

Sermon preached by MR.R.KINDERMAN at "Rehoboth" Chapel,
Swindon, on Thursday evening, 8th September, 1955.

Text: John XVI. 13.

"Howbeit, when He the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will shew you things to come."

How favoured were the disciples of the Lord Jesus, these particular, chosen disciples! Yet in them is a proving of God's mercy in His electing love, that to all the election of grace there shall be an unfolding of the truth of God. That did seem just to come in respect to this, that what the Lord Jesus here revealed to His disciples we know was fulfilled to them in particular at the Pentecost, when in the power of the truth the Holy Ghost rested upon them and the effect of this truth was witnessed and felt in their souls, so that they were enabled as the disciples of Christ to set forth and declare the unsearchable riches of Christ. With what authority through this gracious blessing they were enabled to declare the gospel to poor, needy sinners; those to whom this same gracious Spirit should be made known with witness and the unfolding of that truth of Christ! It seemed particularly on my mind, this great blessing, and this important one, of the Holy Spirit of truth.

What the Lord Jesus Christ promised here is manifest in the church, and without it there is nothing vital. I felt particularly this afternoon how vital it is to know the power and the truth of the Holy Ghost, and apart from that how we shall be left in those ways and under that teaching which will solemnly prove contrary to the truth of Christ, and which, apart from the Holy Spirit, will be our undoing. It did seem to come for a moment very solemnly to my mind that all religion, apart from the power of the Holy Spirit in the revelation of Christ, is contrary to the truth of God, and must of necessity have that solemn end of which God has spoken, and that is eternal hell. It is a vital truth. It is more solemn, at least I feel it at times,

than one can express. What a mercy, my friends, if God so come into our lives, and has so come, that we can speak, through this gracious blessing, of the power of the Holy Spirit, and know that He is come, witnessing the truth of God!

We know how the Lord Jesus spoke it, as I hinted, to the disciples, and at this particular time many things were hidden from them, much that was taking place they could not understand in fulness; but when the Holy Spirit came, then there was an entering into the whole of the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ, an entering into the wisdom of God, the blessing of God in His eternal love and mercy to His church, and the channel by which alone that love could be made manifest, through the incarnation of the Son of God; that very mercy and blessing that God had promised in the Garden of Eden, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head, and he shall bruise His heel." What a tremendous truth! And how important under the consideration of what man is by nature, - fallen! Nothing is known of that except by the Spirit of God. How distinct that is and how different from just a nominal assent! That will never bring any real exercise. Some of you know by the mercy of God the truth of the Spirit's power coming into your soul and bringing the reality of the Fall. Apart from that there is no real entrance into the things of Christ. What an important truth! Nothing less than the Holy Spirit's work can do it. Though many of us have heard it and have been brought up under the sound of the truth, how needful is the operation of the Holy Spirit personally in our souls! It seems to come more and more that the religion of the Holy Ghost is personal. There is unity, but that is made manifest through personal teaching of the Holy Spirit.

But I did desire just to notice the blessing that the Spirit of God has here made manifest, and leaving these immediate disciples, how this promise is fulfilled in every vessel of mercy, and how needful and how blessed; "When He the Spirit of truth is come." We know that the Lord did fulfil this promise. The Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Trinity, equal with the Father and the Son, was made manifest. A glorious truth! Where this grace has

been revealed, I feel we can say (and I hope in unity,) there is at times a real sweetness in the truth of the Trinity revealed in some humble measure, to see the greatness and the power of that truth in the salvation of the church, and to enter into it. Nothing less than the truth of a Three-one Jehovah will satisfy where the Spirit of God is at work. You may not always feel that you can say in truth and honesty that you feel the power of the Spirit, but it is in the workings, the breathings, and the actings of that Spirit within the soul, in the new creation. But He comes, comes with divine power. As the Spirit of God came to those disciples in that upper room, so in the spirit of it the Holy Spirit comes to sinners to make them sensible and to prove their election. What a need to give diligence to make our calling and election sure! - a diligence by the knowledge of the Holy Spirit's power.

