

THE PENTECOST

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THE PENTECOST



THE PENTECOST ISSUE 22

Hello, meet Einstein the cat. It is March and in this issue of The Pentecost we will be discussing the importance of truth. We will also look at the lives of the Azusa Revival missionaries, Alfred and Lillian Garr. God bless you!

Shawn Stevens

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REGAINING FAITH IN T R U T H

If you ever sit in the driver's seat of a school bus, you will notice that mounted on the front of the bus are two convex mirrors. A convex mirror is one where the surface of the glass curves outward. Because of the curvature, whatever is immediately in front of the bus is enlarged in the middle of the mirror, and whatever is not immediately in front of the bus is shrunken in the side of the glass. The convex creates a distortion. The only way to get the image perfectly reflected is to have it reflecting off of a completely flat mirror. Our world today, with its conflicting philosophies, world-views and religions, has created a bend in the mirror, so that truth is often distorted. To re-establish an understanding of truth, we should begin by learning what the Bible says about truth. We are told that God is the "God of truth." (See Psalm 31:5 and Isaiah 65:16). The God of truth speaks only truth; "...I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right." (Isaiah 45:19); "...Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." (Isaiah 25:1); "You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth." (Psalm 119:151). Not only does God speak truth, but neither God, nor the truth that He speaks, changes; "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8); "For I am the LORD, I do not change;..." (Malachi 3:6); "...the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17).

Truth that is spoken by the unchanging God of truth is antithetical, meaning that it opposes all opposite views as false. Scripture rebukes those who have "...exchanged the truth of God for the lie,..." (Romans 1:25). Such people "...suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them." (Romans 1:18,19). From this we see that God reveals truth to men, that truth is knowable to them; and that many reject it. A rejection of God's truth is not a matter of choosing another alternative truth. Instead, it is a suppressing of the truth in unrighteousness, and a trading of the truth for lies. Scripture declares "...let God be true but every man a liar..." (Romans 3:4). Jesus teaches that truth is to be practiced, and shows the difference between those who practice evil and those who practice truth. He says:

And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reproved. But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God.

John 3: 19-21 American Standard Version

Those who love darkness conceal their actions but, in contrast, those who practice the truth, do it openly, giving God the credit. This also means that there are both true and false forms of worship. On

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AZUSA SERIES - THE MINISTRY OF ALFRED AND LILLIAN GARR

Perhaps the most well-known missionary couple to come out of the Azusa Street Revival was Alfred and Lillian Garr. Before coming to Azusa, Alfred and Lillian had met at the Methodist college, *Ausbury College*, in Kentucky. A year after their meeting they married, and two months later ended their studies and went into full-time ministry. The Garrs were ordained by both the Methodist Church and by the International Apostolic Prayer Union. Before coming to Azusa, the Garrs had worked for several years as church planters and evangelists for *Haley's World's Faith Missionary Association*, based in Iowa. This was a radical holiness organization which also went by the name of the "Burning Bush Organization."

The Garrs were burning with zeal and God used them to plant several congregations. In 1906, Alfred was serving as a pastor with the Burning Bush organization in Virginia when he was appointed to pastor a church in Los Angeles. He accepted the appointment. In spring of 1906, the Garrs came to Azusa. Alfred actually came first. He longingly sought the experience of the baptism in the Spirit. Lillian was initially skeptical of Azusa, so much so that for a time their marriage was strained over this, almost to the point of breaking up. However, Alfred requested that Lillian come to at least one service at Azusa, and she agreed and did so.

Lillian came to Azusa and was immediately struck by what was very obviously a move of God. She had a complete change of heart towards Azusa. It was not long before Lillian was baptized in the Holy Spirit and was praising God in tongues. Interestingly, Alfred did not receive this experience until later. After several days of soul searching and repentance, Alfred, too, was baptized in God's Spirit.

How did the Garr's congregation respond to the new experience of their pastor couple, Alfred and Lillian? Unfortunately, the answer to this is not completely clear. There are two accounts of what happened next. According to one account, the Garrs shared their experience with their congregation and were dismissed from the pastorate. However, another account tells of the Garr's themselves closing down their church, initially on a temporary basis, then later permanently, urging the congregation to instead join Azusa.

The Garrs were not at Azusa for very long. They soon announced that they felt called to the mission-field of India. In June or July of 1906, they left Azusa to begin their mission. Before leaving for India, they had some time with old Burning Bush leaders in Chicago and ministered in churches in Virginia. Alfred comments in the following letter:

Dear Saints in Los Angeles:

God be praised for His power and grace. We are making preparations to go to India as soon as possible. Three of us - with the baby, four in all - will go just as soon as possible, so as to be on the ocean in the right time.

When we came here from Los Angeles, we found the band to whom we had preached while here before, most of them backslidden and fussing among themselves. But when they saw that God had really done something wonderful for us, they all came in and began to seek the Lord. Most of them have been reclaimed and quite a number have been baptized with the Holy Ghost and have received the foreign tongue.

