



God's True Remnant



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c o n t e n t s



1	Introduction	1
2	The Remnant - Governed by Life	2
	The Preciousness of the Remnant, The Masses and the Remnant, The Example of the Levites, The Working of the Cross and the Word	
3	The Remnant - Governed by the Spirit	3
	The Levitical Precedence, Who is a Spiritual Person?, The Government of the Holy Spirit, Being Mindful of the Spirit	
4	The Remnant - Governed by the Word	4
	The Enthronement of the Word of God, Looking at Oneself in the Word, Knowing the Revealed Will of God, No Violation of the Word of God, Living by the Word	

god's true remnant



introduction



The Remnant of God, they are God's vantage ground in a day of widespread spiritual declension and failure. They are His vantage people, people upon whom God can act and speak His mind. The Lord says, "Here is my thought positively expressed; here is the thing that I am after!" That is the function of the Remnant to God. "Here is the thinglook at this man..... look at these people... look at this company of people, who are as I have willed them to be and have what I am after, what My mind is set upon!' **The remnant is for that: God's vantage ground in a day of declension to show the thing to others.**

When God's people fail to do His will and fail to come

god's true remnant



into the fulfilment of His full thought and mind, God always looks for an individual or individuals or a company of people to express His will and mind and also to bring into fulfilment His purpose. We see this principle right through the whole Bible.

The example of the Levites from the Old Testament illustrates this thought. The Levites embodied and set forth in representation God's full thought concerning all His people. Let us recall some of the events in Exodus 32, which we shall see at length in our study in the succeeding chapters. There we see a crisis, a crisis through and by which the Levites came into their appointed place. God had said before in Exodus 19:5 & 6 **that Israel should be to Him a kingdom of priests**. That was the Divine thought. And then He followed up by saying: "And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him" (Exodus 28:1) - the Divine thought taking shape. And then Moses goes up to the mount, and is with God forty days and forty nights. Toward the end of that time the people wearied of his absence, and the events of which we read in Chapter 32 followed thereafter.

The people called Aaron and asked him to make them gods that should go before them "for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." And Aaron gives in, weakly, too weakly, and has to cover up with a lie. Compromise always compels one to add a blatant lie! And he makes them a calf of gold. (Notice



the lie! The verse (vs 4) says definitely that he worked it: he wrought it with a chisel. When Aaron described what happened to Moses, he said that he threw the gold into the fire and, as though by magic, a calf came out (vs 24). One always has to resort to magic if one gets into a tight corner by prevarication, lies and so on!)

Moses came down, heard shouts of jubilation as he came down, he saw them and was very wroth. He challenged Aaron, as to why - why - why he should have let the people into this sin, with its inevitable judgment. And then Moses went and stood at the gate, and threw them an uncompromising challenge. Notice the form of his challenge: "Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me." (vs 26). **So there is another side that is not Jehovah's**. That is very discriminating at this point. Whose side is this? **Well, that touches very, very vitally upon the whole matter of ministry and the testimony**. However, let us go on. At that point, the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto Moses at the gate and Moses said: "Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour." And the Levites did so, and they did it thoroughly, and at that point the tribe of Levi was set apart for this ministry.

Now, God's thought was that all the people should be like that. He had said so before (Exodus 19:5, 6), **but the people**

god's true remnant



as a whole failed - failed God and failed in their calling and vocation. And so God raised up, so to speak, this 'Israel within an Israel', and thus the tribe of Levi became the embodiment or representation of God's full thought for all His people.

Representation: that is what is true of them in more senses than one. **We know that the priests were the firstborn in all the houses, the homes, and the families of Israel. Now, after this event, the tribe of Levi takes the place of the firstborn in all Israel.** The half shekel of silver (Exodus 30:13) becomes the symbol of having taken the place of the firstborn. So they become in representation, 'the Church of the firstborn ones' (Hebrew 12:23). The very number of the tribe is also significant in this matter. It means representation. We will not dwell upon that, or go further with it; it is one of those minor details, but it is significant. **The point is that it was when the nation as a whole failed that the Levites were taken to become those who set forth - by embodying in themselves - God's full thought for His people, that they should be serving priests.**

Now, this is a very delicate point, but we have to face facts: and the fact is this - that the whole of the Lord's people, although redeemed, although His by redemption and by the atoning Blood, **yet they are not fulfilling their priesthood. The people of God as a whole are not living up to their**



calling; they are not fulfilling their heavenly vocation. That was true in Paul's time. The ministry of Paul was so largely - we might say mainly - to get Christians to live up to their calling. His prayers for believers were that they might apprehend their calling, 'the hope of His calling'. **So the fact has been, from so soon after the beginning, that, as a whole, the Lord's people have failed to express His full thought.**

But God reacts to that failure, and sets to work to get those who will. The peril has always been, and it is a peril into which many have fallen, to say, 'Well, things are as they are, everything has broken down, it is a state of failure: we had better make the best of a bad job, accept the situation, and do the best we can.' **God has never compromised, and He never will. He did not just patch up that situation at Sinai. He definitely and concretely reacted to it in the Levites.** Now, do not interpret that necessarily to mean that He needed a separate body of people. That is our peril - to think that here are the general people of God, and here is another class of people who are on a pedestal, very much better than the general. Beware of that! But, while we say that with great emphasis, we also say, with equal emphasis, **that God's heart is set upon finding amongst His people those who do answer to His full thought.**

The Levites represented what God meant, and not what God found later on, or what came about in a general way;

god's true remnant



and that is testimony to God. And it is a very costly form of ministry. While God really seeks to have 'all men saved and come to a knowledge of the truth', His heart is really set upon a people who satisfy Him as to the fullest thought that He has ever expressed, and that is priestly ministry: representation, in the midst of failure, in the midst of departure, in the midst of weakness, in the midst of tragedy, of that which satisfies God. Take that to heart. That is ministry - ministry on the highest plane, service in the fullest realm. **Ministry, in the most essential sense, is not to be doing a lot of things for God, but to be sure of what God wants most, and then bend everything to that.**



God's thought concerning His Church is that it should be gathered out of the nations, slowly but surely formed into a bride worthy of giving to His Son as a gift, without spot or blemish or any such thing - given to Christ as His bride to be for Him the instrument, the agency, of filling and fulfilling the coming Kingdom throughout the ages. That is God's thought about the Church.



Can we say that that is being realized in any commensurate way? **No, but God holds to His thought and He seeks an inner company whom we are calling a Remnant, to stand for Him in this service, to be a link between Him and His**



full thought in His people, and to be that instrument for the realization of His full thought, to serve Him, to see His face. What is that? The Lord wants His remnant **to be to His Son the agency of filling the Kingdom and fulfilling the Kingdom in the days to come.** That is a tremendous calling and ministry.

It is unto that that the Remnant is called.



the remnant - governed by life



The Preciousness of the Remnant



We are living in a day of spiritual corruption and contamination. This has come into the church through the filthiness of the flesh, of the spirit and of the world. This has brought a great challenge upon the true people of God. Though there are multitudes who call Him “Lord, Lord” in these days, there are only a few who will do the will of the Father. God has a reservation, a condition and a stipulation when it comes to His Bride and His Holy Church. When it comes to His true church and the spiritual overcomers He has a reservation. Why is it



so? The reason is that they represent Him on the earth. They have a special place and responsibility to shoulder in His Kingdom. God depends on them to carry out His work in His kingdom. Right through the Bible we can see God working through His remnant, His overcomers to fulfill His purpose. When the majority failed God had these few, His faithful ones through whom He moved on in doing His will in the earth in each generation.



Who is the remnant? The remnant of God is not a special class of spiritual people; they are not an extraordinary or special category of people. They are unique in the eyes of God because they are those who conform to God's will. They conform to God's will and mind in their time and in their generation.



God is seeking a faithful remnant in the midst of a defeated church. He is in quest of a people who will follow Him and bear and uphold His testimony among the compromising church. **The Lord is securing a remnant, a people who will and must forsake all self complacencies, pay the cost, let the Cross cut off all that comes out of the old creation man and stand against the gates of hell!** God is on the lookout for persons who will forsake all that stands between them and the Lord, who will be willing to lay aside everything and who will



be ready to pay the price. They will give themselves to the working of the Cross in their lives so that the destructive and negative things of the old creation man do not hinder their spiritual walk. This is what the Lord is seeking and searching for in these last days in the midst of a defeated and compromising church.

The Masses and the Remnant



There is a mass of believers who live in an objective realm, like those who gathered in the tabernacle of the Old Testament. In those times, they came to the Lord with a multitude of sacrifices. They stood in the value and behalf of all that the high priest did in the tabernacle. They were the Lord's people and stood in relation to the Lord by virtue of the blood that was shed at the brazen altar in the tabernacle. Like the multitude that stood in the outer court in an objective realm, in the realm of what the high priest performed on their behalf, and in the merit of the blood that was shed on the brazen altar, the believers today, in much the same way, stand in the objective good of all that the Lord Jesus Christ did at Calvary. They know that they are the Lord's people because of the sacrifice He has made; they know that He has died in their place and taken their sins upon Himself; they rejoice in all that He has done on the Cross; they stand on the basis of the High Priestly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ; and they enjoy and experience the



common benefits of salvation that they received when Jesus Christ came into their lives. This is the objective place that the multitudes of believers find themselves in—in the completed, objective work of all that Christ has done.

In comparison to the majority who lived in the objective realm, we see the Levites who ministered in the Tabernacle. What we need to see is that the Levites, the priests of the Old Testament, **were not a special class of people, officially or ecclesiastically.** But they stood in a different realm. They symbolized the remnant of God in those days.

It is necessary for us to have a right understanding of the remnant of God. It is not a special class of people. **It is a realm of life.** The Lord has quickened my heart to specifically minister this word. This is the place where we ought to be. **It is not something external and objective.** This must sink deep into our hearts. **We can be in the realm of the remnant only by an inward work in our lives.** We are His remnant on the basis of an inward subjective work upon us by the Spirit. It is a work in the hidden man of the heart! **This is spiritual—an inward work of the Spirit of God.** Let this understanding bring clarity to every heart. We cannot be a part of the remnant only because we attend every church gathering, or because we have been members of the body of Christ for several years, or even because we pay tithes regularly. These things do not automatically qualify us to be a part of the remnant. Let us not sit in any place of false safety!



