

Such as I Have Give I Thee

by Kim Josephson

Peter and John went to pray. They met a lame man on their way. He stuck out his palm and asked for an alm and this is what Peter did say. 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. He went walking and leaping and praising God. Walking and leaping and praising God. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!

So goes the little children's song about Peter and John on their way to prayer. We rarely think deeply about the things we sing but even a cursory examination of this happy little tune gives us plenty to think about.

Notice the first line. "Peter and John went to pray." Immediately we are confronted by their lifestyle. They were going to pray. **Are we?** Most Christians go to church to do anything but pray. We go for concerts, shows, worship and preaching, but rarely for prayer. Prayer services are few and far between. All night prayer meetings are an absolute rarity. Oh sure, little prayers are fired off in the midst of all our church activities, but rarely are they anointed outpourings of contrite hearts to a Holy God. They are more like little sanctified pauses - religious commas that remind us we're still in church. We use them to give the pastor time to get to the back door for the hand shaking or to give us time to fumble for some money for the offering. So much for "My house shall be called a House of Prayer". (Matt 21:13)

Then notice that the apostles are confronted with the need for miracle working power **before** the service? Now, after some inspiring worship service or some incredible concert or even some really exciting preaching we might be able to find enough courage to pray for a man crippled from birth, but how in the world would we ever be able to pray for him **before** the service? Perhaps we might invite him to go to the service with us, if we could sacrifice that good seat up front to sit with a guy in the handicapped section. God forbid that ministering to this crippled man should interfere with what we are planning to get from the service for ourselves. Of course we could just go on to the service promising to bring the worship leader, evangelist or preacher out to see him **after** the show! But then, that would be presumptuous because you know and I know that security would never let you get close enough to the "super saints" to even present the problem. Another course of action might be to enjoy the event and promise to bring the guy a tape series on healing, or since he (the crippled guy) was asking for money maybe we could bring him a tape on prosperity - why heck, we might just bring a pledge card out to the guy so he can make a vow to God and in due time receive his miracle.

But that's not what Peter and John did. No, they interrupted their church plans and ministered to the man. They said, "silver and gold have I **none**." Can you imagine? What a negative confession. Shouldn't they have told the man that their Father owned the cattle on a thousand

hills? Shouldn't they have told him that their God would supply all their need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus? They could have taught that man about seed faith giving. **BUT THEY DIDN'T!**

Instead of a bunch of talk and "who struck John" they simply **healed the man**. Listen to their bold confession. "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." Then the Bible says Peter lifted him up and strength came immediately into his ankles and he began to walk and leap and praise God!

Now, who of us can say "Such as I have give I thee?"

Where is the man or woman with the courage to take a man by the hand, crippled from his birth, and stand him upright on his feet? No, the fact is silver and gold have we some (and we work like dogs to get more), and such as we have (bankrupt souls with no power) offers little or nothing to a world dying for the manifestation of the sons of God.

O Church, we've been promised we can have it all - Money, fame, prosperity, all that we want of this world and power with God too, but **IT'S A LIE!** Don't you see that our powerlessness is not evidence that God has changed or that He is not willing or able to heal, but rather that **our hearts are so divided and corrupted by the love of this world, that we have become spiritual eunuchs?** God have mercy! The old saying is that you can be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good, but today it is just the opposite. **We are so earthly minded that we are no heavenly good!** I know some will take exception and moan that I am painting with a broad brush, but let's get real. I know you haven't felt led by the Holy Ghost to lay hands on someone and pray, and that fact alone is proof of what I'm saying. The unction of the Holy Ghost is **gone** from our daily lives. Listen, if it takes a church service to get you pumped up enough to feel God's Spirit, it's a good bet, that it's not the Spirit at all. Most likely it's just your pumped up flesh! And by the way, if it's just pumped up flesh, you'll be about as effective as a bucket of rocks!

What I'm saying is this: A Holy Ghost filled life is more than a confession. It's more than an experience at an altar in a

church sometime, somewhere. A Holy Ghost filled life is a daily walk with God. It is an intimate experience with the third person of the Deity that separates and sanctifies a life and conforms it to the image of Christ. It is not a special blessing to make **you feel** good. It is an intimate union with God that allows God to flow through you to **bless others!**

Isn't it frightening that the Spirit filled life has been pitched as something that makes you a winner - something that makes you special and successful etc.etc? No, the point of the enduement of God's Spirit is that He increases and we **decrease!** The old hymn writers had it right when they wrote "more of Christ and less of

me" and finally "all of Christ and none of me."

O Church, anything less is just a stinking display of flesh. We hear it all the time - self-promoting, boasting, bragging flesh that glories in itself! "We are the best Church, we have the best worship," on and on it goes. Don't misunderstand, of course the words are there that "give God all the glory", but the obliga-

tory thanks and praise be unto God doesn't disguise the self-love and self-glorifying at the root of the thing.

When will we admit our duplicity? When will we admit our bankruptcy and cry for the mercy of God? There's no place for any boasting in this generation. Can you not see? Can you not hear? Our powerlessness is manifest to the world and any honest soul! We are not winning in the battle for the souls of men in this land. The truth is, we (the Church) are becoming more and more like the world. Folks, **it's the leaven of hypocrisy and damnable heresies mixed with the truth that have made us so impotent.**

Where are the soul winners? Where are those who walk with an anointing so strong that men come to Jesus?

There are tons of church-goers but few Christ-show-ers!

There are tons of words but little power.

It's a shame. But to correct it, we'll have to admit the problem. I know it's hard to face the truth but **pretending is not an option!** This generation hangs in the balance. It's time for us to repent and get serious with God.

A Holy Ghost filled life is a daily walk with God. It is an intimate experience with the third person of the Deity that separates and sanctifies a life and conforms it to the image of Christ.

It's time for us to repent and get serious with God.