

ROBERTS LIARDON

THE
PRICE
OF
SPIRITUAL
POWER

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by
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FOREWORD

In the most agonizing moment of His life, Jesus cried out to His Father, . . . **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done** (Luke 22:42). *The Amplified Bible* says, . . . **Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but (always) Yours, be done.**

Jesus accepted His cross—dying on Calvary— which provided the way through which all mankind might become part of the family of God. Jesus found no way out of the cross experience. No one else could take His place. He faced His Gethsemane alone. When He was undergoing the agony of the cross experience, His disciples fell asleep instead of praying, and later Peter denied that he even knew the Christ.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Luke 22:43-46

Today, you and I must face our own cross experiences. That cross is different for each person. Your cross experience will correspond to whatever God asks you to do. To be productive for the Kingdom of God, there is no alternative to—no way out of— dying to self. Jesus said, **And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple** (Luke 14:27 NIV).

To reject your cross experience is, literally, to play games with God. That is, to reject your cross experience means that you are not really serious about the things of God, and He is not a top priority with you. When you are willing to die to self—to let the old flesh die—you become serious about the things of God. To *die to self* is to begin to live!

There is a price to pay to be fit for the Master's use.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

2 Timothy 2:21

To be acceptable for the Master's use, you must lay aside the weights of anything that would hold you to the earth realm; you must learn to yield to the Holy Spirit; you must let the old flesh die; and then you must learn to live continually in the realm of the Holy Spirit.

Roberts Liardon

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1

LAYING ASIDE THE WEIGHTS

Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1,2

God is calling to all saints in this hour, "Lay aside every weight that ties you to the things of the earth. Be loosed from anything that binds you to the things of the earth. Be free of everything that would keep you from fulfilling My call and that would hinder your ability to flow with My Spirit."

I learned something about this message a long time ago when no one seemed to care who I was, when no one knew I had gone to heaven, and when no one knew I had a praying grandmother who continually said, "One day, he'll do something for the Kingdom of God."

For six long years, I separated myself unto God. I walked my bedroom floor praying in other tongues—sometimes all night long. When I would go to my room for this special time with the Lord, I would take my Bibles, pads of paper, pencils, and a tape recorder. I wanted to hear from Heaven. I stepped aside from many of the activities of my family, neighborhood, and school. I laid aside all sports to spend this time alone with the Lord. Many people thought I was crazy, and they did not mind telling me so! Not one person seemed to care as I paced the floor, tears streaming down my face.

As I walked my bedroom floor during those six years, I was confronted with evil spirits. At the same time, I was confronted with glorious angelic hosts from God's realm who sang and ministered to me, strengthening me in spirit.

One thing I learned during this time of separation is something that I often heard Kathryn Kuhlman say:

"God is not seeking the golden vessels of this earth. He is not seeking the silver vessels. But He is seeking the plain, ordinary, yielded vessels who will obey WHATEVER He asks them to do."

When God speaks, we are to obey. We are not to ask questions. We are not to have committee meetings dominated by the intellects of men and women to discuss spiritual matters. When God speaks, we are to obey instantly, knowing He can be trusted to perform His Word . . . knowing He is faithful to keep His promises . . . knowing He delights in quickly performing His promises . . . knowing He will never fail!

Any time God speaks, we can be confident that He will follow through to cause the manifestation, or fruit, of what He has spoken to come forth.

If God says, "Jump through the wall," we are not to ask where the hole is; we are to jump, and let Him worry about the hole. That may sound a little ridiculous, but that is how strong our faith in God should be.

God is waking up His mighty men and women in this hour. He is saying:

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, *wake up the mighty men*, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.

Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:9-14

God is saying in this hour:

"Wake up the mighty men and women . . . wake up those who have pure hearts and motives toward Me. . . wake up the mighty men and women who know how to pray in the spirit till victory comes . . ."

wake up those who have been despised and rejected because of the traditions of men that are contrary to Me."

In this last outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we will face great battles. For the sake of survival, we must loose all the chains and weights that have kept us tied to the earth, because as we learn to flow with the precious Holy Spirit, we will be out ahead of the battles *before* they hit!