"He shall guide you." What a truth! What a mercy! Is there anything else that can guide? There is no other power can guide into truth, and into all truth. This promise, then, the Lord spoke, and it was fulfilled to those sensible sinners. I do pray we may know a little of the mercy and feel a little of the guiding.

It is into all truth. I felt as you were singing that first hymn, (Gadsby's 23) how the poet was led by the Spirit of God. The truth is in Christ. There is no truth apart from Him. "Proceed it from an angel's mouth," said one taught by the Spirit of God, "'Tis but a lie at best." There have been some words on my mind for a long time, "Treat all as deceivers that lead not to Christ." Where this work is made manifest, is there any other ground of hope? Is there any other happiness, comfort or joy? It is the very essence of faith. It is the ground of hope. There is nothing out of Christ. He is the Truth, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself spake, "He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak, and shall show you things to come." The testimony of Christ! What a mercy to be a person in possession of this blessing, manifest in the power, the virtue, and the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ. None but the Spirit can give it.

Under the old dispensation the truth of it was known and manifest in type, and it was peculiar to the children

of Israel. My mind has gone to the Passover, that wonderful favour that God blessed the children of Israel with. That was not known to the Egyptians; that was not entered into by them; it was a revelation peculiar to the children of Israel, to be their deliverance from the execution of God's judgments upon the Egyptians. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." That, through the servant of God, Moses, was a revelation of the truth of God; and I feel, my friends, in this, how the Lord Jesus spoke to His disciples, that through the eternal Spirit there was to be to the church of God that gracious manifestation of the truth of the Passover. What a mercy that is! What a guiding into a truth! Have you felt sometimes a little of the sweetness? None but the Holy Spirit can guide us into the truth of that Passover, open up the word of God, make it power, make it life in the soul, and reveal the virtue of that precious blood, the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." What a gracious hope that raises in the soul of a poor, needy, hell-deserving sinner! What can cheer your heart, what can bring comfort or peace? Only the Holy Spirit guiding into truth, into the truth of the Passover, to see it in its fulfilment in the Lord Jesus Christ. There were those in that day, we verily believe and know, who entered by faith into the day of Christ; and now one says,

My faith looks back to see
The burdens Thou didst bear
When hanging on the accursed tree,
And hopes her guilt was there."

O, it is a mercy! It is the Holy Spirit alone that can make us sensible of our sins; and is it not the same power alone that can bring that grace and blessedness in the virtue of the precious atonement of Christ, the sacrifice of God? When the Spirit of truth guides into that truth, when you see the mercy of God's provision, the way of salvation, the door of hope, is there not a need for a continual guidance into the truth of Christ's atonement, the sacrifice of Christ? You that know continually by the teaching of the Spirit, by the revelation of His truth, what you are, what we really are, who feel more and more what the apostle Paul opens up in the 7th chapter of the Romans, and have to say

continually, "O wretched man that I am!" - what a mercy that the Spirit of God does come into the heart, into the very life of a poor sinner, and reveal the truth, guide you into all the truth! See that in the last part of the sentence: "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." See the blessedness, the suitability, the fulness of that atonement! What a fulness there is in it! Short of that, what hope would there be? I have felt particularly that, as the Spirit of God guides a poor sinner into the atonement, that brings forth true repentance and godly sorrow. No excusing of sin, no light thoughts of sin. What makes you more and more hate sin, and to desire, were it possible, to live without it? There are no legal thoughts when the Spirit of God comes and guides into truth, when the truth of the atonement is opened up, but there is a right knowledge of sin, and true repentance. The goodness of God leadeth to repentance, and that goodness is manifest by the Holy Spirit leading into the truth of the atonement. Is there not a witness in some of your hearts? Have you felt at times, experimentally known, what it is really to feel true repentance flow forth, so spontaneously at times, irrespective of where you may be, and yet there is a sweetness as, in all your felt sin as the Spirit opens that up, you feel it within. You know what the poet says then:

"Although the outside be kept clean,
We feel the filth within."