The Lord opened my eyes to see this great truth in His word some years ago. I have not only shared this truth regarding remnant to others, but also have moved with men and brethren who have embraced this truth. However, over the years the Lord has opened my eyes to see the deception in this company of people. There are many who are familiar with the doctrine and principle of remnant and do appreciate the same. They are zealous to take this truth to the nations and feel that they are the remnant! But it does not qualify them. That is not what God is looking for in His true remnant. I love them, but with a real burden I would like to share that some kind of **familiarity with the doctrine of the remnant or acquaintances of terminologies will not be sufficient to make us a remnant.** It is not a matter of doing some work for the Lord or doing something in His name; neither is it about doing something official or ecclesiastical. To be a part of the remnant is not about doing some things in a certain order or way. It is a realm of life. **It is a living entity.** This is the wisdom of God. To be in that realm there needs to be a giving-in to the work of God's Spirit in our lives daily.

Embracing a truth or appreciating a doctrine will not bring us into the realm of the remnant. But it is only by an inward work of the Spirit that we enter into this realm. **It is a matter of spiritual measure. The spiritual measure is the measure of Christ within.** There is no other measure with God. **God has only one measure—Christ, His Son. Beloved, we can only minister and share according to the inward measure**



of Christ we possess. Being a part of a church or body of people who have seen something of the plan and purpose of God is a great privilege and it provides a potential to change, but that is not all—it will not bring us into the realm of life by virtue of being mere members. What each person needs is an inward work of the Spirit in the depths of their life. One can receive the truth and even preach the truth, but that does not mean that truth is in that person. It is only when one obeys the truth the truth is in that person. **Mere appreciation and proclamation of truth does not mean truth is in that person!**

In the Levites of old we get a glimpse of the nature of the remnant of God. **The children of Israel and the Levites are not two classes of people but people of two realms of life! The Levites had a first hand knowledge of God.** They had an inward, personal knowledge of the mind and the ways of the Lord. They were not like the common people, the masses, or the multitudes for as the remnant they had an inward knowledge of the Holy One of Israel. So one of the first things we learn is that the remnant is a people who have a personal knowledge of the Lord in their inner man progressively. The inward knowledge of God talks not only of a born again experience, but it talks of a progressive, first-hand knowledge of the Lord experientially. They have the first hand knowledge of the present workings of the Lord! In our spiritual lives we must have first hand experiences not second hand. We must cultivate our own spiritual experiences with the Lord. **A vast majority of the Christianity today is second-hand.** One of



the reasons why the church is in the doldrums today is that the majority of Christians only have a second-hand knowledge and experiences of the Lord. But in reality there is nothing second-hand in true Christianity! It is all first-hand! May the Lord open your eyes!

The Lord is reaching out today for a true remnant in the midst of a backslidden church. Many who claim to be the remnant of God fall short and badly fail in their calling in this crucial hour! It is mere doctrine and not life with them. We are able to see a clear parallel in the book of Exodus. In that era, the mass of Israel was not able to stand up to the crucial test to be a people after the heart of God. That is where Israel failed. Saints, it is very important for God's people to stand up to tests and trials. That is where you and I are proved whether we are merely in the objective realm or not. Tests and trials are important times because the times reveal the true remnant. When we are tested, tried and proved, we will know whether we are in the category that is only concerned with the objective realm, or whether we are among those who are focused upon the inward work of the Spirit. We can be a people who speak many higher spiritual truths; we can be those who hear the deeper things of the Lord; we can appreciate the doctrine or teaching and we can be totally sincere in all we do, **but the root of the matter is whether we are able to stand at the time of testing and trial.** This is very important. This is where many continue to be found in the objective realm. It is in the testing that we will be proved where we stand. The root of the matter lies there!



Spiritually, where are you? Are you walking in the objective realm or are you experiencing the reality of the subjective realm? **The objective realm is the place where we have accepted things, believed things, appreciated things, and follow them without.** This is a clear picture of the objective realm. **But the subjective realm is different—it is a realm of an inward obedience, of seeking and doing the will of God, and of allowing the Cross to work in the depths of one's life.** It is something first-hand! We can talk many things, but it is here that a man's heart is truly revealed. It is here that the realm in which we live is revealed. He that hath an ear let him hear!

The Example of the Levites



Most of us know the background of Chapter 32 of the Book of Exodus. Moses was with the Lord in the Mount, but down below the people, who had been singing songs of deliverance and worshipping the Lord a few days earlier when the Lord had drowned Pharaoh's army, began to worship a golden calf made by their own hands. Aaron was influenced by the people and was probably pressurized to agree to their demands. Even so it is today. Many leaders in our present times come under pressure from their congregations and finally concede to activities and ideas that are distinctly contrary to God's word and will. Aaron finally gave in to the desires of the



people. The Scripture says "*And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*" (Ex 32:7-8) They made a golden calf and began to worship it. And God saw that they had moved away from the Lord so soon after they had been freed from Egypt under the mighty hand of God; He saw their heart of idol worship and how this must have grieved Him! He told Moses to go down and see what the people were doing!

When Moses came down from the Mount, he saw and heard the clamor of God's people for himself and challenged Aaron and the people of this great sin they had committed against the Lord.

Ex 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Ex 32: 20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.



Moses moved in the anger of the Lord. He broke the Tablets but God did not judge him for that, the reason being that Moses reflected the anger of the Lord. He then took up the golden calf and ground it to powder, strewed the powder upon the water and made them drink it. **They were made to drink the bitterness of their own folly! Saints, we always have to do that when we depart from the Lord! You have to drink the consequences!** This is a very sobering thought, if you are serious about the calling to which the Lord has called you.

Exo 32:25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

Exo 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Moses stood at the gate and declared, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The word went throughout the whole camp; all Israel heard the voice of the Lord spoken through Moses. However, the sons of Levi were the only ones who responded to the call. **They responded promptly, but they did not really know what was involved in this call. They had a heart for God's testimony when majority failed!** They were deeply convicted and realized that they had to stand for the



Lord in a perilous time like that.

Exo 32:27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

Exo 32:28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

What a word, saints? The word was to slay every man his brother and companion and neighbour. That was not an easy word.



What a test to stand on God's side? What a price to stand on God's side? There is a price to pay to be part of the remnant. It was costly to obey. However in the final analysis the cost of not obeying was much higher than obeying!



There is always a price to pay to stand on the ground of the testimony of Christ. This is the reason that many believers do not find themselves in the realm of the remnant. There will



not be many, and that is why this realm of life is called the 'remnant'. There will just be a few in this realm—people who will be ready to draw their sword against their own brothers, companions and neighbours. It is not an objective realm but a very subjective realm! It is more than a doctrine of remnant or the principles of God's remnant. May God's Word challenge you and bring you into this realm of life!

The book of Hebrews clearly shows us what the 'sword' is. The sword is the Word of God. It is the sword of the Word, and the word of the Cross—this is what brings the cleavage.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Heb 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Read these words from the Amplified Bible and attempt to catch the true meaning and understanding of each and every expression of the Spirit!

Heb 4:12(AMP) For the Word that God speaks is alive



and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

Heb 4:13(AMP) And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, naked and defenseless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

We need to reckon that spiritual infants live in the realm of their soul, which is the very sign of spiritual infancy. One can be in the Lord for many years and yet be dominated by the soul man, and thus continue to live in spiritual infancy.



What is the realm of the soul? It is your natural senses, opinions, feelings, seeing, judgments, approaches, apprehensions, natural reactions etc.



Many believers are spiritual infants because they live in the realm of their natural senses—the realm of their opinions, their seeing, their judgments, their approaches, apprehensions and their natural reactions. We know that the multitudes of



God's people are living in spiritual infancy. They are given to their own ways, their natural senses and their own understanding. This is the difference between the natural and the spiritual. If we operate in the natural realm we live in the realm of infancy. Hearing the Word would make no difference; years would not matter for it is the inward work that counts before the Lord. It is the measure of Christ that counts in the lives of the remnant. It is spiritual maturity that the Lord is concerned with. **Maturity is a matter of life rather than doctrine and mental knowledge of truth, even if they are deeper truths!** May our eyes be opened to see His word!

Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

This verse shows that the people of God were fully immersed in the natural realm of life. They said “. . . we wot not what is become of him” **These people could not hear Moses, nor see him, nor handle him.** This is a clear indication that they were living by their natural senses. Moses was outside of their natural realm and they could not see him. Clearly, they were in their spiritual infancy. They wanted evidence all the time. Are you like that—asking for proof, living by the natural senses, living in the realm of your own desires, approaches and



opinions, ways and measures? Where are you today? Is the realm of the soul dominating your life? Are your ways, your will and your judgments influencing your daily life, your decision, and your choices?

On the other hand, the Levites took their swords and cut and cleft between the soul and the spirit! That is not an easy work. Allowing the work of the Cross to bring about a cleavage is very essential. There needs to be a severing between the soul and the spirit. They were asked to use the sword against their own brothers and sisters. Saints, notice this carefully, it is easy to bring the Cross between you and a brother or sister whom you dislike. But the word says ‘own brother’—meaning the brother you love, the companion you are close to. **That is painful.** It is very painful and difficult to apply the Cross between you and those whom you love and are close to. But that is the test. It is here many have fail and many continue to fail! **This separation is painful and difficult. But this is how they came into this realm of the remnant.** So here is the test for all of us and it is not easy. Every man his own brother, every man his own companion—so difficult. I know many very personally who appreciate and preach the truth of the remnant, but who have failed miserably when it came to using the sword of the Cross between them and their dear ones! Thus they failed to be part of the true remnant despite their zeal and knowledge of truth! They could not stand on the side of the Lord in that trial and be a part of God's remnant!



Over the years I have seen many who took a strong stand at one time, but began to lose the ground after some years. It is a test of endurance and consistency in the Lord. It tests whether we will live in the soul or in the spirit. **Consistency in this walk is very important.** As a remnant we must watch over this very carefully. It is a test we all will be called to go through! **Whether we move out of spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity depends on our endurance and consistency.** It is a test whether you are going to live in your soul or live in your spirit. Are you are going to live and move on the basis and realm of your opinions, feelings and sentiments, your likes and dislikes, and your reasoning, or are you going to move with God and His words by the Holy Spirit. There are many spiritual issues bound up with this. Beloved, the sword or the Word of the Lord is so essential to stay with the things of the Lord.

