

GIVE IT UP or GIVE IT AWAY

TEXT:

Acts 3:6: And Peter said, silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I thee: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.



The first great revivals of Christian history had their origin in prayer meetings. The first New Testament 10 day prayer meeting brought the glorious outpouring of the Spirit, and the salvation of about 2,000 souls.

This chapter introduces the early leaders of the church, and they are shown going to a prayer meeting. What a wonderful spirit shown by the Spirit filled saints. They are filled with the Glory of God, and they do not feel superior to those who do not know the power of Pentecost. They are going to a prayer meeting even if it is a dry, formal church. They're not going to get a blessing, but to be a blessing.

Often we have seen the opposite spirit shown in our day; but these have freely received, and they really gave, and that is where it was most needed. They had no idea how God wanted to use them. This was none of their businesses, it was the Lord's. If you just want to be a blessing, you will be. If you come to just look on, then you will leave disappointed.

Love to pray and you will find a place to go. It is the fact in all of the Bible: no prayer - no power, a little prayer - a little power, much prayer - much power. Pray, believe, receive. Pray, doubt, do without. Every revival from the day of Pentecost to this time has had its origin in prayer.

The great revival of Jonathan Edwards, and 18th century, began with his call to prayer. Finney attributed the power of his ministry to the spirit of prayer. Moody told that his meetings were kept alive by prayer meetings, continually holding him up to the throne of grace.

Without prayer, we are bankrupt as Christians, or as a church.



**A real revival
is the renewing of Jesus
to the throne
of our
hearts.**

Sadly for some, Jesus has been replaced by idols and images of this world. He will not take second place in our heart. He is either Lord of all, or not at all. When we give Him our all, He gives us His all. That is what started Peter and John towards the temple at the hour of prayer.

Peter and John were filled with the promised Spirit which Jesus told them they would receive, which they were to tarry for, Who is given to them who obey Him.

We are either sieves, or funnels, or sponges.

Peter and John were still so filled that they could not keep it all to themselves. They are not stingy with this wonderful blessing of glory. They want others to share its joys. The secret of being filled with the Spirit is to keep doing what you did to get baptized. Keep it flowing by letting it flow through you. God never pours in unless we pour out. He is not going to waste His power on us, for us to be just a sponge to soak it all up. It is too wonderful to keep, and much more enjoyed when given away!

Peter said in Acts 3:6b: . . . Such as I have, give I thee . . . This is the true Spirit of Christ and His followers. Freely you have received, freely give.

Luke 6:38a: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over...

Luke 10:19: Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Malachi 3:10: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith," saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."



**John 3:16: For God so loved the world,
that He gave His Only Begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should
not perish,
but have Everlasting Life.**

But the thought of the carnal is: "Oh, not on this poor, wretched man, but to someone more worthy. I will not waste this power on the unappreciative, but on those who will be more rewarding."

While Peter and John walked and talked on their way to this prayer meeting, they came face-to-face with an opportunity to give out of the abundance of this poured out Spirit's power. There is always someone in need of what the Lord has given us.

If we are only full enough to satisfy ourselves, we are not much inclined to help others, but when we cannot hold it all, then the overflow brings the needed blessings to help those in distress. If you and I have just enough for ourselves, we are not ready and happy to give away any. There's only one condition on which God will fill us:

Matthew 5:6: Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after Righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Isaiah 55:1a: Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters...

The call of Christ and the promised blessing is to those in need. You'll never get anywhere with God unless you feel deeply your need of Him.

The Laodicean church uttered this base and wretched statement:

Revelation 3:17a: I am rich, and increased in goods, and have need of nothing . . .

Therefore, they sought nothing, and got nothing. But Jesus said, in

Revelation 3:17b: . . . and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

The cry of hunger and a pitiful looking figure calling in a monotonous plea for help rings into the ears of Peter and John. Often these beautiful eyes have fallen dejectedly as the heartless church members passed on into the temple, caring only for themselves, and are so empty that they offer nothing to those in need.

If you only have a smile, give it to those in distress; if only a kind word, give it; if only a prayer, give it. If you were truly filled with the glory of Pentecost, I know you will feel miserable unless you give it to others. There is none that is unworthy, not to Jesus and not to His true followers.

Here is a precious soul for whom Jesus gave His life. He is weak, lonely, poor, helpless and sinful, but the need for help constitutes the call to give out such as I have.

If you have nothing - give nothing. But this is not the confession of a true saint of God. It is dangerous to be partly empty, for the devil will unload the swamp and garbage of gossip, lies, tale bearing, criticizing, worldliness, evil thoughts, and unconsciously you will take them in because you are not full. When full of faith and power of the Spirit, the devil cannot pour in anything. It just sloshes over your cup and runs away. A full Christian is a safe person to be around and what a blessing to any church.

Peter and John, being filled with the Spirit, called to the cripple: ***"Look on us!"*** Get your eyes off your pocketbook, get your mind off your misery, and look up. One glimpse at these faces inspires hope anew, and with outstretched hands, the cripple cries: ***"Alms! Alms!"*** Eagerly he waits for them to offer him something, but Peter spoiled his hopes with an unheard-of statement, unheard-of at least for now-a-days:

Acts 3:6a: Silver and gold have I none; . . .

The bigger thought, "I guess it is just sympathy these fellows have to offer: and I've met that kind before." The cripple is alarmed, then astonished, for these next words sound encouraging: ***Acts 3:6b: ". . . but such as I have, give I thee: In the***

Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” Perhaps it is a coat, a hat, or some shoes: at least they are not stingy.

"Such as I have, give I thee" is the secret blessing from the Lord.

If you give - you will receive. If you hold back you will dry up and have nothing. To hold onto it is to lose, to give away is to receive.

