

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

The Azusa Street Papers – Christian Watchwords, "Love, Faith, Unity"
February 6th, 2022 - Message 7

ASUSA PAPERS says; *"We are not fighting men or churches, but seeking to displace dead forms and creeds and wild fanaticisms with living, practical Christianity. "Love, Faith, Unity" are our watchwords, and "Victory through the Atoning Blood" our battle cry. God's promises are true. He said: "Be thou faithful over a few things, and I will make thee ruler over many." From the little handful of Christians who stood by the cross when the testings and discouragements came, God has raised a mighty host."*

Watchwords are what identifies a Christian, and Jesus made it very clear in the verses below where He commanded His disciples to love one another as He Himself loved them, and go's so far to say that your friendship with Him is conditioned upon whether you obey His commandments.

In **John 15:9-17**, Jesus says the following; *"9 As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another."*

Jesus expects us to bear fruit, and love is a fruit of the Spirit that is considered a watchword that we as Christians are to exemplify in our lives, not only towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, but also our neighbours who may be ungodly and even our enemies.

In **Mark 12:28-31**, Jesus says; *"28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, [a]perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the [b]first commandment of all?" 29 Jesus answered him, "The [c]first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' [d]This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

We have said that the last commandment of Jesus was really important and needs to be obeyed, the one where He commanded His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which they did at Pentecost, and it is a commandment of Jesus. But Jesus said that this which we just read, was more important than all of the commandments; loving God and loving your neighbour and your enemy.

I believe one of the reasons that Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, is that in order for them to truly love their non-Christian neighbours as themselves, they would need the Holy Spirit's power to do so, for they were to undergo persecution like never before by the Romans, who were not only their ungodly rulers but also their ungodly neighbours as citizens.

John 13:34-35 says; *"34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

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Love is a Christian watchword, it's what identifies you as a Christian.

It's one thing to love your brother and sister in the Lord and maybe your ungodly neighbours, but it really is another thing to love your enemies, those that are at enmity with you, who give you problems and speak evil of you.

Jesus says this in **Luke 6:27-36** about loving your enemies; “27 *But I say to you who hear: **Love** your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 32 “But if you **love** those who **love** you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who **love** them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But **love** your enemies, do good, and lend, [a]hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”*

A good example of Christian Love can be found in this classic go-to scripture, that addresses the Christian who is baptised in the Holy Spirit; speaking in tongues, prophesying, operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and is self-sacrificing in Christian service.

This is found in **1 Corinthians 13**, where the Apostle Paul is talking to tongue-talking, Spirit-filled Christians. It says; “1 *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not **love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not **love**, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body [a]to be burned, but have not **love**, it profits me nothing. 4 **Love** suffers long and is kind; **love** does not envy; **love** does not parade itself, is not [b]puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c]thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 **Love** never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is [d]perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, **love**, these three; but the greatest of these is **love**.”*

These verses clearly show Christians who are baptised in the Holy Spirit, that their love walk ought to excel in all the operation of the Gifts that the Holy Spirit gives them, and without it, they are operating in the works of the flesh which will drown out the gifts of the Holy Spirit by its obvious contradiction. The works of the flesh are like the noisy gong and clanging cymbal.

Galatians 5:16-26 shows the difference between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian; “16 *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: [a]adultery, [b]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions,*

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*heresies, 21 envy, [c]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 [d]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."*

So, a good question is to ask yourself today is; how is your love walk towards your brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as how is it towards your ungodly neighbours and those who are your enemies? It's a valid question that requires an honest answer; love should always be the watchword in your life as a Christian. As Spirit-filled Christians, we have a higher standard of holy living that is required to be lived out and operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit is not the validation of living a holy life, because the gifts and callings are irrevocable. This is why you can see Ministers operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but their love walk is on the rocks, and regardless of how powerful the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in operation, they end up sounding like a noisy gong, and a clanging cymbal. It's true. It doesn't matter how many gifts are in operation and how powerful they are, if the love walk is on the rocks, it has a very big effect on those who see and hear them. Most times, people will remember your love walk than anything else. Your love walk is a good and needed addition to the gifts of the Spirit.

Another watchword is **Faith**

It's one thing to talk about Christian faith and it's another to walk it out by the demonstration of signs, wonders and miracles. At Azusa Street, they were walking the walk of faith and not just talking the talk about faith.

AZUSA PAPERS says; *"HEALED BY THE LORD. A sister who has had hemorrhages of the lungs for years was brought very low lately, having seven hard hemorrhages one after another. She was nearing the river and heard her name called three times by a heavenly messenger, but she answered that she did not feel she could say she had fought a good fight and kept the faith. Then the drawing to the other shore ceased. The saints prayed for her, and she arose, and dressed, being perfectly healed. She went to the table and ate her dinner and afterwards played and sang several hymns. She has received the baptism with the Holy Ghost and God has raised her up to preach the whole Gospel.*

-Sister E. Thomas came for the healing of her wrist which had been sprained and the bones so out of place that it was stiff and very painful. As prayer was offered, you could see the Lord working in the wrist, arranging the bones, etc., that were out of place, and He did a perfect work, putting the wrist into shape so that she could bend it without pain.

