How to Obtain Fulness

Of Power

In Christian Life and Service

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“How to Study the Bible for Greatest Profit,”

“The Baptism with the Holy Spirit,” etc.

*“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto God.”—*Ps. lxii. 11.

*“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”—*Eph. vi. 10.

*“Ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you.”—*1 John. ii. 14.

*“Strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inward man.”—*Eph. iii. 16, R.V.

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PREFACE

From many earnest hearts there is rising acry for more power: more power in our personal conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil, more power in our work for others. The Bible makes the way to obtain this longed-for power very plain. There is no presumption in under­taking to tell “How to obtain Fulness of Power in Christian Life and Service”; for the Bible itself tells, and the Bible was intended to be understood. The Bible statement of the way is not mystical nor mysterious, it is very plain and straightforward. If we will only make per­sonal trial of “The Power of the Word of God,” “The Power of the Blood of Christ,” “The Power of the Holy Spirit,” “The Power of Prayer,” “The Power of a Surrendered Life,” we will then know “The Fulness of Power in Christian Life and Service.” We will try to make this plain in the following chapters.

The present volume has been written partly in response to a request from some who have used the author’s book “How to Bring Men to Christ,” that he would write another book for use in the training of those who have come to Christ. But the book has also another and far more important purpose. There are many who do not even know that there is a life of abiding- rest, joy, satisfaction, and power; and many others who, while they think there must be something beyond the life they know, are in ignorance as to how to obtain it. This book is written to help them.

CHAPTER V

THE POWER OF A SURRENDERED LIFE

“Power belongeth unto God,” but there is one condition upon which that power is be­stowed upon us. That condition is absolute surrender to Him. In Rom. 6:13, we read: “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as they that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” Again in Rom. 6:22, we read: “Being now made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” The great secret of blessedness and power is found in these verses. “*Yield yourselves unto God*”*—*the whole secret is found in those words. The word trans­lated “yield” in the A.V., is rendered “pre­sent” in the R.V. It means, to put at one’s dis­posal. “Put yourselves at God’s disposal” is the thought. In other words, surrender your­selves absolutely to God, to be His property, for Him to do with you what He will, and use you as He will. That is the wisest thing anyone can do with himself. By that act he has secured all the blessedness that is possible to man, and day by day, and year by year, it will be bestowed upon him in ever-increasing measure. If anyone asks “What is the one thing for me to do if I wish to know all that God has for me?” the answer is very simple. Surrender absolutely to God; say to Him, “Heavenly Father, henceforth I have no will of my own; Thy will be done in me, through me, by me, and regarding me, in all things. I put myself unreservedly in Thy hands; now do with me just what Thou wilt.” When one does that, God, who is infinite love, and infinite wisdom, and infinite power, does the very best thing with that one. We may not see at once that it is the best thing, but it is, and sooner or later it will be seen. Sooner or later God floods the heart of him who surrenders absolutely to Him with light, and joy, and fills his life with power. Absolute surrender to God, is the secret of blessedness and power. Let us look at some of the things that are definitely said in the Bible to come from absolute surrender.

1. The first of these you will find in John 7:17, R.V.: “If any willeth to do his will he shall know of the teaching.” Knowledge of the truth comes with the surrender of the will. Nothing so clears the spiritual vision as surrender to the will of God. “God is light and in him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5.) Surrender to Him opens our eyes to the light which He himself is. It brings us at once into harmony with all truth. Nothing so blinds the spiritual vision as self-will or sin. I have seen questions which bothered men for years solved in a very short time when those men simply surrendered to God. What was dark as night before has be­come as light as day.

An unsurrendered will lies back of almost all the scepticism in the world. Oh you who are filled with doubts and questions, would you have certainty instead of doubt? Yield your­selves to God. Oh you who are floundering in the mire, would you get your feet on the solid rock? Yield yourselves to God. Oh you who are trying to feel your way in the dark, would you see your path plain before you? Yield yourselves to God. The greatest truths, the truths of most significance for time and for eternity, cannot be learned by mere investiga­tion and study. They cannot be reasoned out They must be seen. The only one who can see them is the one whose eye is cleared by absolute surrender to God. “If, therefore, thine eye be single,” says Jesus, “thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be' evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.” (Matt. 6:22, 23.) A surrendered life and will is the secret of light and knowledge. Many a man has confided to me how he was wandering in the dark, not knowing what he believed, and not quite sure if he believed anything. To such I have put the questions: “Will you surren­der your will to God? Will you give yourself up to God, for Him to do what He will with you?” And not a single one who has done it but has soon said: “My doubts are gone, my uncertain­ties have gone, my darkness is gone. It is all light now.”

2. The next result of a surrendered will and life is power in prayer. The greatest secret of prevailing prayer is that which John records from his own joyous experience in 1 John 3:22: “Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in His sight.” Just note those wonderful words “whatsoever we ask we receive of Him.” Think of it I not one prayer, great or small, that fails to get what is sought. Then note the reason: “because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” A life entirely surrendered to the doing of God’s will as re­vealed in His word, and to doing the things that are pleasing in His sight; a life wholly surren­dered to God’s will and pleasure, a life wholly at God’s disposal, this is the secret of prevailing prayer. Do you ask why you do not get what you ask, why you cannot say like John: “What­soever I ask I get?” It is not because he was an apostle and you are just an every-day Chris­tian. It was because he could say, “I keep His commandments and do those things (and them only) which are pleasing in His sight, ’’and you can’t say that. It was because his life was en­tirely surrendered to God, and yours isn’t There are many people greatly puzzled because their prayers never seem to reach the ear of God, but fall back powerless to the earth. There is no mystery about it. It is because you have not met the one great fundamental condition of prevailing prayer,—a surrendered will, a surrendered life. It is when we make God’s will ours, that He makes our wills His. “Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Ps. 37:4.) Jesus said to the Father, “Thou hearest me always.” (John 11:42.) But why? “Oh,’ you say, “because He was His only begotten

Son.” Not at all, but because Jesus could say: “I am come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me” (John 6:38); and again, “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me” (John 6:34); and again, “Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.” (Heb. 10:7.)

