

# Spiritual Action - God Working Through Us

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Well, tonight I am to talk on some spiritual axioms. I know that's the way to get nobody to come, is to announce a subject like that, because that sounds terribly dull. But I want to read three verses from the Bible. John 5:17, But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Philippians 2:13, For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His own good pleasure. First Corinthians 12:46, Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. The differences of administration, but the same Lord. Diversities of operations, but the same God, which worketh all in all. You will notice the Trinity there. Diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. Differences of administration, but the same Lord. Diversities of operations, but the same God. There we have the Trinity.

Now as is generally known, my method in preaching is, and has been many, many years, to extract from the Scriptures certain basic spiritual principles, and then to turn those spiritual principles into axioms, stated truth. And they are valid everywhere, anywhere, at all times, always.

Tonight, I want to talk about God working. And I extract what I have to say from the Scriptures, as I have read to you the texts. But for the statement of two or three of these axioms, I would acknowledge my indebtedness to a lady who has been dead 600 years. She called my attention to this, 600 years after she had stopped living in this world and gone to live in another, in a better, and she put it down in that amazing little book I have referred to quite often called The Revelations of Divine Love.

Now the first axiom, it might be good for you to take these down, because you will forget them if you don't. The first axiom that I want to note is that God does everything. That is, that God does everything, creative and constructive. He does not do evil.

Sin is a work of temporary rebellion against God, and the explanation is yet concealed. Sin is concealed. That is, the reason and the how that the great God can be working and still sin can be in the world, it's concealed from us. We don't yet know. We call those concealed things mysteries. People don't like the word, but it's a good Bible word, and it's a word that we ought to learn to live with. For the world, everything around us, is shrouded in mystery, that is, in things concealed. And I saw, she said, not the creature doing, but I saw God doing in the creature.

Now here is exactly what the Bible says, both in the Old Testament and in the New. Remember that when the Lord would work through Gideon, he did what in some versions says he clothed himself with Gideon. He took Gideon and put Gideon on and worked through Gideon and in Gideon to do his mighty work. It wasn't Gideon that was doing it, but it was God working in the man Gideon.

Then we come to David and Goliath in the Old Testament, and we notice that the upholding of this principle, that God does everything that is constructive, God does it, not people or men or creatures, but God. This is the reason there was no armor.

Now, I don't suppose, I really don't, and I don't want to sound humorous, but I really don't suppose that there would have been a committee or a board anywhere in Israel that would have gone along with David and allowed him to go out and meet the great, overgrown Goliath with his mighty sword as big as a weaver's beam. He couldn't have sold that idea to anybody. He could have argued and pleaded and written, but he couldn't have got anybody that would have allowed him to go out there without armor. And even he, for a little bit at the first, put the armor of Saul on, it was too big for him, he took it off and said it wasn't his armor.

But if he had to go through a committee or a board to get this armor off, he never would have got it off. They would have sent him out there so loaded down with hardware that he couldn't have moved. And of course, Goliath would have simply pushed him over and tramped on him. But he didn't go out that way, he had no armor. Why did God send a man out against a giant without any armor, though the giant was all covered with armor? Because God wanted to say, God doeth everything. He wanted to show that it is God who worketh through you to will and to do of His own good pleasure.

Why did he send David out against Goliath when there was such a vast disparity in size and strength? There was a vast difference, you know, in size and strength. This man, Goliath, was a huge Carnera, and David was an ordinary sized man, I'm not even sure that he wasn't a little undersized. And yet God pitted the two against each other. Why? It was that David might never boast about it anywhere. David never boasted about this. David never said to one of his wives, if she got a little out of hand, you remember what I did to Goliath? Because he knew he hadn't done it, God had done it.

And then there were the unequal weapons. The man David had simply five smooth stones, little marble-sized pebbles that had been made round by the water, the rolling them, the water rolling them along, and that was all he had with a slingshot. Now it wasn't a rubber slingshot such as boys use now, rubber hadn't been invented, it was made out of leather thongs.

But can you imagine now, God sending a young undersized fellow out without any armor, and without any weapon properly, against a huge, oversized giant of a fellow who had proved his strength? Why, it's preposterous, but God did it because it is God that we're given you.

I want you to notice here the difficult passage in that Corinthian passage, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, I've already read it. God is telling how the Holy Spirit, how God works in people and through people there in 1 Corinthians 12, and he says that God has a work to do, and he does it himself in and through his people by the gifts of the Spirit. The same Lord, though there are differences of administration, the same God, though there are diversities of operation, the same gifts, though there are diversities of gifts, it's the same Spirit.

