



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you November 2021 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. This month, our theme is "Dynamics of Holy Spirit's presence, power and operations"

Our lead story and reference (John 7:37-39) was Christ's invitation to the Jews to come to Him and receive from Him living water i.e to partake in baptism in the Holy Spirit. He made this proclamation during the feast of Tabernacles.

The feast of tabernacle was a weeklong harvest festival that marked the end of the busy harvest period in Jewish calendar. As part of the celebrations, people made temporary shelters (booths) from branches, and they picnicked underneath these shelters in the mild autumn weather. The celebration was to thank God for the year's harvest and commemorate God's protection of the Israelites during their forty years of wilderness wandering. The booths reminded the Jews of the temporary shelters their ancestors used during that time in the desert.

Each day during the Feast of Tabernacles, water in a gold vessel was ceremonially carried in procession from the Pool of Siloam to the temple. This water was then poured out in front of the altar of burnt offerings, and Isaiah 12:3 was recited: : "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation". Jesus invited them on the last day of this feast to come and believe in Him.

Coming to Jesus and drinking from life's fountain describes an experience that will satisfy man's deepest and comprehensive needs; an experience unaffected by change in time and season. Jesus confirmed that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is that experience and sustained relationship with him the source.

Jesus is the source of life, both spiritual and physical. Our search for satisfaction and fullness of life, for abundance in life and life eternal should begin with Him and end in Him. He is our life and life to all men.

My prayer for you this month as you read this edition of Watchman's Trumpet is that you will receive from Jesus through the Holy Spirit extraordinary impartation of divine life that will transform your life forever. Welcome!

RIVERS OF LIVING WATERS

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" John 7:37-39



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Hebraic speeches and communication are full of imagery. They use phenomena, events subjects or activities in the world around them in speeches to illustrate their messages for clearer understanding. Thus, Jesus always uses images that communicate spiritual truth in His teachings. It resonates well with His audience and enriches their understanding.

A Jewish mind understands living water to be water from rain, which they believe came from God as evidence of His pleasure or water from natural spring. Religious Jews, based on study and understanding of scriptures such as Jeremiah 17:13, Isaiah 44:3-4, 49:10, and 55:1 associates living water with the presence of God and the activities of His Spirit.

Old Testament narrative of contention for water resource and its use was a reflection of the fact that most nations in the Middle East lies in arid region. In which case, water and its availability and ownership take on the value of life and wealth.

It is sometimes the most precious resource and could make a difference between life and death for individuals, families and nations.

Christ drew illustration from this background to teach on the reality of man's need for the Holy Spirit and associated impartation of spiritual and divine life. Our text connected living water with the presence, power and operations of the Holy Spirit.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The concept and flow of "living water"
2. The giver of water of life
3. The universal invitation to drink from rivers of life

1. The concept and flow of "living water"

"Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" John 4:13,14.

"For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses". Isaiah 44:3-4

Sitting before a spirit-filled teacher, preacher or counsellor comes with amazing refreshing comparable only to drinking from bubbling life spring at the end of a long distance trek and associated thirst. It does not matter what the topic or subject is; interaction with such minister solves problems, relieves worries, calms the mind and leaves you with new strength, renewed faith, revived vision, undying love and enduring hope.

We hardly pause to reflect on the fact that this divine source of life and refreshing was at one time a new convert who knew next to nothing about God and His operations. From a little sip of confession of faith in Jesus after repentance, over time and a period of sustained fellowship with Christ, with His Spirit and His people, he becomes a source and communicator of eternal life and hope to multitude. This in part explains how the living waters that Christ gives brings and is still bringing tremendous blessings to the whole world.

While it is true and easier to allude the drinking of living waters to individual believer's prayer and singing in the Spirit for personal edification, in-depth understanding of our text revealed that it is much more than that. It extends to entire relationship of individuals with the Holy Spirit, activities of the Church of the living God as light in the world, mission commitment in different nations on earth as well as the entire operations of the Holy Spirit globally in every generation. It is the story of how 120 ordinary men went out of a prayer meeting in the Upper Room after a unique encounter and experience with God to transform and continue to transform men's lives and change the world through their impact, life and ministry.



