

QUESTIONS WE ASK GOD  
John Wright Follette

1. ...because it kind of woke me up. I was singing it and I had to stop, "What is that...  
..., in other words,     ? So, if you'll notice, it's a Psalm of Praise covering the  
TRINITY.

A PSALM OF PRAISE

O let us praise the Father--  
Our God exalted high,  
Whose mighty power ruleth  
The earth, and sea, and sky.  
Let all creation worship,  
And loudest praises sing;  
Jehovah God is worthy,  
He is our God and king.

(Then we come to the second member)

O let us praise the Saviour--  
Redeemer of mankind,  
Whose blood now speaks redemption,  
To those who seek and find;  
He speaks the word of pardon,  
There's healing in His wings,  
The heart of man receives it,  
And loud His praises sings.

O let us praise the Spirit--  
One of the Godhead three,  
Who brings the new creation  
With life and victory;  
Who ever seeks to make us  
Like Jesus Christ the Son,  
And daily gives us power  
For battles to be won.

So let us praise the Father,  
The Son and Holy Ghost;  
All those who seem the weakest  
Should surely praise Him most.  
For He is our Jehovah,  
And we are in His hand;  
His care is ever o'er us--  
His precious, blood-bought band.

Shall we sing that? And those of you who know...can carry it along. (Hymn sung: A  
PSALM OF PRAISE)

2. And so He gave me a little song for worship among the other songs and hymns. We have so few of them, so I was glad that He let us have that. I like that line, it sounds a little strange, but, "Let those who are the weakest should surely praise Him most." Do you know why? Because the weaker and more empty you are, the more occasion there is for His grace and His mercy. The weaker we are, the greater occasion for His strength. When we are so strong, He has very little chance to do anything with us. But when we are weakened, "Let all those who are the weakest, should surely praise Him most," because they become an occasion for the grace and the wonder of God to work. "To whom much is forgiven..." What is it? It's the same principle again. If you have had a rather limited idea of your need, and God comes, you don't have too much thanksgiving and appreciation. But if there's a deeper sense of your need when He comes, how much bigger and more marvelous and wonderful He is.
3. Well, now...Lord, help us. We don't know...all these things are on our heart, and we want to help these precious people. We get in the way, and we just clatter around, Lord, and we don't seem to get anywhere. Now, please help us today. Please bless this word. Give us open, receptive hearts. Help us to sit still and listen, and help us to absorb and take in the Truth that You want to give for our encouragement and for our help. You like to help us, but we don't always want to be helped Your way. We want You to help us, but so many times we want You to help us OUR way. And Lord, it won't work. We just know it won't work. And when we pray, "Help us," make us willing to accept the help in the way YOU want to bring it to us. We don't want to be like spoiled children who choose. We don't want to do that. Therefore, open this Word this morning that we shall have fresh glimpses into the way in which You live and move and work. Help us to get another little slant on the methods and the ways of God. For Jesus' sake. Amen.
4. Now, it's my good intention to try to help you again this morning! I don't know if I succeed or not. But that's always my intention. I want to help you. And I don't want to scare your or hurt you or frighten you. I thought this morning; this is the only message that the Lord has laid on me. I've spoken along these lines, but I never really handle the Truth the same way the second time that I minister because many things have

happened in the interim and I don't always give it in the same line. I want to help people who have questions so many times in their hearts. Now, God doesn't blame us our questioning attitude because that's the way we are. That's the first little venture. He doesn't blame us because we are filled with wonder and amazement. I like what Aristotle said; he was a great, old Greek philosopher. He said, "The sense of wonder is the beginning of all philosophy." And when we look back, it is. The SENSE OF WONDER. Why? It starts you off from HERE to THERE. It starts a RELEASING. That there is something otherwise than HERE...there's something over HERE. The SENSE OF WONDER--there's a beginning. A philosophy, and I believe that. So he doesn't blame us because we ask questions. He doesn't blame us because we express our ignorance and so many times we say, "I don't know, God. I don't know anything about this. How...show me what this is." Then He can help us. I have three--a group of three. This will characterize three groups of people. There are those who are always concerned about the TIME ELEMENT. The TIME ELEMENT, in your experience, when God's dealing. WHEN. You've had it in your own experience. God may have shown you something. He may have held...what He's holding back, and you think you ought to have it. And you say, "Well WHEN will God come through. When...when...when, will God...!" Now, don't WHEN God, WORSHIP HIM. Don't "when," Him; don't "why." I often think that when God looks down, His children look up this way, like an interrogation force. "WHY God? WHEN God? WHERE God?" Just like a lot of questions come up out of us. And I think as He looks at us, our countenance must be to Him just sort of a question mark. In this group today, everyone of us, now; we'll all be open, we all have our questions. Have any of you little questions? Or is it, "Ahhhhhaaaaaa!" Well, I can't help you! Go on with that! You've too sly. I want people who have DIFFICULTIES. I want people who ask questions. I want to work with them because that's the way we are. And God MEETS us on that level. And so there are always people who are in the difficulty of, "WHEN will this be? He said so, He promised it, and I have an intimation that He is going to do it, and He wants to do it! Well, when, when, when?!" He's not pleased always to reveal the time element. He keeps us under the teaching and the influence of the promise. I'll open that one with an illustration in the Word, because I like the Word to back up my teaching. It isn't mine, but the teaching that God gives me, I'm always glad when He gives me something right in the Word, and there it is. And that helps me because I have the Word back of me as my authority.

5. So--WHEN? Now we have those who believe, they say, "I believe that. God has spoken and I believe that I'm moving along with Him, but HOW in the world will He ever do it?" How many ever had the, "how's?" Did you ever have a case of "HOW"? Yes. That's sort of like measles and things that strike the body. There's an analogy in there, but we, as people in the human have to go through episodes. In our Christian experience we have to the same. There's a period where children have chicken pox and mumps and measles and all that. Those are difficulties in the body that occur at a certain period of it's development. Now, it's exactly the same in moving in God in the Spirit. We develop difficulties RELATIVE to SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS. It's exactly the same. I've dealt with people in the Spirit where they have a good dose of measles. That's all. It belongs to you at that period. It belongs to you. It's like the little baby cutting teeth. Exactly the same. There's a period when that little baby has just a marvelous time nursing. But you don't want her nursing a baby ten, twelve, and fifteen years old. What's the matter with you? A baby is not born with a whole set of teeth, ready to eat meat. You're not supposed to. There's a period in which they are nursing. They're nursing. But that can't always be. And so, of course, the mother says, "Now, darling. You've reached the period where this nursing has to stop. You have to eat, darling." And she says, "Coo, coo, coo," and "Doo, doo, doo," and the baby has teeth right away! And it began to eat! Because God can "do all things!" And if you trust Him He can answer prayer and do all!!! How many know that's ridiculous? Why not follow along in the pattern that HE makes? Now, He COULD do that, but He's NOT going to do it. So I don't "tease" Him. I say, "That isn't the way You are working. How are you working?" He says, "It's this way." "Well, if it's an adjustment to Your way, let mine go out the window. I know You could do that..." He says, "I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT. This is what

I'm doing. Now if you want to quarrel with that, go out and bang your head! But that's not what I'm doing. I'm doing it THIS way. Come on." Now in these "hundred and fifty" years or so, I've learned that little, simple thing. To be obedient to the method or the technique which He is using.