And sometimes when the Spirit of God guides you into the truth of yourself more, that there might be a gracious and deeper entrance into the atonement of Christ, then, I say, what a sweet mercy when there is a flowing forth of real repentance, a flowing forth of godly sorrow! Is there not then a melting of heart? You can say then,

"Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
Which before the cross I spend."

There is life there. What a guidance!

The Spirit of God comes to poor sinners, and still comes. O what a mercy if we can feel, and have our heart drawn out at times in affection, and see the mercy of God's wisdom, see more clearly that the way of salvation is in wisdom, and as David says, "Ordered in all things, and sure."

There is a giving to God the glory then. Do you know what it is sometimes in the spirit of it? I speak of it particularly when it is something deeper than formality, when you really feel thankfulness of heart flow out before the Lord for His mercy.

"When He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you." What a sweet guidance by God, guidance into all truth! All the truth of Christ. When the Lord came to those two disciples on their way to Emmaus, there was an opening up of the gospel, there was a guiding into all truth. "Beginning at Moses.... He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." That was the gospel, opened up to their hearts. Their hearts burned within them. What a guidance! Then the Lord Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. What a sweet truth to poor sinners! Made known to them! His finished work, the blessedness of that truth opened up in their hearts, whereby joy flowed, true joy, that joy which humbles. Do you know what it is to feel a little of that sacred joy that humbles your spirit before God? There are spots in the experiences of the church of God, my friends, and I hope we may not prove strangers to them; - some of you do know what it is to feel the humbling nature of that joy that is brought by the Spirit of God in the revelations of Christ in His finished work, to feel a little of that flowing in, and to say,

"Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?"

What a sweet guidance of the Spirit! What a mercy to be led as those godly women when they came to the sepulchre, the Spirit of truth guiding! One of them said, in the agony of her soul, "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." Do you know what it is to feel in that condition? That is peculiar to the vessels of mercy as they are quickened into divine life. There is language in scripture we can never know only by the guiding of the Spirit, the sweet declarations of the truth proving what Christ said, "Wisdom is justified of all her children;" and Mary was guided into that; and O, what a sweet blessing followed when the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to her, called her by name, and in that grace revealed Himself in all the power of His truth, so that she was enabled to testify to a risen and exalted Saviour.

"When He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth." Guide you into the blessing of the law fulfilled. That is a mercy to the church, to see the law by Christ fulfilled. What an exercise, where the Spirit of God is at work in quickening power, to realize the adoption! What a truth! The Lord makes His children honest. You dare not lay claim to what the Lord has not revealed sealed in your soul. How important a matter it is! There will be no salvation apart from the grace of adoption; and what the Lord has done for His church must be made over by the Holy Spirit here in this life. How important, how needful the guiding of the Spirit into the adoption; to see the mercy of that!

Well, my friends, what a need to see the blessing that is in the gospel of the fulfilment of the law, to see it honoured, to enter into the blessing that Ruth entered into, and by the Holy Spirit to know the guiding of that truth, as the Spirit guides into the truth of the fulfilment of the law of Christ, when that word is spoken to the heart, "Sit still. . . the man will not be in rest till he have finished the thing this day." How sweetly Ruth was led into the blessing of the truth, to see the matter to be in its order, finished, done, so that there was an honourable marriage. Wonderful truth! Friends, that is a gracious guidance. There must be a marriage. Dear Mr. Hart, in one of his hymns, speaks the language of those who are exercised by the Spirit, and I hope ours:

"Lord make the union closer yet,
And let the marriage be complete."

