

The Azusa Street Papers – The Prayer of Faith
January 23rd, 2022 - Message 6

Today we want to talk about the prayer of faith. We talked a bit about it last week, but today we need to bring more clarity.

It's one thing to pray the prayer of faith that heals the sick, and another to pray, "if it be Your will to heal this person". The prayer of faith quotes a healing Bible scripture such as found in **Matthew 10:1**; "*And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*"

That would be a good scripture to quote when you go to pray for someone. In essence what you're saying is, the prayer of faith quotes a healing scripture such as the one we just read and could say; '*You've given us power in Your name, Lord Jesus, over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*', so be healed in Jesus' name. What you've done is bore witness to what the Word of God says.

This closes the door on fear, doubt and unbelief and expects Jesus to heal them, where as, the prayer of, "if it be Your will to heal this person", leaves the door wide open to fear, doubt and unbelief which also gives the person praying a good excuse, in the case that if the person doesn't get healed, then they can simply say, "it wasn't the will of the Lord to heal them". They could also say, 'it wasn't my fault, it just wasn't the Lord's will to heal them'. It gives them a way out. One prays with expectancy that Jesus will watch over His word to perform it, and is not concerned about their reputation because it's the work of the Holy Spirit, the other prays with a back-up plan that covers their reputation that they are concerned about maintaining as a preacher.

From what I've read in Bible scriptures, the disciples of Christ and Jesus himself healed all that were sick and oppressed by the devil, and there is no record of anyone not being healed when they prayed the prayer of faith.

Luke 6:17-19 says; "*17 And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, 18 as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.*"

Jesus set a great example for His disciples to follow with regards to healing them all, and clearly told them that after He was gone to heaven, that they were to continue operating in signs, wonders and miracles by the work of the Holy Spirit which they would receive when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says this in **Mark 16:17-18**; "*17 And these signs will follow those who [a]believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they[b] will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*"

It doesn't say, they will lay hands on the sick and some will recover and some won't.

Jesus also says this in **John 14:11-14**; "*11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. 12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you [a]ask anything in My name, I will do it.*"

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

This is where non-Spirit-filled Christians have a tendency to cling to their reputations and keep praying the, “if it be Your will prayers”, where as Spirit-filled, tongue-talking Christians, are inclined to believe what Jesus said, and pray His word instead of their own words and see Jesus watch over His word to perform it. This is also where Christians that are not baptized with the Holy Spirit will deem it as fanaticism, but is it possible that once again, it’s more about preserving their reputation as Bible scholars, instead of obeying Jesus’ last word and commandment?

What parent would ever withhold from their children the opportunity to be healed, or allow one to be healed and the other one not, because it’s not their will for one of them to be healed and that they are going to use this illness to teach them a lesson? Let’s get one thing straight, and that is that Jesus does not afflict His children with disease to teach them a lesson, and sickness is not of Him but of the devil. We’re not saying that Christians won’t be afflicted but they’re not being afflicted by God. It’s the adversary, the devil, that’s afflicting Christians. For whatever reason, whatever door is open, they’re getting afflicted, but that doesn’t mean that they don’t have authority over the affliction. Any Bible scholar that is preaching that healing is based upon whether Jesus is willing or not, or He is using this sickness to teach them a lesson, needs his licence revoked, because no where in the New Testament will you find Bible scriptures to support it as truth.

Some might say, ‘well what about Ananias and Saphira?’ What about them? They were Christians, acting, walking and behaving like non-Christians, they were disobeying God’s word and grieved the Holy Spirit. And when it was revealed to Peter what would happen to them by the Holy Spirit, it wasn’t the Holy Spirit afflicting them. How about Simon the sorcerer? The disciples revealed what was happening to him by the power of the Holy Spirit, and did not afflict him with anything in the name of Jesus. The disciples were operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit – the word of knowledge and discerning of spirits, they themselves were not putting the sickness on them. The door was wide open because of their wicked lifestyles, lying to the Holy Spirit and wanting to buy the Holy Spirit’s power.

The AZUSA PAPERS says;

“MARKS OF FANATICISM. Fanatics are marked by harshness towards those who do not fall in line with them, and Jesus is not held up. Sooner or later the fruits of the flesh appear in a lack of holy living. We note these things because some honest souls have feared that this Pentecostal movement was fanaticism. So we mark some of the features of the meetings which are the opposite of fanaticism. Divine love to all, especially to the church, the body of Christ, of which every justified soul is a member. Humility: This is a humble work in a humble place and we are glad that it is. We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and constantly search the scriptures to know His whole will and plan. Holy lives: these people are living holy lives, separate from the world, the flesh and the devil, and rescuing other souls to a life of purity and holiness. There is a Holy Ghost shine on the faces of the workers. Is this the work of the devil? Friends, if you profess to know the Spirit of God and do not recognize Him when He comes, there is cause for you to be anxious about your own spiritual condition.”