6. Now, that little baby comes to a terrible crisis. And the mother weens him. Have you ever heard of a mother weening a baby in 10 minutes? No. How many know what a disagreeable, hard time that child had? Oh, a terrible time. Just a terrible time. Well, I've dealt with Christians you are being WEANED. And I say, "Now, don't cry..." "Well, God has always fed me this way! And I've always had that, and I've prayed...!!" He's not going to do that that way. It breaks my heart too, and you know, I feel so sorry for you. Because God can't do it that way. You are being WEANED and you are going to cut your teeth. Now be patient while you cut teeth. I've had people that I've dealt with in this ministry that I have of "spiritual direction," you might call it, or directing souls and people for all these many years; I know their symptoms. I don't talk to them too much at first; it isn't good. That's not good "psychology." No, no. Any psychoanalyst knows better than to tell everything you know in the first minute. You let them talk a little. And that gives you your ground, you know, it gives you access to them. Say, "Oh, is that so? How did that happen?" You know all the time, but you don't let on. "Well, I did so and so..." And I say, "Uh, hum. And then what happened?" Well, many times I know the whole history of the thing! Why wouldn't I!? Am I dumb? Is the Holy Ghost dumb? Well, the Holy ghost discerns, and discerns it, and we see it, and He says, "Now, apply this...apply that...apply that." Then you help them. So afterwards I have to say to them, "You are in a period of cutting your teeth, dear. That's all. Now, don't think the world's coming to an end or you've backsliden, or God's forsaken you. Not at all." And it's very painful. And by and by they get so they can take a little soft food. They are eating MEAT yet, dear. They aren't eating STRONG MEAT, mercy to me, no. It takes a long time; sometimes 40 and 50 years before the Lord can cut them a little bit of strong meat. I've known it. I've seen it. But what is sad in the heart of God, I imagine, is to see those whom He has CALLED, and He feels there is potential in them for meat-eating, to still want MILK. That grieves His heart. Because He knows the potential for food-eating is really resting in them if they'll PAY THE PRICE. Pay the price and come along. So there are people who are asking HOW. And you can't always tell them. "It will be...---" "Well, HOW?" God can't come down and tell you HOW. You have to be brought up to that crisis. Don't be afraid of it. The HOW is all in God's hands. You don't need to know HOW. We don't need to know HOW. He will reveal to us all that is expected in responsibility relative to it. But He has the HOW in His won hands. I want to talk about an illustration in the Word of God from that angle too. For the soul who is disturbed.
7. And another one who always asks the question, "WHY?" "WHEN will God...HOW will God...WHY will God...?" Those are three basic questions. There are many ramifications from them, but they are typical. Now, God doesn't always tell us. He doesn't always answer. And we have to get used to that. And when God is SILENT, don't make a "racket." He hears something. If He's still, then be still. That's better, then to "tease" Him and make a racket and a confusion and HE has to take weeks and months getting you quiet. It says, "Be still and know that I am God, and I've got the situation in hand." "I believe it, Lord, but HOW...?" You've upset it again. "I have this situation in hand. You are in My hands. I will work this out." "Thank You, Lord. HOW are You going to do it?" Well, you get off again. That's strange, isn't it? How strange we are. So those are at least the three.
8. Now the one I have talked on a little since I've been here were the group of people who are disturbed over the time element--WHEN, WHEN, WHEN? And how Jesus handled it. Now that's given to us in the story of the disciples who of course, had faith in Jesus and had expected and hoped that He would be a Messiah to reign and rule and live with them. And I think I spoke it to you before. Their question so many times is provoked because of a poor background, or a limited sense of the thing that God is doing. That will pro-

voke a question. A wrong attitude. Now, when Jesus came He did not come to the Jews, as we know, to establish a kingdom on the earth! He came to DIE! Well, now, that old tradition, working in the minds and hearts of those Jews, and especially His disciples who had embraced this call, and had given themselves to Him to follow Him--that was the hangover that was still in them, that He is the Messiah, and He will soon get a kingdom going. They couldn't listen to His magnificent teaching, His philosophy of life, and His teaching concerning the great objective of God, and the moving of His historic plan and purpose; they couldn't get into that because---"When will He get the kingdom going?" They had developed a KINGDOM COMPLEX. That's all, a KINGDOM COMPLEX, which had been held onto so tenaciously that it was actually a FIXATION. That was psychologically the state of those disciples. And so whenever He wrought a miracle, what did they do? When He wrought a miracle, they took the miracle out of it's proper setting, and applied it to their little hopes. Yes they did. "If He can make bread and fish and miracles, what couldn't He do if we can get Him on a throne where He will reign and rule and USE that mighty power!!" And when Jesus saw that they were going to take Him by force and condemn Him to run in that channel, HE LEFT THEM. Just LEFT THEM! Left them high and dry! How many can see that, or can't you see that? What made that? That fixation. In that whole attitude, and it's difficult for us sometimes to handle some who have allowed that to make a "groove" in their whole Spiritual approach. It's like a groove; everything that comes along runs right into that groove. It goes right into that groove. They're made that way and sometimes it's heartbreaking. I've wept over that as much as having people SIN. I really have. I've wept over it. I've said, "Lord, how terrifying." And He lets me know, He says, "That's what I had. That's what I was dealing with." So these poor disciples, when He taught, their thought was to apply it in some way in a physical form to a kingdom. If He wrought a miracle, they couldn't see it for it's miracle sake, they wanted to channel it! That's one thing that's hindered the movings of God even today--are people that immediately want to CHANNEL the thing that God is doing. If God pours out His...I'm saying, "Keep the Spirit up there, Lord. People aren't fit to have it." If God started pouring out the Holy Ghost next week, it wouldn't be two weeks before there would be a bunch of people channeling it! Because that's the way you're made! People are MADE that way. They say, "Follette! Have you been to see that?" I've told them, "I don't want to go near it!" "Why? He's pouring out a lot of rain all over!!! Oooooohhhh! Whewwwwwhhh!" I say, "Don't. You're making a lot of noise." I wouldn't walk across the road to it. Why? Because I know it. I KNOW it. I KNOW that. Now that will be labeled and channeled within two months! I've seen it. Have you seen it, or don't you know enough to see that? Let God dare to move and within two months that very thing will be channeled with names and leaders, and "that's the only thing on earth!" It becomes "the only thing on earth." Don't do that. That's silly. That's been going on for two thousand years. But a novice or a beginner doesn't know history. He just knows some Bible and some verses. Well, know HISTORY and you'll see it. And you'll see it. He can't do very much because it's taken right out of His hands and channeled and turned into something. That, to me, is a horrible way to do!

