

THE CHRIST IN ME SPEAKS

The greatest hindrance to the advancing of the Kingdom of God will not be lust; it will be laziness, not pressing in. A person who is given to lust sins against themselves and sets into action those sins which can destroy them, but a person who is lazy holds back the Kingdom of God in the earth.

God is saying, “Seek first the Kingdom! Seek first the Kingdom! Then the other things will be added.” First seek the Kingdom. Be diligent to do the Master’s business, not your business. There are many kinds of business, including monkey business, but God wants us to be busy about the Kingdom business.

Most people do not understand the difference between dead works and living works. To be driven and motivated by God is one thing, but to appropriate and involve God in everything we do is another.

Worship merges us into God, and then our works draw and channel the availability of God in our lives. That sounds like a simple statement, but it is so profound that volumes could be written on it; it would take a long time to understand.

We can worship until we are merged into God. Then our works can issue forth, not that we are working for God; but through our faith we can tap, we can draw, and we can channel the availability of God through our own lives to the world. When we understand this, we can perform the exploits and the greater works.

Paul wrote in I Corinthians 12:4–6, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations* (the

energizings, the workings, the release of divine energy), *but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

We do not yet know very much about working with God. The concept of dead works has been around for so long that it is difficult to understand how to enter into living works. The fourth chapter of Hebrews explains how we are to cease also from our works as God did from His, and we are to labor to enter into His rest. We enter into a rest from the frustrated strivings and output of human energy which accomplish nothing because they are not freighted or filled with divine anointing and power.

Creativity is not a result of accident or chance. If the parts of a disassembled watch had been placed in a box and shaken from the beginning of the universe until today, neither by accident nor by chance could that result in a functioning watch.

A problem arises when believers see themselves as unrelated to the energy of the Holy Spirit. This has happened in the church world until Christians are more concerned about working for God than with God. Too many people have spent years of their lives doing works which were pointless, worthless, and without any end in view, while trying to merit some favor with God by working for Him.

We can work for God, yet find that what we do for God is not worth anything. But if you submit to God and believe Him, then through our faith we are created as His workmanship. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* Ephesians 2:8–10. When we

become an instrument in His hand, then we will walk in the works which God has before ordained.

God's plan is not for us to do a great work for Him that is beyond His understanding or planning. He has foreordained that we should walk in those works which He has planned to loose in the world. We must understand that it is only because He has intended to do His works through a human channel that we will be able to work the works of God. To work the works of God is a great fulfillment.

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God. Hebrews 6:1. One of the first things we must do is repent of the religious instinct which tends to motivate us to do a lot of dead works. The very foundation of our relationship with God is not the realization that we are a sinner; it is the knowledge that anything we do on your own is worthless. The pharisee has to be taught that he has no righteousness and that what he has produced of his self-righteousness is not pleasing to God and has no value. It makes no difference how he presents himself; he is nothing. According to Isaiah, all of his righteousness and human efforts are like "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

We must repent of dead works that are lifeless.

God is saying, "I want you to be filled with my life, filled with my creativity, filled with my power, filled with me. When you speak, I want to be speaking. When you move, I want to be moving. I want to be manifested in everything you do. When you minister with your hands, I do not want them to be empty hands; I want them to be anointed. I want to move through your hands; I want to speak through your

mouth; I want to move through your thinking and through your faith. I want my living works to come forth in the earth.”

We often slip back into the old rut of thinking that in ourselves we must perform certain works. Remember—whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17). To do something in the name of the Lord is to do it in him. In doing so, we are actually pulling God into everything we say and do.

We need to learn to do this unconsciously so that when we speak to someone, we believe for God to think and to speak through us. This can be very difficult to do, and if we are not careful, we can begin to think that we are something special and get a god-complex. It is easy for people in certain occupations of authority and prestige to develop a god-complex; they often tend to act and think as if they were God.

We need to repent of dead works so that we will not do anything as a ritual. There is no magic charm in what a human being alone can minister to us, but there are men and women of God with authority who have so repented of dead works that when they lay hands on us, God is laying hands on us. When we stand before them and ask them to minister to us, we know that they will not look to find the answer in their brains. They believe for God to speak and for His wisdom to come forth to meet us.

There cannot be any dead-works thinking within us. The whole foundation of working with God begins with repentance from dead works. First lay that foundation; then go on from there. *How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* Hebrews 9:14.

God has to purge our conscience from the condemnation that leads to dead work. The conscience to dead works has to be purged. There are people in ghettos whose conscience is so set against the police that they will not speak to a policeman, even when it would save a life. They will not be an informer. They have their own sense of right and wrong morality, of which their conscience ought to be cleared.

Never get the idea that your conscience is to be your guide. There are people in Africa whose conscience still dictates that they should eat their enemies. They believe that the spirit and strength and courage of the enemy is thereby transferred to them. Do not be too sure that this is only foolish superstition. It involves a true principle which was perverted by Satan in the fall of man. Jesus said, "Except you eat of My flesh and drink of My blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Hebrews 9:14 states that the blood of Christ will *cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God*. And we read in Matthew 5:16, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works (not how much you give to charity), and glorify your Father which is in heaven*. If we have the faith and the dedication to pull God into what we are doing, when it is complete it will be so spectacular that instead of looking at us, people will say, "Look at what God did."

We should not pray as though we are looking up to God and calling upon Him to intervene in a situation. Instead, we should prophesy our prayers. God will speak through us. We will ask God to meet us and move through us. We will believe to speak in God. Our words will bring God into every problem.

We refuse to see ourselves as a person who is apart from God. We are one with Him. We are determined and dedicated to be one with Him.

Awaken, and speak God's words which destroy and create. Be a worker of works greater than He once did, because He now works them through us.

The struggle is to be a member of His functioning Body. It is not enough to want to be a hand of the Lord; seek to be a functioning hand of the Lord to destroy the works of the devil. The problem is not in believing that we are a member of His Body. The problem lies in believing that we can function as a member of His Body, that we can be His fullness, with all of His creative utterance and all of His authority.

One of the greatest Scriptures in the New Testament says that we are the fullness of Him who fills all things (Ephesians 1:23). God is doing very little on His own. He has channeled all of His fullness into those who are truly dedicated. They are His fullness and they alone. Nothing of the Kingdom will come until they see and learn this, and until they are dedicated to be God's workers in the earth—releasing His energy, releasing His power, channeling God into their work. It cannot be done on a human level, for whatever a believer has as a human; the devil has a thousand times more. But whatever the least one has, as a channel of God, is more than all the combined powers of the devil put together.

We have to learn how to move in God, not how to work for God. Then we will know how to do the greater works, because He is going to do them through such believers. Shake off the frustrating efforts of the human nature and reach in to move in God—pray in God, think in God, speak in God. Loose the area that God has for you to move in.

“I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I ever had with Thee before the world was.” John 17:4–5. God has created us as His tool to do His work and His will. Apart from him we can never do it. Some of the multitude asked Jesus, *“What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”* Jesus answered and said to them, *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”* John 6:28–29. Our faith links us with Him.

Let this be our prayer: “I link myself with You, Lord. You are able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think, according to the power that is working in me. I turn you loose, Lord. With aggressive, faith, I turn You loose. You will not be imprisoned within me. You will not be helpless within me.

When the Lord faced the hour of His greatest testing He said, *“... what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Thy name.”* John 12:27–28a. We are not called by God for self-preservation; we are chosen to perform a divine destiny, to be channels through whom God moves. We are not here to say, “Father, save me,” but to say, “Lord, this is what I came for.”

For this purpose we came into the world: He who knew us before the foundation of the world has redeemed us to Himself, that we should be a peculiar treasure upon all the earth to show forth His marvelous works (I Peter 2:9). Let us become dedicated to a living Word and a living work. Let all that God is, be within us and work through us.