We must be able to go into the very throne room of God, sit around His conference table, and receive our plans and orders directly from Him. Some will be secret, sealed orders that can be shared with no man.

Today, we are standing at a crossroads, both as individual believers and as the Church as a whole. Every believer and every church body must shake loose from all entanglements of the world to be able to respond with immediacy to God's end-time directives.

Many people have taken a few steps into the realm of the spirit to hear from God, but they have failed to remain there. Because they had not let go of all worldly entanglements, they are unable to receive the fullness of God's specific plans designed just for them.

Of course, people who walk in the flesh will discourage you if you attempt to move completely into the realm of the spirit.

They will often say, "Be normal. Don't be weird."

Have you ever heard that?

What they are really saying is, "Don't be normal. Be weird with us!"

What weights or entanglements are bogging you down? Is it sports, food, wrong friendships, television, an apathetic attitude, pride, sickness, or debt? Whether it is one of these areas or something else, get rid of it. Step into the liberty wherein Christ has set you free. God's Word provides the way of escape out of every entanglement. Diligently seek God through prayer and His Word so you will be able to flow with His Spirit.

Consider yourself a runner in the race Christ has set before you. No runner with even a thimble full of sense would weight himself down before entering a race. No, he would shake free of everything that might hinder his chances to win. He would want to be free in order to run his very best.

Paul talked about the race of life. He was talking about dying to the flesh when he spoke of putting his body under. He talked about being free in Christ.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

We no longer can run with the world and also run with God. We no longer can straddle the fence. The Word says a person cannot serve both God and mammon. (Matt. 6:24.) We must make a choice. We cannot live for God part of the time and for the devil the rest of the time. We must choose whom we will serve.

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

1 Corinthians 10:21-23

The weights of this world must be laid aside quickly. I believe the present move of God has progressed as far as it can. It cannot come any closer, because this move is in the realm of the spirit. It is not part of the natural realm. It is in the realm where angels of God and demons of hell battle. You and I, God's mighty men and women, must enter the spirit realm and powerfully intercede until we win! We will win as we shake free of all the weights of the world.

2

YIELDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

I used to ride on the coattail of my grandmother's spirit. I knew that whenever she moved into the glory world, those goose bumps would pop up on me as well. I knew that if I stayed close enough to her, she could "piggyback" me into the realm of the spirit.

But one day, God said, "Now, it is *your* fight. Now *you* will be held accountable for your own spirit."

When that release came, I began to realize what my grandma had kept me from. I began to realize the protection she had been to me. Until that time, my mind had never been confused. I had never known what it was to be tormented by evil spirits, because she kept them away from me.

I can remember the time when I would come home from school as a youngster, and Grandma would abruptly stop me and pray for me before I barely got my nose inside the front door! She saw into the realm of the spirit, and she saw when I had demonic spirits hovering over me. Thank God for Grandma!

When I was on my own, I had to learn to pray for myself and get into the realm of the spirit for myself. I began to realize that no person or ministry would ever succeed because of great education, financial success, or connections made by man. These things will *not* entice the anointing of God to fall upon you, because the Holy Spirit will cause the anointing to fall as *He* wills, never as man wills. The Holy Spirit never takes directions from man.

God's anointing comes on yielded vessels— vessels who are totally submitted and surrendered to the Spirit of God. I had to learn to yield to the Holy Spirit. As I did, the anointing upon me became stronger. I have learned that yielding to the Holy Spirit and living in the realm of the spirit are progressive. As we mature in Christ, we are able to yield more fully to the Holy Spirit and to live in that realm.

The only way to stay in the realm of the spirit is to spend time alone with God.

During the first year that I walked my bedroom floor praying and weeping before God, I would look out the window and see my friends playing baseball.

My flesh would say, "You're not accomplishing a thing! Go play baseball with your friends. You are not even getting a single goose bump, Roberts!" (That is the kind of encouragement I received from my mind.)

The truth of the matter is that I did not receive even one goose bump for more than a year! I felt nothing. There was absolutely no response from Heaven for more than a year. If most people do not hear from Heaven within five minutes, they are ready to give up, quit praying, and start *confessing*, hoping that will bring immediate results.

My friends, confession will not work either, unless it is enforced with prayer. You can confess until you are blue in the face, but unless your prayer life is up to par, your confession will not avail.