9. So here are these disciples and they can't let the Lord move in a fashion that HE wants, because they're all the while channeling it, bringing it over and adapting it, not to a BAD THING, but to what they call a GOOD THING! Isn't bringing in the kingdom a GOOD thing? Well then let God do the kingdom when HE wants to! Don't take the power of the Holy Ghost and everything, and "bring in the kingdom!" He's not asking you to bring in any kingdom! Please SIT DOWN. He is sufficient unto it. He is sufficient. But people wcn't listen. "Have you been to hear this and see that?" I said, "NO. I don't want to go near it. I don't want to be mixed up with it at all. I have plenty with God and all that He can take care of." I said, "I can't be bothered with that." "Why, it's WONDERFUL!" I said, "I've seen 'wonders' before." "Well, what's the matter with you?" Nothing. The only thing is, I'VE LIVED. And many of them haven't. And I have a reaction and a background has been built up 50 odd years, and I don't blame them. I just WARN them, and I say, "Please...don't do that. Please don't do that." So here is this story of these disciples. They wanted this kingdom, this kingdom, this kingdom, this kingdom. Now this is a story also, of the three examples I will give you of another

thing that I have found that the Lord has in the dealings with us. Where He brings us to a seeming DISSAPPOINTMENT, while from our side of the interpretation, it seems like a terrifying dissapointment. Now, that is not from His side a dissapointment at all. It is a necessary thing into which He has been able, and HAS to bring us, to give us a DIVINE SUBSTITUTE for the thing that we thought we must have or die. Now, that's history. For you think, "If this doesn't come to pass... where's God? What's the matter with the Word? What's the matter with it? If this doesn't come true...Uhhhh, uhhhh!" No, sit down. You're just going to waste yourself. Sit down. Wherever that dissapointment comes, don't interpret your dissapointment too much FROM YOUR ANGLE. It is PERMISSIVE, and God DARES to dissapoint some people, horribly! To SAVE them. To SAVE them. Now, get on the otherside of the dissapointment and you will see a little bit of the reason WHY it has to be so. He wouldn't come to you, in the beginning, and sit down as a private secretary, and explain the unknown to you. That's where we have to have a little faith to dare to trust Him. That's where our faith comes in, and we say, "Lord, this looks like a disaster. How could You afford to have such a disaster as this? And I'm involved in this disaster! Ohhhh..." No. Be quiet. You're looking at it from YOUR side. It IS a horrible dissapointment to your flesh; I mean, to your RELIGIOUS flesh. And your ambition. "Well, I thought it was a God-given vision from God!" Now wait, two minutes. On that point, analyse the motives that prompted it. Was it going to be God that got all the glory, or were you going to have a sense of "thrill," moving with, "Ohhhhaaaaaa!" Look out for that. Look out for your motives. Analyse them. Analyse them. Analyse them. And so, if we look from HIS side, we will find what we call, in our little life, a horrible dissapointment? No. It's the grandest occasion for Him to come in and give us a DIVINE SUBSTITUTE for the thing we feel we must have or die. No. You'll die out to a lot of stuff in it, but you will make a reception for something a million times better. A million times better. But it's hard to make people see that, because they are always on this side of the proposition, trying to either analyse it, or explain it, or excuse it. Don't fuss with it. Accept it and say, "What a mess!" Not, "Whyyyyyy!? How!? When!?" No, no, no, no. Acquiescence. And being able to trust God, and not have to have everything explained.

10. So here are these disciples. Now they are drawn to Him and CALLED disciples, because that means, "taught one, disciplined." They took some of it. Not too much. And they had the priviledge of discussing these problems with Him, because it says, "When He was alone with them, He begins to expound and explain the Truth which He has." Now. If in their minds; if in their minds and hearts, this hope of establishing a kingdom and getting something going predominates, how many know, there's no receptivity for the explanation with Truth? No, no. They haven't time for it. They haven't time for it; they're too busy. They're too busy. Now they have had plenty of opportunity to ask Him a hundred questions, but they're minds are not on the questions to seek the meaning of this tremendous impact that He has brought. Their minds are not on that, their minds are still on this fixation of this kingdom business. He could raise a whole graveyard! It doesn't yet move them. He could die on Calvary and bleed! It doesn't move them. He can be resurrection from among the dead and come out and walk among them! It doesn't move them. They're still KINGDOM CONSCIOUS. Like that. That's the way people are. In our own experience, don't become too conscious of any one episode. Just graciously and easily, don't allow any fixation like that to interrupt and interfere. We're only just here for a little while. Just a little while. The tendency is just to "settle." Become comfortable and easy--NO, no. No. He has to move us. So, as I said the other day, they had occasion to ask questions, but never do we find them asking Him questions now, relative to His visitation. And here on the mount, just as He's going home; this is on the mountain side, and He's going home. He has gone through the tragedy and ...here comes a man. Get a seat ready. Because we don't want to get all upset again. Some body get a chair or something. So they had occasion to ask questions, but you don't find them asking any questions relative to this impact of life and light He's brought. Any question they have, circles around, and is involved in THEIR idea of what He should do or would do. ALL of them. Now they're on the side of the mountain. He's going home. This is the very last occasion for them. This is the

LAST little visit that they will have! Whatever's on their hearts of paramount interest and desire, THIS is the hour now for him to say something to him about it! Do you think they have understood the tragedy of Calvary yet? No. No. Wouldn't you think they would say, "Oh, Master! Open this fact up to us more clearly! This tragic thing of Calvary!" It doesn't move them. Wouldn't you think the fact that He has had a resurrection and comes back with this body in which He can deal with them...doesn't move them. Not when you are in a kind of a fixation like that! Nothing on God's earth moves you. That's the way we are made, so we have to accept it. They don't ask a thing. But they are still clinging to that everlasting kingdom idea. And as they sit there on the side of the mountain, and He's ready to be taken up to the glory, the last question that any disciple ever asked Him had to hang on that kingdom! "Lord...will You at THIS time...bring in the kingdom!? And restore Israel?" I don't know...it seems to me Jesus took an awful lot. There are times when I would think He would have died because of the reaction in His spirit to this horrible thing that flesh is like. Stupidity. Ignorance. And here He is in all the loveliness of Truth. Waiting to help them, wanting to bless them. And there they sit, "Will You at this time..."

11. Now, I want you to look at that just for a minute. It's in Acts; the first chapter of Acts. And you'll see...and I'll read it. I want you to notice how clever He is, how beautiful He does it. How tactful He is. "Will You at THIS time restore again the kingdom of Israel?" And He said unto them, 'IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW the times and the seasons which the Father has put in His own power. It is possible for you to have signs which I will give; prophetic things which will come to pass. But there are issues hidden away in the secret heart of God. And it is not for you to enter into that. Enter into the signs which I will speak to you concerning My coming.' But there are from God's angle, God's side, times and seasons which He holds in His own, and He says, "IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW." PERIOD!!! How many get that or don't you? But it IS for us to know what He has brought to us in revelation. That's all right, but He says, "There are some things left in God that it isn't just polite for flesh to know about." Well, I'm glad He said it. Don't you think there are a few items in God that flesh doesn't need to know about? I do. No. But their silly. It's silly. Silly. There's no power of comprehension. How can a finite creature embrace and understand infinity? You can't. A finite can't. Can't. We get fragments of it. And so you notice He says, "There are moves of God, times and seasons and movings of God which is none of your business. They are of God, in God's hands. That is not for you to know. BUT..." Now here is a conjunction--BUT. This is the DIVINE ALTERNATIVE. "This is a horrible disappointment to you. You are not to know all this thing that is itching you and eating you. But I'm going to draw a curtain over it. Now you've walked around under the impact of that all these years that I've been with you. Now, this is the last act of THAT. It is not for you to know. PERIOD. Now, don't be discouraged! Don't be amazed! Don't be defeated! BUT--over and against this disappointment that I am bringing you into, over against that, HERE IS something that you MAY know, that you MAY have. Which you MAY discern. How many get your DIVINE ALTERNATIVE, or don't you see that? BUT--throws the whole situation into a Divine arrangement. "BUT," He said; read that, "BUT--you're not coming into a kingdom..." NO, no, no, no, now let that alone. That will come in God's time. That's God's season time. "BUT--you shall receive the power after that the Holy Ghost will come upon you and you shall become unto Me, or be made unto Me My wonderful witness in this earth. I want a WITNESS in the earth." God had a witness in Israel. "Israel, My witness, My witness, My witness." Jesus was a witness unto God. The first name He had in Revelation was "The Faithful Witness," not "The Great Redeemer," and "The King." That's coming, but let that alone! The very first word He says He is a witness. Now He says, "I want YOU, the nucleus, a little handful, just little, ignorant, stupid creatures that you are--I want to make YOU into the first 'cells' of a mystical Body. And you will be the first cells of it. You will be the first cells in the mystical Body. And you shall BECOME." He doesn't tell them a thing they are going to DO. And that's another wrong thing, the whole Pentecostal things has swung out of, and why it's being defeated today. Because of their foolishness. He

