

CHARLES FILLMORE, SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1925

ESTABLISHING THE CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS

Acts 2:36-47

I will call your attention to the text of the lesson, the second chapter of Acts, beginning at the 36th verse and ending with the 47th.

We have called this the establishing of the Christ Consciousness. it is supposed that Peter preached this sermon and the very beginning of our lesson is the keynote---"Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly,

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that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified." That was the text, really, of Peter's sermon. It was a text that all followers of Jesus, all thinking people, need to take home and consider. It is a text that we need to think about in our inner consciousness because upon it hinges the conduct of not only the individual, but the whole human race upon this planet. It is the recognition by the followers of Jesus of Nazareth that he was the incarnation of the Lord

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of the planet or the creative identity under the direction of God, the great universal mind. Now this being recognized would lead to a change of attitude on the part of every one of us. If we knew positively there was a head to this government, a spiritual head corresponding to the president of the United States of America, we would conform in a larger way to the law of that head, and these early disciples had received a baptism or their minds had been flooded with a

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consciousness that opened up what metaphysicians call the sub-conscious mind, and that opening of the subconscious had shown them there was a head to the race consciousness. There was a creative process of mind that had become manifest in this apparent man called Jesus of Nazareth. This proposition is not easily accepted by the intellectual man and it is ^{not} universally accepted by people at large. Before it can be accepted there must be a change of mind, a change of

consciousness. That is called the baptism and that baptism is the result of concentrated prayer, not the prayer of one individual entirely, but a congregation of individuals. The followers of Jesus had been taught by him. They had received all the lessons that we find written in the Gospel, and yet they were really unconverted at his crucifixion; they went back to their work. They did not believe he had resurrected his body, overcome death. He had been telling them all

the time that was the object of his ministry, but when it was accomplished they did not believe it. Well, why didn't they believe it? They had been taught these wonderful truths and they had admitted he must be a great prophet, a man of God, or he couldn't do the miracles he did. But their minds had not been changed, and the question is: Why had there not been a change of mind? Because they had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now what con-

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stitutes the baptism of the Holy Spirit? What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? We must understand some of the fundamental principles lying back of us. Before we can understand those principles we must intellectually have a knowledge of the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit correspond to in my spiritual mind. It is one of the Trinity of activities in you, that Holy Spirit is the third in the trinity according to the Apostles' Creed, but

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that creed was evidently written by those who did not really understand the real character of God. They preach and teach and sing about three persons in one God. You couldn't get three persons in one, it can't be done, even God couldn't do it. Because God is not a personal being. He is not manifest in the flesh except through the mind, the spiritual mind. Consequently, thinking in Spirit, we see these three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; they are spiritual,

all of them. They are not limited to what we term the flesh. They are not persons, but they are states of consciousness in one primal fundamental mind. Now, if we get that clear in our mind we will begin to see what Jesus demonstrated, and where he is and what he is, and how he has come into the world, been in the world all of the time. But he had to come into this race consciousness through the personality of a man, a body in a little remote corner of the earth. He had

to carry out all that is being worked out in the universe, in the person, and he had to demonstrate the idea which was the Christ, and back of that the Father, the great mind working through that idea, and he had to work it up in personality. So Peter got it pretty straight: "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ." Lord is the master, represents the master, and Christ is the Master, the saving one. ~~It~~ is this same

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Jesus, that outer manifestation, was so saturated with this spiritual consciousness that it became just like its source, in other words, Jesus became the transcendent idea of God in what we have termed flesh, but it is not the same flesh he had before his death and ascension. The same fundamental principles entered into it but a transformation took place, that of an elimination of something, something that makes our flesh dense, opaque, that puts into the circula-

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tion a pigment that doesn't really belong there under Divine law. What put it there? Why, this carnal mind. When we understand the principles lying back of it, it is easily handled, but if you do not understand these principles you are in a quagmire, wilderness of mortal mind. We must all then come finally to the recognition that there is a head to our race consciousness, and what is that head? Well we call it the Christ. It is a higher state of mind, the super-mind to each

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individual, yet it has its universal aspect, when we acknowledge that we are ready for the baptism, that is, the change of mind. When Peter preached that to the Pharisees, those disciples demonstrated the Holy Spirit in that upper room, they demonstrated something and the people had to stand up and take notice. They said: "How do they get the power? They are just common people . How can Peter preach so eloquently?" He was inspired by the Holy Spirit. And this

Holy Spirit is working today and the man Jesus made unity with it. That is another point. The Holy Spirit made unity with Jesus and Jesus made unity with the Father through the Holy Spirit, and all he had attained, according to his own testimony, was an adaptation , a God mind in some other consciousness. He was passing through what we have to pass through. He was the God mind, the head of our race.