Exo 32:29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

What a word? What a challenge in an hour of compromise? **I yearn in my spirit that the Lord would send a 'voice' in this day and hour of such gross compromise, one who will challenge the present day believers in like manner. Saints, it is difficult to consecrate yourself upon your sons and daughters! To prefer the Lord above your**



own sons and daughters is not easy! We are living in times when those who consecrated themselves to the Lord at one time have moved away from the Lord on account of their children. I have seen this happening right before my eyes. It is so sad! How important this word is! **Not many will walk this way.** This is the way of the remnant! **If it were a matter of doctrine, many would have been found in this way. Many would be in this path if it were a matter of objectively embracing a truth. But it is a matter of an inward work, of a cleavage where the word of the Cross is working.** It is not easy to walk in the subjective reality of God's Word. My heart really weeps when I see what is happening to some people who proclaimed the truth of remnant at one time, but compromised when it came to consecrating themselves upon their own sons and daughters. **They could not prefer the Lord and this precious call above their own. They took the middle path and yet continue to claim to be the remnant and declare the truth with great zeal. They are blind and do not realize their compromise and deviation.**

The Working of the Cross and the Word



It is the subjective working of the Word through the Cross that truly makes us His remnant as it brings us into a spiritual realm of life. Only a deep application of the Cross could slay the self life. This is what we need to experience as His remnant.



We have to be very sensitive to the Spirit, allowing the Word to separate the spirit and the soul. **The dangerous thing is to keep justifying what you're doing, by way of natural reasoning.** That is very wrong. How often we see people do something when ruled by their natural senses. They reason, they apply their logic, they think naturally and they finally justify their actions. That is what is dangerous. We justify and convince ourselves that what we do in the natural is right before the Lord.

Sometimes people think that since everything is going well, they are in the will of God although they have chosen their own way and will in many matters. They think they are free from problems and trouble because their spiritual lives are right before God. **They justify their acts by circumstances and evidence of their wellbeing!** But it is dangerous to think in this way. **We are to go by the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and not by circumstances and evidences!** It is our inner openness to the Holy Spirit and our spirit of yielding to the working of the Spirit that matters. That is what we ought to be given to in our lives.

Beloved, if you want to be part of His remnant, you are to take up the sword and slay your self life. **God knows how comprehensive that self life is. He knows how many-sided and pointed this self-life is.** The Lord's answer is a deep application of the Cross to the center of our self-life and self-



hood. **This is the way out of immaturity to maturity, the way out of the objective realm to the subjective realm and the way out of the general to the way of the remnant.**

The working word in the lives of the Levites made all the difference. They were called to stand on the side of the Lord. That illustrates the realm of the true remnant. **The Cross nullifies a whole realm.** The Cross eliminates the area of our self-life. This work of the Cross is essential as it brings us to the end of the realm of natural life.

The work of the Cross will shatter one type of life in God's people—the natural life. One whole realm will be shattered in their lives. **And out of its ashes there will spring forth a true knowledge of the Holy One, His burden and His purpose.** Saints, let us not give ourselves to any kind of false interpretation, nor be in any kind of a false position; let us not live in presumption, but let us come into the reality of this life. There is a seriousness and solemnity in this word that is vital for our life in the Lord.

The trumpet call to a remnant is going forth in the earth even today. The question is who will respond to this call? There must be a people who will forsake all self complacencies and pay the price. Let the Cross cut off all that comes from the self nature. Are you willing? Do you realize God's call upon your life? **Do you realize that you have been brought to His**



kingdom for such a time as this? We know how Esther responded when it dawned upon her that she had been called for a time such as this. She said, "If I perish, I perish." She took the one vital step that was needed to be taken. There is a step you have to take in this calling. **If so, we must get all the loose ends of our lives and put it at His feet in surrender to His lordship so that we can identify with His call.**

Madam Jeanne Guymon wrote, "**A surrendered will is not an abandoned will.**" Many times we surrender our will but we do not abandon our will. What God wants from us is an abandonment of our will to do His will only. **Such a remnant can never cater to the feelings of man and the opinions of man.** We cannot agree with much that is brought about by mass of God's people. It is not the niceties of things that we need to bother about, but what belongs to the Spirit. Sometimes, God's people become so insensitive because of their immaturity that even though they have been in the Lord for many years, yet they still cater to the opinions and the feelings of man. **The way of the mature is to be concerned with what comes from His heart and belongs to the realm of the Spirit.** The remnant of God will cater only to the feelings and the burdens of the Lord and not to that of man.

Saints, this remnant is a realm of life. It is not a teaching or a doctrine or an ecclesiastical position. It is not a class of people, a form of things, a system of things, or an adherence to man's



ways of doing things. God is reaching out to have such a people for His kingdom. He is looking beyond the limits and confines of a compromising church. **There is no doubt that those who resolve to walk this way will be accused of many things, but they cannot bow down to the opinions and feelings of man.**

Will you be found in this realm of life? This is your calling!



god's true remnant



the remnant - governed by the spirit

The Levitical Precedence



In the midst of a backslidden and compromising church the Lord is looking for a people, a remnant, who would be instrumental in wrapping up this age and usher in His Kingdom! This is the need of God.

The remnant, we will recollect, is not just a teaching or a doctrine, a theory or a concept. It is a realm of life—a people subjected to a certain life, a way of living, a people given to the mind and the will of God.

God's calling on you and me is to be a part of God's

god's true remnant



remnant on the earth. He is preparing and raising His faithful remnant in this generation. We have to be fully aware that this calling brings a heavy and serious responsibility upon each one of us. We can no longer be casual, complacent or insensitive to such a high calling. It calls for renewed watchfulness in our daily walk before the Lord.

Exodus 32 shows us how the Lord, through Moses, made a declaration before the people of Israel. There in the Levites we find the tremendous example of the remnant people. They exemplified some spiritual features of God's true remnant. **They occupied a distinctive place in God's economy then.** They were different and they were marked off by certain very important spiritual features and factors that they stood for. The majority stood in the objective realm, in the good of all that was happening in the tabernacle, but the Levites stood in the subjective of all that was happening. So also the remnant today stands not in the benefits of what Christ has done on the Cross objectively but there is a subjective working of the Cross. If we are to continue to be the remnant of God then we have to take heed to the subjective work of the Cross in our lives. The relationship or the working of the Cross is something very real and subjective in our lives. It is not that Christ died for me, but it is a life of being crucified with Him subjectively. There is a deep working of the Cross in God's remnant that cannot be set aside for it is not just a doctrine or a teaching, but a working of it in His people.

governed by the spirit



The sacrifice on the brazen altar in the times of the Levites shows that there was a subjective working of the shed blood in their lives. **Thus they became people in the power of another life represented by the blood that was shed and sprinkled.** This should also bring us a fresh understanding of the reality that we are brought into the power of another life through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many times we say that we have been washed, cleansed, forgiven and saved through His blood. But very seldom is it said that by His blood we have come into the power of another life, a new life. We have come into the power of another life through the power of His blood. This again must not be a doctrine; we must experience the reality of it. That is the essence of the experience of the remnant—coming into the power of another life and living that life each day by the Cross.

Another important and distinct **quality of the Levites was the oil of anointing.** The Levites also had much to do with the oil and the lampstand in the tabernacle. That is the picture of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. **The Levites came into a subjective working of the Spirit, while the children of Israel stood far away in the objective realm.** This constituted them to be a spiritual people!

The Levites stood on the ground of the Lord at a crucial time. They were a people with spiritual features unto God in their dispensation. God is looking for a remnant possessing

god's true remnant



spiritual features in these crucial days. How is it going to be with us in this dispensation? What are the spiritual features that the true remnant of God needs to have today? May God open our eyes as we pursue these meditations!

Who is a Spiritual Person?



To begin with let us see what a spiritual person is. Who is a spiritual person? The Apostle Paul talks about this in several passages.

*1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually** discerned.*

*1Co 2:15 But he that is **spiritual** judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

*1Co 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

*1Co 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or **spiritual**, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

governed by the spirit



*Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are **spiritual**, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

All these verses emphasize the need for spirituality; notice how often the word 'spiritual' is repeated!

It is exceedingly difficult to explain what a spiritual person is. The mental reactions to that very phrase are often strange and peculiar. To many people of the world, a spiritual person is one who lives somewhere up in the clouds, with the feet off the ground! He is considered to be unpractical in the things of this life on the earth. In the eyes of the world a spiritual man is unfit to do anything because he walks with his head in the clouds! People call one 'too spiritual' if one is very unpractical in the affairs of this world. They would say that one is 'too spiritual' to really be here; that such a one ought to be in heaven! That is the mentality of people around us, but that is an entirely false apprehension of the meaning of being spiritual. That can be set aside without any further consideration. So what exactly is meant by being spiritual?

We are living at a time when there is a lot of confusion among God's people about what is spirituality and what is a spiritual person? **Many things are seen as spiritual when they are not.** It is necessary to have the right understanding about what really is spiritual and what a spiritual person is, for

god's true remnant



the true remnant is a spiritual people. We must know what constitutes spirituality. What are the features that the remnant ought to have in this confusing time in which we are living? What constitutes a spiritual man or woman? There is a false apprehension of what true spirituality is among believers today.

First, we need to distinguish between those who are spiritual and those who are not, for not all believers are very spiritual. The New Testament has a very great deal to say about this. It is striking to see the Apostle Paul make a clear distinction of this in his epistles. In 1 Cor 1:3, he makes it abundantly clear that though **believers may be born again, they could be carnal and not spiritual.** All born again people are not necessarily spiritual people



There is a tendency today to think that all born again people are spiritual. Yes, by virtue of being born again they are supposed to be spiritual, but in reality they are not because they have not yielded themselves to the working of the Spirit of God.



Being born of the Spirit they have the potential to be spiritual people, but to be truly spiritual depends on their ability to yield to the Spirit in their daily life.

governed by the spirit



Who are carnal Christians? Another word for carnal people is a people who are given to the flesh. They are 'people of the flesh'. 1 Cor 3:1 (AMP) says, "*However, brethren, I could not talk to you as to spiritual [men], but as to nonspiritual [men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates], as to mere infants [in the new life] in Christ [unable to talk yet!]*". **People of the flesh mean people who are dominated by the flesh, a selfish people.** This is what the apostle Paul conveyed to the believers in the Corinthian church. It is very important.

Though one may be born again, one can be self-centered, self-occupied, self-interested, self-conscious etc. There are many other aspects of the 'self' that could also be attributed to born-again believers! **The self can run into many other aspects of what self means. It is only a matter of opportunity and time! Even when you think that you have compassed the whole thing, it breaks out in new forms somewhere else.** The self surfaces in a fresh way in some other place though it appears to have been dealt with. It reaches out in most unexpected ways to benefit the self life. **You just cannot finally lay your hand upon the multiplicity of the expression of this deep rooted self with its many fibers! It is highly complex!**

We need to be aware of the 'self' for it robs us of our place in God's highest. The multiplicity of the self is so deep rooted that its fibers reach into the very depths of our life.

god's true remnant



Though it is so complex, we need to reckon with it because the self can really hinder us in our calling to be a part of the remnant.