2. The giver of water of life

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water". John 4:10

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men" John 1:4



Our text revealed that Jesus is the giver and source of life. Life in this context refers to divine and spiritual life. Jesus revealed to Nicodemus that this life, imparted by the Holy Spirit, begins with faith in Him. Holy Spirit brings the grace and the gifts of Christ into those who believe in Him and receive Him as their Lord and Saviour. The interplay of Christ and Holy Spirit's grace and gifts in continuously yielding believer makes him fruitful, productive and profitable at individual level as well as in union or relationship with other believers. Together they all become lamps and lights illuminating a dark world.

3. Universal invitation to drink from rivers of life

Coming to Jesus and drinking from life's fountain describes an experience that will satisfy man's deepest and comprehensive needs; an experience unaffected by change in time and season. Jesus confirmed that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is that experience and sustained relationship with him the source. Jesus is the source of life, both spiritual and physical. Our search for satisfaction and fullness of life, for abundance in life and life eternal should begin with Him and end in Him. He is our life and life to all men.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For November 2021

1. Thank God for the power, influence and gifts of the Holy Spirit in our world
2. Pray for supernatural living, service and manifestations in your life
3. Pray that God will use you to meet needs and solve problems in people’s lives in your community
4. Pray against selfishness, lukewarmness, worldliness, distractions and spirit of materialism in 21st century church
5. Pray that our generation will from now on witness more and more unprecedented supernatural and extraordinary manifestation of the Holy Spirit
6. Pray for healing of broken hearts, freedom of captives, binding up of bruises of heaven’s pilgrims and deliverance for the oppressed
7. Pray for renewed vision, zeal, dedication, consecration and commitment of believers, Christian workers, ministers and leaders in our time
8. Pray that the kingdom of God in its fullness, power and glory will be established in our lives, families, communities and nations through more and more manifestation of Holy Spirit’s presence and power

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

LIFE IN THE SUPERNATURAL

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”.

Isaiah 7:14

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”. **Mark 16:17, 18**

“Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion”. **Isaiah 8:18**

The fundamental nature of the Christian faith is the experience and enjoyment of life in the supernatural. The Christian religion started with signs and will continue by signs until the end of time. The signs witnessed in Christianity by those who are Christians are evidences of manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. In a world filled with problems, troubles, trials, denials, necessities and difficulties which may be physical or spiritual, every Christian (believer) should know the time tested and trusted God - approved way to have their problems solved.

We shall consider two subtopics:

1. Christianity's beginning with sign
2. Supernatural manifestations by the power of the Holy Spirit

1. Christianity's beginning with sign

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there

shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God”.

Luke 1:31-35

The virgin birth is one of the greatest sign the world has ever and will ever witness. (1) It was fulfillment of prophecy, (2) an evidence of God's involvement and (3) evidence of Holy Spirit's activities. By extension, the account revealed the reality of God's work in our lives by the Holy Spirit and in us when we are overshadowed (saturated and invigorated) by the power of the Most High.



2. Supernatural manifestations by the power of the Holy Spirit

1. Supernatural life - Lazarus John 11:25. It is a picture of what God could do with the debased, corrupt and degenerated nature in man either spiritually or physically. Ezekiel 37

2. Supernatural walk: Peter walking on the sea Mark 14:25-29. It is easy to understand Jesus walking on the sea, but what about Peter?

Supernatural call:

- i. *Call to salvation* - Saul who became Paul Acts 9
- ii. *Call to service* - Moses and the Burning Bush
- iii. *Call to Glory* - Enoch Genesis 5; John 1:12. If God gives you power you will be and do all that He has ordained you to be and do.

3. Supernatural heart: Ezekiel 36:26-27. God promised to change our heart and replace it with another one so that we can find it easy to walk in His ways. Saul received it 1 Samuel 10:5-6, 9. Stephen demonstrated it Acts 7:57-60.

4. Supernatural guidance and revelation:

The wife of Jeroboam 1 King 14; Elisha and Syrian Army 2 Kings 6:8-12; Haggai in the wilderness Genesis 21:19



5. Supernatural utterances and pronouncement:

Speaking in tongues by the Spirit-filled; Prophetic declaration 2 Kings 3:16-18, provision of water for troops of warring kings, Paul and Elymas Acts 13:7-11

6. Supernatural strength: promised in Deuteronomy 33:25; Psalm 91:16.

Moses at 120 Deuteronomy 34:7

Caleb at 85 Joshua 14:7

Sarah at 89 Hebrews 11:11

7. Supernatural protection and preservation: promised in Psalm 34:7; fulfilled for Elisha and his servants in 2 Kings 6:15-17.