One young girl received the baptism Friday night and she spoke in German. God sent us a German to interpret. He said he could understand everything perfectly. Sister Jennie Eans has also received the German language, and speaks it very fluently.

...O, how I praise God that He ever gave us this wonderful experience of the baptism with the Holy Ghost. The folks fall under the power of God, and a great time is on here. The church was packed twice yesterday and altar overflowing with seekers. One saved man was sanctified in the afternoon meeting and in the evening meeting received the baptism with the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues and magnified God. A real revival has begun and three holiness preacher boys have fallen in line. Two of them have received the baptism and the tongues. The other one is seeking and says he will never stop till he receives it. A good many have received the tongues, we do not know how many.

The sick are being healed. Soon after we arrived, a lady sick with dropsy came to the meeting. She got out of bed to come, had been sick a long time. As she told us how glad she was to see us back in Danville, and of her long sick spell, I said, "God will heal you," and took her hand. She immediately shouted that she was healed. I felt the healing power flow into her body. The next day she told us that her limbs were swollen, but that every bit

*of it was driven out at once. She walked down town and then told her neighbors about the wonderful things the Lord had done for her. Several have been healed. But, best of all, many are getting the light, and as the Bible opens to us, they rejoice for the precious truths that have been hidden from us for so long by the "traditions of the elders." This is the greatest power I ever saw. Glory to God! I have wanted just this for years, but did not know how to get it. But, Hallelujah!...*¹

For six years, after leaving Azusa, the Garrs ministered throughout the United States, Hong Kong, India and China. When they arrived in Calcutta, they learned that most of their luggage had gone missing. They stayed in an inexpensive room and prayed that the Lord would use them in some way. The next day a British army officer came by and said that God had spoken to him, telling him to give a large sum of money to them. They received his gift, prayed with him and the officer was baptized in the Holy Spirit. They were welcomed also by a Baptist pastor, Pastor Hook. They report on some of their experiences in India:

The Lord also gave Sister Garr a vision of Himself one night, while in Calcutta and His hands were filled with golden crowns ready to place on heads. And the same evening, He gave her the message "Let no man take thy crown." A missionary arose and said that on that day God had spoken those words to her, and she did not know what it meant...

In a school of 1,500 native girls and 200 boys, besides Europeans and native teachers the head of the school has been tarrying and the Comforter has come to her and also to her daughter, a number of her teachers, and 300 native girls. Hallelujah! At Dhond, a school of boys, numbers have been saved, some are speaking in tongues.

*In Calcutta, one Missionary who was baptized in the meeting, went back to her high school and in a short time forty-five precious native girls were baptized in the Spirit. Then the nation of a Rescue Home received her Pentecost and shortly the dear girls who had been redeemed from such lives of sin, were learning how to glorify Jesus and the Holy Ghost was given...*²

The Garrs moved around and, in 1912, were pastoring a small congregation in Los Angeles. Even while pastoring, Alfred held evangelistic and faith healing meetings throughout the United States and Canada. He also did ministry in India, Arabia and China during this time. In 1914, the Garrs were once again

pastoring a church in Los Angeles. The Garrs knew pain as well as joy. Two of their children died prematurely and Lillian herself died at the young age of 38 from complications from an operation. Lillian's own words best sum up their lives and ministry:

How conscious have I been of His presence giving "songs of deliverance" and speaking through me to my own comfort and delight. Praise Him. There are several hundred natives baptized with the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues today in India. I want to add, that the blessed Comforter does indeed reveal the perfect life of the Savior, not alone in the oil of joy, ("Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows"), but the other side of this precious life, ("The man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.") And we can say we have not lunged for the joy side alone, but to "suffer with Him, that we might reign with Him." He longs for a bride who shares both His sufferings and joy. I want to enter into His own heart and feel as He felt letting His joy be my joy, His sorrow my sorrow. He has put groanings into my heart which cannot be uttered over a lost world and those who do not understand His workings in the earth at this time. How I praise Him for a love for my enemies that is not natural but divine. Hallelujah.

We long to see all power restored that the heathen can no more say to the missionaries: "Where is their God." Joel 2:17. "The Lord will be jealous for His land and pity His people."

*Our hearts are knit with the dear Saints at Azusa Street and we think with love of all...*³

The Garrs were not afraid to step out and seek the controversial experiences that God was birthing in the lives of revival-hungry believers. By yielding to God, they found a power operating in them which was above and beyond what they ever could have imagined. God commissioned them, and they followed Him to the ends of the earth. May the Lord use their example to stir us to devotion, experience and service.

Shawn Stevens

¹ Alfred Garr, "Promised in Jerusalem," *The Apostolic Faith* 1, no. 2 (October 1906), 2.
² Alfred and Lillian Garr, "The Work in India," *The Apostolic Faith* 1, no. 9 (June 1907), 1.

