



## "A NEW SPIRITUAL ORDER"

Selected Writings of Elbert A Smith, p. 15-16



When Christ fed the 5,000 miraculously, at once He had many followers. Not many came through Gethsemane with Him and out from under the shadow of Golgotha. At the end, three women came to witness His resurrection. Eleven men held their heads up at Pentecost. But these few men and women, tried and true—did enjoy Pentecost; and from them He did find that social order described in the second chapter of Acts 2:44-47.

Elbert A then quotes Cannon Farrar: "At the moment when Christ died, nothing could have seemed more abjectly weak, more pitifully hopeless, more absolutely doomed to scorn and extinction, and despair, than the church which He had founded. It numbered but a handful of weak followers, of which the boldest denied his Lord with blasphemy, and the most devoted had forsaken him and fled. They were poor, ignorant, they were hopeless. They could not claim a single synagogue or a single sword...How was it that these dull and ignorant men, with their cross of wood, triumphed over the deadly fascinations of the sensual mythologies, conquered kings and their armies, and overcame the world?" (Life of Christ p.512-513)

Elbert continued: the church today needs Christ to be with it in the desperate situation confronting the world, as greatly as He was needed by the early church. The spiritual power that was with those men of old will not come lightly today to a people who seek a shortcut to Zion or who think that it can be built first of brick and stone. The new spiritual order must be developed first, and it must have in it faith and repentance and righteousness—some of the elements of Gethsemane and Golgotha—before it can have the elements of Pentecost and all that came after. The principles of the gospel are still foundational. Only as they are obeyed in all particulars can the Church go on to perfection.

This message reminds us that although small in number and disorganized, we must not be discouraged. Let us, individually and as a people, prepare through Faith, Repentance and Righteousness, inviting Christ to come fully into our hearts, homes and church activities.

To quote Elbert A: "The church today needs Christ to be with it in the desperate situation."

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*Nevertheless, they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.*

Helaman 2:31

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