

THE MESSAGE OF REALITY

Sermon by Tommy Hicks

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THE WHOLE WORLD is looking for reality. Whether mankind will admit it or not deep in the soul of every man and woman in this world there is a longing in that person to be free. No man wants to be a slave, but within the heart of each one consciously and unconsciously there is that deep desire that he might become a master. A master over every situation. Yet when we look round us and see the human derelicts, men and women who have become slaves tormented and driven as the waves upon the sea, somewhere along life's pathway they have missed the road. They have become slaves as though they were chained and shackled to some monster that is unseen. There is that longing that they want to be free. There is a longing in the human soul that they must have reality.

Over and over again they have asked themselves these questions: How can I have reality? What can make me free? What power can I receive that will make me master? Over the problems of life there is a way out. There is an answer to life's problems. It is not in the mind of man, but in the soul. The soul of man is a "touchstone" from God or the spirit of divine life and before reality can come into the soul of man, he must have a new spirit and a new heart. God says I will give you a new heart and a new spirit and I will create it within you. I will create within you a new heart and a new spirit. This is the only thing that can bring reality to you.

But you will ask me this question: How can this happen to me? It is simple for in the Word of God we have his simple promise. It is the word of the "Master of Men" who has defeated every foe, who arose from the dead and who lives triumphantly in heaven, ever waiting to intercede for you, and He says, "He that will come to God through Jesus He will not cast out, but He will take him in." And He does not cast you out, He will take you in. Now say these words: "I am coming to the Master of men, He has not cast me out, and if he does not cast me out, He will take me in." The very moment you say this and mean it, that moment reality will come into your life and you will find that at that time God will give you a new heart and create within you a new spirit to make you a master over every situation and bring reality into your life and into the lives of others.

This I know is true for this exactly is the thing that gave me reality and I have seen hundreds come into the same peace and reality that I have. Do it now, do not wait until you are better, do not hesitate because you are bad, but remember that God gives you reality not because you are good or bad but because of your great need. When you pray this prayer and mean it!

Create in me a pure heart, capable of loving without reservation! My defenses are gone—I seem completely vulnerable and yet I'm unafraid. Where is my fear that love was transitory, coming of its own volition, able to go the same way?

Love is a powerful force, stronger than hate, stronger than fear! I find I have no power against it so I must trust the Lord who promised to conquer me with His love! Lord, channel this love of mine where it can bless it and not hurt! Let it be poured forth with no thought of being returned or rewarded.

Your love, Lord, has been given to me without measure, it is an amazing love for it is slow to lose patience, it looks for a way to be constructive, it is not possessive, it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance, it has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantages, it is not touchy, it does not compile statistics of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary it is glad with all good men when Truth prevails.

"Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is in fact the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen." (I COR. 13:4-7 Phillips Trans.)

"I'll not fear again that my heart will ever feel empty. Let it always be full of that kind of love for I can not receive such love and not give back for love begets love, trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through Him who has proved His love for us. I have been absolutely convinced that neither Death nor Life, neither messenger of heaven, nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God's whole world has any power to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Rom. 8:35, 39 Phillips Trans.)

In the face of these truths and with the knowledge of Thy love, O Lord, I commit the keeping of my heart to Thee!