

THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

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The fact that I am in Germany to-day and present at this Conference, is of the deepest significance for me personally, and shows me more clearly than ever before, the mighty power of the Spirit and the wonder of God's grace.

My last visit to Germany was in 1936, when I came to look for my relatives who were among the first of Hitler's victims. Some I found in hiding, others disappeared without leaving a trace behind. At that time I was still far from the knowledge of Christ. I was filled with horror, fear and shame, and a helplessness which led to despair. I left Germany vowing within myself that I would never again set foot in the country, nor have contact with anything or anyone connected with it. But God had other intentions for me.

I hated Christianity because of the crimes perpetrated by a so-called Christian nation. I was in some way ashamed of my people for being in a position to be so cruelly and criminally treated. I looked for God and could not find Him. I felt completely lost. Then, in my despair, Jesus revealed Himself to me. From one moment to the next I was transported from the depths of despair to the heights of joy. From that time the Spirit began the work of transformation within me and I saw Jesus not only as my personal Saviour, but also as the Messiah of Israel.

With this revelation hidden mysteries were unveiled and I could see all events taking their places marked on God's plan of salvation. Horror gave place to understanding, fear changed to faith and shame to repentance and rejoicing.

I speak of this personal experience because it is the manifestation of the working of the Spirit in the individual, the miracle which will eventually take place in

every individual when the Kingdom of God is established on earth and Messiah rules in every heart.

The next factor which led to my return to Germany was the coming into being of the Jewish Christian Community. With the regathering of the Jewish people and the restoration of their State there was also the beginning of their conversion—the Jewish Christian Community. My mission was shown to me—to serve with this Community.

I would have rejoiced to see my people at home again in their land even if I had not known Christ, but I could never have come to Germany. Only He could bring me back. Today I realise more fully the meaning of God's grace; without it I could not have been present at this Conference—hate would still have been in my heart.

It is only with the spirit of Messiah in our hearts and the vision of His Kingdom before us that we can understand the meaning of a restored Israel and the mission of the Jewish Christian Community. With this understanding we can also see the working of the Spirit bringing it to pass. While I was in Jerusalem during the siege and birth of the State of Israel, I witnessed and experienced daily the miracles wrought by God for the victory of His people and confusion of the enemy.

Now, today, I see another manifestation of Messiah's victory. Here in Germany, where Satan used all his powers in an effort to destroy the Jews, Messiah now calls out a people to support and help the Jews. Here, where on my last visit I experienced nothing but hatred towards me and my people, now I experience the love of friends who are united with us in this mission of preparation for the approaching Kingdom

of Israel's Messiah—a mission of prayer and repentance.

It is difficult to express how deeply moved I am by this experience of God's grace and love, and the uniting power of Messiah's spirit, which lifts us from the darkness of hate and separation to the light of love and unity, making us one—Jew and Gentile, Jew and German. How else could this unity be achieved ?

In London there is a community of Jews and Gentiles, who over a number of years, through many tests and trials, have become deeply united in love and service and are a powerful witness for the "oneness" of Jew and Gentile in Christ. The members of this Community come from different denominations and religious circles, some remaining members of their church or group, others having become separated from the circles to which they belonged previously. Each one is free to follow his own convictions; but in spirit, vision and service our Gentile brethren are one with the Jewish Christian Community, bound by the Messiah in an inseparable bond.

This Community in London is also a strong spiritual centre of prayer supporting the work in Germany and united with all the prayer circles that have come into being in this country.

From this centre in London contacts are made with many of the other English speaking countries? Recently we have seen the Spirit at work in other lands calling out brethren who share our vision, strengthening the ranks of the Brotherhood and deepening the unity in prayer. From Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Jamaica, India come letters assuring us of their loving support in prayer, their unity in spirit.

We are living in times when the powers of light and darkness are becoming manifest in an ever increasing measure. We see many miracles happening before our eyes every day; but let us not dwell too long upon the miracles themselves but

upon the One who has the power to perform these miracles. He has brought us through all the pitfalls which were set for us in the darkness, and if we keep our eyes fixed upon Him we will be carried over all the traps set for us now and in the future. We have seen the manifestation of the Spirit within ourselves, in Israel, in Germany and also in other countries; these are but the first beginnings of the realisation of God's great plan of salvation for mankind.

While we are being filled with the joy of the wonders we are now experiencing, let us look towards those still greater wonders being prepared for us by our Father in Heaven—the wonders of His Kingdom.

This great joy and thankfulness which we experience today in this Brotherhood of the Messiah, will one day be experienced by all peoples. It is a token of life in the Kingdom under the rule of Messiah on earth. With this vision clearly before us let us not be distracted by any shadow which may fall on our path, but keep our gaze fixed upon our Leader, who guides us towards His Kingdom in Israel, and wants us to pray for Jerusalem, the city of His throne and for His witnesses in Israel who carry His banner in the midst of His people. "Let all those who put their trust in Thee rejoice : let them ever shout for joy because Thou defendest them: let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee."

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