Primarily, our self-centeredness is not related to one another, but to God. We must see our self-centeredness in relation to God. That is very important. The Scripture says that we ought not to judge ourselves with others. We need to see our lives in the light of our relationship with the Lord.

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

2Co 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2Co 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

These verses make it very clear that we are not to live unto ourselves but unto Him. This is the real spiritual check upon us! To be self-centered is not about being miserly and keeping things for ones self, but it is related to the Lord. This is where the real test lies. **The Lord died for all that we may live unto Him; our living is in relation to Him.**

governed by the spirit



The above verse, “*And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again*” **makes one thing clear that sin is to live for ourselves.** This is almost hidden to most believers. **Sin is not just murder, adultery, theft, lie etc. It is living for oneself.**

Let there be no prejudice in your heart about this. Preachers in our times never make any mention of the sin of living for oneself. They will never tell you about this sin. **They will tickle your ears with many doctrines and great terminologies. They are happy as long as you go to their meetings and give your tithes to them. One of the greatest deceptions that Satan has ever conceived is to make believers believe that a man can continue to live for himself and still pursue this calling and be a part of all the deeper things in Christ.**

A person who seeks to be somebody in the church, who wants others to respect him, is clearly living for himself. **He may have painted himself with a bit of religious whitewash, but he hasn't changed living for himself. He may use some spiritual language, but there is no inward change from self to Christ.** I am sharing this word with a real burden. Listen, saints of God, **the only difference we find in many believers is that at first they lived for themselves, without any religious white wash, and now they still live for themselves, but with religious whitewash.** Saints, the Lord

god's true remnant



is not impressed by our religious language, terms, and terminologies, such as Glorious Bride, Overcomers, Kingdom of God etc.



The greatest idol that is being worshipped today is the self. Idols made of wood and stone are not as deceptive as this invisible self.



When a man bows to a physical idol everyone can see it clearly. God's people spend the whole week worshipping and bowing to the idol of self and its pursuits of money, honour, pleasure, worldly ambitions etc. Then they come to church meetings on Sunday and worship Christ! It is like a man who worships idols in one room and then goes to another room to worship the Lord! Saints, let us not be prejudiced in our hearts. May we be open to the Holy Spirit who would like to deliver us from this strong self life! Christ died to this end.

Many believers worship and sing, "Take my silver and my gold: Not a mite would I withhold..." They do not realize to whom they are making a confessing of these words. They feel happy in their hearts because they sing songs of great consecration, surrender, and obedience, surrendering all to Him to follow Him. But beloved, God hears all this and is not

governed by the spirit



deceived. Do you know what He says, "With their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after their own covetousness" (Eze 33:31).

We are not to live for the self any more, but live unto Him. Many people are self-conscious and self-occupied. Often we bask in the sunlight of our own judgments. The checkpoint lies here. When it comes to the Lord, many are stingy, but they are liberal when it comes to their self. **When it comes to their commitments with the Lord and with the house of the Lord, then many are lethargic and cold, but they are fully active and warm doing things for themselves! Such people are self-centered. They readily do things that are self-gratifying,** but when it comes to the Lord they are least interested. They do not have any difficulty when the self-life stands to gain; they are willing to stretch themselves to any length, and subject themselves to any amount of pain and suffering, provided they see some profit for themselves.

Our lives must constantly be judged in relation to the Lord. If a man is not humble before God, then he is not really humble. Similarly, a man's selfishness must be judged from whether he gives himself to God or not. We need to seek God's Word that will judge all things. **Many of God's children are limited when it comes to the Lord. Their time, their energies and their activities are limited when it comes to the Lord.** The complexities of the self can be seen in many ways if we are

god's true remnant



open. Many people have a reservation when it comes to the things of the Lord. They do not realize that they are self-centered and that they are living to benefit themselves.

When you have time, energy, comfort and health, what thoughts do you have? Do you think of the Lord? Do you invest these in the Lord in doing His will? Are these essentials being made available to Him, to do His will and desire and to meet His end? That is what determines whether you live to the Lord or to yourself.

The reality is that if we are self-conscious and self-satisfying, then we are not moving in the realm of life as the remnant of God. The Lord needs to work upon us, so that we live not for ourselves, but unto Him who died for us. We have to come out of that spirit which only seeks to have some benefit for the self. **The majority of God's people only think of what they can get from Christ, what blessing they can have and finally what place they will get in heaven.** Their thinking is utterly self-centered! **All they want is to avoid suffering in every form, here on the earth as well as there in heaven! They do not want suffering in any form, not even sufferings for His name's sake!** It is a pity that the self-life continues to dominate many believers. That is why the Apostle Paul says that he could not talk to the Corinthian church as unto spiritual but unto carnal. They were given to the things of the self. Beloved, if we would be open to the Spirit of God then we

governed by the spirit



would know to what measure our self is ruling our life. **The self-life is a great spoiler!**

Why do we not think of giving to God rather than giving to our own selves? Why is our heart always inclined to gratify the self? Though we can do many things to show that we are not selfish, the reality is that we are basically self-opinionated and self-centered when it comes to the Lord. The Lord is not impressed or pleased about the things we give Him; He sees how we are living in relation to the Lord and His will. There are things visible and invisible and, unfortunately, the self has its own way in most things. Hence, we must take the help of the Holy Spirit to initiate and bring about changes in our attitudes and ideas. We need to realize that the multiplicity of the self comes up in hidden areas of our lives at every opportunity. The self is very deep rooted and occupies every realm of our living. But let us accept this and be open to seek the help of the Holy Spirit. The self can have many garbs and masks that lie undetected. It is so complex. However, if we let the Spirit in, then He will help us.

The Government of the Holy Spirit



A spiritual person is one who is not dominated, governed and influenced by the self nature. It is not that the self is not in him; the self is in him, but it is denied,

god's true remnant



rejected and set aside. His thoughts, interests, and actions are directed by the Holy Spirit. That is why it is necessary to allow the Spirit to come in and take over our lives. He helps us to steer clear of the dominating nature of the self. The influencing nature of the self can be overcome by the help of the Spirit. Our thoughts, actions and intentions can be influenced by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can take full charge of our lives. He is the Custodian; He has come into our lives; He is there within us. All we need now is to be led, governed and sustained by the Spirit. This is the realm of the remnant.

How often people say, 'I think', 'I think', 'I think'. A spiritual person does not use expressions such as 'I think', because he no longer thinks the way he used to think naturally. There is a change in his thought realm. This is not very easy, but this is what God wants to do inwardly in us. This is the inward life into which the Lord wants to bring us. The use of the phrase 'I think' does not figure in a spiritual man's speech, nor in the life of His remnant. Naturally, we have our own thoughts about everything and to say, "I think" is not uncommon, but our natural thoughts must not assert upon our spiritual life. **We may think many things but those thoughts should have no assertion or claim upon our spiritual life.** None of our thoughts should have any demand upon our spiritual life. **We should be able to say, "Lord, what do you want me to do? Lord, what is your mind about this? Lord, it is not my will that I seek but your will."** It is not a matter of what I want and what I will do. There may be many things upon your mind but none of the

governed by the spirit



thoughts should govern or dominate your being. A spiritual man or woman should live and work and react as governed by the will of the Lord. Let us seek the Lord's will about everything, setting aside our own mind, our will and our feelings. This is the realm of life of the overcomer, the remnant of God! They are spiritual people whose thoughts, interest, actions and reactions are directed by the Holy Spirit.

One of the features of the spiritual man is to let the mind of the Lord govern his soul, letting the Spirit in, letting the Spirit help him by governing his life. In other words, we should not say, "I think this way, therefore, I should do it this way." Rather we should be open and let the Holy Spirit tell us what we need to do. **We should rather say, "I will not move until I have a sense of what the mind of the Spirit is!" We must come to a place where we will know that our own mind is not governing our lives.** Our present experience should be to come into the reality of the energies of the Holy Spirit. **Oh! Saints, what joy it is to know and experience a life that is not governed by the mind!** I, personally, thank and bless the Lord for this life in Him. It is a great deliverance in one's life. However, there is a price to pay.

Saints, it is not a matter of discerning what is good or bad, but of discerning His mind, His will and His feelings and allowing them to rule our lives. Some people think that if all has been going well with them then they are in the center of God's will.

god's true remnant



However, it is not a matter of all being well or having gone well. That is not the criterion. No, not at all! The lives of most men of God never went on smoothly or well. See the life of Paul as narrated in his second letter to the Corinthian church. *“Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”* 2 Cor 11:25-28 (NIV).

The ship in which the Apostle Paul travelled was broken into pieces but he escaped and landed on an island, where a serpent wrapped itself around his hand. This made the people wonder what kind of a criminal he must have been! (Acts 27 & 28). **It is not a matter how well things are going on in our lives. The life of the true remnant is governed by His mind, His will and His good pleasure for us.** This is the special feature of the remnant. It is not about how wonderful life is; it is not about doing what is upon our mind; it is about Him—His mind, His will and His good pleasure. Many Christians are living contrary to God’s will. They are occupied in doing things against

governed by the spirit



His known will and purpose. Yet, all things seem to be going well with them! That is the enigma! **Saints, let us not be concerned about how well or how badly our lives are spent, but about living the will of God.** We need to be delivered from a kind of mentality amongst many believers that God will be pleased with them whatever they do, whether it is the will of God or not.

We all need to be governed by the government of the Holy Spirit in these end times. This is easier said than done, but we need to seriously be open to His ministrations in a progressive measure.



The anointing means the government of the Holy Spirit. It means a complete and inward enthronement of the Holy Spirit. And this enthronement will touch everything in all directions in one’s life.



We have a wonderful example of this in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. **In His life anointing meant, He could do nothing by Himself.** His life was a complete enthronement of the Eternal Spirit through whom he offered Himself as a pure sacrifice without spot unto the Father (Heb 9:14). But today, believers figure that anointing means they can do all things in any way they want to. What a deception?

god's true remnant



We have a warning example from the Lord recorded in Chapter 7 of the Gospel of Mathew.