Now the point is that mortal minds can't think immortal thoughts. If we could only know that, there would be a lot of crawling to board meetings instead of coming assured

that we had the answer. There would be a lot of us who instead of answering all questions would begin meekly to ask them. Mortal minds can't think immortal thoughts. God has to think immortal thoughts through us, or our thoughts are mortal thoughts. And mortal hands can't do immortal deeds. That's a total impossibility. God does his eternal works through the hands of men, yes, but it's the work of God in us.

Now God doesn't give us a reservoir of wisdom and power. Here is something that most people don't know, and I suppose that we'll learn it and forget it, but God doesn't give us a reservoir of wisdom and power. If He did, it would very soon become stagnant. If it's wisdom, say, God comes to a man according to the way we think about it, and He pipes him full of wisdom, and He says, now, if you get in any trouble, come see me or call me up and pray, but in the meantime, you have a whole cistern full of powers of wisdom here. You draw on that wisdom because it's yours. God never did it that way.

God gives to a man a word of wisdom, and He gives to a man power, but He is power in that man. He is the word of wisdom in that man. It is God working in the man, and it is not the man working, if we could only remember that. God becomes wisdom to us, and He becomes power to us. That is why Christians blunder so pitifully. If it is, say, a baseball player, and he plays, say, twelve years in the league, big leagues, we say, well, he's skillful, he has learned, he has caught on, he knows. The same with anything people do. They learn by experience. They learn how to do things by doing them.

But you know, in the kingdom of God, it's completely other than that, completely otherwise. A man can be seventy-five years old and have served God most of his lifetime, and yet make such pitiful blunders and be so ignorant and untaught. It's because if God isn't working through the man and in the man, the man himself is right back where he was when he started. It is God that worketh in you.

Did you ever have the experience of having some seeker come to you and want help, and to your chagrin you had no help for the seeker? I told you about my foray into pastoral counseling a year or so ago, a couple of years ago. Some people came, they had heard of me, and so somebody sent them, I don't remember who, maybe Moody, I don't remember who it was. They sent them to me, they said that they thought I could give them some pastoral counseling, that is, family relationship counseling, and to a man and his wife, who were about ready to divorce, came to see me. It happened the same twice. They came in, I talked it all over with them, and the result was that both of the women left hopping mad at me. The husband admitted that we got no place.

Well, now God didn't send me out to be a marriage counselor, He sent me out to preach the gospel, and if He gives me a word for somebody, it is His word and it will help people. But if I think that I can, out of years of experience, tell people how they ought to live, I am only making a fool out of myself.

And there is a great deal of this kind of fool-making going on in the church of Christ in the name of Christianity. We forget that we have no wisdom for anybody unless God wants to give us the wisdom at the moment. Take no thought, said Jesus, by one instance, what ye shall say, for the Father will say it in you.

I have heard old gentlemen preach, and they had everything all worked out very carefully, and they had little statements, little proverbs which they kept repeating all the

time, but they never got anywhere because God was not speaking in them nor through them, but they had learned little things to say, and they were saying them.

So that is the first that I would lay down. It is true everywhere all the time. We extract this from the Scripture as always being true, that every creative thing, every eternal thing, God does it. God is doing it. Man is not doing it. God is doing it. If we were to strip the churches from all that man is doing and leave only what God has done and is doing, we would trim the average church back down to a nubbin. There would not be enough left to have a decent service.

But almost all of the churches are running on their own steam. They have learned how, they have gone to school to find out how, and we have written books on pastoral psychology and pastoral theology, which means how to do it in ten easy lessons. The answer and the result is that we just do not know. We count on our reservoir in place of on our Lord.

My friend, if you talk to, oh, let's say a Christian Scientist or Roman Catholic on Wednesday, and you have an amazing success with them, and perhaps even maybe win one of them to God, and then on Friday you try the same way, you can fall flat on your face, because God is working in you on Wednesday, but you were looking to what God did on Wednesday, expecting to work on that same thing on Friday. You may even write a book about it. I have seen books on how to win Roman Catholics and what to say to Christian Scientists and how to answer Jehovah's Witnesses.