Proverbs 11:24: There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Acts 3:6b: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:7-8a: [The Healing in the Temple through Peter]

⁷And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.



^{8a}And he leaping up stood, and walked...

And what a time he had!

Better than silver and gold! He received from the Saints of God something that gold and silver cannot buy. It is given in Jesus' Name, by faith. There's only one Name that makes us whole again, sound, well and free.

God wants all to have the power to stand again; to walk, to leap, to praise His Name.

If you are crippled in soul or body, Jesus is here to set you free. The power is in Christ and in Him alone.

Modern religion tries to patch you up and prop you up because it is worn out and powerless. Jesus will lift you up, dear hearts, and will restore the joy, gladness, and praises to your soul which will bring health to your flesh, also. Like a bolt of lightning, as Peter takes hold of this cripple, divine power goes through him and he, leaping and walking and dancing about, hugs Peter and John. It takes real good religion to do what he starts to do now. The healed cripple – 'Peter and John, let's go to church, to the prayer meeting, to those who passed me by and were so indifferent to my need. I want to tell them about Jesus. They are needing Him and need to know that He is real.'

What did Peter give this poor man? - Just what he needed.

Where did he get it from? - By obeying the Master's words, "Tarry . . . until ye are endued with power from on high."

They did tarry until the Power came down.

Acts 5:32: And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him.

Today things have changed. Preachers try to give us membership cards and pledge cards. Peter did not have these to give. Today, they give religious education. Peter had none to give. But Peter had no position to give. Today, many preachers give sleeping sickness, heartache, and finally a sympathy card to the bereaved loved ones he helped kill with dead, lifeless sermons.

There came a new face into the prayer meeting that day. What is more, the meeting was stirred to excitement and startled the many that came to that prayer meeting. This sleeping, jumping, shouting man horrified the priests. The people turned to where the excitement was coming from and left the service to see this new man.

In all probability, this man's exuberance is the first time since David, with his exuberance, brought the ark with shouting and dancing and all his might to this very spot, that someone had behaved this way! **They see a man holding onto the necks of Peter and John, and having himself a Time in the Lord.**

Some of them at the prayer meeting are grieved and speak out, 'Such noise is not necessary at church. It is disgusting. Why doesn't someone shut that fool's mouth? Everything was so quiet and peaceful until these came along.'

Yes. It is quiet and peaceful in a morgue or cemetery, also!

"So why doesn't someone stop this man's shouting and praising God?" He can't stop. He's too full. He will burst if he can't shout. Further, who would want to stop a shouting man praising the Lord in the power of the Spirit?

Peter and John now see their opportunity to speak to these puzzled souls. Their unexpected sermon which they never dreamed - How the Lord would open the way to bring the precious Gospel to such a gathering as this, but Peter and John were glad to give it. God will open the place and the way to glorify His name.

Acts 3:12: And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

It wasn't the apostles. They were in the wrong place for deliverance. **"The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob - The God of our fathers, hath Glorified His Son Jesus"** with so much glory that heaven cannot hold it all. They all got filled, and they couldn't hold it all, and this healed cripple man had gotten hold of some of it, and he couldn't hold it all!

Acts 3:13-15:

¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath Glorified His Son Jesus; Whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, when he [Pilate] was determined to let Him go.

¹⁴ But ye denied the Holy One and the just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

¹⁵ And killed the Prince of Life, Whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Every one of you who is not saved and born-again please listen to this carefully. The same Spirit that was in those who killed Jesus and who hated, scorned and reviled Him, that same Spirit is in your hearts. If Jesus were here today some of you would do to Him what was done. Some of you feel hatred toward me for telling you the truth and you cannot stand this kind of preaching. This is because you cannot stand Him whose Spirit lives in me.

Colossians 1:27b: Christ in you, the hope of glory...

Jesus has come into this heart and made it His home. I have opened my long bolted heart's door and welcomed the knocking Saviour inside.

He stands at your heart's door now,

Revelation 3:20:

**"Behold I stand
at the door and knock"**



In unbelief and sin, you have fought Him away and have tried to drive His convicting presence away, but He is on your hands again, as Peter preached this same Jesus to those you thought they were through with Him when they slew Him and put Him in a tomb.

No one can do away with Jesus. He is the Son of God and the Prince of Life whom God raised from the dead.

Acts 3:16-17:

¹⁶ And His Name through faith in His Name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Dear hearts, it is by spiritual blindness you are rejecting Jesus as your Saviour.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4:

³ But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Now, the instruction of how to get right with God is in:

Acts 3:19: Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the Presence of the Lord.

This is the offer of God's mercy.

Our sins are great. We cannot get rid of them on our own. They must be blotted out by the Blood of Jesus Christ. We will meet these sins often again in this life and at the judgment be condemned to eternal separation from the presence of the Lord in the lake of fire if we do not repent. Tell the Lord you are really sorry and:

**1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.**

Get our sins blotted out!!

Peter gives a word of warning:

Acts 3:23: And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, [Jesus - Deuteronomy 18:15] shall be destroyed from among the people.

Jesus said,

Matthew 11:28: Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 14:6: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.

John 10:9: I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,

Acts 3:20-21:

²⁰ And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

²¹ Whom the Heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His Holy Prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:26: Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Acts 3:26 tells why God raised up His Son, Jesus Christ - To bless you.

How? By making us wealthy? Giving us worldly honor?

No! By turning away, every one of you, from your iniquities is the only way to be blessed and happy and to lose the feeling of condemnation on your soul.



***Matthew 1:21: And she shall bring forth
a Son, and thou shalt call His Name Jesus:
for He shall save His people
from their sins.***

He wants to be your Saviour, now!

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