Matt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matt 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matt 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The Lord makes it very clear that it was not all who called Him, “Lord, Lord,” who were spiritual, but only those who did the Father’s will. **They all did what was self gratifying, what they thought to be good, what they thought to be ministry, what they thought was meant by serving the Lord and what they thought to be pleasing to the Lord.** They never enthroned the Holy Spirit and were never under the government of the Holy Spirit. Hence they committed iniquity, which means lawlessness or doing one’s own will. The Lord finally says to them that He never knew them! **What an indictment? What an irony? It is terrible for one to hear such words at the end of one’s life! What the Lord said was, “I never knew you (as my bride, as one who did my will)”.**

governed by the spirit



Saints, many who claim to be the remnant today will hear the same words spoken by the Lord, “I never knew you (as my remnant, living in the realm of my will)”. **May we be warned, beloved people of God! This is so challenging!** This is one of the main features of the spiritual man or the true remnant of God. The complete inward government of the Spirit touches every facet of our lives. It grips us inwardly, in all directions. Nothing is left to our own mind, our own choice and our own working.

We can be governed, as mentioned earlier in this meditation, by the objective truth. It can be ‘the truth’ – orthodox, sound and so scriptural! We can be governed by it simply because it is taught to us and we do it objectively. Many times we find that we are caught up in a doctrine or a truth objectively. There are many so called Christian countries where people ‘believe’ that their God is a living God and therefore, they don’t worship idols. However, individually, when it comes to their own lives, they have no living relationship with the living God. Yet, they are quick to call people from other Asian countries as idolaters! This clearly shows that all they have is the objective ‘truth’—the orthodox, sound, Biblical truth! History shows that during the Christian crusades, people fought for God, for something religious, for what they believed and for what they followed, though they had no personal relationship with the living God. They were orthodox about their own beliefs. A kind of orthodoxy of doctrine or beliefs had set in. They fought for their truth, for doctrines and beliefs and they were zealous

god's true remnant



for it. We all know how zealous Saul of Tarsus was for the 'truth' that was so orthodox and sound!



Saints, this very much applies to God's people who are caught up with the end time truth, the deeper life principles, the Kingdom of God teaching, the overcomers, the glorious bride, God's remnant etc. You can be so given to a truth and doctrine, so orthodox about it and quick to defend the same! Yet it can all be in an objective realm. We may go to every extreme to proclaim end time doctrines and take them to the nations across land and sea, but they still remain in an objective realm! Yet, in the matter of our inward life, our personal relationships and our own living principles, we may be far from the true realm of life.



This is happening with many people. There are people who are orthodox about teaching the truth, but when it comes to doing and imbibing the same in their lives, they have failed miserably because there was nothing subjective and inward. They compromised the truth in many areas. They chose the easy and painless ways of the self-life. Many are willing to strongly defend the truth that they have accepted. They are quick to defend themselves boldly against anybody who challenges the truth. But let us know that though we may have

governed by the spirit



the truth, may believe the truth, and may accept the truth—the truth is not in us because we do not walk in the truth. Hearing the truth, believing it and even preaching it is not enough. It has to be lived to become the truth in us. Only when the truth is lived subjectively can it be something alive and living.

Being Mindful of the Spirit



Now there is something higher that we need to give ourselves to—to be mindful of the Holy Spirit. If we are open to the Holy Spirit, and give ourselves to the government of the Spirit within, **then the Holy Spirit would lay hold of that truth and make it something that lives in us.** That is precious and that is what we should look forward to in our lives.

There are many born-again Christians who are baptized and Spirit filled. They do things because they are told to do them. That is good, but that is a lower realm to live in. The life of many believers consists of doing as they are told by their leaders, because it is presented to them as the scriptural and right thing to do. However, had we reciprocated to the whispering of the Spirit we would not be in that realm! Had we been truly open to the Spirit, He would have convicted us of what we ought to do. We would be enlightened within. We would not do things merely because we have been told to do them, but because we know why we ought to do them. There

god's true remnant



would be a readiness and subjectivity to the counsels of the Spirit. There has to be an inward enthronement of the Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit, who is the Custodian of God's will, can never fail us.

There is a much higher level of life in the Spirit. **The truth is precious, but it is altogether transformed when the Holy Spirit brings it home to us in an inward way and we submit to it.** It is right to do what one is told to do, but the higher life is to allow the Spirit to enlighten us within with that very thing. The Holy Spirit would take God's things and bring them into our lives.

Saints, therefore, we no longer do things because it has got to be done. Now we do it because the Lord has done something in us and shown us that that is the thing He wants us to do! There is a lot of difference between the former way of doing things and the way of doing things as led by the Spirit. The former way is to do things we have been told to do; the higher way is doing things by letting the Holy Spirit come in and enlighten the inner man. When we adjust ourselves to the counsel of the Spirit and subject ourselves to Him, we can enter a much higher level of life. We will no longer do things because they have to be done; we will do them because God has done something in us. What a difference that is! Let this deliver us from within; let us be liberated within. This is the realm of the remnant of God!

governed by the spirit



Sometimes people miss the joy of this deeper life in Christ and it becomes something that is full of drudgery; it becomes laborious, arduous and painstaking. But when the Spirit is in it we shall experience something different. **When we do things because something is done inwardly by the Spirit, then it brings forth joy spontaneously from within.** It is so necessary to learn to live in this realm. It is a different realm of life that we must learn to live. His will and His mind will bring joy and not sorrow! His word should never be burdensome. The government of the Holy Spirit brings us to this higher level of living.

We will experience a higher level of worship when the Spirit has done something within us. The Spirit-governed worship will be totally different to the way of worshipping God through the influence of church tradition, methods and convention. May God help us to come to that higher realm of worship where the Spirit motivates us to do something that proceeds from His work within us! That must be the criteria of our worship. The worship that flows out because of what God has done in us is so different. What a worship that is! Such worship comes forth not just because God has blessed you with material things and other natural blessings, but because of that precious and painful work that is done inside of you. Yes, a worship flowing out of that conforming and transforming work of the Spirit within you is altogether matchless! That worship is unique and has no parallels!

god's true remnant



Beloved, let us be those who do or do not do things because something has been done IN US. It is tremendous! This is the realm in which we have to come in greater measures.

The Apostle Paul told King Agrippa that he could not be disobedient to the heavenly vision that had been given to him by the Spirit (Acts 26:19). He could not be disobedient to the things that God had shown him and done in him. His life was dependent on doing what had already been done in him. He did not do things for self-gratification or because someone was watching him or because it benefited him in some way. His 'dos and don'ts' came from what was done in him. That was the way he lived. It was altogether a higher realm of life. It is possible to live such a life if we would enthrone the Holy Spirit in the inward realm. Let the things we do and the things we do not do flow out of what has been done within us by virtue of enthroning the Spirit of God. The remnant of God will be those who live in this realm of life. **The remnant will do things and not do things because of what is done in them.** May God help us to be part of that company in this generation!

Let me further illustrate this by taking the example of a little child. A child may obey what the parents say because they are parents. The child may obey out of love, or perhaps out of a spirit of obedience, or perhaps because the parents leave no other choice. But there is a lot difference between that and anticipating what the parents would like and doing it

governed by the spirit



without the parents having to lay down the law at all! It is a difference of realm, one is law and the other is grace! Grace is another word for love. God's grace flows from His love.

Today we have a Christian world that talks a lot about love, but does not have the grace to obey the Lord.



The love to obey God without questioning and to have a heart that anticipates what He would like us to do is one of the features of God's true remnant. It is not a matter of dos and don'ts but of loving the Father, of loving the Father's will, and of loving the Lord Jesus who died for us.



Jesus said that if we love Him we will obey His commandments (John 14: 15, 23). Anticipating the will of the Lord and being very sensitive to the Lord is what God is expecting from His remnant. It is not a matter of obeying because we are told, but of having a deep love for Him within us. **Our love for Him can make us highly sensitive to His will and desires.** We can become so sensitive to His heart that **all that matters to us is to do His will at any cost.** Our deep love for the Father will bring us to new ground in our worship wherein all that would count would be our hunger and desire to worship Him, to spend time with Him, and to be intimate

god's true remnant



with Him. It is not a matter of the law, but of an inward love for Him. Is there such a love for the Lord? Do we love Him enough to set aside our self-life for His sake?

Saints, our lives have to take on a different, deeper meaning; the choices we make must be different. Your life depends on what you choose. Your choices are, therefore, very important. **What you choose is what you become!** We need to choose to love Him fully, with all our will. That is what He is waiting for. If we truly love Him we will be sensitive about His presence; we will anticipate His needs and His longing for fellowship; we will choose to do His will every time. Let these things dominate our thoughts. Let our love for Him take over our lives. This is a higher realm of life and love. This is where God wants His remnant to be. In this realm there can be no strife, nor self-will. We will experience new joy because of our love for Him that stems from the depths of His love, for He loved us first and died for us. This is the higher realm in which the Apostle Paul lived—the realm of life and love.

God wants His remnant to dwell in this realm—a realm where they do things because they love Him and not because they are told to do it. It is a realm in which something has been done in them. I know many who claim to be God's remnant but have no real love to obey the Spirit and be under the government of the Holy Spirit. They speak about God's love as something that allows them to do what they want to do.

governed by the spirit



They are not open to obey His will and mind on many scriptural matters which are so very clear. This is what is so burdensome. But God's true remnant would love Him enough to anticipate and obey Him! That is the motivation of His remnant. The remnant is like Abraham of old who was told to offer Isaac as sacrifice on mount Moriah. And Abraham rose up early in the morning and went into the place of which God had told him. He responded to something that was done deep within his heart. What a demonstration of love!

Beloved, if the Lord has spoken in the heart and revealed the meaning of those things spiritually by the Holy Spirit, how different life is! Life will never be mechanical. For many people spiritual life has become mechanical. How different it would be if we lived in the realm of life and of love for the Son? Such a life would never be mechanical or be one of dead routines. How much the Father's heart would delight in this—a people living not by law but by love for the Father!

This is the remnant that He is looking for in the end times. It calls for a new sensitivity to love the Father's will and to obey Him, not because it must be done, but because something has been done in us. That is where I want to be, to be part of such a remnant in the earth in this present time. What a challenge in this hour of such departure and compromise! May the Lord have for Himself such a company in the earth today! He is in

god's true remnant



need of a faithful remnant! They are His precious jewels!

