

Introduction

Excerpts from "The Baccalauréat Address" given by Emma Curtis Hopkins to her students in Chicago in 1891.

It has always been accorded by the wise that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the quickening influence of the Principle of Divine Intelligence, is the test of those called to teach the words and will of the Supreme of the universe. Those so called have not needed to quote authorities or precedents for their actions or teachings. They have all spoken as having authority. They have all come as messengers of goodness and freedom.

When the divinely appointed Jesus came, He dared to claim wisdom from the Most High Intelligence. They were amazed at His doctrine because He taught as one vested with authority. Like all the inspired who had preceded Him, He proved Himself God-sent by doing God-like works.

The suns, which had daily set upon crowds of sick and miserable people, arose at morning time to overlook joyous multitudes, healed by the divine minister of the Gospel of health. The wicked turned from the error of their ways. The mad and despairing smiled and were at peace. The poor were helped and fed. "The words that I speak unto you it is not I that speak, but the Father that dwelleth in me. He doeth the works." (John 14:10)

Jesus' example has been the inspiration and direction of millions since His time. They have all heard the voice of the Spirit and felt the impulse of goodness stirring them to go forth to help the world. Their hearts, being moved in compassion, declare a new and true world in which the poor may be taught and befriended. Where women walk fearless and glad, and where children are safe and free. Every fiber and thread of their being, every instant of their time is absolutely dedicated to the prophesied new dispensation of the Holy Spirit, with its Ministry of healing from every ill known in the old times.

They preach the powerlessness of evil and the unreality of the material universe. They declaim against the necessity for evil in any form of sin, sickness, or death. They declare the Omnipresence of God, the Good, and deny the presence or working power of any other principle but the Good. They demonstrate that the denial of evil, as a reality or working principle, puts evil into the nothingness from whence it sprang. They are putting all forms of evil completely out of and away from their

life experience, when they deal with the Principle of Goodness, the only Reality.

They are proving daily what was the teaching of Christ and His immediate followers by new interpretations of His words and imitation of His works. They urge that the misinterpretations of His teachings are accountable for all the pain and suffering and wickedness believed in by all humankind since His beautiful lifetime, when the multitude rejoiced in health and peace wherever He walked among them.

These people are the apostles of a new dispensation. They usher in the dawn of a new time when evil shall be known no more among us, because Christ, the Truth, has come again in the way of His perfect doctrine revealed anew to the waiting world. They have for their rallying cry: "Not by might, nor by strength, but by My Spirit saith the Lord," (Zech 4:6) which was the watchword of the inspired prophets of old.

We, of the new dispensation, ask the world, which is to be our church, to turn and listen to our preaching. It is the quickening message from the Supreme of the universe announcing the second coming, long expected when every mountain of trouble shall be removed, and every hill of difficulty obliterated.

Pride cannot hold its own where the spiritually taught are speaking, and learning cannot defeat the wisdom of the children of Divine Science. Listen, for we will speak of excellent things, and the opening of our lips shall be right things. We shall heed to Paul's injunction "Let us give ourselves to the ministry of the Word." (Acts 6:4)

Ministers, you are sent forth to the world that waits for the healing benediction of the Spirit with which you have been baptized. You have been tried and not found wanting. You have been called and been answered by that fullness of power by which the devout in all ages have prayed. You can heal the sick by the word of your speaking. You can cheer the fainting. "When hearts are cast down you shall say, There is lifting up." (Job 22:29) You are the revival of the full ministry of the times of old. The Lord himself shall guide you continually, and you shall want for no good thing. Speak the word boldly that is given you to utter.

For this is the faith of the fathers,
The faith the apostles delivered.

"Now therefore go, said the voice of the Lord to Moses, and
I will be with thy mouth and teach thee what thou shalt say."
(Exodus 4:15)