I knew, however, that if I persisted with God, He would finally show up.

My attitude was this: "I am going to walk this bedroom floor until God shows up or I die!"

Some of you need that kind of persistence to get hold of God. Some of you need old-time Pentecostal persistence that will cause you to pray all night until Heaven hits Earth. Dead, dried-up religion is not worth a thing. Religion kills the spirit and causes the flesh to prevail.

Criticism will come as you begin to separate yourself unto God. Persecution will come, but you have got to get into the realm of the spirit where you belong. You have to get under the shadow of the Almighty and stay there. You have to get to the place where the winds of God will overshadow you and will carry

you.

I began walking down school hallways talking to God. I was not concerned about a social life. I was not concerned about sports. I wanted God, and I did not care what it cost me to find Him. I was not concerned about what others thought of me.

I have to admit, however, that some of the persecution bothered me at first because my flesh was not completely dead yet. I learned not to bow to the opinions of others, but to go with God. His righteousness will prevail, and He will lift you up always.

Some people get into trouble because they are looking for feelings, or because they are seeking the approval of men. You cannot go by feelings or men's approval. What you need is confidence—a supernatural knowing—that you are doing something worthwhile.

At times, I would pray all night.

Some people may say, "Oh, you are just exaggerating."

No! That is the way it was. I was persistent. After more than a year of praying, I walked into my bedroom one day, and I felt the presence of God. When you have walked your floor for that long with absolutely no feelings, you will come to recognize that it is God when you sense the power of His presence. I went for two or three months longer without any further response from God. I kept knocking on Heaven's door to see if someone would answer.

One day when I walked into my bedroom and shut the door, God spoke to me, saying, "Here I am. Seek no more. I have come to hear from you."

When He said that, the power of God filled my room so intensely that I was thrown across the floor. All that night I shook under the mighty power of God. That is the type of experience people are seeking. They are seeking the real. They have had enough of the counterfeit. They are looking for God to show up and say, "*Here I am.*"

When God says that, He is saying, "*I will be with you. I will go beside you. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will heal through you. I will speak through you. I will bless people through you.*"

Not too many people have paid the price to get God to visit, but He is no respecter of persons. What He did for me, He will do for you. People try to get a visitation from God through great head knowledge. They try to reach God through money or popularity. But God is not influenced by any of these things. He is simply looking for ordinary, yielded vessels.

3

DYING TO SELF

When God came to my room, we began to walk and talk as friends. I became the student. He became my Teacher. The old Roberts Liardon began to die. He began to take away the desires of my flesh, the goals I had set for my life. I was destined for college. I was destined for sports. I was destined for other things I had in mind.

However, as I began to yield myself as a vessel to God, He slowly reached in and pulled Roberts out. Many nights, it seemed as if He cut me wide open. He never used any painkillers, either. He just reached in and grabbed something I dearly loved in the flesh or something I wanted to do in the natural.

As my flesh began to die, it felt as if I was dying a thousand deaths. I was being nailed to my own cross. I had submitted myself to my own cross, but now God was operating on me. He was taking things out of me that were not of Him, and it took a while for all those things to be pulled out of me.

One day, God took me to what I call a "spiritual graveyard." *Every* person who means business with God must visit this place, which is a graveyard where the flesh is buried.

I saw a coffin with several angels standing around it. As I walked closer, I looked inside—and there lay Roberts Liardon. As I saw myself in that coffin, I began to cry. There lay my wife, my children, my college, my basketball career—everything I had ever wanted or planned for my life.

And I was the only one who had the power to shut the coffin. Until that day, I had not known what it really meant to "see self die." I had not understood the reality of seeing self fight for survival. I had never realized how powerful self was.

I did not realize then that *the most exciting and beautiful life possible cannot begin until self dies.*

After I shut the lid of my coffin that day, I was buried. Then I wrote on my tombstone: "Here lie the remains of Kenneth Roberts Liardon."

As I left the "graveyard," I was sad. It is quite a task to bury your own self, to bury your own desires. I believe it is the hardest thing Christians must do in the Earth, surpassing other spiritual experiences.