Well, you can answer one on Monday and answer successfully, and try it on Wednesday and he'll put the half Nelson on you and throw you to the mat. It takes the Holy Ghost to work in a man. Always keep that in mind. God doeth everything, and I saw that man is doing nothing, it's only God that is working. Remember that it is the Eternal Lord who is creating a new generation and a new creation.

Just as Adam didn't create himself, and just as the angels did not create themselves but God created them, so He is building His church. People are not building the church. It's impossible. God is building His church. He isn't building his church; you'd simply have a religious organization.

And the second thing that I would say to you is, that God does all in His foreseeing wisdom. Now, all that God is doing and does, He is doing in His foreseeing wisdom, so nothing is done by happenstance or by adventure. Would you write that down? That everything that God does, He does in His foreseeing wisdom.

God knows our tomorrows, He knows our day after tomorrow, He knows all about us down the years, and it's all been planned before time was. The only reason I'd like to live any length of time yet is that I'm curious. I've always have been a very curious person, almost unnaturally or excessively curious. And I'd like to know what they're going to do with this time and space deal. I'd like to know. I'd like to hang around long enough.

I'll tell you this, though, if Jesus tarries, some of you young people now listening to me will see the day when they'll be sending men off to planets and heavenly bodies far removed from this earth and bringing them back again. I'm busy, that is, I'm curious to

know these busy people, time and space, long before there was any space, God had planned what He's doing now, and God isn't all mixed up.

You know how they do in Washington and London and Berlin and all the rest? You know how they do it? They play by ear. Nobody ever plans anything and says, now here's the way it'll go. They play by ear. And whatever Khrushchev says, then we counter him. We're always counter punching. All the Western nations are busy counter punching. Nobody punches out there solidly and leads, but they're always counter punching.

When some big rumbling burp comes out of Moscow, a result of vodka and egotism, then everybody in Washington runs in circles and begins looking at each other and saying, did you hear that? Did you hear that? Yes, I read that. Then they try to counter-punch. And they're playing by ear all the time to change the figure.

My friends, God Almighty never does it that way. All that is now happening was foreseen in the wisdom of God before any space stretched out yonder or before any star was out there. Long before there was matter or motion or law, God had foreseen it all. You'll either believe that or you'll be frustrated and miserable all the time. It's taught in the Bible that God does it all in His foreseeing wisdom. He foresaw it all and He isn't allowing anything to happen.

The world isn't a truck running downhill with the driver having a heart attack at the wheel. No. The world is moving toward a predetermined end and God Almighty standing in the shadows is seeing it go and watching it and guiding it.

The nation of Israel and the nations of the world and the great worldly church we call Christendom and the true church that He hides in His own heart, God knows where they all are at all times by His infinite and perfect wisdom and He's running everything according to plans which He made before Adam ever stood up on the earth. Before there was an Abraham or a David or an Isaiah or a Paul, before Jesus was born in Bethlehem's manger, God had this all planned out.

Now I don't want you to think of God sitting down with a pencil and working it out the way you and I would have to do it. God thinks and it's done. He wills and it comes to pass. God doesn't have to work with a pencil and a slide rule and a compass and a square the way architects and builders do. No. And He doesn't sit and follow an agenda the way conventions do. He thinks it done, He speaks it done, and it's done because He thinks, and He speaks. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and all things were created by Him. Without Him was not anything made that was made. How is that? Why, it's He was the Word and He spoke it done.

So, you're a Christian, all right, and something very, very unusual, very, very bad has happened maybe, and you wonder, you wonder, why did God let this happen to me and how could this? This must have been a huge mistake somewhere.

Well, there's only one possibility, of course, and that is that you have not trusted and obeyed because what I am saying is valid if we trust and obey.

If we rebel against God, then of course we can get into all kinds of trouble. And we may bring on ourselves happenings that are temporarily not in the will of God. But even then, if the root of the matter is in us, God absorbs this and turns it into victory.

There was Jacob, when Jacob fled from the face of his angry brother and was in the waste howling wilderness. He saw that ladder standing up on the earth and I'm still wondering whether Jacob would ever have seen that ladder if Jacob hadn't been on the run. If Jacob hadn't been back home in good company and staying around the house helping his mother with the dishes, as the Bible says he did, or most says he did, it says he was his mother's helper. And the other, his brother. His brother was out running around and hunting and bringing in savory meat. But if Jacob had never had any upset here, Jacob never would have seen that ladder. That's just as sure as you live.

