



Testimony of Pastor A. Clark.

I first heard of Divine Healing in the fall of 1885. I was an infidel at the time and admired and believed in the doctrines of Robert G. Ingersoll, the infidel lecturer and writer. Neither of my parents were Christians and I never knew either of them to attend church, except at funerals. My first impression of Divine Healing was that it was the most foolish thing I had ever heard. I had the greatest contempt for any one who would believe such nonsense.

In February, 1886, I attended a church service with my sister where a revival was in progress. I very seldom went to church and then usually to criticise. When the altar call was given, the Pastor came and laid his hand on my shoulder and asked me to go to the altar and seek salvation. Without a moment's hesitation I did so; but the moment I knelt at the altar I felt it was the most foolish thing I had ever done in my life and my only desire was to get out of such a predicament, and I thought I would never enter that church again. I did not believe that I would receive any benefit whatever, and I decided that the easiest way would be to remain there a few minutes, then get up and say I was converted, which of course would be a lie. In about ten minutes I did this. I had told many lies before this and never felt the least twinge of conscience about any of them, or any other sins I had committed; but the moment this lie passed my lips I had a feeling come over me that if I owned the world and could give it to take back that lie, I would do so. I immediately was plunged into darkness and despair, and I was willing to pray, or do anything else, to get rid of the dreadful load which seemed to be upon me. The more I prayed the darker things seemed to become. After two or three days, I decided I would have to spend the rest of my life in utter misery. On the following Thursday about 5.30 in the evening, while

I was not struggling, nor even thinking much about my sad condition, the whole thing passed away and I realized that I had received the new birth of the Spirit, which Jesus speaks about in John 3:3. My eyes were opened at once to see that the Bible was all true and that there was a God such as the Bible reveals. For a few days all went well. I had much peace and happiness, more than I had ever had, in the same time, before. Then the suggestions of doubt began to come and as I did not know any of Satan's wiles and that he could suggest such things to Christians, I believed every thought and suggestion which came into my mind; as a consequence I lost my peace and began to be sad again, thinking God had forsaken me.

In talking with a Christian friend about my condition she told me all I needed was the fullness of God's Spirit, that my troubles came from Satan's temptations and that after I had received the Spirit I could stand against him and overcome all his suggestions. She recommended a book called "The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life," as one which would give me the best instructions concerning the fullness of God's Spirit. In a few days I purchased a copy of this book and found it was just what I needed. It gave plain directions, which anyone could understand, about surrendering our lives to God, and how to exercise faith, and many other things which Christians should know. I followed these plain directions at once, giving myself to God, the best I knew how, and decided to believe that He accepted me and took possession of me, without waiting to see or feel anything. God was true to His promise. I began to live an overcoming life from that time (March, 1886). Satan tried many times to bring the old doubts and fears back again, but I had burned my bridges behind me and had fully determined to believe God in the dark as well as in the light, and when I could see and when I

could not see. As I stood on God's promises He fulfilled them in my life.

For some years previous to this I had stomach trouble, which caused me a great deal of distress, especially in the spring and summer; but being very careful in my diet I was able to do my work as a salesman; but after receiving such great blessing in my spiritual life my physical condition seemed to grow worse and in a short time my stomach refused to digest anything I ate. I soon became so weak that I could not work at all, and decided to go to the country, for my doctor said that medicine would not help me and advised fresh air, light exercise and very careful diet. I arranged to go April 1st, 1886. I bid my friends good-bye, including the one who believed in healing and she asked me why I did not trust God for my body the same as for my spiritual life. I did not despise Divine Healing after being filled with the Spirit, but I felt I did not want anything to do with it, and as the church I had joined did not teach it, I felt justified in turning it aside, which I did, and went to the country.

I engaged the services of the best physician in the town, but neither the air, nor his remedies, nor the careful diet did me any good. I began to grow worse every day, and by the 1st of July I was so low that I could not digest or take any solid food on my stomach, and began to take two teaspoonfuls of milk a day; even water would irritate and distress my stomach, unless it was boiled. I plainly saw that I must die. Every time I prayed for God's blessing on the medicine, I grew worse more rapidly and took this as an indication that it was God's will for me to die; so I wrote letters of farewell to my friends, including the one who believed in healing. She sent me a pamphlet on healing by Rev. A. J. Gordon, of Boston. I was very low when I received it, but managed to read most of it the afternoon

it came. He plainly showed from the Scriptures that the days of miracles were not passed, (Mark 16: 14-18) but it was the days of faith in God which had passed. (Luke 18: 1-8) Furthermore, that we could be healed upon the same conditions that people were in Bible times. The first condition was to confess and forsake our sins. Second, to lay aside every remedy and not do the slightest thing to help our body in the way of healing; but to depend on the living God alone, not as an experiment, but to make a final choice of God as our only Physician. I was not willing to do this and laid the pamphlet aside. The next day I read it again and was just as unwilling to give up the remedies and doctor. Then, God's Holy Spirit opened my eyes to see how miserably my way had failed; and that my church's way, praying for the remedies, was even worse; and why would I not try the Bible's way, which was God alone. After a few moments' consideration, I finally decided never to take another drop of medicine for that disease, whether I lived or died, and I put my body into God's hands to leave it there.

