

## MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

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\* When one or more leaders, full of a holy enthusiasm for the work of God, address large audiences, they may succeed in imparting somewhat of their "fire" to their hearers. The Holy Spirit in them touches deeply those who come under their influence. And yet the "permanent result" is often very small, and the process has to be continually repeated. What the church needs, what our Lord asks and longs to give, is something more. It is not enough that Christians, living a weak, sickly Christian life, should from time to time be stirred. If the interest of the individual believer in the work of God is to be well-pleasing to the Master, and a real spiritual force in the world, it must come, not from continual "appeals" from without, but as the spontaneous outflow of a heart in which the Spirit of Jesus is dwelling. Every branch of the Vine must bear its fruit from the "direct inflow" of the life-giving sap - the Holy Spirit. If the terrible shortcomings and unfaithfulness - the mere "playing at church" - are to be abolished then we must all labour for the restoration of the half-forgotten truth that "every" believer is expected to be full of the Holy Spirit.

All of the church's appeals for support and prayer must be accompanied by the teaching, in the power of the Spirit, that where the Holy Spirit dwell and rules, sacrifice for Christ and entire personal devotion to His interests is nothing but the natural (spontaneous) outcome of a healthy Christian life. Christ did not call His Church to be His witness to the whole earth without first promising the power of the Spirit coming on Her. The beginning of the change must come through the ordinary ministry of the Word. Every individual believer must be educated in the full consciousness that to be filled with the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity for a life truly "fruitful" and well-pleasing To God. It is certain that the Church will only fulfill Her task in this last hour to the degree that the number increases of individual believers who give themselves to be possessed, to be led, and to be used of the Spirit of Christ.

...."I [*Jesus*] am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high".... Luke 24:49 NASB

...."Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish [*desire*], and it will be done for you".... John 15:4-7 NASB