So, I'd like to suggest one thing. Remember that sin is always wrong, and if we insist on rebellion against God, we're going to get ourselves into real serious trouble. But remember another thing, that if you are God's and you do belong to God and you have learned the art of true repentance, God will turn even your defeat into a victory.

And a fleeing Jacob will see a ladder and a Jonah that has disobeyed God may be swallowed by a fish and thus saved. And look at Saul, Saul was breathing out threatening and slaughter there and suddenly he stands and sees, he sees Stephen die, but he starts away from there and as he goes away, on his road on the road to Damascus, he sees the Lord high and lifted up and he hears a voice and he's a converted man.

I wonder if Saul would ever have been converted if he'd been a quiet professor in Gamaliel's university and had simply said, well, there's no use to get excited about it. No use to get excited. Everything will work out all right. If he had said that there would never have been any Paul, the mighty servant of God. But Saul was a man, the root of the matter was in him, but that was about all. And so, God had to even absorb the man's wrongdoing, turn him around, start him right and then begin to work in his life.

Now I give you the third thought here tonight. It is that much that God is doing looks to us like an accident or a mistake. Much that God is doing, I say, looks like an accident or a mistake, but you know that is due to our blindness and our ignorance. We don't know why God is doing the way he's doing and so we begin to fidget and wonder if God does really know.

My friend, God sees tomorrow, and we see only today. God sees both sides and we see only one side. God knows what we don't know, and God has all the pieces to the puzzle. You and I have only a few of the pieces. Did you ever put together a jigsaw puzzle? Half a dozen times, I guess, over the year I have been inveigled into sitting around a table and trying to put a jigsaw puzzle together. I don't know why anybody, with a world so full of miseries as it is, should ever invent one.

You know, just sit right down and invent one. With a world full of trouble, problems to solve and all kinds of worries and frustrations and then invent one, actually invent and create one, sell it. I don't know why anybody would buy it, but I have tried it a few times and usually wandered off before we got the first square, first corner finished. But you see, we don't have the pieces.

Incidentally, I have almost always, much to the good-natured disgust of my boys, my daughter and sometimes my wife, insisted that piece and pieces were lost. Oh, where are they? And I'd look under the table and say, well, those kids have lost them. But they weren't lost, I just didn't know where they fitted.

But you know, you and I are like that. Here's our pattern of life and how we like to see it bloom into a beautiful picture there, everything in place, but it's all scattered around. And I don't know where the pieces are, nothing fits, and you, do you ever try that? Do you ever do this? Two pieces look as if they belong together, but they don't, and so you try to force them in place. You ever try that? Force them in place, and then you break an edge off, and then you're worse off than you were before.

But we take the work of God, and we try to push pieces together. I've spent a good part of my lifetime trying to shove pieces that don't belong together and trying to separate pieces that do. It's ignorance, and we forget that it's God that gives us the wisdom, it's God that works in us, and if we'd only know it, if we let God do his work through us and in us. That's why I believe in the gifts of the Spirit, brethren.

I don't think that I have done myself any good, that is along with the fundamentalist hierarchy, by coming out as I have and always have, only in belief that there ought to be all the gifts of the Spirit ought to be in the church today, the same as they were back yonder at Pentecost.

I read in the newspaper the other day a long, about six-point type, very small and hard to read, I read about the gifts of the Spirit, and this fellow says the gifts of the Spirit all ended, all ended, and he's a fundamentalist, too. Well, he's just plain wrong, R-O-N-G. He is wrong. The gifts of the Spirit did not end. He even goes to quote 1 Corinthians 13, I don't remember who he was, fortunately, and I wouldn't advertise him if I did. But he says, now abideth faith, hope, and charity, of these three, but the greatest of these is love, and says all these things will be put away, knowledge will cease and vanish away, and everything will cease, and so he says all these things ceased. Doesn't he know that they ceased by fulfillment, they did not stop being, and so we cannot get rid of faith, hope, and love, and we cannot get rid, we dare not say that the gifts of the Spirit are no more. They are.

God is working through his people, and what God works will last. What God doesn't work won't last. And I don't care how much personality a man has; he can't do immortal work because he's a mortal man. He can't think immortal thoughts because he's got a mortal mind. But if the Holy Ghost works in him and through him, distributing to every man severally as he will, and it's the same Father working in us, and the same Son working through us, and the same Spirit working through us, then God will do his work.