Now, this is not an emotional religion, and we don't ask that you believe

it because I say so or because it is written in our little creed. Think it out for yourselves. It is necessary to have a head to every great work. If you were forming an institution of any kind you would think: "Who shall we have for a head? We must have somebody who can make in all questions the vote of decision, some one who will be at least a figure head to take the responsibility. That is absolutely necessary in every institution. It was necessary in the creation of

this race to have a head, and this Christ, this idea of God, is the head, and that Christ was incarnate in Jesus and Jesus is the Head. Let us remember that. Then that same principle, that same idea that was incarnate in Jesus, must be developed in every one of us. That is another point that is hard for us to decide, but all that exists in Jesus, exists potentially in us, and we must bring it forth. The lesson today is one of the steps in bringing forth that teaching

incarnate of the word which Jesus gave his followers. Here is a metaphysical truth. You can interpret for yourselves how it works in your mind and the mind of all people. That is the power of the word. Jesus told his followers to get together in that upper room and praise, sing and meditate, and they created an atmosphere, and that atmosphere precipitated that higher activity of Spirit. We find in the falling of the rain, first an electrical activity goes on in the

air and that which we say is thunder and lightning precipitates the moisture, and that is rain. A similar action goes on in the mind of every individual and this spiritual, latent quality which is implanted in every one of us goes through a quickening when we listen to the word of Truth, ^{and} must be precipitated, must descend into your consciousness. This explains the two baptisms. First, the baptism of cleansing, a denial of those earthly ideas, just as you would

take a bath in water and cleanse yourself of those accretions of materiality by washing them away. The next step you would enter into a joy, a spiritual purity, and the very cells of your organism would sing because of the cleanliness and the purity. Now a change of that kind goes on first when we receive the baptism of cleansing. Jesus had the baptism of John and we wonder why a great soul like Jesus would submit to baptism by John. It was symbolical. First

is the washing away of your false ideas, your material ideas. These are cleansed from your mind. Then there is the organic change of the activities of your body---our bodies have to be saved, they must be lifted up. It is done through the second step. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now, the Holy Spirit is active in the world today. It is the activity of the Infinite in all your affairs. We are told this Holy Spirit is the comforter, the companion,

the mind that will bring to you constantly those things that you have forgotten, have overlooked in your progress; not only working in the mind of the spiritually quickened, but the mind of the flesh receives this.

In the book by Jean ^{),} who wrote of her experiences in Africa, she tells of her four men servants who carried her hammock. She overheard them talking one day after she had been with them sometime and had told them about

Christ. They came from the four different tribes, and one said: "This walking we walked today is a strange wal for black men to walk. We are four men of four tribes walking and doing one walk. God alone could have brought us together in this fashion. Before the time of God not one of us but would have been suspicious. Now we eat together, talk together, sleep together like people of one village." So did the descent of the Holy Spirit in the minds of the early disciples bring

about a great unity, a unity not only of Spirit, but of all things they had eliminated, a certain greed, a selfishness. Now this will and must work out in the affairs of the Christian people before we will have a perfect civilization. The adverse mind, the carnal mind is trying to work that problem out today. In Russia they have a community of interest, have all things in common, but have they incorporated Christ in their activities? No, right the opposite. That shows

that is a mortal consciousness, that sense mind is trying to steal the documents of God and work it out alone. It will fail, it always fails when Christ is left out. Put Christ at the head. We are going to work this problem out at Unity and work it out successfully. I do not know how, but the Spirit has shown me that we are going to work this problem out as a community of interest, having all the people who really accept Christ as the head of their