8. Supernatural healing and miracles: promised; Romans 8:11; Exodus 23:25-27. The lame man at Beautiful Gate Acts 3, Dorcas raised by Peter Acts 9:36-37, 40.

9. Supernatural provision: Psalm 37:25. Widow of Zarephat 1 Kings 17, The wedding at Cana in Galilee John 2

10. Supernatural deliverance: Isaiah 49:25. The three Hebrew children Daniel 3; Daniel in the Lion's den Daniel 6; Peter in prison Acts 12.

11. Supernatural progress and promotion: Isaiah 49:23; Deuteronomy 28:1, 12-13. Joseph in Egypt Genesis 41:38-40, Daniel in Babylon Daniel 1. What academic/professional qualification do they have and how do they get it?

12. Supernatural transition or translation and glory:

Enoch Genesis 5

Jacob Genesis 49

Elijah 2 Kings 2

INTENSE DESIRE AND PRAYER FOR OVERFLOW

“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”
Luke 11:9-13

Redeemed men are saved to serve. But a time comes in our lives when we are simply overwhelmed by the mere thought of the magnitude of what we have to do. In our text Jesus have developed and trained 12 men who will have to take the gospel to the whole world. He knew they cannot succeed without help from above. He knew that the energy of the flesh will fail when it matters most. That was the case with Peter before Pentecost. To succeed in God’s assignment we need God’s power. Jesus knew this hence He promised His disciples an overflow of God’s Spirit. To be what God wanted us to be and do what he sent us to do, Holy Spirit’s overflow is what we need. Jesus promised to fill the thirsty with overflow of God’s Spirit if they ask, seek and knock. We can ask and receive today.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The nature of spiritual thirst
2. The invitation to the thirsty
3. Overflow of God’s power in spirit-filled believers



1. The nature of Spiritual thirst

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink” **John 7:37**

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” **Psalm 42:1-2**

“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:” **Isaiah 44:3**

Jesus invited any man who is thirsty to come to him and drink. The thirst He described here is not for anything earthly or physical. It is not the thirst of Rachel for children. Neither is it the thirst of Absalom and Adonijah for political office or the thirst of Jabez for wealth and material prosperity but a thirst similar to that of Elisha for double portion of God’s anointing; a thirst for Holy Spirit’s fullness and God’s power which will make a man tremendously useful to God on earth and usher him into everlasting happiness and life in God’s presence forever in the world to come.



Whatever a man has in this world, if he does not possess such a thirst or its blessings, he is poor and sick. Heaven must be desired for what it is worth. Those who have no appetite for things of God will never have it or get there. We must therefore understand that the phrase “*living water*” in our text refers to a spiritual experience - to life of God in man - to eternal life - to everlasting relationship with God and its blessings and benefits.

It refers to intense desire for the presence and power of God and for enduring and intimate relationship with Him. Such desire exists as dissatisfaction with the state and nature of physical life in every man. In every man there is a longing for something true, real, good, genuine and permanent. We can only enter into the fullness of such provision by coming to Christ and drinking from the fountain (source) of living waters. **John 4:13-14**



2. The invitation to the thirsty

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price”. **Isaiah 55:1**

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”. **Mathew 11:28**

Incidentally, in connection with our text, we are in the last days of this world. We are at the tail end of the sojourn and journey of the human race on earth. Besides, the race to heaven is not a 100meters dash but an enduring long distance race. So Jesus invited those who had become thirsty in their race in life to come and drink.

Christ's teaching here suggested first that such a thirst exists, secondly that satisfaction of such thirst is possible, and finally that such satisfaction and its fullness begins with Christ and can only be received and sustained by coming to Christ and entering into an abiding relationship with Him. He says "come" and "believe". The promise is for him that "believeth"

The steps for coming to Christ and abiding in Him as well as for Holy Spirit's empowerment are well elucidated in the scriptures. To come to Christ, you must repent and forsake your sins; and make right your ways. To abide in Him you must thirst for and be filled with righteousness, you must be purged and cleansed from inward depravity. To receive Holy Spirit's baptism, you must ask, seek and knock. Luke 11:10, 13

Thirst in this context described the intensity of our desire for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to fill us if we come to Him and express such. Through our in-filling, we become blessed and a source of blessing to others.