Well, these accidents that you and I think we're in, we're not in the accidents at all. If a man follows the Lord with anything like reasonable faithfulness. He'll not find any accidents. He'll find that God is working his life out for him.

You know what I wish? I wish that the psychologists and the counselors and all these experts would let people alone. When I was in my teens, what seemed like a couple

hundred years ago, nobody had thought of that fool thing yet. And I actually grew up from 12 to 20 without knowing that I was in a period that was the most deadly, the most dangerous, the most unheard of, the most unusual, the most miserable, the most frustrating, the most confining, the most harmful period possible, and that I just needed somebody to tell me every move to make. I just came through the whole business doing what came naturally.

You know, you just came through the whole thing doing what came naturally. And I didn't have a psychiatrist to help me, nor a psychologist, nor a youth counselor, nor a panel discussion. Didn't have a thing. I just lived right through. When I was halfway through in the middle, I got converted. When I was 17, a little over, I was converted. And after that, it was easier than before. Fortunately, I hadn't been told that I was unique, different, that my mother was against me, that my father was jealous of me, and that my brothers were down on me. And the result was I didn't develop any complexes, and didn't get any mother fixations or father complexes. I just lived through it.

But now they won't let the poor kids alone. God bless you young people. You have an awful time now. Every religious magazine you pick up wants to try to dissect you and take you apart. You know what teenage is? It's just when you're past 12 and haven't come to 20 yet. Just forget. Relax and go right on. You'll be all right. You'll come through without a scar.

Well, I don't know how I got over on that. I didn't have that in my notes really, but I wanted to say that because if they'd just let people alone, you're living, living with your wife, getting along all right, and everything's okay, and then you pick up a magazine, and you read an article in the magazine, and you begin to look out of the corner of your eyes at your wife. And they create suspicion. They create suspicion. Young people are friendly and get on fine with their parents. Then they read an article, and after that they're suspicious of their parents. They're sowing suspicion in our hearts, friends. I wish they'd let us alone.

I sat on a committee one time not long ago where a fellow had applied for service in the Christian Missionary Alliance, and they said that he had gone to college and had specialized in psychiatry. But during the meetings in New York last fall or October, he'd come down to the tabernacle of the Alliance Church there where Brother Reidhead been a pastor, and he'd heard some of us, and he was pastor of a church that was a denominational church, and he'd gotten under blistering conviction.

So, I got up and asked if he'd been delivered from his psychiatry. And they said he had, that he'd gotten delivered from it, thank God. Because I consider the average psychologist is just an educated witch doctor. And if you think that's because I'm ignorant, I was studying psychology when you weren't even born yet, some of you. You know that? I was reading Freud and William James and Jung and many of the great psychologists when you weren't even born yet. So don't think it's ignorance. I know what they teach.

But experience and further knowledge of God and watching them operate has left the impression with me that I don't need them at all. Let nobody come to me peddling spare heads. I've got one. I don't need a spare head. I've got one. It's getting very good, and it's becoming slightly bald. But I still have it, and I'm not going to need a spare. Let them let



me alone. I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus, and I don't want these people bothering me.

You trust God, my friend, and God will bring you out all right. There won't be any accidents. There won't be any accidents. The accidents I thought were accidents back down the years were simply God helping me through when I didn't know He was doing it.

Well, another one I want to give you, and I borrow this one now and I'll quote it. God changes never His purpose, nor never shall world without end. God changes never His purpose, nor never shall world without end. That doesn't sound to me as if that had been written 600 years ago, but it was. But here it's part of the truth, it's the Word of God. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance. God never loses heart. I'd like to have you know that.

Religious people lose heart. I have seen some good godly people that had gone into a tailspin, an emotional tailspin, and they were so low, there was no describing how low they were. But God never gets low, because God sees the end from the beginning. And to God all the things have already happened. They've already happened. If you knew you had to die tomorrow, I suppose you'd feel a little low tonight for a while, then you'd get elated. If you're a real Christian, you'd get elated.

But God never gets up and then down and then up and then down, because everything has already happened with God. God isn't going around watching dials and looking at gauges and seeing if everything's all right and testing to see if you're on the beat.

Oh, no. God doesn't have to do that, because God changes never His purposes, no, nor never shall the world without end. He's moving toward a predetermined end, which He purposed in Christ Jesus before the world began. When the angels sang over Bethlehem's manger, they were not announcing anything new. It had been known back to the Garden of Eden, and it had been known to the heart of God before there was an Eden or a Garden or an Adam or an Eve.