never told them a thing they would DO. He said, "Something you will BECOME." And there's a vast difference between DOING something and BECOMING something. He didn't say, "And when the Holy Ghost shall come upon you, you shall go out and raise the dead." He didn't. It is not an ACTIVE verb. It is a passive; it is a verb of BEING or BECOMING. Get your Greek Testament and look at it. Pentecostal people don't like me! Why? Because I have Truth. They have a TRADITION. I have a Truth. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is NOT primarily for SERVICE at all! It is inclusive! It's primary objective was--it is the dynamic by which this Body is to be built! "The mechanics which I will use in the building of it are the little services which I lay upon you. And you will render them unto Me. But all the service that I put upon you purely REFLECTS. It reflects. So when the Holy Ghost comes upon you He will start a mystical work. You shall BECOME UNTO ME MY WITNESS in the earth. As Jehovah had Israel, God had the lovely Christ, I want a witness too." His Bride, dear. His counterpart. His people who He has redeemed. He wants to reshape and recast them into something which can be united with Him...hallelujah!....through the eternal ages. How could it be in it's limitations and crude and senseless, insensibility? It can't. "No," He said, "When the Holy Ghost, the power..." He speaks of the power of the Holy Ghost. Get your word POWER. DUNAMUS. Not, EXOUSIA. But DUNAMUS. We have two word for "power" in our Greek testament, but their all translated POWER in the New Testament, and "The power, power, power, power, power!" I think, "Sit down. What power are you talking about?" "Oh, I've got the power and the power!" "Oh," I said, "Lord, bless them, and get them out of the way." Can't do anything with them. He says, "When the POWER of this Almighty, and the power of the Spirit comes upon you, He begins a miracle. You shall BECOME. Not, you shall BE unto Me a WITNESS in this earth." And that's what the vocation of the Body IS today is to become a living witness. That's why Paul carries the same thought when he says, "You are LIVING EPISTLES." Do you get the same philosophy? It's the same teaching.. YOU are the epistles. Not the thing you DO, YOU ARE THE EPISTLE! YOU become the witness. Not, "I get up in church and witness for Jesus." Well, why shouldn't you? He's not talking about that. That's all right, but that isn't what He's talking about. Why shouldn't you get up in church and witness? He's not talking about getting up and making a testimony. He's not talking about testimony at all in the sense of what we call testimony and witness. He's talking about the BUILDING, the bringing forth, in time, in time, a factor that will be projected into the eternal ages. How many of you follow me? Do you get that? Now do you see how very clever He is? How very, not "clever" in the wrong sense, but clever in the sense of great wisdom to say, "It is not for you. Drop that. BUT--Divine alternative. You shall BECOME. How many see a substitute that is far greater than for them to have their little kingdom with Him reigning and ruling with Israel? A little kingdom with Him... well, the dreams in your heart sometimes, I think, in the sight of God, must look as foolish. The ambition that surges through your heart to have or be or do something for the Lord. He says, "Well, dear...you're like a little child, like a little child. My substitute for all of that is so much greater. It is so much more enduring. It carries so much greater quality to it than THIS."

12. Now listen. Can you find any place in the NT where any one of these disciples ever had anything to say again about that kingdom? They were perfectly brainwashed. Yes they were. Really, that's what happened. They were brainwashed. And they were so occupied with the new impact of light and Truth, that you never hear them say anything again about this kingdom, when they would get in and get out. Not at all. Isn't it wonderful what power a fresh impact of Truth can have? A fresh impact of Truth. How it can set aside some of your funny, little, traditional ideas and notions. They push way off on the horizon and drop down. I know they do. Even in our limited experiences... how many can look now at some of the strange little notions that you had years ago? Yes. Well, God doesn't blame you, only He says, "Please GROW. Don't stay a little babe forever. Please GROW. Please GROW." And so here we have this first example of the question, WHEN? Now some are asking, "WHEN will this be, WHEN will this be?" He may have intimated something to you, suggested something. Remember this picture.

It isn't always wholesome for us to be told. It isn't good for us. It isn't good for us. One reason is, we couldn't take it even if He TRIED to tell us. We couldn't take it. I know it. I know it in my own experience. I used to question the Lord about some things. We all do. I can see now that He could not have told me ten, twenty, thirty, and forty years ago what I know now. He couldn't have. I could not have RECEIVED it. I could NOT. Receptivity has to be built up in these years. Then He can say what we thought He must say and do there and do. No, He's not tied to our little program. Not at all. But He does love to bring us to some kind of maturity where He can speak.