³ Lillian Garr, "Testimony and Praise to God," *The Apostolic Faith* 1, no. 9 (June 1907), 1.

References:
The Witness of Azusa
The Azusa Street Mission And Beyond
Azusa Street And Beyond

one occasion, Jesus was conversing with a Samaritan woman in front of a well. She began disputing a difference between the way Samaritans and Jews worship. According to her tradition, it was proper and important to worship on a certain mountain. Jesus responded as follows:

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father. Ye worship that which ye know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:21-24 American Standard Version

Jesus teaches that it is not enough to claim to worship God; instead, God must be worshiped in spirit and in truth.

Jesus not only insisted on living in truth and worshiping in truth; Jesus Himself is the personification of truth. He emphatically declared, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). Jesus is "...full of grace and truth" and "...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:14, 17). When standing before Pilate, Jesus declared; "...For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37). Jesus not only came to bear witness of truth,

but the truth that He speaks does not change. He said; "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Matthew 24:35).

Not only does Jesus personify and speak the truth, the truth that He speaks frees, purifies and matures those who receive it. He taught; "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). This shows us, again, that truth is knowable. It further shows us that Christ's truth sets people free. While praying for His disciples, Jesus asked His Father in heaven if His Father would "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17). This sanctification, or purification, of a person's life is a natural result of learning and obeying God's truth; "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren" (1 Peter 1:22). Because God's truth both frees and sanctifies, Jesus spoke it always. The question for us is will we accept and follow His truth?

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you are the God of truth. You spoke what was right and Your word continues to dispel the lies and the darkness of our world. We confess that we have not always trusted You at all times but have allowed unbelief into our minds. We repent and place our trust in Your holy word. We want to be the ones who come to the light and have lives full of deeds done in You. We want to live before You in truth and worship You in truth. Heaven and earth will pass away but Your words will not pass away. They stand forever. We will follow You. Amen.

Scripture taken from The American Standard Version

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In Tenderness He Sought Me

*In tenderness He sought me, weary and sick with sin,
And on His shoulders brought me back to His fold again
While angels in His presence sang, until the courts of heaven rang.
Oh, the love that sought me! Oh, the blood that bought me, Oh, the grace that
brought me to the fold, wondrous grace that brought me to the fold.*

*He wash'd the bleeding sin-wounds, and poured in oil and wine;
He whispered to assure me, "I've found thee, thou art mine;"
I never heard a sweeter voice, it made my aching heart rejoice!
Oh, the love that sought me! Oh, the blood that bought me, Oh, the grace that
brought me to the fold, wondrous grace that brought me to the fold.*

*He pointed to the nail prints, for me His blood was shed
A mocking crown so thorny, was placed upon His head
I wondered what He saw in me, to suffer such deep agony.
Oh, the love that sought me! Oh, the blood that bought me, Oh, the grace that
brought me to the fold, wondrous grace that brought me to the fold.*

*I'm sitting in His presence, the sunshine of His face,
While with adoring wonder, His blessings I re-trace.
It seems as if eternal days, are far too short to sound His praise.
Oh, the love that sought me! Oh, the blood that bought me, Oh, the grace that
brought me to the fold, wondrous grace that brought me to the fold.*

W. Spencer Walton/Adoniram J. Gordon

MY FAITH HAS FOUND A RESTING PLACE

*My faith has found a resting place, not in device or creed,
I trust the Ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead.
Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt
A sinful soul I came to Him, He'll never cast me out.*

*My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God,
Salvation by my Saviour's name, salvation through His blood
My great Physician heals the sick, the lost He came to save,
For me His precious blood He shed, for me His life He gave.*

*I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*

Lizzie H. Edmunds / Norse Air

SPEAK, LORD, IN THE STILLNESS

Speak, Lord, in the stillness, While I wait on Thee;
Hushed my heart to listen in expectancy
Speak, Oh blessed Master, in this quiet hour,
Let me see Thy face, Lord, feel Thy touch of power.

For the words Thou speakest, "They are life" indeed,
Living Bread from heaven, now my spirit feed!
All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own;
Blissful, glad surrender I am Thine alone.

Speak, Thy servant heareth! Be not silent Lord;
Waits my soul upon Thee, for the quickening word!
Fill me with the knowledge of Thy glorious will
All Thine own good pleasure in Thy child fulfill.

E May Grimes / H. Greens

B O O K S



THE MINISTRY OF MARIA WOODWORTH ETTER

They called her the "Trance Evangelist." This was a fitting title for a woman who frequently received soul-shaking revelations while suspended in a trance-like state. The title of "evangelist" was equally fitting, for she won multitudes from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Christ. She was authentic, candid and courageous; there was nothing ordinary about Maria Woodworth-Etter.