So, God changeth His mind never, no, never shall be. Jonah, go up and preached in Nineveh. And Jonah bought a ticket in another direction. God changes not His mind, no, never shall. So the way it ended up was, Jonah was up preaching in Nineveh. And so it's always that way. Israel sinned against God. God didn't change His mind. He just punished them and disciplined them, and they'll yet be where God said they would be.

There's a lot of difference of opinion now on prophecy, but I'll tell you what I believe, holding this holy book in my hand. I believe that the seed of Abraham shall yet walk upon the mountains of Israel. I believe that God shall yet have his people back there. He's not changed His mind, no, nor never shall change His mind. If when He sent His Son to die on that cross or sent His Son to save the world. If He had gotten discouraged when He saw how they received His Son, He wouldn't have been God. So in knowing what He had in mind, Jesus walked quietly to the cross and died.

You know, things may seem helpless, and conditions hopeless. You read Bible history. A man asked me one time, a young fellow, he said, why didn't God condense the Bible? He said, oh, that old, dry history. You know what that old, dry history teaches? The old, dry

history teaches that God is working providentially through men. That history are the footprints of God, or the footprints of God are history. And the way God worked with Abel and Noah and Abraham and Lot and all the rest down the years. That's why I refer to these men so much. Because it's the way God works, and He's not changed his mind.

Well, then I've got one more yet, and it's this. That God never lifts His hands off His work. He leads all things to an ordained end. He never lifts His hands off His work.

When Michelangelo died, they say that he had a big backyard, and the whole backyard was stacked full of partly done statues. Now, Michelangelo was an Italian, and was in addition to having the high, hot Latin temperament, he had a double charge of genius. He wore the five crowns, they say, of genius in his day. And when he wanted a statue to change and be the way he wanted it, he wasn't fooling.

You know, he was like the farmer that cut five holes in the barn door, and they said, what's that for? And he said, it's for the cat and her kittens. Well, he said, wouldn't one be enough? No, sir. He said, when I say scat, I mean scat. He wasn't going to fool around having them go out one at a time when he said scat, there were five holes for five cats.

And that was Michelangelo, you know. When he said to a piece of rock, become something, he wasn't willing to wait around. And he got disgusted, and he had a whole backyard full of statues that he'd started and lost heart on, and it wouldn't work fast enough, and so he quit and threw them back there and started on something else. He had done an amazing amount of work, but there was an amazing amount of work he was too impatient to finish. If he'd just had given it another day, it might have turned into what he wanted it. Instead of that, he threw it out in the backyard, and after they'd buried him, they found his backyard full of half-done pieces.

Well, God never lifts his hands off his work. Now, I believe that. I don't care what happens. I believe it. I said something about the fact, here at our recent board meeting, that Alliance people say they believe in healing, but don't. They say they believe in it, but they run for help as soon as the temperature goes up half a degree.

And dear Brother Kopp, he's been here and preached, you know he is often quoted. He's a Dutch farmer from out in Pennsylvania, but I consider him a kind of a rough-hewn saint. He said to me afterward, he said, Brother, I'm going to preach healing and anoint people and pray for them if I die surrounded by doctors and nurses with a syringe needle in each leg. He wasn't going to be fooled. He wasn't going to be discouraged. He's going to preach and teach what he thinks. God sent him to preach and teach. I'm for him.

God never lifts His hands off His work. And when God says, you do this, He means you go do it and I'll work through you and I'll not be discouraged. You may be discouraged, but I won't. He leads all things toward a preordained end. Satan and Israel's foes and those who crucified Christ have all tried to stop us.

You know, I think sometimes it's a mistake to think Communists are smart. If they were as smart as they think they are, they wouldn't advertise their intentions, would they? Wouldn't they be wiser if they didn't advertise their intentions? They're always blowing off, saying, we're going to do so-and-so. And so we brace ourselves and say, you and

how many others? I don't think they're as smart as they think they are. I never thought Hitler was smart.

They said Hitler was such a genius. I thought he was a great big bumbling fool. Because he tipped his hand, he told in advance. He even wrote a book telling us what he was going to do to us. Yeah, he did. He wrote a book telling us what he was going to do. He called it Mein Kampf. And they translated it into English, and we read it, and we found out what he intended to do, and we stopped him. I didn't have much to do with it, but anyhow, we stopped him.