13. So our first little picture of the questioning in which we have a DIVINE SUBSTITUTE for what we had hoped for is in that one. Now, the next one that I want to talk about is your difficulty in wondering how God is going to work the thing out. You ACCEPT this, but you are still under a questioning process in your heart to know HOW the thing shall be. How many know the classic illustration in our New Testament? Of "HOW shall these things be?" How many know the classic illustration? Well, we'll get Mary out for a little while. And I'll deal with her because...I can't deal with her this morning because I want to give you one whole message on this approach to Mary in the bringing forth of Christ. But that takes a message in itself. I've never preached it, but it's on my heart because He's been showing it to me. But we can get SOME of it here. This is in Luke, you'll remember. Luke 1:26 is where the question comes. Luke 1, and begin with the 26th verse. It's the picture of what we call the "Annunciation." And then we go on and go down, and then the angel in 28th, "And the angel came and said unto her, 'Hail, thou that art highly favored. The Lord is with thee.'" That's your little encouragement. "'Blessed art thou among women.'" Now, there's no place there for WORSHIP. It's great RESPECT. We are to "respect" her. And to honor her because she's the mother of our Lord. But there's nothing about worship in it. That's blasphemy; we shouldn't do that. "And when she saw him..." a normal, a normal reaction. "She was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be." And the angel, you see, anticipating that, begins to tell here something about it. "And the angel said unto her, 'Fear not, Mary. For thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father...'" Can you imagine what reactions were taking place in her mind when this terrific thing comes? An angel saying all this terrific thing about Him to her poor, little heart? How could she ever receive it? "And He shall reign over the House of Jacob forever. And of His kingdom there shall be no end." Now can you see that the next question is that of pure amazement, rather than a wanting to know, and "I feel like he'll answer."? What does she say? "How could this..." and all that...why? "Because, 'I have no husband.'" How many see she's interpreting it right away from the level of the natural, which is the "normal" thing? Well, she thought, "Babies would have to come if I were married and had a husband! How could I have a child without a husband?" How many see the FLESH has to come in and reason right away? Poor little heart. How patient He is with us. Our flesh has to come in and answer the question. Well, she says, "HOW shall these things be?" Now, she was NOT asking him HOW the miracle would take place, as much as a question of amazement, HOW can such a thing be when it's not found in the normal pattern? "I have no husband." Now let's see how lovely he is in the answer for it. So she says, "I have no husband," that is, "I know no man." "And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall OVERSHADOW thee. Therefore, also, that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.'" You see, he diverts her attention from her difficulty of sensing a limitation and a "how can it be;" she thinking on one place, and he's working on another. Absolutely. There are two levels. Two things. He doesn't condemn her, and He shouldn't, because it's only normal, natural reaction to the Truth. But he does tell her, not in detail, "And the angel sat down and gave her an explanation of the incarnation of God in the flesh." He did not. He left it to the theologians to do that. Yes. Do you think He could have said a few things if He'd have wanted to? How many know God could do a lot



of things if He wanted to? But He doesn't want to, so I always say, "If You don't want to talk to me, Lord it's all right." "Now, please Lord!!!" I don't like that. And when God doesn't talk to me, I just say, "That's all right." I think that's a better way. Not, "Now, what have I done to offend Him? Why am I out of touch with You? Have I grieved the Holy Ghost!?" Oh, sit down. You're "wonderful!" Only He just doesn't want to come now. "Well, I need Him so! I've wept for 3 days! And I haven't had any thrills or anything!" Isn't that ridiculous? Then they go to the altar to get "a shot in the arm" to sustain them for another week. Oh, dear, what crazy folks we have in this world. I've seen them. One woman that I had to deal with, she said, "I just want to get where I can hear a good SHOUT! I don't want to hear...I'm just dying to hear one!" We're all so different.

14. So He says, "The power of God..." How many see when He talks to these disappointed disciples, it was what? The POWER of God. The POWER OF GOD is always the DIVINE SUBSTITUTION. But its manifestation may change. But it's always the power of God. To the disciples who were disappointed, He said, "The power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you will create the situation, and ye shall become." Now, He says to her, "The power of God will come upon you, and God will work the miracle. God will work the miracle." I want to speak about this in full, in their conversation, because when she said, "So let it be," it's so much better in your Greek, it is, "Body and soul I belong to Thee!" That's really what it meant. "Body and soul I belong to Thee! So let it be." How many see He gained there a consecration that He takes years to make in a soul? You know another one who had that almost instantaneous accomplishment? Paul. Yes, Paul, in the New Testament. Paul had it. The minute this thing comes upon him, his reaction is, "What will Thou have? I'm through. What will Thou have?" It takes some Christians YEARS to come to a place like that. It was accomplished like that in that terrific spirit. Paul was a giant wasn't he? Such a giant. But God accomplished in one deal, what takes some souls YEARS to come to. Years and years before we can come and say, "Have Thine way." And He says, "Yes...have you come to it at last?" "I think so, Lord, I...think I have." The way people play with God it just kills me. I talked with one college student just this last year, and the call of God is upon that child. But there are certain ambitions, legitimate pursuits, "good." And he said, "Well, Follette, I thought I could do this. If I could get all of these squeezed through, I could come to God and say, 'What would You have me to do?' And then He could use me." He was going to prepare himself for God so He could use him. I said, "That's a ridiculous way to look at this. He wants you NOW. Not the things you are going to do. And so you say to the Lord, 'Please stand over there, Lord, till I get through with my way. I want to do this and this, and they're all good things. And this and this. And when we get all through, I'll come back and say, 'Would You like to have me?'" Now, that's the way it was. How many can see that exactly? And when I presented it, he said, "I don't mean it that way." But you're making it that way. You're saying to God, "You stand over there for the next two or three years, and then I'll come and consecrate myself to You." And you're telling GOD where to get off? "Well, don't do it..." Well, you're doing it! He's doing that. "And when I get that fixed, I'll come and present myself." If He says, "Come!," then COME. But people don't learn how to live with Him, how to deal with Him.
15. So in this picture; I'll go with you a little farther with this picture...maybe tomorrow, I don't know. But I want to talk about Mary and this terrific miracle that is tremendous to me. Accomplished so wonderfully. The power of the Holy Spirit. "Abide under My shadow and I will accomplish it." No dissertation on "What is covered in the doctrine of the Incarnation!?" Oh, I had that years ago when I taught. And I'm so glad I'm not in a school, tied up with a definition. I really am. I'm so happy about it. Because in school, you have to have "systematic theology," and you have to have doctrinal lessons, where you handle doctrine, you know, just the doctrine. Now, mind you, I can handle them, and I've gone through them with definition, but I always didn't like them, and I said, "Lord, let's get out of this." And when He took me out of the technical aspect of it and put me through it, how many know, I was like a bird set free? I felt just like a bird set free. I had been tied down in my cage of religious, "real," Truth! Defini-

tions, theology, doctrines, scriptures to prove it, and "what do you mean by that?" I've had to lecture on the Incarnation. "What is it that He left behind that He would not grasp at? And what was it that He took up when He took upon Himself humanity?" Well, how many know what book you have to go in? Phillipians, don't you? That's where you go in for all of that. It takes you a long time, but you have to learn your lessons. You have to know your words. So I'm going to leave some of that for tomorrow.

