

Author: Pesto Kivengere
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Jonathan and David
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CHRIST THE DYNAMIC OF LIFE

by Festo Kivengere

Stonewall & David

+ Rom. 13:14

1 Sam 18:1

Rom. 5:

Today, in the tradition of this convention, we consider together the blessed presence of the Holy Spirit. And of course this is not just habitually, for without Him there is no Christianity. I have heard people and I take my place among those who get into those corners of confusion - many times because of the way we are made, and as Rev. Stott put it, our judgments and discernments have been warped by sin. We tend, when we hear about the Blessed Comforter, to put Him over there and to put the Lord Jesus over there, and to put God the Father over somewhere. Of course, this is again a confusion. The Lord Jesus remains an ideal from a distance from you until His agent introduces you to Him. The tremendous realities of His truth, such as we have been exposed to, the beauty of the N.T. truth, the liberating reality of what we have been hearing remains a strange story until He breathes over it. It is therefore His blessed work today to bring us absolutely into the amazing realities of what we profess and possess.

The Lord Jesus, that wonderful Liberator, the one whom we call Lord -- the Lordship remains words, words, words -- until the Holy Spirit comes and introduces you and me into the presence of the blessed cross of our Lord and Saviour - the mighty work on Calvary's cross, the blood which speaks better messages to the guilty heart than that of Abel which speaks vengeance, remains a strange talk, just meaningless phrases until the blessed HS comes, then the cross becomes not a place of tragedy, but a mighty place of liberation, of fullness, open heavens, embracing Hands of mighty love - that is the work of the blessed HS.

Sin also remains just a talk about ethics and morals until the blessed HS comes. Then sin appears in its sinfulness, and then redeeming love comes out in its glorious unlimitedness. You are in for good things. And let me say this as I ask you to accompany me. I am not here to expound His work. He expounds His own work.. I am not here to preach about Him. He is the one who makes such a funny man like me preach. I am not here to lead you into what He can do, this is His glorious work. What I am here to do is with Him, by His help, in His light, with His dynamic - His power that enables weak men, just to share with you what He can do, but particularly what He has done. And so, I want to invite you to come with me to the Scriptures and to look at a number of them, but particularly today, the text I want to share with you is very practical. You see when people gather in a convention like this, and as people have been expounding, I believe sincerely from the bottom of my heart, that they have done it because of the HS and in the HS and by the HS. Because truth never takes on flesh and bones until the Author, the Spirit of Truth, picks it up. Then words become alive, then hymns speak with tremendous power. Passages are lit up, and then we know He is there. Has He been here? Didn't you feel a trembling sensi-

Wonderful Liberator

Sin

tivity in your heart? Didn't you also experience a tremendous convicting light coming from the Word? Were you set not to be caught red-handed by the HS? In a convention like this, He keeps on shedding much light, mighty light on particular aspects of our Christian life. Things we had forgotten come up, and we are shocked. Sins we had lost track of come up and convict us. Truth we had forgotten comes back with amazing power. Who is in business? The blessed HS. Were you convicted of unlove? Who did it? Not intuition. My intuition is as blind as a bat until He comes and throws His light upon it. Not my "goodness." You know, we evangelical Christians think we can produce conviction from our own self-made factory. Who could produce conviction? It comes when the blessed Comforter comes and refocuses your attention upon the Lord. Then in the glare of that amazing presence, you discover things you did not see before. It is the blessed HS. He has been very busy and He loves to be very busy. But some of you think He is a policeman - you are scared, aren't you? You think He is a policeman, who, when you have done something wrong, he comes and presents the law of the land and grabs you, as it were, by the neck and you are in captivity in the dark. No, no. The NT conviction says nothing like that. He is not a policeman. He is a Friend of the Guilty. That's why He is the Comforter. The policeman, when he grabs you under the law, is not a comforter at all. You don't feel comforted, you feel trembling. One day I met him on one of your roads. I was driving and I overtook on those yellow lines, and I had hardly finished on the yellow line, when here stood your beautiful policeman! A trembling thing began to take place. I was alive until he came and then I was dead. That's exactly what the law does. The ^{law} ~~letter~~ kills, but the Spirit gives life, says Paul. You see, the experience of the HS never makes you feel dead. No, no. The Law takes you by the neck, that is its purpose. And the HS uses the law, brings you into a realization of exactly what you are like: weak and feeble, unable to do what you want to do, guilty from inside, but the blessed HS is not a policeman, is a Friend of the Guilty. He simply convicts in order to liberate. He never shows you your sin without showing you your Saviour. That's why in the NT repentance and rejoicing go together, not apart. As soon as you're convicted by the HS, you see Him - Jesus your Redeemer. So you see, His blessed work is not to convict and to condemn you. He convicts you to release you, to set you free. He shows you your hunger and emptiness and immediately he opens your eyes to see the unlimited riches in J.C. That's why, in the HS, JC becomes a beautiful Saviour, a tremendous King on the throne with all that Heaven has for you and for me.

The aspect I want to take today is, in the Holy Spirit, Christ, the Dynamic of Life. I am taking this passage because ^{the NT} ~~it~~ is full of it. Look at Romans chap. 13:14

"Being clothed - from head to foot - with the Lord JC." How can you do that? Our brother this morning, as he expounded an amazing part of the NT - the teaching of the Master - didn't you sometimes feel, I can't make it! It's too good for me. I am too feeble. I have what I know are not repeated victories, but repeated defeats. Some of us are more acquainted with defeat than victory. We are acquainted with sadness more than with joy. We are more acquainted with separation than with

unity, hate than love, and we long and we long, and we forget that the longings have been created by the HS.

"Be clothed - be covered completely from head to foot - with the LJC, and therefore make no provision for the flesh," the nature of which does not agree with JC - the self-centered nature. Be clothed, and then you can go on and you get into another passage - Colossians 3:12 - the words of brother Paul, a man with the same passions as you and me. A man in fact who once wrote and said, "I was absolutely full of anxiety," in 1 Cor, "I was in fear and trembling" - rather nervous. Are you nervous? Do you feel nervous when you come among God's people and face these words of truth? You are like Paul then. Let us look at this beautiful chapter: about being clothed with JC.

~~But~~ Verse 12: "You are God's chosen people, dedicated and dear to Him. You must therefore clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness, humility, in gentleness, patience. You must bear with each other." And then v. 14, "And to crown all, you must clothe yourselves in love, which all other qualities together and completes them." Clothing. Again and again, the HS is the power that comes from the risen Lord and ~~and~~ covers the believer from head to foot, so that He may permeate every area of your weakness with the power of the risen Lord.

What happened on the Day of Pentecost? Here is a group of men - Peter and John and James - you know that these were ordinary people, who stood together in the upper room praying for the power promised by the Lord. "Wait here, you are too weak to face the world. Here," He said, "I am going about - I am going up higher - I am entering glory." In chapter 7, v.39, he says, when He spoke about those who believe in him, there is going to flow out rivers of living water. ~~xxxxxx~~ John comments and says, He spoke about the HS who had not yet been given because Christ had not yet been glorified. I want you to connect these two things: the HS and the glorification of the Lord. You see when Keswick planners planned that for us to today we should talk about the HS, and the night before the Lordship - the glorified Lord above all - this is how the HS comes. You see He comes when God has glorified His Son on the right hand of the Throne, in the center of all the blessings of Heaven, so that there is nothing in heaven which is no longer not under His commandment. