

Our Responsibility

*Message Delivered in Angelus Temple During the
Fiftieth Anniversary of the Azusa Street Revival*

NEVER BEFORE has the world been ready for the harvest as it is today. If the Church of Jesus Christ is not prepared to meet the challenge of the hour, then something else will take its place. Nations that have been sleeping for centuries, are stirring. Giants that have been lying in superstition and fear, are today, for the first time in history, awakening. They are realizing there is something more to life than the fear and hunger they have been suffering generation after generation. What are we going to do with the opportunity God has given us? Two thousand years ago Jesus turned to His disciples and made this statement: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This is the command Jesus gave; and yet, after 2,000 years, there are more than 1,000 nations (more than two thirds of the whole world) under the influence of Communism. We need men and women who will rise up in the power of the Holy Ghost and go forth with the message of deliverance.

There are 2,300,000,000 people in this world, and of that number only 225 million are professing Christians, while 2 billion, 75 million are pagans. We have a great job to do, and nothing but people filled with the Spirit and power of the living God can get the job done.

Not Great Sermons, But Reality

It has been our personal observation that people are hungry for the gospel of Christ. In Finland we preached to over a million people and saw tens of thousands coming to Jesus Christ. In Turku, the very first night the great tent seating more than 20,000 people was jammed to capacity, and we saw the mighty, miracle-moving power of God. Going from city to city, tens of thousands of men and women made decisions for Jesus Christ. That is the thing people are hungry for; they don't want great sermons; they want reality, and when we talked about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the power of God, that is what they hungered for. Scores and scores of ministers asked, "Isn't the Baptism of the Holy Ghost for us today?" and we could answer, "Hallelujah! it is for us today." Night after night, without giving an invitation to receive, we saw men and women receive the glorious infilling power of the Holy Ghost.

Only one thing is going to stir this world for God, and that is the dynamic power of the Holy Ghost.

As we have gone into the nations of the world,

we have seen missionaries who have spent their lives in the field, and when their work is done they have won to Christ perhaps only 30 people. Many of them have laid down their lives on foreign soil. But Jesus said, "Go, and I am with you, always, even to the end of the age." And we can expect mighty signs and miracles, if we go in the name of Jesus Christ. The New Testament Church is the salt of the earth. And when the Church of Jesus Christ can produce reality, can unstop deaf ears and open blind eyes, the mighty power of God will be manifested in the world.

I have come back to America with greater determination than ever before that I will preach the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I believe in the Pentecostal message. I believe we should not see great programs; but what we need to see is the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost. Paul said, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:4, 5)

"If God Be For Us!"

We are facing a demonized world, and only men and women filled with the Holy Ghost can get the job done and win against all the powers of the devil. We can not hope to win when we say, "I guess God didn't call me to this field!" We need men and women who will "set their face like flint", and say, "I am going through with God! If God be for us, who can be against us?"

My heart is heavy, as I think of those in Argentina who have found Christ, and the churches that are filled to capacity and many not able to get in and no place to go. We need to have a place where they can be taught and filled with the Holy Ghost, to enable them to go forth and evangelize their own people. In all these areas there are millions that have been saved; but they have no pastors; they have no missionary; they have no church to attend. We need men and women who are filled with the power of the Holy Ghost, who are consecrated to God, who will say, "Take, Lord! Send me."

A few months ago, when I was called to go to Germany, it was necessary that I leave on Christmas day. My boys were with me at the airport. I had never missed a Christmas being here with them. I got on the plane and cried all the way to Germany, telling



By **EVANGELIST TOMMY HICKS**

the Lord what a sacrifice I was making, and how sorry I felt for myself.

In the first service, when the altar call was given, a young man was the first to come forward. He had the most beseeching look on his face. We continued to give the altar-call, and many decisions were made for Christ. We prayed for over 500 in the prayer room.

Because I Missed Christmas

The next morning, passing by the auditorium, I saw a group of people gathered. There had been a head-on collision. They told me a young man had just been killed. I returned to my hotel, then back to the church for service. Some time later, while in Stockholm, I received a letter from a woman in Berlin, Germany. She said, "Brother Tommy, I heard that you were away from your boys on Christmas, and I would like to cheer you up. You remember the first boy that answered the altar-call in your first meeting? He was my brother. It was the first time he had gone to the house of the Lord; he did so out of curiosity. The next day he knelt and prayed, kissed us all, and said, 'I am the happiest man in all the world! I don't know why I stayed away from God so long.' Ten minutes later there was a collision with a car, and my brother passed into eternity."

As I read the letter, I dropped to my knees, saying, "Lord, forgive me for complaining when you called me to Germany and I had to be away on Christmas day!" And sometime, in heaven, I am going to see that young man, because I missed Christmas with my boys.

Now, God says, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." There is some place along the road we have not demonstrated what God wants us to. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is not to make you feel good; it is not to make you jump up and down; but "after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, you shall receive power" — *power* — **POWER!** If God said we shall receive power, why don't we demonstrate and give to the world what He has given us? Evidently we are not thinking right nor doing what God told us to do. We are not acting upon His Word.

Someone said to me, when in Finland, "Pray that I will have more faith. I have such weak faith."

"Where did you get your faith?" I asked.

"Why I got it from God!"

"Since when does God give *weak* faith?"

God is trying to show us we can use the faith He has given us; and when He says, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," in that mighty power of God you can stand before a demonized world, and you don't have to fear. Jesus took the "wraps" off the devil! He said the devil was a liar from the beginning. He said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

God doesn't want us to go around with a woe-begone look on our faces, but to have and feel the joy of the Holy Ghost. Jesus tells us, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). Paul says, in Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink: but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

The Spirit of the kingdom of God will bring you joy and power, and you can show God's mighty power to a dying world, for God confirms His Word. We need to stand before this dying, ungodly world and demonstrate the realities of Christ.

A Double Portion Anticipated

People are hungry for God, and, I believe in these last days, God is going to do what He says He will do. He says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh." He will give us a double portion of the power of the Holy Ghost. We can expect the greatest outpouring the world has ever seen. We have only seen a sprinkling of the downpour we are going to get. When Peter was preaching on the day of Pentecost, he said (Acts 2:17-21), "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

"And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

"And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." **END.**