16. Now I want to take you to another question. Here we'll find another difficulty. A soul that's run up against a problem. And this time he doesn't know WHY this situation should become evident. Can you think of one of our characters in the NT, strong, beautiful, Godly, accepted, perfect, gifted--tremendously so; that had a terrible difficulty that he had to go to the Lord with? Paul, with his "thorn." That's a classic one; that's a classic example. Now here is Paul, called of God, filled with the Spirit, walking with him, with a tremendous burden laid on him, and gifted, highly gifted, to serve, and yet caught in this dilemma. Well, naturally, he wondered what it was all about. So what was his general technique? The same old prayer pattern everybody else uses. Go to God and pray. God to God and pray and He'll take care of it. He "always takes care of everything." Well, he DID try it. Didn't he go and pray? And God didn't answer him. Well, maybe he fasted, I don't know. Because usually if you don't get through, then you start some of these gymnastics. And so I don't know if he fasted; maybe he fasted and pounded on the chair. I don't know. People...you can get vigorous when He doesn't answer right away, and then they "search their hearts." And then, how many know, that awful "searching" process, scrapping your backbone to find out "what IS the matter?" You get too SELF-CONSCIOUS. Oh, this is terrible...am I "bad" this morning? I don't want to be "bad" this morning. I don't want to be bad, I want to help you because I've gone through all this mess. I'm not completely out, but I've gone through a few phases in these years. So he prays again. He...I don't know, maybe "claiming the precious promises;" I don't know, that's what most of them do. "And if this promise doesn't work, we'll get several promises! Then if that doesn't work, we'll get the whole church to pray! An annointed prayer! Then we'll get them all down!" Each one has a promise, and by that time, I don't know what the Lord is taking...which promise to work on. But they present Him with all these promises. And they get Him in the corner, and they say, "Dear, Lord...I have a promise, and he has a promise, and there is a promise, and You can't break Your promise!" I've seen meetings just like that. I've been in them. Now, that's the ATTITUDE, only they say, "Hallelujah! in between." It "takes the curse off!" Oh, I know their "secrets." I know their secrets. I've been in prayer meetings more than once; I've said, "Lord, isn't this terrible, let's go!" And we both go home. I HAVE done that. I have done that. Because the atmosphere is so terrific. It does something to my spirit, like it was suffocating me and I couldn't get my breath, and I said, "Lord, lets get out of this!" And somebody on the other side says, "Hallelujah!" and I say, "What are you 'lujah-ing' about anyway?" But they have to "lujah," about something or other; it keeps them "busy." It keeps them out of jail and everything else! So...there they are.
17. So he tried this the second time. No "worky." Tried it three times. Well, by the time you've tried it three time---we don't know what period has elapsed in this. I don't mean he tried it three days in succession. I think it may have been weeks, or even months in this process. So he finds out that this prayer doesn't work here. Well, there IS a prayer technique that you only use on certain prayer levels. There are other levels where that technique does not work. I know it, because He's taken me through it. He would take me to another difficulty, and I would pray my fashion of prayer that I had prayed for years, and...no. And I ask Him about it. And He showed me that there are various phases of technique in your prayer system. That's true. And they don't always work on the same level. Now, here is something that Paul wanted and he tries his old pattern. And it doesn't work. Well, then God has something else. God has something else. So he tries and finally he just faces the Lord with it. "What's the matter dear Lord? You've called me. There's nothing in my life that I feel that You're having an argument

with at all. I'm not perfect, I know, but You have accepted me. I'm walking with you. I'm walking in the light. You have given me a call for ministry. And I'm trying by Thy grace to fulfill it, and everytime I try to fulfill this very call that is upon my heart, here is this terrific thing. And Lord, it's impeding YOUR work!" That's "bad," isn't it? These poor "self-creatures," aren't they awful? Am I terrible in the analysis of this old creature? I'm talking out of my heart. I have no shame about it because I'm with You, thank God. I live with Him. I'm not afraid of it. I talk out of my heart because I've been through this thing. I've been through this with the thorn too. He doesn't talk to everybody with thorns, but some have thorns. We have them in lesser degrees. Modified form. So he goes to God, he says, "What is this?" Now let's see how the Lord dealt with him. This is over in Corinthians, II Corinthians 12, he says how that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which is not lawful for a man to utter. Now, let me help you right there. When he says, "It was not lawful," for him to expound or explain the things, the mysteries that he discerned when he was caught away in the Spirit, it doesn't mean that it was against the LAW. It means there was no law of expression. There was no law of expression. He said, "I saw and I heard and I discerned things..." Now there's a man looking around. (In the back) Does he want a room...I don't know. No, he's gone out again. Now he's gone out. Goodbye dear. Let him go. So when he is caught away, it says he saw and heard things unlawful to tell. They were so tremendous that he couldn't...no. IMPOSSIBLE to tell, for there is no law of EXPRESSION. Impossible to tell, not that it was against the law, but there was no law operative that would reduce THAT to THIS. Do you get me? THIS is under another law up here. And there was no law by which it could be reduced and interpreted down HERE. So he said, "I have no law, no media by which this thing can be reported." Well, that's true because many of us have had little touches. How many of you have had touches in the Spirit of things that you couldn't possibly explain? Now, I know that in the Spirit all of our senses, say that we have, our five senses, they are horribly limited here. But because we become glorified, it doesn't mean that we cease from that. I think those are elementary things that we know very little about HERE, but will be purified and adjusted in a new realm. I believe that with all my heart. Because I've touched some of it. And I believe there's a synchronizing, or a moving of one with another. Now, I have seen the COLOR of music. Now, that's a "funny" thing, isn't it? But I've seen it. In the Spirit it is; I only saw it for a flash. I know we speak of it now, we say, "It had great color." I'm not talking about that. I'm not talking about that. It was early one Sunday morning, the Lord wakened me, and just as I woke up like this, it was only a flash, maybe -----it's out. And I heard a heavenly music and I saw the variety of colors that those sounds represented. Absolutely. But I know color and music have something together. And I feel that also with sound. Sound has something more than just, "I hear." I've had touches of it in the Spirit. And I know that in the next age these things will be all cleared, cleansed, and adjusted. And the things which we hold down here in our quiet, crooked, bound, and biased fashion, will be RELEASED. But it will be the taking of these elements which belong to us in creation, which are now bound under a law of sin and death, will be LIBERATED. Not something brand new, but that which has oh, been so crushed and broken, will come up under the redemption of Jesus. All of nature, all things that have suffered through sin and disobedience will be cleansed. And all nature will respond again, and move to the glory of God.

18. So here he says that he had been caught away to sense all these marvelous and wonderful things, but God had to do something with him. Now listen how, oh, humble he is. Now if we had anything like this, we would be very sure not to tell anybody about it. Yes, we would. We would have covered it. But he wants to help people, so he bares himself. He bares himself. "For, though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool, for I will say the Truth. But now I forebare. Lest any man..." Here's two reasons. "Lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he hears of me." That's one reason. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelation." These are two reasons. How many see these are two reasons why this

