

**THE GREAT  
AZUSA  
STREET REVIVAL**



**THE GREAT  
AZUSA  
STREET REVIVAL**

**THE LIFE AND SERMONS OF  
WILLIAM SEYMOUR**  
COMPILED BY ROBERTS LIARDON



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Scripture quotations marked (RV) are taken from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible.

**THE GREAT AZUSA STREET REVIVAL**  
**The Life and Sermons of William Seymour**

Roberts Liardon Ministries  
P.O. Box 781888  
Orlando, FL 32878  
[www.RobertsLiardon.com](http://www.RobertsLiardon.com)

ISBN: 978-1-64123-522-8  
eBook ISBN: 978-1-64123-523-5

Printed in the United States of America  
© 2020 by Roberts Liardon

Whitaker House  
1030 Hunt Valley Circle  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
[www.whitakerhouse.com](http://www.whitakerhouse.com)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (Pending)

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher. Please direct your inquiries to [permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com](mailto:permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com).

# CONTENTS

## **PART ONE: CATALYST OF CHANGE**

A Biography of William J. Seymour .....	11
---	----

## **PART TWO: SERMONS AND WRITINGS OF WILLIAM J. SEYMOUR**

Introduction .....	65
1. The Precious Atonement .....	69
2. The Way into the Holiest .....	73
3. River of Living Water .....	75
4. In Money Matters .....	81
5. Counterfeits .....	85
6. Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh.....	89

7. Receive Ye the Holy Spirit .....	95
8. Gifts of the Holy Spirit .....	99
9. Rebekah: A Type of the Bride of Christ .....	103
10. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit .....	111
11. The Holy Spirit, Bishop of the Church .....	115
12. Letter to One Seeking the Holy Ghost.....	123
13. Testimony and Praise to God.....	129
14. The Ordinances Taught by Our Lord .....	131
15. The Marriage Tie .....	143
16. Christ's Messages to the Church.....	151
17. To the Married.....	163
18. Sanctified on the Cross .....	171
19. The Baptism with the Holy Ghost .....	175
20. The Holy Ghost and the Bride.....	183
About Roberts Liardon.....	187



William J. Seymour, pastor of the Azusa Street Mission

# INTRODUCTION

*Roberts Liardon*

William Seymour was not a wild-eyed flamboyant black Pentecostal preacher. He was a meek man with a direct style that was not often dynamic in presentation; he could, however, become suddenly and volcanically emotional at times, in and out of the pulpit. He saw himself more as a teacher than a preacher, and as you read his sermons, you will be impressed with the depth of his insights into the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The Azusa Street meetings were long, and on the whole, they were spontaneous. In its early days, music was generally without instruments, although one or two instruments were included at times. Jennie Evans Moore would sometimes play

the piano during worship. There were songs, testimonies given by visitors or read from those who sent letters of testimonies to the mission, prayer, and altar calls for salvation, sanctification, or baptism in the Holy Spirit. And there was preaching. Sermons were generally not prepared in advance but were typically spontaneous.

The meetings at the Apostolic Faith Mission quickly caught the attention of the press due to the dynamic nature of the worship. Between 300 and 350 people could get into the white-washed 40-by-60-foot wood frame structure, with many others occasionally forced to stand outside. Church services were held on the first floor, where the benches were placed in a rectangular pattern. Some of the benches were simply planks put on top of empty nail kegs. There was no elevated platform. There was no pulpit at the beginning of the revival.

In the *Los Angeles Times*, Arthur Osterburg, one of the key persons at the revival, described Brother Seymour with these words:

He was meek and plain spoken and no orator. He spoke the common language of the uneducated class. He might preach for three-quarters of an hour with no more emotionalism than that post. He was no arm-waving thunderer, by any stretch of the imagination. The only way to explain the results is this: that his teachings were so simple that people who were opposed to

organized religion fell for it. It was the simplicity that attracted them.<sup>1</sup>

In September 1906, the first issue of the *Apostolic Faith* newspaper was printed and distributed at no cost. Florence Crawford, with the help of secretary Clara Lum and others, began putting the record of what was being said in the meetings into a newspaper format, under the supervision of William Seymour. In that first issue are descriptions of the revival, testimonies of healing and deliverance, and a note from Brother Parham, a listing of their doctrinal beliefs, a description of Seymour's call, and then the recording of William Seymour's first sermon, "The Precious Atonement."