What made the Azusa Street revival famous, was the on-going fulfilment of the Bible scriptures found in the second chapter of Acts that were being performed on a daily basis thru individuals that gave up their reputation, being labeled fanatics, and simply obeyed what Jesus said in His word about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We ought not to care what people think of the preaching of the Book of Acts. We’re not making anything up or that saying that it’s fantasy, no a clear record of what took place on the Day of Pentecost and also what took place at Azusa Street. That’s what makes the Book of Acts powerful and alive.

The same could be said of the Apostles and Disciples of Jesus Christ, who in the midst of fierce opposition from religious leaders, continued to obey Jesus’ last words and see Him perform thru them, by the power of the Holy

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

Spirit, healings and casting out devils. Jesus is alive, working by the Holy Spirit. Yes, He died physically, but rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and came back in the power of the Holy Spirit, not for you to pray those, 'if it be the will of the Lord' prayers, but to pray the prayer of faith.

Acts 5:12-16 says; *"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."*

That's so amazing to read that even Peter's shadow healed the sick! His shadow! That's Holy Ghost power! These disciples knew that it was God's will to heal all. They walked in the authority and power of the Holy Spirit.

There are a lot of Bible scholars today who have not obeyed Jesus' last words about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and are continually trying to save their scholastic reputations by undermining those that have given up their reputation in exchange for the power of the Holy Spirit.

The AZUSA PAPERS says;

"One of the Holiness leaders said that the church had always taught sanctification as the baptism with the Holy Ghost, and they could not afford to give it up. Besides he would have to burn his books and sermons. Brother, on that great day of judgment, how much will those books and sermons weigh as compared to God's word? At first the Holiness leaders approved of the work at the Mission, but at their camp meeting, they decided against the Pentecostal baptism as distinct from sanctification, and also the speaking in tongues. These were ruled out and not to be mentioned on the camp ground. What might not that meeting have been, if they had let the Holy Ghost have right of way? Eternity alone will reveal the great loss to souls through leaders who would not let the hungry sheep enter into this blessed life of power and the Holy Ghost."

I can't come up with any other reason that any preacher would speak against the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, other than that of the self-preservation of reputation as a Bible scholar. It's quite amazing to me that men and women of such Theological achievements, can conclude that what Jesus' last words to His apostles were for then and ceased with them, and yet it's so obvious that at the turn of the century and today, Christians are experiencing the same baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The AZUSA PAPERS says; "

"SHALL WE REJECT JESUS' LAST WORDS?"

Many of the dear holiness people are rejecting the last words of Jesus in the last chapter of Mark, beginning at the fifteenth verse: "And He said unto them: Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Why do they reject these verses? Because Dr. Godbey, in his commentary and translation, has left them out. Why did he leave them out? Because they were not in the Sinaitic manuscript from which he translated. It was a manuscript found in later years in a mission on Mount Sinai. The man who

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

found the manuscript, a German by the name of Tischendorf, said that some sheets of it had already been thrown into a receptacle for kindling wood. In this or some other way, a part may have been lost from that manuscript. However this may be, we feel sure that these are the words of Jesus. The writer herself, being a great admirer of Bro. Godbey, was for some time influenced by his views in regard to the last words of our Lord as given above. But since being in these Holy Ghost meetings, and hearing these same words given again and again by the Spirit in unknown tongues and interpreted, all doubt has been swept away in regard to them. Besides they are proved true before our eyes. We have thrown all doubts to the winds and taken to our hearts the whole word of Jesus. Dear friends, do not let any man riddle your Bible for you or cut out any part of it. You need the whole. Hallelujah for the Word.”

Once again, Bible scholars are rejecting Jesus’ last words, but the evidence of what He commanded His disciples was demonstrated at the Azusa Street revivals, and is being demonstrated now and will continue being demonstrated in the future and this is just another proof that Jesus is alive.

Acts 1:4-8 says; “4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

How hard is that to understand? How much education do you need to understand this? These uneducated fishermen understood it and obeyed it. We have scholars today that have disobeyed it, having spent years being educated. They need to get uneducated and get back to the basics of what Jesus commanded and obey it. You can be a child and understand this scripture. Why can’t many of the scholarly ministers understand it? Because it cuts into the pride and reputation of theirs as a scholar that they don’t want to give up. The Lord is saying today, give it up and obey the last commandment of Jesus to be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. You may have to leave the denomination you’re in and renounce former teaching, but be obedient to the Holy Spirit, that signs, wonders and miracles can operate through you, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit can flow through you.

The AZUSA PAPERS says:

“Apostolic power will mean apostolic persecution. Hell with all its power will be turned loose. It behooves us to get a spiritual backbone, spiritual stamina and stick-to-it-iveness that will enable us to stand in these last days against all the forces of the enemy. Jesus came to destroy all the works of the devil, and He said He would give us power, the Holy Ghost coming upon us, the same power that He had.”

Jesus said that greater works we would do, whether that’s in number or just greater works, it’s not you but the Holy Spirit in you. It looks like a great exchange or swap to give up the scholastic, scholarly reputation to make yourself of no reputation.

Look at the Apostle Paul where he says in **Philippians 3: 4-11**; “4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all

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

things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain^[b] to the resurrection from the dead.”

The apostle Paul gave up everything. Will it cost you? Yes, but in the end it's a better exchange.