terrible thing has come upon him? Because--lest, LEST...you have your two LEST's here. Two "lests." "Lest I should be exalted above so and so, there was GIVEN..." Now, this is a GIFT. What a gift. "Desire earnestly the best gifts." How many know that this was a GIFT? Yes, it was a gift. "There was GIVEN unto me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan, to buffet me. LEST---" Oh, these awful "lests!" "LEST I should be exalted above measure." Now, who would be daring enough to own up to such a mess as that? Very few. Very few. Do you have a Swedish Bible? Have you ever looked in the Swedish Bible what that word is, "thorn?" It is not "thorn," it is STAKE. He's not talking about a thorn off of a rose bush. It is not a thorn that we call thorn. And in the Greek it's the same. In the Greek, it means like a javelen. And sometimes a thorn is a javelen. It isn't some little, disagreeable thing, a thing that kind of irritates you. That's not a thorn in the flesh. No it's in...I think the Swedish calls it a "stave." One of the Norweign Bibles or the Swedish Bible calls it a STAVE. Rather than a THORN. It's not "thorn." Thorn is not the correct word at all. It is a javelen. Or a STAKE. But thrown into his flesh. What is your word "flesh?" Is it "kreas?" Is it "sarx?" What is it? Well, of course in the Greek, when we put it in English we say "flesh..." He doesn't do that. He has words for it. When he's talking purely about flesh, the flesh in the market, "kreas." And this flesh that I have, that's like the "kreas." "Sarx," means the whole human concept. Your whole human concept: Spirit, soul, and body. It's the trinity in which we live and move and vibrate. Isn't that so? We move in a trinity. The set-up, from the standpoint of my human being, I'm a trinity. Spirit, soul, and body. Now that is the concept. And in the Greek, that is "sarx," which means, "the whole human concept," not merely the body aspect. Now, do you get that? I want you to get that because I'm going to talk to you. How many can see that? Then why reduce the fact that the "thorn in the flesh," was "sore eyes?" How many see that is a million miles off the track? Sore eyes would be applied to something that is in the body. But it isn't only in the body, but the whole spirit, soul, and body---is the SARX! And this javelen was thrust through the whole being. Now are you getting a little more light? Come on. It was thrust through the whole being so that this terrifying, disagreeable thing is going to move in three realms in him. Because that's his being. His spirit, soul, body. SARX. "There was thrown my sarx, through my flesh, through my concept, a javelin, to pin me down. It became a great hinderance. Why? Because the thing revealed so many fields. So many fields that hindered me. It hindered me in all these fields, and I became discouraged and disturbed about it. So, normally, I went to God, and I said, "Oh, God! You've called me. The Call is upon me, and you've given me the vision of my mission. You've given me the Holy Ghost to minister and these gifts. And just as I want to go minister, and you've given me exalted pictures and types up here in heavens...and NOW, here comes this javelin!" He called it a "messenger of Satan." Now this is what I can't understand. Why should they make such a time wondering what the thorn was? "What was...?" He TELLS you what it is? He says right, exactly THERE what the thorn IS! Now if I say, "There was given to me a gift this morning, a new Bible, which I hope to read." How many could possibly guess what that gift could be? Now, "guess hard!" Pray hard! Search hard! Get into the grief of it! Get down....! "There was given to me a Bible, which I hope to read." What could the gift have been? None of you know that even? Oh! Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you! It's a Bible...! "There was given unto me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan." The thorn in the flesh, the javelin was a messenger of Satan, that had access at him, to disturb, to disturb, and hold him where he belongs. Well, people say, "Paul, disturbed by a demon?!" Why not? It didn't say he HAD a demon, that he was demon possessed or even obsessed. It merely says that a demon had been released by God as a ministering spirit would be, to develope Paul. Can you think of any other occasion where that very thing happened? Job. Exactly. That was exactly so. When God really wanted to get at him, he didn't come down with an angel, and say, "Dear Job. I want to talk to you. There's a difficulty in your life, and I think if we talk about it we can straighten it out." He did not. He just let the Devil loose at him. By permission of course. And the Devil was able, by acting as an instrument, and God has that. Remember Peter, when he had to be taken care of? What was it? The Devil. "The Devil has desired to shake you up..." And God let him in! In the permissive will of God, God uses all agencies.

I try to present this Truth...I believe God showed me this because I hadn't read it before. This is the way the Lord explains Truth to me. How many can see some Truth sticking out in this thing? Can you see the Truth of it? It disturbed me a little, and when I would tell it to people, they said, "Well, how could God have permitted a demon to touch such a holy man?" Well, it was the Devil that got after Jesus, and who could have been more holy than He? Yes. Well, in God's thought are not my thought, nor are His ways my ways. And so it says, "There was GIVEN..." It is a GIFT of God. This messenger. Now when you come to your word, "messenger," it is the same word that we have for angels and angel. The messenger. A spirit. The ANGELS are spirits sent of God to minister to us. That's exactly the same word. Exactly. Only it's from the enemy. Only it's from the enemy. Well, there's an "angelos," that is a messenger, and an "angel," a demon, of the enemy, permitted to come and make it's attack. How many can see that now? If you get word, you'll commence to see the light on it. And he says, "That was GIVEN to me." Two things. "Lest people would think I was something in God, and didn't know I was human after all, and the other, lest I would be exalted by the abundance of the light and the Truth i had." He says, "I have to pin you down, Paul. I will pin you down, and this will be for your salvation. It will save you out of an awful lot of trouble, and it will be a means by which I can be glorified. So I will given him." "And there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to do those two things. To pin me down so that I wouldn't be exalted above measure; it's such a marvelous, wonderful thing, and also, lest someone would think I was more than I really am." He says, "After all, I'm only a human being, and perhaps so, more human than you, that I had demon to have to come and deal with me. Maybe you're so holy, you don't need a demon." Ha. Yeah, some people are afraid of it. No. It's in God's economy.

19. Now what did he do? I will come to that same word again. It says, "I sought Him three times that this thing should be removed so that I would be at liberty to serve and minister and do the things." No. He's saying, "No...My grace will be sufficient for you. For my power..." how many see the same word again? "My power..." is the word that He used with the disciples; it's the word that He used in my last about Mary bringing forth it was the power of God overshadowing. Ministering. "My POWER will be made PERFECT in your weakest condition. The weakest condition, there is a place for my power to be perfected." Now, in your reasoning; I want to take this up in analysis with a reasoning in it, how many see something? How many know the word, "therefore," comes in here? Or didn't you notice that? All right. "Therefore," is a very important word, and He is using it. So he said, "So He said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'" Now his reaction. Then he sees it. "More gladly therefore will I glory," imagine it! GLORY! GLORY in his infirmities!! Not asked to be excused to take them away. "I will GLORY in my infirmities." Why? Well, "That's the time that the power of Christ may rest upon me." In your Greek, it's to "make a tabernacle over me, or a tent." Not just "rest," but "He builds a tabernacle over me for protection." "And He makes a tabernacle over me." Now, here's your word. What does he have "therefore?" It's a conclusion in this whole episode. "THEREFORE, I take pleasure in infirmities." Why? Because this enemy has this power to bring on attack in infirmities. Do you get it or don't you? He has a five-fold approach. One, INFIRMITIES, two, REPROACHES, three, DISTRESSES,....infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecution, and distresses. Yeah. How many see FIVE coming up? Do you get FIVE or don't you get that? Now, five is a very peculiar number. It's a parculiar number. The meaning, I wondered about, so I got out and made a study of the thing. And I found something. I found something that was really worth while in there with this question of this FIVE. He says, "As a RESULT now, I rejoice in these five things." Well, why? Because these are the five things that will appear in his SARX, do you get it? And the Holy Spirit will have power to tabernacle in each occasion. FIVE, five, five. Now, let me help you here. You see, there is no completion of a deliverance resting in the fact of these five difficulties. That's the field where the performance of God's grace and the wonder of God will take place in that field of five. The five is not exactly the incompletion, but NOT SATISFYING. Five, it is NOT satisfying. It doesn't work. It doesn't satisfy. It won't work. Five won't. When I was reading and studying