What a wonderful favour for sinners, outcasts, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenants of promise, living without hope and without God in the world, to be made manifest as the Bride of Christ! Does it not sometimes almost seem too much? And yet so needful! You have had to come and beg the Lord to make you feel you cannot be satisfied without it. You have to say, with Jabez, "Bless me indeed; I must have that blessing." You cannot die, sinner, who are under the teaching of the Spirit of God, without the marriage union complete.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians of the sacredness of marriage he said, "But I speak concerning Christ and the church." It is a great mystery, the oneness of Christ and His church.

What a sacred bond! And the Spirit of God is promised, and the Holy Spirit comes to poor sinners and seals the truth of the marriage. Sometimes when the Lord does in His mercy grant a little entrance into the truth, you have found, as it is spoken of in the Song of Solomon, your heart going out after the Lord Jesus; He has put in His hand by the hole of the door, let a little myrrh drop, guiding by the Spirit into truth, and there was an awakening, an awakening of the heart, a drawing out after Christ, a seeking desire, longing, going about the city: "Saw ye Him Whom my soul loveth?" What a gracious truth, experimentally known! Is it not something worthy when the Spirit guides? What a blessed people God's people are, and what a mercy if we know a little, - I have felt if only the Lord would grant personally to feel and experimentally to enter into the grace of this mercy, "Guide you into all truth."

Guide you into the promises. What promises are made, and they are Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus! You say many times, "I cannot take them." No, you cannot, sinner; you to whom the Spirit of God has applied a promise, you know it; but O, when the Lord does come, when the Holy Spirit comes and seals a promise, graciously makes that over, and that promise "Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus" Who is the Author and Finisher of faith, what a blessing! That promise may be brought into much trial, into much darkness, as Jacob's was. No sooner had he had the Bethel promise than it was tried, so much that he had to prove a wrestling with God and that exercise before the Lord. But, my friends, what a mercy for the Spirit of God to guide into the promise which is in Christ, and sometimes to grant that gracious feeling! One of our poets knew it. It is a very high truth, but he said,

"More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven."

The promises of God that are through the Lord Jesus Christ are sealed with blood, ratified. O the mercy of that truth! They are all in Him. There is security there, and by the Spirit of God they are brought there, and at times to feel it. You do not wonder the apostle then could say, "Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses;" witnesses of the truth who were brought into the grace of this, who knew the power of God, guided by the Spirit of truth; and in these days, by the mercy of the eternal Spirit guiding into that same truth, " compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us

lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience." How can you run with patience the race that is set before you? "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith." How can that be done? Only as the Spirit of God enables by His Own grace, His Own work, guiding into all truth, bringing the promise of God, sealing it.

What a strength, what an enabling, when that is performed; in the midst of all the path of tribulation inwardly, and maybe outwardly, too. It is a path of tribulation to the church. The mercy, the comfort is, the enabling to run with patience. We cannot work that. It is by the grace of the Spirit. You feel it sometimes when the Lord the Spirit comes and guides you into all truth. That made the apostle say, as that was opened up in a great measure to him, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal." That caused much trial. But O, my friends, for poor, needy sinners, yet blessed by God, to have the Spirit of God, for the Spirit to come with divine power and guide into all truth, sometimes to lead you into the blessing of the eternal truth, "In My Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am ye may be also!" Does that sometimes seem distant? The pathway seems so trying and rough, and the conflict with the enemy so great. O, what a mercy when the Spirit of God comes, and renews the gracious truth of God in the promise in your soul! What an enabling then! Why, how do you continue on? You that know what it is to feel the warfare within, how can you continue, - sometimes feeling, "Shall I continue to the end?" And what you feel is real! What a mercy when the Spirit comes and guides into the truth of Christ in what He has done, and the security of the covenant blessing that "He will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly;" and those are they who by the Spirit of God are led, guided into the truth of Christ. What a gracious blessing!

