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220 North 6th Street, Quincy, IL. 62301

KJIR 91.7 "The Cross" Radio 217-221-9410

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Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4
Quincy, IL
62301

March 2017

The Ministry of Faith

There is a secret in everything. Every art and science has its key, unlocking the treasures of nature and truth. A man who knows how, can get his case through the courts or the Congress, while another may spend months in vain. There is such a talisman of power in the work of God. It is faith. It is the channel of power as well as salvation, and without it there can be no successful work for God. "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you; how long shall I suffer you?" is the reproachful cry of the Lord to His church still. The greatest need of our busy Christian age, with its innumerable machineries and opportunities of work and beneficence, is men like Stephen and Barnabas, "full of the Holy Ghost, and of power."

~ We want the faith that believes in the living God. Before Moses could deliver Israel, he must learn the meaning of that mighty name: "I Am That I Am;" and before we can impress men with eternal

things, we must have a deep realization of the Personal and Almighty One so intense, that all other presences shall be little in comparison. Before Isaiah went forth to his difficult task, he saw Jehovah sitting on His throne, and the earth filled with His glory, and he never forgot that vision of the Lofty One; and so, ere we can bear the trials of our work and the opposition of men, we must know the Lord.

~ We want an intense faith in the realities of the unseen world, a glorious heaven, an inevitable and eternal hell, and an ever-impending judgment. The workers that have vague conceptions of these things will never have much power over the consciences of men, or strong incentives to labor for the lost. When George Whitfield preached, men seemed to see sinners dropping right into hell, and sometimes cried out with terror as they saw them go over the gulf.

~ We need to believe our Bibles, and take them word for word as meaning just what they say. And

we must believe in the power of the Word of God to convict and save. We must expect these divine words to cut men to the heart without our polishing and pointing. A subtle rationalism is trying to take all the supernatural out of the Bible and the Christian life. Such men will never save souls. Men are born again by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for he knew that it was the power of God unto salvation.

~ We need to believe in our own salvation. Personal assurance is indispensable to any effective work for others. Andrew must say: "We have found the Messiah," before he can bring Simon to Jesus. "Thy heart must overflow if thou another's heart would reach."

~ We must believe in our call to serve God, in our commission to serve, in our work for the Lord. We must have said: "Here am I, send me," and then

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received the answer: "Go;" so that a divine necessity is laid on us, and "we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Every worker for God should have a sense of a life mission, and go forth, saying: "I must do the works of Him that sent me." "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and now am I straightened till it be accomplished."

~ We need to believe in the presence of God with us and His power in us. We must claim the power of the Holy Ghost, and then go forth believing that we have it, and meeting every opposition with the confidence: The Lord in the midst of me is mighty. "Lo, I am with you always." Once the Duke of Wellington's army had exhausted the last reserves. A division was holding a most difficult post. Again and again they called for supports, but there were none to spare. At last the Duke himself rode down with his staff to cheer them by his presence. At once a shout of victory went up: "Here comes the General himself, better, than a whole brigade." So when we count on our commander, there is a shout of a King in our midst. He is the Captain of the Lord's host. "He is Joshua, and there shall no man be able to stand before Him." Do we believe in His presence and power?"

~ We need the faith, which believes in the Holy Ghost, as the real power of all our ministry. More than logical arguments, more than moving appeals, more than attractive services, more than our own earnestness, more even than the truth of God itself, we must have, and if we would have we must expect and utterly depend upon the Holy Ghost, the living, personal in-working Spirit of God, who only can convict of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Too many Christian workers fail to trust the Holy Ghost. They can trust a good sermon, or a good feeling, or a good evangelist, but they do not count on the Holy Ghost, as one they can really trust to do His own work, and guide and use us in His service.

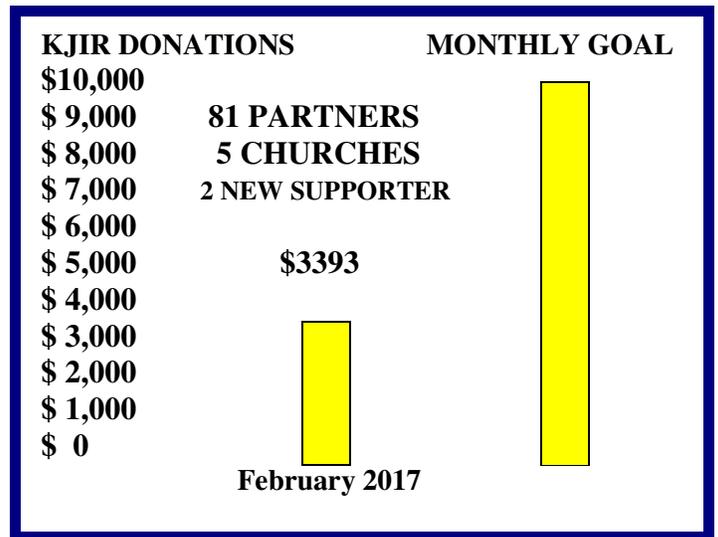
~ We need the faith which believes in the conversion of the worst or sinners. We need to have such a sense of the all creating power of Christ that we will not look for promising cases, or say as a man once said to me about a very bad boy, "It's not in the blood of that family to be good." It is not in any sinner's blood, it is in the blood of the Son of God. And when sin abounded, grace did much more abound. We must be looking for miracles of grace. If redemption be true, it is all a stupendous truth, and a supernatural change in every case, which creates the soul anew without material and as God made the world out of nothing. If out of a few filthy rags man can make the paper, on which this Bible is printed, surely out of poor wrecks of sin God can make the pages on which He will write His image.

~ We want the faith that believes in God to keep the souls He saves. We must learn to lay them upon His breast for their future need and testing; and, binding them by cords of covenant promise to the throne, claim them unto the day of His appearing. He can so keep, but we must trust for it, and claim it for many who have not yet learned to do it for

themselves.

~ We want the faith that will speak and act with Christ's authority and, in His name, command the powers of darkness to depart. There is a commanding faith, which the worker for God must sometimes use, bidding the mountain to *be* removed, the fig tree to *be* withered away, and the wicked spirits to leave their victims. We must stand against the enemy as the police officer stands with the warrant of the court and claims the power of the law, as the soldier plants the standard of the army and defies resistance in the name of all the powers of the state. So faith uses God's authority and overcomes the evil one. Christ gave authority to His servants, and we may stand in His name, even as He.

A.B. Simpson



IF I SHOULD QUIT

If I should quit, what would the gain be?

Would the battle be lost?

Would I really be free?

*No, the door would not close, nor the battle cease,
because God would have*

Another to stand in the breach, If I quit.

If I should quit, what would I do?

Seek shelter from the heat, forget the cry of the lost?

Would I be happy for a

*Time, then find I was through and spend my time praying
for something to do,*

Saying, "God, why did I quit?"

If I should quit, I would find that God had not;

the battle would still rage, the

*Church would march on. The wind would keep blowing,
the Spirit infilling,*

*Only I would be farther and farther behind, unwilling, wondering,
"God, why Did I quit?"*

If I should quit, what could I say to God who called me,

and the people who Sent me

and the pagan who trusted me to show him the way?

And the Spirit's

Urging day after day?

God I can't quit!

*If I should quit, let it be when I am dead, not while I'm alive,
nor when I'm dissatisfied,*

nor when I'm criticized or minimized,

or ostracized, but please God,

let quitting time for me be when I am dead!