-A woman in San Pedro was very sick, suffering such great agony that she was almost unconscious and her body rigid. She was almost insane. The saints were called to pray for her, and as one laid her hand upon her she was immediately healed and arose and cooked dinner that day."

This is faith in action!

Acts 5:12-16 talks about the continuing power in the church; *"12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed."*

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The Apostles were operating in faith, faith in what Jesus told them and the power of the Holy Ghost!

AZUSA PAPERS; *“Jesus is searching for a people that will believe the gospel. He has never changed the gospel in any way since He commissioned it. Many takes sanctification to be the power. They stop when they have original sin taken out, and Christ enthroned in the heart; but God wants us to go on and get filled with the Holy Ghost; that we may be witnesses unto Him to the uttermost parts of the earth. The times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commanded men everywhere to repent. The Lord is restoring all the gifts to His church. He wants a people who have faith in His word and in the Holy Spirit.”*

With all that is going on in our world today, those that are not Christians need to see faith in action, and followed up with supernatural manifestations of the what is written in the Bible about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit, be it speaking in tongues, prophesying, casting out devils, laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover, miracles etc., bear witness to the truth that is written about it in the Word, and is proof that Jesus is alive in us with supernatural evidence to back it up. Without the supernatural evidence operating in a Christians life, they are just talking the talk but are not walking the walk, and as a result the unsaved are putting their faith in the supernatural found in the occult, because the Christians are not walking in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:1 says; *“Now **faith** is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen.”*

AZUSA PAPERS says; *“Christians are sleeping in their pews in the churches and hireling preachers are sleeping in their pulpits. We have got to have something to wake people up. The tongues are like a bell, ringing the people up. They are waking up to the fact that God is in the land. The priest used to wear bells in the temple, so that the people could know he was alive. If they ceased to ring, they knew he was dead. As long as the Holy Ghost is in us, He will continue to ring out Jesus.”*

You can sure see both in the Book of Acts and at the Azusa Street Revival, that they walked out their faith that they had in Jesus’ word, and as a result, He watched over His word to perform it, and bore witness to it by many signs, wonders and miracles that were performed in His name.

So, a good question to ask yourself Christian in regards to faith, are you walking the walk or are you only talking the talk? On a daily basis, are you walking out your faith or only talking about faith? Walk out your faith today, step into the gifts and calling on your life.

Another watchword is **unity**.

AZUSA PAPERS says; *“In California, where there has been no unity among churches, they are becoming one against this Pentecostal movement. But, thank God, the source is from the skies and cannot be cut off from below. The dear church people know not what they do. Many of them are hungry and coming and saying: "This is just what I have been longing for, for years." God is drawing His people together and making them one. No new church or division of the body of Christ is being formed. Christ never had but one church. We may be turned out of the big wood and brick structures, but "By one Spirit are ye all baptized into one body.”*

You can see this happening still today, churches divided amongst themselves but always unify against the Spirit-filled or Pentecostal tongue talking churches.

The Apostle Paul says to the Christians in Ephesus in **Ephesians 4:1-6**; *“4 I, therefore, the prisoner [a]of the Lord, [b]beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the **unity** of the Spirit in*

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the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in [c]you all."

Acts 2:40-47 says; "40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this [a]perverse generation." 41 Then those who [b]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' [c]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and [d]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[e] them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [f]to the church daily those who were being saved."

The reason why the Book of Acts church was able to operate in Holy Ghost power, was that they knew what it meant to pray in the power of agreement. This is true unity that Jesus spoke of in **Matthew 18:18-20**;
"18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again[a] I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

There is more power where two or three are gathered in unity and power of agreement, than thousands gathered together without it.

AZUSA PAPERS; "ONE CHURCH. At a recent church trial, a brother made the remark that he little thought when he was seeking more of God it would mean for him to be turned out of the Holiness church. This brings to mind the old lady who was turned out of the church, and as she walked down the hill, she said: "Yonder is the meeting house, here goes the church." They may turn you out of church houses and organizations of men, but not out of the one church. Thank God, that church book is kept in heaven. Jesus said: "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Nothing seems to grieve the Holy Spirit more than when He is kicked out of Church and replaced with dead, formal, religious traditions of men that make void the power of God.

In **1 Corinthians 1:10-17**, the Apostle Paul calls out sectarianism as sin and says; *"10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all [a]speak the same thing, and that there be no [b]divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are [c]contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. 16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect."*

The AZUSA PAPERS says; *"BRO. PENDELTON'S TESTIMONY. When my place of worship was taken away from me, I said: "Lord, I trusted you once and you gave me a better place," and, praise God, He gave me the best place I ever had in my life and gave me more people to listen to the Gospel than I ever had before. God will never allow things taken from us but He will give us better than ever before. There is not a veil or shadow between heaven and my soul today. I am getting more from God than ever in my life. My prospects of heaven are getting stronger and stronger. There is no life that gives a man such an assurance of heaven as the life in*

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the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, can use these members to His own glory.”

This is why unity is so important, because where there is unity in the church there is the power of agreement in prayer, and remember that it was the power of agreement in the upper room that united the 120 disciples to pray and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit that built the early Church.

Our watch words should be the following and to walk in them as we build God’s church:

Love for your brothers and sisters in Christ as well as your ungodly neighbours and enemies.

Faith in the supernatural demonstration of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Unity in the power of agreement in prayer.