A surrendered will and a surrendered life is the great secret of prevailing prayer. George Muller, perhaps, stands out as the one man of our generation who, above all others, has wrought things by prayer. Why? Because many years ago he set out to be and do just what God would have him to be and do, and to daily and deeply ponder God’s word, that he might know His will. He yielded himself to God. There is not one of us who cannot become a mighty prince of God if we will do the same thing.

3. The next result of a surrendered will is a heart overflowing with joy. In the face of awful trial and agony through which He was to pass, Jesus said to His disciples:“ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be fulfilled.” (John. 15:10, 11, R.V.)Jesus had found joy in keeping His Father’s commandments, by complete surrender to His will, and now, if they would follow on in that path, His joy would be in them, and their joy would be “fulfilled,” or filled full. This is the only way to find fulness of joy,—complete, unconditional surrender to God. “Yield your­selves unto God.” There is no very great measure of joy in a half-hearted Christian life. Many so-called Christians have just “enough religion to make them miserable.” They can no longer enjoy the world and they have not entered into the “joy of the Lord.” There they stand, deprived of the “leeks and the onions and the garlic” of Egypt, and without the milk and honey and the finest of the wheat of Canaan. That is a wretched place to be in. The way out is simple, absolute surrender to God. Then your joy will be fulfilled. I have known so many who have entered into this ful­ness of joy. Sometimes it has been after a great struggle. They were so afraid to yield absolutely to God. So afraid to say: “O God, I put myself unreservedly into thy hands; do with me what you please.” They were afraid God would ask some hard thing. Afraid God might whisper “China,” “India,” or “Africa,” and sometimes He has. Sometimes there has been what to the world seemed great sacrifice, the giving up of cherished ambitions, the giving up of those dearly loved, the giving up of very much money, perhaps all one had. But there has been joy, joy “fulfilled,” joy filled full.

In one case I have in mind there was great pain, as one lay upon his back with a broken leg in a cast, but there was joy, such over­flowing joy that the sufferer lay there with dancing eyes and radiant face and throbbing heart shouting: “Glory, glory, glory!”

There is but one way to find that fulness of joy, a surrendered life. A will and life completely surrendered to the God of love will bring joy under all circumstances. In the olden days one who was thus surrendered to God was led out to be burned at the stake, and he threw his arms around the stake and cried out: “Welcome, cross of Christ! Welcome eternal life!”

4. The next result of a surrendered life is Christ manifesting himself to us. On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He said to His dis­ciples: “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21.) A surrender of self to Christ brings Christ to us. The full manifes­tation of Jesus lies, it is true, in that future glad

day when “the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.” (1 Thes. 4:16.) But there is a present manifes­tation of Jesus to us now, when the Son and the Father come unto us and make their abode with us. (John. 14:23.) He will manifest himself unto us. “I don’t know what that means,” some will say. Have you yielded your­self to Him, are you keeping His commandments, not asking which commandment is great and which is small, which is important, and which is unimportant, but only asking which com­mandment is His, and keeping that? If you are, you will know what it is to have Him mani­fest himself unto you, and that is joy. We are told in one place “then were even the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:20.) You will be glad, when you see the Lord, and you will see Him when you go to Him and say: “I surrender my life absolutely to thee; now show me thyself.”

5. One more result of the surrendered will and life. Peter tells it in Acts 5:32: “The Holy Ghost, which God hath given to them that obey him.” The surrendered will and life is the great secret of receiving the Holy Ghost. All turns upon this. We may deal with individual sins, and we may cry to God for the filling of the Holy Ghost, but unless there is total surrender to God at the center of our being, unless we yield ourselves to God, noth­ing is likely to come of it. Oh, how many have longed, and prayed, and agonized, that the Ho­ly Spirit might come upon them, but He came not. There was no complete surrender, there was no yielding of self to God. And then they have yielded themselves to God. They have bowed their faces and said: “O God, I yield, I give myself up utterly to Thee. I place myself unreservedly at Thy disposal. I hold nothing back, and I hold back from nothing that Thou biddest,” and, as they have bowed, the Holy Ghost has fallen upon them. Perhaps it was with great surging waves of power and joy; per­haps in a gentle calm that stole over their whole being; perhaps in a still small voice that whispered: “If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us, and if we know He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions we desired of Him.” (1 John 5:14, 15.) But whatever way He came, He came, and when He came, power came. The great secret of power for God is the Holy Ghost upon us. (Acts 1:8.) And the great secret of the Holy Ghost coming upon us is the surrendered will, a yielded life. Oh, how wondrous, how blessed, how glorious is the Holy Spirit’s power! Will you have it, my brother? Will you have it, my sister? “Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” Will you do it? Will you do it now? We have seen in previous chapters the Power of the Word of God, the Power of the Holy Spirit, the Power of Prayer, but the one great condition of obtaining the power of each and all in our own life and service is a surren­dered will, a life surrendered absolutely, unre­served, totally to God. Will you yield?

Oh, how foolish, how utterly foolish, are those who will not yield, or who hesitate to yield themselves unto God! You are robbing yourself of all that makes life really worth liv­ing, and that makes eternity rosy and golden with gladness, beauty and glory. Will you yield today?