When I walked away from the graveyard that day, I had died. That is all I knew. Later, I returned to mourn my death, and a huge angel stood in front of the graveyard and said:

"Those who mourn the death of self in this place will never be able to be used for the glory of God."

Once self dies and is buried, leave it there! Do not mourn your death. Mourning your death will cause self to revive, and it will be harder for you to die to self the second time. The complete death of one's natural self—the carnal desires and thoughts and behavior—will lead not to revival of self but to the resurrection by the Holy Spirit of a spirit-controlled soul. So begin living unto God. Then, you can begin living in the spirit world. Never go back to the flesh, the realm of self.

You Must Crucify Self in Order to Live

The first step into the realm of the Holy Spirit, I believe, is to die to yourself. Until you do, God will never be able to use you in the manner He desires. You cannot die to self partially and become alive unto God partially. You must get to the point where there is *none* of self and *all* of God Almighty in you. You must come to the place where you can say, with the apostle Paul:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

We are not debtors to the flesh; we are debtors to the Spirit.

So then, brethren, we are debtors, but not to the flesh—we are not obligated to our carnal nature—to live [a life ruled by the standards set

up by the dictates] of the flesh.

Romans 8:12 AMP

It was not the flesh that caused the new birth. It was not the flesh that brought Christ to the Earth. It was the Spirit of God who brought Christ to the Earth. It was the Spirit of God who raised Him from the dead. That same Holy Spirit lives in you. Yield yourself to Him.

But many believers yield themselves to the flesh, and then they ask, "Why are my words powerless when I stand to preach? Why doesn't anything happen when I witness to people about the Kingdom of God? Why? Why? Why?"

When I tell people of the necessity of dying to self and yielding themselves to the Holy Spirit, they laugh, mock, criticize, and persecute. They do not seem to want the truth that will set them free.

My friends, if the glory of God came into some churches and homes, His presence would cause the physical deaths of some people, because *the presence of God will not mix with the presence of sin*. His presence causes a reaction, an explosion, called "judgment and death."

Do you know what happened to Ananias and Sapphira in the Book of Acts? It was not the presence of the apostles that caused them to fall dead when they sinned. No, they fell dead instantly when they lied in the presence of the Holy Spirit. They committed sin in the presence of God's glory. Sin and God's glory just do not mix. Sin and God's glory will *never* mix.

Ananias and Sapphira committed spiritual suicide. If the glory of God were to come in the way some Christians are praying for it, many would die. God is not a killer, but He does expect us to live in the light of what we know.

Until you "die," you cannot live. *Until you die to self, you cannot live unto righteousness.*

For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh you will surely die. But if through the power of the (Holy) Spirit you are habitually putting to death—making extinct, deadening—the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall (really and genuinely) live forever.

Romans 8:13 AMP

Every person is faced with the cross of dying to self. Many people do not want what I am talking about. People who mean business with God want the presence of God without limitation or boundaries, but many are not willing to pay the price to get it.

Every person has to pay a price to step into the fullness of God's presence. Your grandma cannot pay the price for you. Your mom, dad, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, or cousins cannot pay the price for you. Your pastor cannot pay the price for you. You must die on your own cross.

I will admit, it is a lonely road to that cross. It is a lonely death on that tree. It is a lonely funeral. But the glory of the death and burial of self will cause a resurrection to new life. That resurrection is what multitudes of people are looking for today. The key is that *you must crucify the flesh so that you can live.*

Esther's Cross Experience

Esther faced a "cross" experience when she had to choose whether to risk her life for the preservation of her people, the Jews, when they were living in exile.

No one could approach the king unless that person was summoned by him. Esther made the choice to risk her life and stand in the gap for her people. If the king did not hold out his golden scepter to her as she approached, the law stated that she must die.

And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

And all the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that *whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: *and if I perish, I perish* (To make such a statement, your flesh must be crucified!)

So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Esther 4:7-17

Esther obtained favor in the sight of the king. Because of her willingness to jeopardize her own life — to lay aside her flesh and what the natural realm seemed to dictate—a great victory was obtained for her people.

Dying to self means obeying God at any cost. Esther did that.

Is your flesh dead enough so that you would risk your life to save others?