May the Spirit of God help each one of us to come into the realm of the life of the true remnant!



the remnant - governed by the Word

The Enthronement of the Word of God



As we have seen in the previous meditation, one of the chief marks of the true remnant of God is that as God's children they are governed by the Spirit and the Word and not by the flesh. The remnant will not allow the self to rule their lives. This is where the Apostle Paul makes a distinction between those who are spiritual and those who are not. Those who are dominated by their carnal nature make allowances for the flesh in their lives. As we have seen, the self in all its multi-dimensional forms moderates the lives of those who are carnal. Their main concern is, therefore, for their self-protection, self-preservation, self-

god's true remnant



gratification and self occupation. They seek the benefit of the self in all their dealings. The interests and the concerns of the self dominate their life. In contrast, the life of the remnant is very different. The remnant of God is called, not to be dominated, governed and influenced by the self life, but to be governed and enthroned by the Holy Spirit to do the will and purpose of God. It is no longer a matter of the 'I' in them, but a matter of God, the Spirit and the Word. They do not provide any place for emotions and thoughts of 'I think' and 'I feel'; they do not assert their own opinion, judgments, attitudes and views. They seek to know the mind of the Lord on all matters. They focus on knowing what the Spirit has to say on every issue.

There is a great amount of misrepresentation and misunderstanding concerning the Holy Spirit today. We need spiritual discernment to know the true work of the Spirit. That is why God has given His people a functioning body of Christ where the mind of God is made known to the church, where the Spirit of God is operating to bring His people to maturity. It is here that the Spirit makes known the wisdom, the mind and the desires of the Father to the people. We are not to be those who seek to determine our own ways. Those who choose to go their own way in real-life situations and circumstances always find it difficult to stick to the center of His path because this walk is not an easy one. Not many are able to walk the remnant's way though they may have heard the truth, appreciated it, and even read about it in books and periodicals. They may be able to manage for some time, even a few years, but if



they are not given to the voice of the Spirit continually, they will walk away as soon as some difficult situation comes upon them. We have to allow God to work in our inner man, and bring us into the realm and place of the remnant in Him.

When we are brought into a purpose-oriented and Spirit-governed church we have the privilege of marshalling our lives to the order of the house. There is an input to our lives that begins to shape and govern our walk in the Lord. Even so, it is not an easy and comfortable walk. One needs to give himself to a disciplined, devotional walk of personal prayer and time with the Lord. One needs to be in the gatherings of the saints to share and to imbibe the body life. It is no longer a law that governs, but it is the law of life in Christ Jesus that prevails. It is not a matter of this and that, but it is the law of love unto the Lord. **We leave every area of our lives open for God to come into our lives because we want God's highest in our lives.** This is the reason why we must be open to the government of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The life that governs us is not to do things because we have to do them, but we do them because something is being done in us by the Spirit. **What counts is what God has done. All depends on what is done inside of us by God.** This is the higher realm in Him that God is calling us to. Anticipating the Father's will, looking forward to do what pleases Him—that is what we are called to be concerned with, saints. Grace is only another word of love, and if we are in that realm of loving the Lord, then the self will not rule or govern our lives. If we would let the Holy Spirit

god's true remnant



govern us then nothing would be mechanical; everything will be vital and important in our lives.

A spiritual man is one in whom the government of the Word is at work. In other words, if we would allow the government of the Holy Spirit to embrace our lives, He will bring us to the government of the Word. God's true remnant consists of those who experience the government of the God's Word.

Pro 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

God sends us His Spirit to make known His Word and His will to us. This is the mind of God for us. Jesus said that after He left He would send the Spirit of truth to us and that the Spirit of truth would lead us into all the truth. The government of the Holy Spirit will bring us to the government of His Word. We cannot ignore God's Word. **You may have your personal arguments, opinions and reasons that question, limit and even negate the Word, but in the end, God's Word will judge everything.**

Looking at Oneself in the Word



The Levites in the Old Testament give us a good picture of



the remnant of God. We can see some spiritual features in their lives that typologically point to the remnant. A marked thing in the case of the Priests, the Levites, the sons of Aaron, is that as anointed men under the government of the Spirit, they came, in a very utter and immediate way, under the government of the Word of God. **If we are under the government of the Spirit then we will also be brought under the government of the Word.** The Spirit of truth will lead us to the truth of the Word. There will be an unveiling and a revelation of the truth.

In the tabernacle, there was something called the laver in the Outer Court. The Laver was made from the mirrors of women. The women had metal, shining bronze mirrors. When the tabernacle was being built, the people were called to bring silver, gold and other things to make the articles of furniture. Women brought their bronze mirrors for making the brazen laver. These shining bronze mirrors were used by women to look at themselves. **As they looked into these mirrors, they saw what they were like. When they saw that there was something that was not right with them, they put it right; they adjusted themselves to what they conceived to be the right thing.** Typologically, this signifies the seeing of ourselves in the Word. In the same way as women look into their mirrors to see what they look like, so also the mirror of the Word helps us to see ourselves. Even today we look into our mirrors to correct the way we dress and look. If we are open to the

god's true remnant



Word of God, it will show us what we look like.

Jas 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jas 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jas 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Jas 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

When we open God's Word, we are not to forget what the Word reveals, but be quick to adjust, correct and change our lives. **The Word enables us to see what is not right within us.** If we are open, God's Word shows us what God requires to be changed in our lives. It tells us how God sees us; it reveals God's purpose for us; and it shows the areas of our lives which stand in contrast to God's standards. Always remember that the government of the Holy Spirit will bring us to the Word of God. We must learn to cease from considering our feelings about ourselves. It is not enough to say, "I think the Spirit of God is telling me to do this or that". The Holy Spirit will



bring us to the Word and we ought to be open to the specific Word He brings us to. We look into God's Word as we look into a mirror—to correct ourselves. We see ourselves in God's Word. The same Holy Spirit who brings us to the Word will also help us to change and adjust to what is right and acceptable to the Lord. He will show us what God's mind is. The Holy Spirit will be faithful to help us.



The Word has a mighty power to put things right in our lives. That happens when we are open. When we are open to the Word and to the Spirit, when the only desire of our heart is to be governed by His Word, then our lives will surely be straightened out. O how clearly we can testify to this! But it is an ongoing work and we must refuse to be satisfied with the past. The question is, can God's Word yet straighten us out? Yes, it can if we are open and yielded.



The brazen laver was a basin made of mirrors and filled with water. This has significance. The priests or Levites **could not perform any service or fulfill their ministry in the Holy Place of the tabernacle without first washing their hands and feet in the laver.** They could not enter into the ministry of holy things till they came to the laver and washed their hands and feet. **They could never take a further step in the**



fulfillment of their service or ministry to God without coming to the laver to wash. This means that they could not do anything till they came under the authority of God's Word. Let this not merely be a teaching of the truth or a matter of acquiring some additional knowledge. If we are to do the work of God in the earth and fulfill His purpose, then we must move into this realm. **You have no service to God or ministry to fulfill if you are not under the government of God's Word.**

What a terrible condition prevails today? Everyone is so busy with their ministry, but they have no time to examine their lives. We must spiritually experience a washing of our hands and feet. Remember, though the Levites were called into the ministry, they could not take any further step without washing their hands and feet in the laver. They could not just go ahead and do things in the tabernacle or the temple believing and thinking that God had separated them for that calling. We are born again, made the children of the Lord, baptized and filled in the Spirit, and called to be a part of His Bride and His purpose, **but we cannot do anything unless we bring our lives under the government of God's Word. That is what it means for us today.** They could not take a further step in the fulfillment of their calling unless they first washed themselves with the water of the laver which is the Word. It is not a matter of being born again or being separated by the hand of God, but of being available to the government of the Word of God. Let this truth sink into our hearts—the



fulfillment of our calling depends upon coming under the government of His Word. It is not a matter of our being a part of the church, a part of this calling or a part of God's purpose. **Any further step towards the fulfillment of this call would demand something from us, even being under the government of His Word.** The reality lies in how much we are open to the Word of God.

Do we allow the Word to wash away our own ideas, our ways, our opinions and our things? That is the issue! The further service of the Levites in the tabernacle depended upon their being open and available to the Word in their lives. There are many people today, who are doing a ministry unto the Lord. They claim that they have been separated by the Lord unto His work. They may be right. However, saints, that is not enough. There must be a giving in and a subjection to the cleansing power of the Word in their lives. Many are not open. **Many have never experienced the mighty power of the Word that is able to qualify them for the present need of God in the earth.** It is so sad that they have refused the government of the Word and yet continue to serve Him. The Levites had to come to the laver every time! That talks about an on-going work of washing and cleansing.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

god's true remnant



Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

This process of cleansing by the washing of the water of His Word is most necessary for His true bride. The Lord wants to present the church to Himself as a holy, glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. This is a process and we have to be open if we believe and confess that we are called to be His Bride. As we have seen, the laver undoubtedly represents the Word of God. That is what we look into to see where we are wrong. If we look into the Word of God, we see where things in us are out of the straight, we see what God requires, what God's picture is for us, and what we are in contrast with. We look in, and then, as we adjust to the Word of God, the Word of God has the might power of putting us right, cleansing us and keep on cleansing us by *"the washing (or Laver) of water with the Word."* This is the mark of the true remnant. The remnant is open to the Word continuously. A correcting and realigning process takes place within us when we walk in the light of the Word, when every area of our life is governed by the Word. The remnant must experience the mighty power of the Word. **You and I cannot stick to our own ways, our ideas, our arguments or our own reasoning like other believers any longer.**

There are many who speak and preach about the glorious Bride but they are not open to the Word of God in many areas



of their personal life and ministry. **They differ from others only in doctrine and teaching, but when it comes to life they are no better than many other believers and Christian groups. The main reason is that there is no spiritual depth in their lives!** God's true remnant is a realm of life. If we go by our logic, argument and reasoning, we will never reach the end of all that the Lord wants us to come into. But here we find the end—that His people are without wrinkle spot or blemish. This is the end that God has in mind for us. This is what He is looking for in His people. **And this will be the end the people will come to if and when they give themselves to the processing work of the Word and the Spirit. That is the issue! The cleansing power of the Word will keep on cleansing us.** It is a continuous work. It is not a matter of being cleansed yesterday. It is not a matter of being open yesterday. The Levites had to be cleansed every time they came to the Holy Place. This means that we must bring our lives under the government of the Word on a daily basis.