The next condition was to pray as the promise directs. I could not call for any Elders, as I did not think they would be willing to pray and anoint, as the Scriptures direct. (James 5: 14, 15) So I took a promise, that I had proven so many times spiritually. (Mark 11: 24)

*"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

I then asked for healing, in the name of Jesus Christ. (John 16: 23, 24) After I was through praying, I neither felt nor saw any evidence that God had paid any attention to me whatever; but I had learned to take Him at His Word in spiritual things, so I decided to do the same with my body. I arose in my weakness and began to move around, and noticed a little strength coming into my body; but not enough to know I was healed; the

excitement could easily have done that. I prayed at 10.15, July 20, 1886, and at quarter past twelve, two hours later, I went to the table to eat my dinner, with the family. I had not been able to touch solid food for some time, having tried to take one teaspoonful about ten days previous, and it nearly killed me. We had pork, beans and potatoes all cooked together as the main part of our meal. As I looked at the food, something seemed to tell me that if I ate, it would kill me, and I believed it. As I stood there perplexed, God opened my mind to see that I had all to gain and nothing to lose, for if I should die, I would only lose a few days of life, but if Divine Healing was for us today, and His promises were true, I would gain years of life. I ate a full meal of all there was on the table. I received no healing while I was eating, but when the last mouthful reached my stomach, I was instantly healed, by a miracle exactly the same as they were in Bible times. All the distress and disease disappeared instantly. This happened thirty-two years ago next July and God has kept my stomach well and it is perfectly well today. (May 31, 1918)

I have a large family, a wife and eight children. We have not had a doctor or medicine in the house for nearly twenty years and we are all well today. We praise God for His mercy, love and protection to us.

Great spiritual light and blessing followed the healing of my body. My eyes were opened to see that the old Gospel had lost none of its power, and that we could be saved from our sins, healed of our diseases, filled with the Spirit, serve God in righteousness and peace, and have perfect health and protection in our bodies, exactly the same as in Bible times, and also have the same kind of answers to prayer and the same blessings in everything.

What God has done in these thirty-one years neither tongue nor pen could tell. His Holy Spirit has been my

teacher and guide, and according to His promises led me into the precious truths of His precious Word concerning all things. Things which were so mysterious have become perfectly plain and His Word has become an unsealed Book from beginning to end, for which we give Him all the glory, praise and honor.

During the first ten years of this time, I hindered the Holy Spirit through not being willing to walk always by naked faith in the Word of God; but when I finally and fully decided to walk by faith, regardless of what I could see or feel, a continual growth and development has been the result. I also hindered Him during these ten years by remaining in the M. E. Church, but when I came out and joined Faith Tabernacle, twenty-one years ago, my progress in Divine things was much more rapid.

I find the precious Word to be a gold mine indeed and it is growing more precious every day. My progress in usefulness and Christian work first began when I withdrew from the church. God began to bless my labors from that moment, and my work in His vineyard has increased, until now every moment is spent in delightful service for the Master: in preaching the Word to hundreds each week, editing the "Sword of the Spirit," personally attending to a large and ever increasing correspondence from many parts of the world, praying with many sick every week, consulting with troubled souls every day, managing Faith Home and the financial and other interests of the entire work and branches, which have been placed on a strictly Scriptural and Faith basis; and as a result God is giving us a continual revival at all times.

Great spiritual blessings have also come to my family, as one after another has accepted God's whole truth and as they become old enough have been baptized and joined the work. Of course, they trust God for their bodies.

We began about twenty years ago to live by faith in God

alone for our financial support and since entering Christian work, without any regular salary, we have found that it pays to trust in God alone. Our income has been increasing with the years and His grace has been sufficient. We have not laid up one penny on earth, nor one penny for a rainy-day; all our treasure is laid up in Heaven. We do not own a foot of ground in this world, nor have we any lodges, life insurance or worldly societies to depend upon. We find that the living God alone, Who made Heaven and earth, and His Christ, who has all power and authority in Heaven and earth, are enough for everything we need or desire.

Time and space forbid giving further details of what it has meant to give this life to God. He surely is a Master Workman, and who can teach like Him? Education is a splendid thing, but at the feet of Jesus is the only place where we can learn the practical truths of this glorious Gospel and be fully prepared for efficient service for the Master. This is the school and Teacher that made the early disciples what they were and enabled them to do what they did, and I consider it a great privilege to have attended such a school and to have had such a Teacher. While I have not been privileged to attend, or study in any theological college or school, yet I do not regret it in the least.

I praise my Father in Heaven and his Son Jesus Christ, with my whole heart, and will say in conclusion to every one who shall read this testimony: "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." (Psalm 34: 8)

All glory, praise and honor be to God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever.

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## FAITH TABERNACLE

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