Daniel's Cross Experience

Daniel is another beautiful example of a person who did not bow to the flesh or to what the natural realm would dictate.

No fault could be found in Daniel. He had an excellent spirit.

Daniel was one of three administrators in King Darius' kingdom in ancient Babylon. His enemies at court knew they could find no fault in Daniel unless they could set up a situation where he would have to disobey the law of his God or the law of the king.

So they prepared a decree for King Darius to sign which prohibited any person from praying to any man or god for thirty days. Their petitions were to be routed only to King Darius. The king signed the decree. Any person who violated the decree was to be cast into the den of lions. They were to be devoured, in other words.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that *whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.*

Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:7-11

The purpose of the decree was to come against Daniel, a child of God, but God makes a way of escape for His own. Before deliverance came, however, Daniel had to make a choice not to cater to his flesh. He knew his God, and his God knew him. Daniel knew that God's laws are higher than man's laws. He knew he could not compromise and bow to man's decree when it came against God's law. Daniel took his stand. He faced his cross. He would not bow.

Daniel was cast into the den of lions, but because he would not bow to man, he emerged unharmed the next day. Daniel said to the king:

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 6:22,23

When you will not bow to the flesh, the natural realm, or to man's decrees when they violate God's laws, great strides are made for the Kingdom of God and great glory is given unto God. That is what happened in Daniel's situation.

Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

Daniel 6:25,26

As you examine the lives of both Old Testament prophets and New Testament figures, you will find that those who remained steadfast—not compromising God's laws, and not bowing to the flesh nor to the dictates of the natural realm—achieved great accomplishments for the Kingdom of God.

Men and women always have come through challenges as heroes when they refused to disobey God, even at the risk of losing their own lives.

Are *you* willing to pay that kind of price to serve God? If not, then your flesh needs to die a little more! You see: *the resurrection power of God will not flow through your life until there is a death to self.*

4

LIVING IN THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT

The spirit world is an unknown realm to many Christians. To others, it is where they live every day of their lives. Those Christians are more conscious of the spirit world than of the place called "Earth." Those who stand beside them in the flesh do not understand. They look at those who have paid the price to live in the spirit world and call them "weird," "fanatic," or "in error."

One thing the critics cannot do, however, is to outdo the miracles of those who are living in the realm of the spirit. Neither can they outdo the Holy Spirit sermons they preach!

The Word of God says:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together.

Romans 8:14-17

Recently, I attended an overseas pastors' conference where I heard nice words spoken. The ministers there acted so friendly. They seemed glad I was there, although I knew some of them wanted money from me while others wanted the same kind of anointing that I have.

As I glanced around the room, it was apparent which pastors were in the process of dying to self, which already had died to self, and which were very much alive to themselves.

The churches pastored by those who had died to self were flourishing—exploding with growth and power—and experiencing a great outpouring of God's Spirit. The words of these pastors carried weight. When they walked, they commanded an unconscious respect from those about them.

Then I looked at some who were criticizing. The Spirit of God spoke in this meeting, but by a vote of men's minds (the flesh, or soul), they delayed acting in obedience to Him.

The Holy Spirit then spoke to me, "Shake the dust from your shoes. Leave them to themselves, for I am now through with them."

The Church Is at a Crossroads

We are standing at a crossroads today. If we do not make a decision to obey the Word of the Lord, tomorrow may be too late. This age is coming to a divine conclusion. When this age closes, where will you be standing? Will you be standing in the flesh? Will you be standing in your crumbling world, crying and attempting to build it back together? Or will you be found searching for gold and silver? Where will you be with God? Are you serious about the Kingdom of God? Do you want God to be your friend? Do you want God to walk and talk with you everywhere you go?

If so, you must pick up your own cross and nail yourself to that tree. You must go to that graveyard and bury your flesh. You must close your coffin as your flesh screams for survival. You must help the angels put the soil on top of your coffin. You must write your own epitaph, leave your grave, and shake the dust from your feet as you depart from that graveyard. You must leave the graveyard with your head held high and your shoulders back, ready to face a dying humanity.

People who change the course of history are those who have died to their flesh. They will not walk out onto a platform as human bodies of flesh; they will walk out as empty vessels through whom the Lord Jesus Christ Himself can speak to His people.