Knowing the Revealed Will of God



A true spiritual person is first of all one who seeks to know the revealed will of God in His Word at all times. May God help us to understand this important feature of the remnant! **We cannot be spiritual persons after the kind we are considering, or be a part of God's remnant, if we neglect**

god's true remnant



or are careless about God's Word. We have to be really open to the Spirit and to the Word. We may think that there are many things we are involved with that are not written in the Word. But the Holy Spirit brings the right Word to us if we are open to Him, and convicts us of what, how and when we ought to do things. If we are spiritually minded and want to be a part of the true remnant, then we must make sure that we never neglect the Word, which is the revealed mind of God. On the other hand, **centering the Word in our lives will make us more diligent in hearing, reading and searching His Word.**

God desires that every one of us is **really diligent in reading and searching the Word of God with one object – to know what God wants and what He desires. That must be your concern as God's remnant!** Saints, what dominates you when you read the Word, hear the Word and search the Word? Why do you want to hear God's Word? To what end is it? **In hearing, studying, reading and searching the Word you are to be focused and alert to perceive His will and do it.** If we are careless in dealing with the Word in our lives, then the Holy Spirit will reveal the same to us and show us what we really are.

Many are losing a hunger that they had at one time for the Word of God. Their hunger is decreasing week after week. They are losing their love for the Lord, little by little; they are losing the ground of true spirituality. Their objective in hearing



the Word is not to know what God wants or what His mind is. They do not like a corrective and cleansing word. They perceive the Word as bringing bondage, law and legalism. They may attend meetings whenever spiritual food is served, but they are unable to digest the food though it is served. This is why they are spiritually unhealthy. They do not have a proper appetite, which is the mark of a healthy man. Believers are losing their hunger for the Word of God and this is a very serious matter that needs to be attended to immediately. Are you diligent as regards the Word? Do you have a growing love for more of the Lord? May this attitude and concern govern your life! Our love for the Lord and His Word will render us stronger day by day, if our lives are Word-centered. The water of the Word will wash us and purify us and our lives will be more satisfying to the Lord.

No Violation of the Word of God



A truly spiritual person will never violate God's Word. This is another feature of the remnant. Should they violate the Word, they will know about it inside of themselves.

There are those who will overcome the enemy by the Word. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” (Rev 12:11).* They overcame the enemy not only by the

god's true remnant



blood but also by the word of their testimony. **The word of their testimony is their obedience to the Word in their lives.** This is a quality of the true remnant or overcomer—they never violated the Word. It is not a matter of doctrine, but of obedience to God's Word. **The Word that has been obeyed fully becomes a powerful sword of the spirit against the enemy!**

Saints, **when spiritual persons violate the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will make it clear to them that they stand in opposition to the Word in that matter.** Whenever we violate God's Word, when there are deviations, the Holy Spirit comes to set things right. Spiritual people given to the government of the Spirit will experience this within. The Spirit will warn us when we walk in ways that are against the Word or contrary to it, if we are open to His ministrations. He comes in and ministers to our inner man. He whispers softly to tell us when we do things which are divergent and contrary to the government of the Word. Wherever and whenever we deviate from the Word, the Spirit will gently correct us and re-align us provided we remain receptive and willing to be corrected. He will never tell us anything that goes against the Word and, therefore, through the Spirit we can keep our lives closely aligned to the Word of God. If we are prone to any specific kind of a violation, the Holy Spirit will faithfully draw our mind to the corrective measures so that we can live an overcoming life.



Beloved, if we live under the government of the Holy Spirit we shall never be a contradiction to the Scriptures! The Word and the Holy Spirit are always in harmony. We must always bear this in mind. They never undermine one another; they never stand in contradiction to one another.



When we live by the government of the Word, the Spirit dwelling within us will bring every violation of the Word to our attention, even the minor and most insignificant violations will be notified by the Spirit. This is the tremendous ministry of the Spirit—He reminds us when we are about to go astray or depart from the Word of God. He is utterly faithful. He will come in and remind us again and again. He is committed to bring us to an overcoming life. We will be involved in a real work of 'pulling down' if we pay heed to His ministrations. **He will bring us to new grounds of repentance, fresh places of commitment, change of decisions and reconsiderations on many matters, if we are willing to follow His Word.** He will do all this in the light of the Word so that there may not be any violations to the Word of God and so that we may continue to live on the basis of our promises and commitments to the Lord. There can be no violations of the Word in the life of

god's true remnant



God's true remnant. Whenever they occur, the Spirit comes in and corrects them if we are open to the Spirit. **It does not mean that all at once we shall be perfect expressions of all that is in the Word of God, but it does mean that the Holy Spirit will be dealing with us in the light of what is in Scriptures!** He pulls down, removes and rebuilds—it is an on-going work.

Have you sometimes experienced an unaccountable inward sense of grief? You may not have sensed it that way, but could you have sometimes had a strange sense of grief or distress? When we allow the Spirit to work and have His appropriate place in our lives, we will experience an unaccountable sense of grief within the inner man every time we falter. Even if we try to overlook our weaknesses, we will know that the Spirit is grieved within us. That is a clear sign of the working of the Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit could be grieved about something we have said or done; He may be grieved because of the way we have behaved or even because of our thoughts and attitudes. We will surely know within us that He is hurt. This is an inward reality. It is the unmistakable work of the Spirit. When He is grieved, He expects us to respond to Him.



It could be that we cannot put the right words to our thoughts of response, but all we need to say to the Lord is, "Lord, I am conscious that something is not right, but I



place it into Your hands and trust You to show me and make it clear to me." We can be sure that sooner or later, God's Spirit will bring something from His word which exactly explains just where we failed, and just where we defaulted!



Though the Spirit is ever ready to put things right in us, the sad thing is that many are insensitive to the grief of the Spirit. **Many are not open and sensitive to His presence within and therefore His further work within is brought to a stop.** This is why it is written, "*And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*" (Eph 4:30). And, "*While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*" (Heb 3:15). Remember, the Word and the Spirit are hand in glove—they are one. We are called not to harden our hearts while we can still hear His voice—the voice of the Spirit.

Many claim that they are called to be God's remnant in this end times but they do not realize that they are violating God's Word in many matters. They are not open to receive the corrections of the Spirit. They grieve the Spirit and totally silence Him in many areas. **They silence the Holy Spirit by their own opinion of things, their interpretation, and their understanding of the things of God. It is so sad when we see the compromising life of many leaders and believers,**

god's true remnant



even in the deeper life realm! They follow the practices and life styles of other churches such as the traditional churches, and Pentecostal and Charismatic and **silenced the Holy Spirit in several areas of life such as marriage, divorce and remarriage, in the areas of God's government in the family and in enumerable other matters of ministry.**

Saints, if you want to be part of God's true remnant in this hour, in this generation, you and I have to face up to this challenge and be prepared to pay a heavy price to stand on the side of the Lord. Many who preach the deeper life and the Kingdom principle have chosen the middle path of compromise. **They speak of restoration, but they are not open enough to give themselves to the restoration of God's precious principles, which have been set aside by allowing the soul power and the religious man to its way.** It is a matter of sorrow that many of them are sincere. However, they have lost the urge to obey the Spirit. They have laid aside the need to pay a great price in this hour to fulfill God's desire to have a remnant that is faithful and diligent in all things.

Living by the Word



Saints, it is possible to get a surprise over what is in the Word of God. Several times I did not know that it had a specific word for me! The Word of God can surprise us in amazing



ways! Though I have been reading and studying the Word of God for many years, I have often come across a fragment in the Bible that I never knew was there. I have been surprised not to have seen it before! I expect that there are plenty more such surprises! I am sure that many of us would have had similar experiences with the Word. This is the wonderful way in which the Spirit ministers His Word to those who depend upon Him. Many times I have found that the Word that the Spirit brings to me exactly fits the situation in which I find myself. When I need something for my deliverance and salvation as it were, there it is, hidden in the Word. It amazes me! It comes as an apt word that fits the whole situation and describes it in one simple sentence! This is really so wonderful! It may be just a small sentence or even a single word, but it puts me straight, because I was open to the Word and the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit knows the Bible; He knows what He has written. If the Spirit is in us and we are seeking to live in the Spirit, we shall live in the Word! The Word is a living thing when that is so. Do you realize that? What a precious life this is; what a provision in Christ! The very Spirit of truth is in us.

Thus spiritual people are people of the Word. This is especially true as regards God's remnant: they are a people of the Word. Consciously or unconsciously they are checked by the Word. And let me say especially to younger

god's true remnant



brothers and sisters (and to others as well), – be careful about your life in the Word of God.

There are lots of people who talk about being spiritual, but they are generally far from the governing power of the Word. They talk of being led of the Spirit, of healing by the gifts of the Spirit, and of going here and there by the prompting of the Spirit, but they are seldom governed by the Word of God in their hearts. **The reality is that mysticism is interpreted as spirituality today** and everyone is caught up with it; but they set aside the all-important Word of God. In this matter we often need to be corrected. But as long as we remain sensitive to God's Holy Spirit and His Word, there won't be any need for brethren in leadership to admonish us with a word of correction or to interfere with our life. They need to come to our help when we step out of the way, when we are insensitive to the Spirit or overlook the Spirit and the Word. This is God's wonderful provision for us in true body-life. As long as we are given to the government of the Word, there will be no need for them to come to us and tell us what to do. However, if we overlook or sidestep the call, or are insensitive to this call in some measure, though we may have been walking with the Lord for several years, then it is often necessary for brethren in leadership to help us. We need help when spiritual coldness sets in and when lethargy or insensitivity draws us away from the calling upon our lives. This is the provision of the Lord in His great wisdom. We must be responsible people. That is what



overcomers are. God's remnant must ever remain responsible unto Him and His purpose.

When we read the Word we must not only choose to read passages which we think are relevant to us or which we think are easy to understand. It is unwise to pick out some things we like and leave the rest! Many believers take the Bible and look for something good, soothing and wonderful to read like the Book of Psalms. The pages of Psalms in their Bibles will appear to be more soiled than all other pages because they always open the Bible to the Psalms. They choose to hear comforting words such as, "I will be with you forever. I will strengthen you. I will lift you up." They look for some divine promises of God, content to just live in that sort of thing! **The delicacies in the Word are all they want to read and hear!** But there are whole sections of the Bible that they pass by and overlook because they think it is difficult to understand them. Let us not make this mistake. This desire in some of us to apply ourselves to some select portions of the Bible can also be applied to our hearing of the Word of God. The same mentality of selective hearing could take hold of us and we could lose the precious counsels that the Lord has for His people in these last days.