And I think the Communists are the same, and you know I believe the same of the devil. If the devil was as smart as he thinks he is, he wouldn't allow us to catch on to his plans. You know, there's an old saying, the higher up the ape goes, the more his tail shows. And the devil rises up there and starts, you look, and you'll see it hanging. You'll know it's the devil.

And if the devil only knows one thing, that if you hit God's people hard enough, they brace themselves. All you have to do is to get after God's people just enough, and you bring out everything that's in them. And everything's going all right with me. I'm one of the laziest, easy-going persons you ever saw in your life. But when things start against me, I back up a few steps, and then suddenly I see, well now hold on here, and the very intention of the devil to drive me back has exactly the opposite effect.

And I believe the same is true with Christians everywhere. God doesn't take his hand off his work, he's moving toward a preordained plan. And if we work with him in that plan, Satan's effort to stop us can only cause us to snap our teeth shut and say, in the name of God and in the strength of Jehovah, we're going forward. And for this church, that's my message. God never takes His hand off His work but leads it forward to a preordained end by the same wisdom and power and love by which he created everything in the first place.

You're no accident. Don't think you are. You're no accident. God made all things by preordained purpose, by foreknowing wisdom. And when you came into the kingdom, you weren't an accident. We think we went and knocked on the door, and God said, go see who's there. And an angel came and said, it's Jim Docherty. All right, Jim Docherty, the Irishman knocking on the door of the kingdom. He wants to get in. God says, isn't that wonderful? We've got a new applicant.

Now, don't let's think about God like that, brethren. God knew Jim Docherty long before his grandmother ever made an eye at his grandfather. God knew them long before they were ever born clear, back to Adam and back to the beginning when there was nothing but God and vacuity, emptiness and God. God knew all about that, knew all about him, knew what sins he'd bring with him when he came, knew when he would come, knew what he would say. God never lifts His hand off His work. He does it by wisdom and power and love. There's no less wisdom, no less power, no less love now than there ever was.

Now, this is hard for us to understand because, you see, we can't see it. You see, we can't see. But we must believe, and believing is a kind of seeing, you know. Believing is a kind of seeing. And if I believe what God has said, I am seeing in a sort of way. But I'm not

seeing down on my human level. And so, you know, it's the humanity that gets in trouble.

I heard a man preach a sermon one time years ago. I never heard anybody else talk about that, and I've never done it myself, I think. But he said the Christian has three men inside of him. The old man, the new man, and the hu-man. He said those three men, there's the old man. And that's all there is until he's converted, and then he gets the new man.

Oh, I mean, there's the hu-man, of course, all the time. And the hu-man gets us in so much trouble. So much trouble. Even that long after you've gotten victory over the old man. The hu-man, you know, just plain you. You know, the thing your wife loves about you and can't stand. You know what I mean. Yeah, that thing, just you, you know. Just you, you fellas. Just you.

The hu-man, you know, you inherited it, and it's an unpalatable mixture of genes. You come down the years and got bumped around, you know, down the centuries. But here you are, and it's what makes you, you. That's the hu-man. And that's the part that gets blue.

And the part that gets carnally happy over things and gets carnally gloomy about things. The old man is to die in order to live in the power of the new man. And the new man keeps the hu-man sort of under control.

Maybe I told you this before. I have a friend down in Brazil. I never saw him. His name is Ernest Michaels, or Michaelis. I don't know which they pronounce it. He writes me. And he sends some of the things I've written all over the world to the people. And he sends me stuff from other people. And he's quite a correspondent.

He wrote a very complimentary thing to me here some time back. Very glowing with compliments. And I wrote him back, and I said, Brother, I'm afraid you don't know me. You're highly complementary and you've got so many things to say. You don't know me. And then I went on to tell him what kind of a mess I was. I thought that probably ended the correspondence. But instead of that, I got a better letter than ever. This time he said, oh, you don't know something we know. He said, the very thing you deplore in yourself is what puts an edge on you and makes you such a blessing to fellows like me. I kind of liked that. It helped me. It was a place to hide my bad disposition.

But if we don't remember that now and get a hold of it, that God does everything, and he does everything in his foreseeing wisdom. And while much that he does looks like an accident to you and me because we don't know enough, God never changes His plans and never will, and never lifts His hand off His work, but goes forward toward a preordained purpose using even such people as I and you.