When you are dead to self, the only thing that keeps you alive is the presence of God within you. Then, when you walk out onto that platform, or when you walk into a place of business, you do not walk in as

yourself but as a representative of Jesus Christ, the

King of kings and Lord of lords. No man can look on a man who has died to self and come alive unto God without coming into contact with the truth of the Gospel.

When people have died to self and Jesus walks and talks through them, they act right, talk right, look right, and walk right. When someone like that walks into a place, other people will comment, "There is something different about you." That is what the world is looking for.

The late Kathryn Kuhlman, one of the world's greatest evangelists, said that when she was backstage, ready to go out before the people, she died a thousand deaths.

She said, "I know better than anyone else that Kathryn Kuhlman has nothing to do with what happens here today. It is not me. I have no healing power. I have no saving power. It is not *my* touch that will do it; it is *His* touch."

That is the kind of person the world needs today: a person who is absolutely dead to himself. Criticism cannot hurt a dead person. You can walk up to a person whose flesh is dead and hit him, but he will not even respond. That is the kind of person God is using today.

Christ gave Himself up so He could be used. We must give ourselves up so that we, too, can be used. When I walk through a prayer line and see the hurting, the sick, and the possessed, I know my hands cannot heal them. I know I cannot set the bound ones free. I have no power. You have no power in yourself.

Yieldedness Impresses God

Achievements in the world do not impress God, but yieldedness does. *The secret of understanding the Holy Spirit and of allowing Him to flow in your life is yielding yourself to Him.* It is not half of you and half of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not take orders from men. He does not work with formulas. He gives the orders, and we are to do the obeying. He does the flowing, and we are to do the yielding.

I teach a class to Bible school students on "God's generals" which includes a discussion of the things that caused famous preachers of the past to succeed and the things that caused others to fail. I go through their lives in great detail.

Students always ask, "What caused these men and women to have such a great anointing?"

How could Smith Wigglesworth kick a crippled child from the stage into the congregation in Bradford, England, while the parents and the congregation looked on, paralyzed with fear and anxiety—yet the child landed on both feet made totally whole by the power of God?

God works in unusual ways—sometimes in ways that may seem strange—but God is never weird. *You can be loose in the Spirit and not be weird.* I do not like weird believers. Neither does God.

Charles G. Finney was perhaps the greatest revivalist since the days of the Apostle Paul. A very high percentage of his converts remained true to God. When Finney's horse and buggy came within two or three miles of a town, the convicting power of the Holy Spirit would hit the entire town. Revival hit the place even before he reached the outskirts!

Aimee Semple McPherson built a massive building, Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, at a cost of millions of dollars during the Great Depression. She preached twenty-one times a week. Everywhere she went, the buildings were packed, and people were turned away. Her name was featured at least six times a week on the front page of *The Los Angeles Times*. She was the first woman to have a Christian radio station.

When Sister McPherson went into a town, she would take it for God. She did not pray long prayers, and her sermons were not long. As she walked out onto the stage to preach, the power of God fell. People were healed as she preached the Word.

She would have what she called "stretcher days." She would announce over her radio station that all

who wanted to leave their stretchers should come to Angelus Temple on such-and-such a day.

She would add, "You don't have to be saved. Just get here, and you'll get healed. Then you'll want to get saved."

She would preach a short sermon, then say, "It is time for you to get up off your stretchers."

People got up as she spoke, healed by the power of God. A man who had no eyeballs, just empty eye sockets, went to one of her meetings. Sister McPherson prayed for him, and a creative miracle occurred: two brand-new eyeballs were created in the empty sockets.

When you relate these miracles to Bible school students, they want the same kind of power. They want to know how to get it. *That power is available to anyone who will pay the price to receive it.* People like Aimee Semple McPherson were not special people. They were not gold or silver vessels. They were ordinary people who had so completely died to self that Christ could live in and through them, bringing great glory to God.

Gold and silver vessels only want to go to men in high places. Gold and silver vessels want some of the attention, glamour, and glory. However, they usually have little or no power. All they are is a shell.

God is looking for the person who has given up *all* of self. He is looking for the person who will yield entirely to Him for service. When this type of yieldedness happens in the Church as a whole, we will begin to see the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit ever witnessed.