"When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth." Every part of it; and that which is so needful continually for comfort, edification, building up, and sometimes,

in the edification, for chastening and correction. You know, the apostle had to remind the Hebrews, and thus the church in all ages, "Ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children." When the Lord in covenant made His truth known to David, speaking of the kingdom through Solomon, which in type, we know, is Christ, He says, "If his children forsake My law, and walk not in My judgments, if they break My statutes and keep not My commandments, then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless My lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer My faithfulness to fail." How we need, as the apostle reminded the Hebrews, the Spirit to guide us into that truth! Sometimes we feel that it is in anger, (and the enemy would tempt,) to prove that we are not God's children, and we shall prove castaways. I believe these things are real. Maybe some of you have been passing through, and are passing through, seasons when you really feel this, and the enemy tries you, tempts you. He does not torment any but those whom the Spirit of God is teaching and guiding, because otherwise he has no need. We can leave that part. But you know what it is to feel conflict, you know what it is for the enemy to come in like a flood and really torment, and sometimes what distress of mind, what darkness! How you feel so unable to continue! Yet the Lord in His mercy comes, and when He teaches that this is not to that end, but to purge, to refine, and ultimately to make His grace more manifest and to shine, - that is part of the teaching, and to this end that the man of God may be truly perfect. Not in self; there is no perfection in self; you know that under this teaching; but perfect by the work of Christ in all that that means, made over by the power of the Spirit, until there is a coming to the fulness. "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth."

Simeon, when he took the Lord Jesus in his arms by living faith, was guided into the truth of Christ in its fulness, so that he was enabled to feel its mercy, the blessing of it, the sting of death removed; and what a blessing that is! "Guide you into all truth." Many are in bondage through fear of death. It is a tremendous truth. You know what that means, - out of Christ. Some of you know the burden of it on your spirit; you know what it is to feel, and I have felt many times, God brings His children to death before the time of death in the exercise of it; and you are troubled, you are exercised, and

brought through mercy to beg for the grace of the Spirit. But O, when the Spirit of truth guides into that truth, what an unspeakable mercy, my friends, if it is our happy lot, (and may it prove so,) like Simeon to say, "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace." How could he say it? Why, because of the guidance of God, the Spirit's leading into all truth. He saw that sin was removed, all his salvation in Christ, finished for him; and how he was blessed with the manifestation of it in the power in his own soul. And is not that what you desire? What a favour this was to these disciples, and through them to the church! "Howbeit, when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth."

That "all" is in Christ. And to see the mercy, by living faith through the eternal Spirit, of that kingdom which can never be removed! That has been a bulwark to the church. That enables to go on. What comforts your heart? What gives you sometimes a little happiness feelingly in your spirit? There is nothing here that can bring real happiness to a soul under divine teaching. Sin has marred it all. Do you feel that? That is not received by the world; nor was it received by you before God in His mercy quickened into divine life; but you know it, that sin has marred all. O, what a mercy when the Spirit of God, guiding into all truth, shows that which is not of sin! Like the apostle John, you are turned aside in a measure sometimes to see the greatness of the blessing of the eternal kingdom of God revealed. John had it. What a guiding of the Spirit! He was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day." O, to have a true entrance into that, in some measure to have those truths revealed that there might be praise from the heart of a poor sinner! He was like-minded with all the election of grace, he was a sinner saved by grace, and had it revealed; and the Spirit spoke to his very soul, and he had to reveal it and to write it, and to reveal the things that belong to the kingdom of Christ. May God in His mercy teach us, may we be blessed, favoured with the promise of God, the promise to the church, to every vessel of mercy, the Spirit of God guiding into all truth! And may we know the mercy of the grace in the fulness that is treasured up in Christ! And as the Spirit reveals it, may there be a flowing out of the gracious communication which the Lord has spoken, through the unity of the Spirit!

I will leave it. "Guide you into all truth." That seems to come into everything. We need it daily. How we need continual teaching! and what a mercy to be under it until in the end there is an entering into the fulness, - the favoured objects of God's mercy, to enter through grace into the fulness of the truth of God in eternal glory. It will be a mercy if none of us come short!