In times of our special needs, there are treasures in the Word that often come to light from those parts of Scriptures that we have passed over and never read. For instance, we do not like to read. Nevertheless, they are there because the

god's true remnant



Spirit has given them to us; they are there in God's will. They contain names that are difficult to pronounce, which is why we are quick to turn the page! But if we look carefully we will find an immense treasure there – there are countless hidden treasures in the Scriptures, saints!

I am reminded of the testimony of a young intelligent man. While he was sitting for his Masters in Philosophy in College, he went to the Head of the Department (HOD), a world-renowned philosopher, to seek his advice on matters of life. At that time, both of them had a traditional Hindu understanding of life. The young man asked the HOD, "Sir, I would like to follow a leader who will be an example to me in every way—a person who could show me the way and lead me on. I am not looking for someone who can merely teach or instruct me to go this way or that, but one who could lead by practical example." The professor was silent for a while and then replied, "I can only recommend the name of one person—Jesus of Nazareth. He is the only one who can go before you." The young man straightaway went to a Christian bookshop and bought the New Testament Bible. He began to read the Gospel of Matthew at Chapter One. He read the tongue-twisting Hebrew names that are so difficult to pronounce and often passed by. As he was reading those verses, he was struck by one thing—the genealogy of Jesus Christ from the times of Abraham! He was amazed! He had never read any religious book that contained such a detailed account of the genealogy. He was so captivated by the very first chapter of the New Testament that he began



to read the whole of it. He was convinced and convicted that the Bible was not just fiction or some kind of a religious expression, but it was based on solid historic fact. That very night, this young man met with Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. **Saints, we can never under estimate the power of God's Word!**

So let us not choose to read only those portions of the Bible that interest us. There are treasures unlimited in it. Many times we fail to turn to some portions of the Bible, but let us not miss what is available to us through it. **It is the Word of God and it contains the revealed wisdom of God.** It is so tremendous to see Him in the Word. Let us be fully open to God's Word and even to those Scripture portions that do not do anything for us. The Spirit can bring convictions to our heart even from Scripture passages that we have thought to be a mere list of names or things. **That very portion can be our deliverance and salvation!**

It is very necessary for us to read the Word thoroughly. **It is given to us so that the Holy Spirit can work upon us.** Sometimes we read it and do not understand what the words mean. At that moment we may not realize what its message is to us. But at a later date the Holy Spirit picks up the same words we have read and from those very portions, He speaks to our hearts. Then those words take on a special meaning and become most valuable and by them we are guided and counseled inwardly. Let us not accept any human reasoning

god's true remnant



about the Word. **I suggest that the Word should always be read with this in mind—what has God to say to me through these words? Saints, the Word will touch everything and every area in your life if we approach it with the right heart!**

The Apostle Paul in the love of God brought the Word of God to the Corinthian church because they were so given to the flesh. They were grossly carnal and totally ruled by their natural senses. Paul had to bring the Word to them to correct the Corinthian church. Paul had a number of things to say in his First Letter to Corinthians.



Apostle Paul wrote about dress and head covering, married life, divorce and all sorts of things. However, many moderns do not like what Paul says in his letter! The moderns and the twenty-first century minds say things like, “Oh, well, Paul was old fashioned; he was a woman hater”.



Beloved child of God, if you listen to that you will get out of harmony with the Word of God. **The Word is there to put you right and keep you right with God!** It is so strange and so sad that many believers today are not open to Paul’s letters. They say that Paul was a woman hater. This shows that they are not open to the Spirit. Remember that the Spirit is always



in harmony with the Word. It is the Spirit that prompted the Apostle Paul to write the letters to the churches and these have been preserved for over twenty centuries. These letters are given to us by God to keep us right with God, but many people have brought in human reasoning and opinions to interpret spiritual things. People have brought in clever human arguments about head covering that cater to the flesh. In many other areas men have found a way to circumvent spiritual necessity.

People speak and violate God’s principles with impunity and when the Holy Spirit brings in the Word, they retaliate and strike back in one form or another. This can teach us that if there is a contradiction to the Word in our lives, we need to be very careful and must wait on the Lord and seek His mind.

I would like to warn every saint, not to violate the precious counsels and principles of God’s Word. This will seriously limit your spiritual life. The conduct and behavior of God’s remnant is governed by the Word of God and there is nothing in the whole range and realm of our human life that is not touched by the Word. I say this thoughtfully and caringly. There is no realm of our life that is not touched by the Word of God.

Beloved, we need to know for sure in our hearts that **the Holy Spirit looks for meticulous and scrupulous exactness when it comes to His Bride and His House.** He is the Custodian of God’s eternal purpose. He is jealous for the

god's true remnant



detailed features. **There is nothing haphazard, nothing left to chance, and nothing left to man or angels to conceive or design.** This can be seen to be true in various aspects mentioned in God's Word. Let me make a mention of the Tabernacle of Testimony in the Old Testament. Here, nothing in design, even to a pin or a stitch, a measurement, a material, a position, was left to man. It was all to be made according to "the pattern shewn". The Holy Spirit took charge of the artisans and the craftsmen so that nothing was left for them to altar or change. It is only when "all things were according to the pattern" did God approve and presence Himself. The slightest defection would have meant that it was only an empty shell without God. The same was true of the Temple of Solomon. And this is also very true concerning the Son of God, the Temple not made with hands. The Spirit of God takes over and governs all the details of His conception, birth, life, history, works, death, resurrection etc. It is marvelous to see the place of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Son. Then we have the example of the Church, the Body of Christ in the New Testament.



The Architect is God the Father. The Builder is God the Son. The Custodian and energy is God the Holy Spirit. Here again, nothing in conception and planning is left to angels or men. If man interferes, insinuates himself, and tries to do things with his human mind and reason in the Church, which is His Bride, so much the worse for the man,



the result of which the New Testament shows very clearly. Nothing but confusion and frustration and shame will reign. Is that not what we see all around today?



The Authority and Weight of the Word



Saints, God's Word touches every area of our lives—nothing is beyond its jurisdiction. Everything in the human realm of existence is touched by his Word; nothing in the experience of man is left uncovered; the Word is totally comprehensive and all-inclusive. **The Word of God touches all our temperaments. It touches our dress, our behaviour, our conversations, and it touches everything that we can think of.** If we are open, **we will find that God's Word has something to say about every thing.** Somewhere in the Word of God there will be something about it. Therefore, a spiritual people, **God's true remnant must give a large place to God's Word in their lives. They must allow the Word to correct them and adjust them. If the Word of God says it, that is all to it! There is no place in them to argue with the Word.** That is the quality of His true remnant. They do not argue or defend things.

It is so sad that today many who claim to be the remnant

god's true remnant



and who proclaim the doctrine of the remnant and of restoration are not open to God's Word. **They are totally out of line with the Word of God in many areas.** A spirit of the world and of worldliness has set into these groups. **They are not open to God's corrective Word on matters like head covering, dressing, marriage, divorce and remarriage.** Some say that head covering is an eastern culture. People incorporate their own ideas into God's Word. They have found out their own easy routes and escape paths for the soul that does not want to be subject to the Spirit and to the Word. These people appreciate God's servants, like Watchman Nee and Austin Sparks and their writings, but they do not accept these men's teaching on head covering, dressing and the pure teaching of God's Word on **marriage, divorce and remarriage.** Let us be assured that there is no passage in the whole Bible that promotes remarriage while the other spouse is alive! Such marriages are seen as adultery in the sight of the Lord as the Word of God declares very clearly. It is futile to argue with God's Word. My heart is really filled with sorrow when I see the moral condition of God's people, including those who preach restoration and the glorious Kingdom.



God's people have become the principal agents of moral corruption through divorce and remarriage. There are pastors who teach that it is within God's will for an unhappy partner to divorce their lifetime spouse and



remarry someone more compatible both spiritually and naturally. A number of pastors and leaders have even dared to declare that they have been directed by God to divorce their own rightful spouses and remarry another, in order to be more effective in ministry.



Typically, they remain not only in the church, but are often offered greater pulpits to preach from. **While some have championed the cause of divorce and remarriage, many have merely aided and abetted this curse through indifference and neglect. I have witnessed several sincere leaders stand idly by, double minded and confused, as more and more divorced members of their flock come and stand before them to be remarried once again. They dare to presume that they will not be held personally accountable for their role in ceremonially sanctifying adultery.** Yes, I realize this is a serious statement.

Saints, church-blessed divorces and remarriages have brought much pain and deception into the lives of God's people. The unsaved are blind, living in darkness and yet the very people who could, and should be showing the way, offer no light or life in this regard. Many twist and turn the true and clear teaching of the Word of God. Many ask about the so called exception clauses found in the Book of Matthew. Anyone who diligently studies the Word with an open mind and heart

god's true remnant



will find out that there is no way but to underline Jesus' teaching that living in a state of remarriage is actually living in a state of adultery. **When pastors, permit or recognize remarriage while an original spouse is still alive, they are actually playing a decisive role in their eternal damnation. To deny what Jesus so clearly declared is to be actively responsible for the present state of moral corruption. I am deeply disturbed and alarmed, when I see that even those who preach and teach the deeper life doctrine and restoration of His Glorious Church are mute spectators and promoters of this perversion.**

These are challenging days for God's true remnant. The price they have to pay is high and immense. However, God will never forget them for they are His special people at such times of compromise, departure and deterioration. We read in Malachi "*Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him*" (Mal 3:16-17).

Saints, God's ways are unique when it comes to His remnant people, who desire after Him and His testimony. If we really walk with the Holy Spirit, we will find that He is leading us into



things which we never thought of and never intended. But as He does it, we have to say "This is not something that has just arisen, this is something God has intended! I am just coming into something of Him, His Word. The Lord has not shown me the whole matter, but He is bringing me in!" If we are open to His Word and look deeply into it, we will see His wonderful logic and wisdom in it all!

Just as the laver was a very important thing to the Levites in their relation and ministry, so also the Word of God is very important to us in our relation with God and our ministry to God. A life in the Spirit will never contradict God's Word, nor violate it. A life in the Spirit will always mean correction and adjustment to the Word. It means not allowing any other influence that is contrary to God's Word, to affect us and turn us to something else. If we live in the Spirit we shall live in the Word; if we are a people of the Spirit we shall be a people of the Word. Spiritual people are those who will experience the on-going purging work of the Word in their lives. These are the spiritual features of God's true remnant. The remnant is a realm of life. It is not just the believing and preaching of a doctrine. **We can only be a part of God's true remnant in so far as we are governed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God!**

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to those who are called according to His purpose!

god's true remnant



god's true remnant