Selfishness Gives Off a Stench

I never realized the importance of what happened to me when my flesh was crucified until I began traveling across the earth.

In the spirit realm, I sometimes notice a stench about some believers and Christian leaders. It is a stench that comes from people who have not died to themselves. They are the ones who are not concerned about lifting up Jesus.

Instead, they are thinking, "What about me? Where do I fit in? What is in this for me? If I cannot be in the limelight, I do not want to be a part of it at all."

That is a stench to God! The odor comes from a disease called *selfishness*.

If you are fighting any of the symptoms of this disease, repent quickly. Get behind the people of God who are in the limelight, so to speak. If they are true leaders of God, they will see that the spotlight is put upon one Person and one Person only: *Jesus Christ of Nazareth*. God will make room for your gift. After all, it is His and not yours anyway, if you are yielded to Him.

Jesus said:

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:12

God will not move with His power and with a manifestation of His presence until you have given up all of the things that have held you in bondage. The price each person must pay will be different, but there will be some similarities.

Where are the Kathryn Kuhlmanns, the Aimee McPhersons, the Smith Wigglesworths, the John G. Lakes, the E. W. Kenyons, the George Jeffreyses, the Martin Luthers, the John Wesleys, the George Whitefields, and the John Alexander Dowies of today? I am looking for people who have "sold out" to God to work for the Kingdom. God is going to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for them, too! He desires to show Himself strong in their behalf.

Many Bible school students have heard me preach this sermon, only to let it go in one ear and out the other. Some leave school, go into the ministry, and come back demolished a few months later. They have not crucified the flesh.

I want you to understand the importance of nailing yourself to your cross . . . the importance of dying to

self . . . the importance of crying out to God with your whole heart, "Thy will be done; not mine, but thine be done." That is the crossroads at which the Church is standing today.

Let go the weights of the world, including those friends who do not desire the things of the Kingdom of God. Do not seek the spectacular. Too many Christians today want a fast-flying healing evangelist who can get them healed in five minutes. They want the pastor to carry the entire church into the glory of God. They want to ride with God, but they do not want to pay the fare.

Nothing will be able to stop this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gates of hell cannot prevail against what is happening in our midst. No man, no organization, no government, no natural disaster can stop this which God has begun.

A Time for "Mighty Men"

God is raising up "mighty men" in this hour, men who know what it is to fight on the devil's territory. They know what it is to get behind the lines of battle. They are the ones coming on the scene to shake the Church. They are demanding action in the pews. I say, Let the Church shake! Those who want God and the things of God will come out on top every time anyway.

The prophets of Almighty God are coming out of obscurity. They are emerging with messages that will stir the hearts of men and women as never before. Their messages will cause governments to shake. Their messages will bring godly fear upon those who hear them. They will speak with bluntness. They will not simply present messages with "Step 1, 2, and 3, and so forth." They will speak on lifestyles. They will speak on prayer lives. They will speak out against sin. They will speak out against homosexuality. My friends, God is going to speak to His Church as never before.

Those who shake the earth will be those who are dead to self. They are the ones who know how to ascend to the Throne of God and get plans for the battle. They are not waiting for the enemy to attack. They are already invading enemy territory.

It is time for the Church to take the kingdom of darkness by force. It is time for people in the pews to stand up and let their voices be heard among the nations. It is time for both young and old to join hands with God and let the glory of God be manifest throughout the whole earth. It is time for the earth to know that God is demanding holiness and righteousness.

God has rules and regulations which we must observe in our daily lives. Jesus said:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

John 13:34

If you walk in love, you will not sin. If you walk in love, you will live right. You will talk right. You will be right. However, you cannot say you are walking in love, sin on Saturday night, and show up in church as "holy" on Sunday morning. God does not agree.