this, the Lord brought it to me, and I remember right where I was when He was dealing on this angle of Paul's thorn. I was working with Paul's thorn for I don't know how long, trying to get the thing together. Because the tracts and things I read, they seemed so silly to me. They seemed so silly. I couldn't get anywhere with them. "Sore eyes!" Oh, mercy! He's not talking about that at all. Now, God brought me to this. And I'd like to speak about it another time, because it's a long story. How many of you remember that the woman at the well...in Samaria, do you remember? And Jesus sat there, and this lone woman came by, and Jesus takes the initiative to ask for a drink. Now Samaritans and Jews have NO fellowship at all. They don't even speak to each other. NEVER. They would walk clean on the other side of the street, and here is a Jew, asking of a Samaritan a drink of water. He has a right to do that. And so, He is dealing with this woman to help her. He knows her by heart anyway. And so he brings her into conversation, and right out of the clear sky, He says, "Go tell thy husband so and so." Scared the wits out of her and she thought, "Well, I haven't any husband." Ho, ho, ho. What a lie. "I haven't any husband." And I was thinking about it, ?, and I said, "I see something, Lord. That woman will have five husbands." I had forgotten in the Bible, does it say she had six? I got out of bed and put on the light and got my Bible, and said, "Lord, this has to be FIVE. She has to have five, because she's showing me a thing that I KNOW has to be that way." Oh, I just nearly collapsed. I said, "That's right. He says, 'You've had five, and this one that you're living with now isn't yours.'" Now, why? That was the dissatisfaction, the incompleteness of the sequence. This is good in here; now get it. How many are seeing something? To you begin to see something? Yes. The man and the woman, how many know, they are made of God? They're mates. They are to be ONE. Well, if this poor woman has no satisfaction to know that, she has tried all the resources of HER set-up, and it proved nothing but DEFEAT. So she has to go the limit of FIVE, which is the incompleteness and lack of satisfaction. How many see that or don't you? THEN comes the satisfaction. I said, "I see that." He said, "Do you see?" That's right. Oh, God is so good to talk to me! I think He's wonderful. I'm so dumb. But He talks to me. I know he does. He says, "Do you see that in your apprehension of Spiritual realities and Truth, your senses will never receive it?" How many SENSES have you? FIVE. I said, "Thank You, Lord." I have five senses. Sight, see, smell, touch...five. He says, "Do you see, when you project that over here, you will never receive the Spiritual reality?" Five is a strange number. It's there, but it is the lack of satisfaction. It never brings through. It never ministers correctly. How many are getting something? Do you see it? I never saw that, but He says, "There it is." Five, five, five, and everytime it is the LACK, it lacks the power to grasp or to penetrate or to hold. Five senses are wonderful in their field, but projected over there, how many know, you can't get a thing? Man can't through wisdom, natural, knows not God. He just doesn't. This are all good things for on our level. Project them on THAT level, and you're just out of the picture. You're just out.

20. So he said, "Now I...", Paul says, "Now I see it. And since it's this way, I will REJOICE in it." Well, why? "Because when I am weak under the attack of these things, God spreads a tabernacle over me and the POWER of God is manifested in a way it couldn't be manifested otherwise. And I will become the little agent to display the glory and the wonder and the greatness and the power and the love of God. Of God, of God..." Have you seen something this morning? I've talked so long. But do you get some help? I want you to get help. I want you to get help. Learn how to be quiet enough to become adjusted to God, that God can deal with you. Now with some, He permits a difficulty to come, ? greater difficulty. I was talking to Bill this morning. He just sat there. I couldn't help but put my arm around him. I admire him. He confessed, "I don't think I could take it." But he takes it. I said, "Never mind. Do you know something? I have suffered in my spirit as bad as you have suffered in your flesh." Well, no one could help it. We would all love to help him. But no one. Except God, except God! And that is between you and God. That's between him and God. He accepts it, and he accepts the grace that goes...and I said, "Do you know, Bill,(I wouldn't tell it to many,) I said, "In my spirit there is not a day but what I suffer. I suffer just as much as

you do in your body. I suffer in my spirit, but I walk the floor when nobody knows it. And I put on a clean front and say, "Praise the Lord, isn't He wonderful?" He IS. He IS. That's why, not long ago, in one of these cases of suffering, a terrifying thing, God spoke to me and he said, "Don't be distressed. All have not capacity to suffer." They have NOT. No, no. And I said, "I believe that, Lord." And so, you know, with all my suffering, I thank God. I really thank Him. I say, "Thank You, Lord. You understand it. You know it. It's teaching my heart Yours. Now, if You don't want to release me; set me free..." Isn't it good to be yielded? Be yielded. Now with some there's suffering, and with others there's not too much suffering, because we're not made (alike), and don't TRY to! Don't try to make a thorn! You'll never have any "point" on yours if you did. No. No, you wouldn't. Because that's the way God spoke to me. A long time ago when I saw the meaning and the philosophy back of the crucified life. And that we are to TAKE the Cross that's before us. He never LAYS a Cross on us. "And the Lord LAID such a Cross on me!" No. He's never LAID a Cross on anybody. He gives us the privilege of ACCEPTING it. And the Cross is down here as we march along. And then someday, quite a long time and experience; some walk with the Lord 30 or 40 years before they find their actual cross. They find a lot of difficulties. THEN they find IT. Now, God says, "That is YOUR personal Cross. Take it up and follow Me. And it will do to YOU what MY Cross did to ME. Now this will make a unique ground for our fellowship." Then, if I CHOOSE, I pick up that Cross, knowing all the time that if I pick it up, that it means disaster! But you have to do it knowingly. He never LAYS the Cross on anyone. Oh, I've been through that years and years ago, when He first gave me light on the crucified life. And oh my. What a time I had. And I thought, "This Cross, why can't I just offer myself to Him and let Him crucify me all at once and be done with it!?" Well, I couldn't. He said, "No." I couldn't. I thought, "I'll just crucify myself." How many ever made a little cross, a desire to be pious? Uh, hum. Yes. Well that's goes with    ?   . Yes, make little crosses, "I will deny myself! I will read the Bible 17 times a day! I will pray!" You get into these "bondage fits," you know. God knows it. Let them go by. They're "funny." They're like a lot of tracts to me. But to keep you "busy," you don't go out and sin while you're doing that. Well, I was making my Crosses. I wanted to crucify this creature. I was sick and tired of him, I thought, "My Lord! If I could only kill him once! I'm going to kill him and then he'll die!" And I was having a terrible time. And the Lord came down, just out of mercy. He says, "Now don't make anymore Crosses. Don't make anymore Crosses. I know how to make Crosses. Because I worked in a carpenter shop." What do they handle in a carpenter shop? WOOD. What is wood? A type of HUMANITY. When I wanted to see through the thing and I said, "I think I see something, Lord." No, He said, "Don't make anymore. I worked in a carpenter shop." By that He meant, "I understand humanity perfectly. I know you perfectly. I know your disposition, temperment; everything about you. I know that perfectly. I know your wood. Therefore I know how to make a Cross which fits your WOOD. Which fits it. Don't try to make it, because if you do, you'll never have the part that really crucifies you." No human effort in the crucifixion of this. How many know, you have to let HIM do it HIS way? He'll make a Cross. Don't say, "I'm going to do this..." No, sit down. "I worked in a carpenter shop. I know humanity. I was born in it. I know it. Therefore," And if He doesn't make a Cross for you today or tomorrow or next week, don't be disturbed. Don't start crucifying yourself for fear that you won't be HUMBLE. Oh, no, no, no, no. That's so ARTIFICIAL.

21. Well, it's time for us to go. Are you sure you got something again today? Are you sure? I want to help you so. What shall we sing a little chorus before we go? (Sing hymn) I don't want you to be discouraged, I want you to be encouraged. Although I had to say some rather tough things this morning, solemn things, it's just for your good, dear, it's just for your good. So you're dismissed...