3. Overflow of God's power in Spirit-filled believers

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water". John 7:37-38

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life". John 4:14

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:..." Galatians 5:22,23

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:" 1 Corinthians 12 :7-10

The summary of our lead reference is that Jesus promised to give the Holy Spirit in full measure to all who come to Him, believes in Him and pray for the experience. He will give them an overflow. We will have an overflow of God's presence and power.

Two things are evidence of God's presence in a place, which is also applicable to the presence of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is God. First is purity, and secondly, supernatural power. We will have character and charisma; grace and gifts.



Thus, we will have according to the scriptures, the Holy Spirit expressing Himself in the Spirit-filled believers through the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

The fruits of the Spirit are nine - love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. The gifts of the Spirit are also nine - word of knowledge, word of wisdom, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, diverse kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues.



Like overflowing river, manifestation of these in a filled believer and its overflow brings tremendous blessings into the believer's life and makes him a source of blessing to those around him.



The evidence of the overflow is radiant infectious saintliness and supernatural power demonstration to solve problems and meet human needs. Such life attracts and blesses others. We become instruments in God's hand to reproduce similar experiences in others. Our journey into such a life can begin today.

"Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that everything that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and everything shall live whither the river cometh."

Ezekiel 47:8, 9

MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal".

1 Corinthians 12:7

Our text was taken from a section of Paul's writings, which clarifies the doubts, questions, controversies and confusion of the Corinthian Christians on the use and activities of the Holy Spirit. The text describes Holy Spirit's activities in spirit-filled believers as "*manifestation*". This should be viewed against the backdrop of the fact that Holy Spirit being a spirit cannot be physically seen. Its presence can only be identified and recognized by its activities. Our topic therefore answers the question of how to know whether a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit or not.

It clearly revealed that if the Holy Spirit is present in baptismal measure in anyone, there will be clear obvious, verifiable, evidence, signs and activities in the life and ministry of such a person. It was on the basis of this that Paul questioned Ephesian Christians whether they have received Holy Spirit's baptism since they believe or not Acts 19: 1-7. It is a question we should be able to ask any believer today if we do not notice any of these "*manifestations*" in his/her life and ministry. It is a question you should be able to ask yourself.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Evidence of the Spirit's presence and power
2. Recipients of the Spirit's presence and power
3. Profiting from Holy Spirit's presence and power

1. Evidence of Spirit's presence and power

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" **Mathew 10:8**

Holy Spirit infuses saved and sanctified believer with power.

This power confers on them special abilities to do something that is beyond normal human capacity. Spiritual gifts are supernatural manifestations of insight, utterances and power by spirit-filled believers to solve problems and meet needs of individuals or groups in the church and in the community where such believers live. The Holy Spirit's power makes the believer to know things he naturally would not have known, say things he naturally may not have said and cause things to happen that will naturally not have happened in his normal course of daily life. By such activities or occurrences, the Holy Spirit announces Himself, His power and presence in such a believer and in the world.

2. Recipients of Spirit's presence and power

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;" **Mark 16:17**

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." **Acts 2:38**



"...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" 1 Corinthians 12:7. "*Every man*" in this reference does not imply both saved and unsaved. The gifts of the Spirit are not natural abilities, gifts or talents such as crafts, singing, leading or speaking shared by all whether believers or unbelievers and learnt in universities. They are experiences whose distribution and use are exclusive to and strictly under the sovereign control of the Holy Spirit. Through them He functions in the individual believer as He pleases. Those who became converted in Cornelius' house received a 3-in-one experience - salvation, sanctification and Holy Spirit's baptism. Acts 10:43-44, 15:9. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever Hebrews 13:8. The gifts of the Spirit are for every spirit-filled believer; there is at least one for you - maybe more!