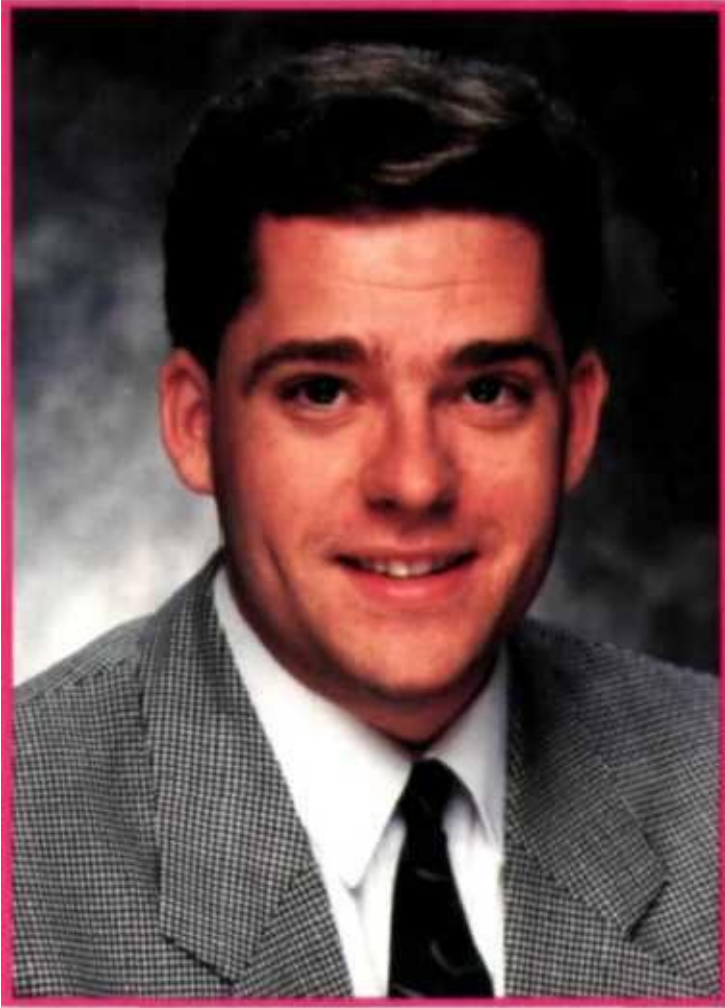
You cannot get in the pulpit and preach a Holy Spirit sermon when you have sinned on Saturday night with your next-door neighbor's wife. You cannot preach a Holy Spirit sermon unless things are right in your life.

The Church will receive correction, because God loves the Church. The Church has gone without correction far too long. Any time you let a child go without correction, he will get into trouble. Many congregations are in chaos because preachers, pastors, and evangelists have not spoken the truth as God spoke it to them. They have held back from proclaiming the truth because of people who are influential through finances or through popularity. We must be like Jeremiah. We must be like Ezekiel. When the Lord says, "Speak," we must speak!

God no longer is *asking* people to die to self; He is *commanding* it. He no longer is *asking* people to live in holiness; He is *commanding* it. There is no time to play games anymore, because the Church Age is coming to a close.

When time stops, wherever you are found is where you will be judged. If you are dead to self, you will be in that special spot that God has ordained for you. Nothing can stop you, if you are living and abiding in the presence of the Almighty!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Roberts Liardon was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and called to the ministry at the age of eight, after being caught up to Heaven by the Lord Jesus.

Roberts was powerfully commissioned by the Lord to study the lives of God's great "generals"—men and women of faith who were mightily used by God in the past—in order to learn why they succeeded and why they failed.

At age fourteen, Roberts began preaching and teaching in various churches—denominational and non-denominational alike—Bible colleges and universities. He has traveled extensively in the United States and Canada, and his missions outreaches have taken him to Africa, Europe and Asia. Many of his books have been translated into foreign languages.

Roberts preaches and ministers under a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit. In his sermons, Roberts calls people of all ages to salvation, holiness and life in the Holy Spirit.

Through Roberts' ministry around the world, many people have accepted God's call to yield themselves as vessels for the work of the Kingdom.

"God's anointing comes on yielded vessels — vessels who are totally submitted and surrendered to the Spirit of God. I had to learn to yield to the Holy Spirit. As I did, the anointing up on me became stronger."

"God is looking for the person who has given up all of self. He is looking for the person who will yield entirely to Him for service. When this type of yieldedness happens in the Church as a whole, we will begin to see the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit ever witnessed."

— Roberts Liardon

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