There are teachings throughout the different issues that are not attributed to any particular author. In the thirteen issues of *The Apostolic Faith* newspapers, there are twenty sermons that are directly attributed to Brother Seymour—either his initials or name was written at the end of those messages. The following chapters are a collection of these sermons. They have not been changed substantially, only slightly edited for readability. Where Seymour quoted Scripture but did not give the citation, it has been included.

---

<sup>1</sup> Robert Owens, *Speak to the Rock* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998), 57.

# ONE

## THE PRECIOUS ATONEMENT

Children of God, partakers of the precious atonement, let us study and see what there is in it for us.

First, through the atonement, we receive forgiveness of sins.

Second, we receive sanctification through the blood of Jesus. *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate”* (Hebrews 13:12).

Sanctified from all original sin, we become sons of God. “For both He that sanctifies and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not

ashamed to call them brethren.” (See Hebrews 2:11.) (It seems that Jesus would be ashamed to call them brethren, if they were not sanctified.) Then you will not be ashamed to tell men and demons that you are sanctified, and are living a pure and holy life free from sin, a life that gives you power over the world, the flesh, and the devil. The devil does not like that kind of testimony. Through this precious atonement, we have freedom from all sin, though we are living in this world. We are permitted to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Third, healing of our bodies. Sickness and disease are destroyed through the precious atonement of Jesus. How we ought to honor the stripes of Jesus, for “with His stripes we are healed.” (See Isaiah 53:5.) How we ought to honor that precious body which the Father sanctified and sent into the world, not simply set apart, but really sanctified, soul, body, and spirit, free from sickness, disease, and everything of the devil. A body that knew no sin and disease was given for these imperfect bodies of ours. Not only is the atonement for the sanctification of our souls, but also for the sanctification of our bodies from inherited disease. It matters not what has been in the blood. Every drop of blood we received from our mother is impure. Sickness is born in a child just as original sin is born in the child. He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. (See 1 John 3:8.) Every sickness is of the devil.

Man in the Garden of Eden was pure and happy and knew no sickness till that unholy visitor came into the garden, then his whole system was poisoned. It has been flowing in the blood of all the human family down the ages till God spoke to His people and said, "*I am the LORD that healeth thee*" (Exodus 15:26). The children of Israel practiced divine healing. David, after being healed of rheumatism (perhaps contracted in the caves where he hid himself from his pursuers), testified saying, "*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name...who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases*" (Psalm 103:1, 3). David knew what it was to be healed. Healing continued with God's people till Solomon's heart was turned away by strange wives, and he brought in the black arts and mediums, and they went whoring after familiar spirits. God had been their healer, but after they lost the Spirit, they turned to the arm of flesh to find something to heal their diseases.

Thank God, we have a living Christ among us to heal our diseases. He will heal every case. The prophet had said, "With His stripes we are healed," and it was fulfilled when Jesus came. Also "*he hath borne our griefs*" (Isaiah 53:4), which means sickness, as translators tell us. Now if Jesus bore our sicknesses, why should we bear them? So, we get full salvation through the atonement of Jesus.

Fourth, we get the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire upon the sanctified life. We get Christ enthroned and crowned in our hearts. Let us lift up Christ to the world in all His fullness, not only in healing and salvation from all sin, but in His power to speak all the languages of the world. We need the triune God to enable us to do this.

We that are the messengers of this precious atonement ought to preach all of it: justification, sanctification, healing, the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and signs following. *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation”* (Hebrews 2:3)? God is now confirming His Word by granting signs and wonders to follow the preaching of the full gospel in Los Angeles.

W. J. SEYMOUR  
Vol. 1, No. 1