3. Profiting from Holy Spirit's presence and power

"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength". **Acts 3:6-7**

"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." **Ephesians 4:7, 11-12**

"...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" 1 Corinthians 12:7. The gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 are not exclusive. Itemized, there are more or less about eighteen gifts of the Spirit in the Bible even though some scholars use the phrase "*gifts of the Spirit*" in a strict sense to refer only to the nine gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Altogether, they described the various ways the Holy Spirit can express, manifest or reveal Himself through a believer. Through these gifts, the Holy Spirit brings the blessings and benefits of His presence and power, and that of the kingdom of God, and of Christ into our world. Manifestation of spiritual gifts is not for private advantage or exclusive profit of the receiver. Jesus said *"...freely have ye received, freely give"* Mathew 10:8.



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James Hudson Taylor was born on May 21, 1832 into a Methodist minister's family that prayed together and spoke often of other countries that had not heard the word of God. Yet when he was 17, he chose not to follow the God his family knew. As a teenager, young Hudson turned away from God. In 1849, Hudson's mother felt God was telling her to pray for her son. She locked herself into her bedroom. She was praying for hours for the salvation of Hudson. As she was praying, Hudson found a Gospel tract titled "*Poor Richard*" and he started to read it. After he had finished, he committed his life to Jesus and reaching China with the Good News.

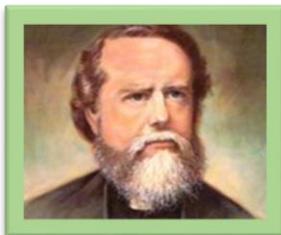
Brought into saving faith through such a testimony, the power of prayer continued to be a valuable core of his life. After his conversion, he soon developed a deep passion for the people and needs of the 400 million in China making it his goal to "*to evangelize all China, to preach Christ to all its peoples by any and all means that come to hand.*" He joined the Chinese Evangelization Society (CES), beginning medical training and later sailing to Shanghai at the age of 21.

From the beginning, he made it a goal to live and dress like the Chinese people, a practice that was unheard of at the time. After working in Shanghai, he began making trips to the interior villages and realized that while missionaries had become common in the cities of China, most villages in China's inland remained untouched as far as the gospel was concerned.

After six years in China he sailed again for England, this time married to missionary teacher Maria Dyer. He spent this furlough on production of a new translation of the Chinese New Testament. Also, during this time the idea of a new mission society was birthed in Hudson's mind. This new organization would be based in China and run by missionaries in China. All members would wear Chinese dress and work mainly in villages and cities in China that previously did not have any missionary work.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR
1832 - 1905



The organization would be funded by faith rather than solicitation. All funding would be requested by prayer like George Mueller's orphanages. The organization became known as the "*China Inland Mission*" (CIM).

In 1866, the first 16 CIM missionaries joined Hudson, Maria, and their two children on the boat Lammermuir sailing to Shanghai. They were from multiple denominations across England. Many had joined CIM after hearing Hudson's dynamic speaking. In time, the CIM grew to over 1,000 missionaries and later over 1,300 at its peak in 1934. After the creation of CIM, Hudson divided his time between visiting these stations and traveling home to recruit more workers. Hudson spent many years in China, losing a wife, three children and later dying there himself, he continued to travel back and forth from China to Europe and North America recruiting more laborers for China. He preached in several Chinese dialects and was widely regarded as the father of the Chinese Christian movement. After the death of his second wife in Switzerland in 1904, Hudson Taylor returned to China for the final time where he died on 3rd June 1905. He was buried beside his first wife Maria.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring."

Isaiah 44:3

SONG OF THE MONTH

THE COMFORTER HAS COME

- Oh, spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!
Refrain:
The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!
The Holy Ghost from Heav'n, the Father's promise giv'n;
Oh, spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found—
The Comforter has come!
- The long, long night is past, the morning breaks at last,
And hushed the dreadful wail and fury of the blast,
As o'er the golden hills the day advances fast!
The Comforter has come!
- Lo, the great King of kings, with healing in His wings,
To every captive soul a full deliv'rance brings;
And through the vacant cells the song of triumph rings;
The Comforter has come!
- O boundless love divine! How shall this tongue of mine
To wond'ring mortals tell the matchless grace divine—
That I, a child of hell, should in His image shine!
The Comforter has come!
- Sing till the echoes fly above the vaulted sky,
And all the saints above to all below reply,
In strains of endless love, the song that ne'er will die:
The Comforter has come!

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