house and head of their thought. Those people will always be taken care of, they will never suffer poverty, lack of any kind, no sickness nor sorrow; the tears of those who dwell in that new city will be wiped away. Read that last chapter of Revelations. But we have to go according to directions. Ferrar Fenton's translation shows here in simple, modern English just the status of those early disciples. "And all the believers were united, and formed an organ-

ized community; and selling their estates and possessions, they distributed to all, according to the need of each. And they assembled daily in harmony in the temple, taking, however, their meals at home; partaking of their food with gladness, combined with humility of heart; praising God, and enjoying the respect of all the people. And the Lord united to them daily those who were for salvation." Now you would naturally ask why did not those people succeed

in their community if they were following Christ? They had gotten the baptism, had been his immediate disciples. Why did not they carry it out?

It seems to us if we had had that opportunity we could certainly have formed a community that would have been successful. Do you know the reason it failed?

Selfishness? Ananias and Sapphira were part of the community. They sold their field but kept back a part. They thought: "This thing may be a failure.

It may be all right, and it may not, but we are going to be on the safe side.

We will have something to fall back on." We must be absolutely sure of the principles lying back of this community and have absolute trust in them.

We must test out these people who are probably to be our directive head in this community of interest. We must know by years of experience with them that they are not only honest, but that they have the spiritual ability to

carry out the principles they are teaching. We will never have a successful community until we have that confidence, that faith in the leader.

They must have been put to the test, they must show by their lives that they are not grasping for the loaves and fishes. If they begin to get copyrights on whatever they do; if they buy stocks and bonds and have everything all the wealthy people of the world have, they show by those things that they

are not very reliable leaders. When you see that you know you are putting your money in a rat hole. That is something you can judge for yourselves.

We must have everything first in Infinite Mind. We must know that all our possessions belong to God and that God's people are all people, and we must pay according to our industry, our loyalty, to this Infinite principle.

We must have a spiritual standard and live up to it. We must be patient,

loving and kind. "This is going to take a long time," you say. "I may be dead." You can't be dead. You are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. You followed him in this very time of Peter, and no doubt people listening to me now were then direct followers of Jesus Christ, who heard Peter preach this very sermon. You say: "I do not remember." "Well, you had better wake up and find out. I know I was there. I remember.

It will be awakened to you if you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Are you asking the Holy Spirit to bring to your memory of the past? Doubtless, you have given up to the adverse mind. That is, doubted your understanding. Don't dwell on the past, you have a wonderful production here in your body. You know very little of it. Why? Because you have not thought deeply about it, not gone into this wonderful piece of

mechanism called the body. It has taken millions of years to produce this thing called the body. We are told by geologists that it took three millions of years to produce the body of the horse. What produced that body? The horse's soul. The first horse was about the size of a domestic cat. The next million years finds it the size of a fox. One more million years find it evolved to the horse of the present day. You can see God must be very patient to bring

forth these animals. How many more years do you suppose it took to produce our bodies? Geological experts differ on the time man has lived on this planet, let alone the evolution brought about in and through him by this consciousness of the Christ. So we should not look so much to the coming of the Lord Christ in the world about us, but in ourselves. It is the Holy Spirit working in us, bringing about redemption,

working in your minds, the Christ in you, the hope of glory; it is the Christ in us triumphant over animal nature. This is Palm Sunday and we find Jesus rode into Jerusalem seated on an ass, and that the children threw flowers in the road before him. He was heralded as the coming king. What does that all mean? It means that man, when he rises in his Christ consciousness, has dominion over the animal nature, that resistance, that opposition forming in us

that keeps us from the clear vision of the Christ. When we ride that, have it under our dominion, we are kings to that extent. If you are king over the donkey in you you are in a larger way to success in your spiritual dominion. And we have to overcome. Before Jesus could meet the crucifixion of his body he had to meet the animal states. We have to overcome them. They are not evil. This whole lesson is for us to realize that Christ is one with Jesus, and that Jesus is the

representative of God and that we are working in and through this Holy Spirit.

And that the Holy Spirit is restoring us to our Divine Sonship; that we in faith see Christ not only in ourselves working out our salvation in its highest, but we see that Christ working everywhere. Christ is come. Christ is here and we in one accord, in conclusion of this lesson give ourselves unreservedly in soul, in thinking mind, and in body to the guidance and the direction of Christ. Amen.