place believing God. In Romans 4:17, we read of Abraham, "(I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were." God help us to understand this. It is time people knew how to shout in faith as they contemplate the eternal power of our God to whom it is nothing to quicken and raise the dead. I come across some who would be giants in the power of God but they have no shout of faith. I find everywhere people who go down even when they are praying simply because they are just breathing sentences without uttering speech, and you cannot get victory that way. You must learn to take the victory and shout in the face of the devil. "It is done!" There is no man who can doubt if he learns to shout. When we know how to shout properly, things will be different, and tremendous things will happen. In verse 24 we read, "They lifted up their voice with one accord." It surely must have been a loud prayer. We must know that God means us to have life. If there is anything in the world that has life in it, it is this Pentecostal revival we are in.

I believe in the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the speaking of tongues, and I believe that every man who is baptized in the Holy Ghost will speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives him utterance. I believe in the Holy Ghost. And if you are filled with the Spirit you will be superabounding in life-- living waters will flow from you.

At last I persuaded the parents to bring the boy's clothes and lay them on the bed. From the natural viewpoint, the young man lay dying. I spoke to the afflicted one, "God has revealed to me that, as I lay my hands upon you, the place will be filled with the Holy Ghost, the bed will be shaken, you will be shaken and thrown out of bed by the power of the Holy Ghost, you will dress yourself and be strong." I said this to him in faith. I laid hands on him in the name of Jesus and instantly the power of God fell and filled the place. I felt helpless and fell flat on the floor. I knew nothing except that a short while after the place was shaken, I heard the young man walking over me and saying, "For Thy glory, Lord! For Thy glory, Lord!"

He dressed himself and cried, "God has healed me." The father fell, the mother fell, and another who was present fell also. God manifested His power that day in saving the whole household and healing the young man. It is the power of the risen Christ we need. That young man is today preaching the gospel.

Dare you take your inheritance from God? Dare you believe God? Dare you stand on the record of His Word?

What is the record? If thou shalt believe thou shalt see the glory of God. You will be sifted as wheat. You will be tried as though some strange thing tried you. You will be put in places where you will have to put your whole trust in God. There is no such thing as anyone being tried beyond what God will allow. There is no temptation that will come, but that God will be with you right in the temptation to deliver you, and when you have been tried, He will bring you forth as gold. Every trial is to bring you to a greater position in God. The trial that tries your faith will take you on to the place where you will know that the faith of God will be forthcoming in the next test. No man is able to win any victory save through the power of the risen Christ within him. You will never be able to say, "I did this or that." You will desire to give God the glory for everything.

If you are sure of your ground, if you are counting on the presence of the living Christ within, *you can laugh** when you see things getting worse. God would have you settled and grounded in Christ, and it is only as you are filled with the Holy Ghost that you become *steadfast and unmoveable* in Him. The Lord Jesus said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished." He was assuredly straitened in the way, at Gethsemane, at the judgment hall, and, after that, at the cross, where He, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot to God. God will take us right on in like manner, and the Holy Spirit will lead every step of the way.

**the laugh comes from a huge solid and unshakeable assurance within that defies all understanding. This is in such contrast to a human view upon the reality, that a joyous laugh or shout is unavoidable! -Edit.*

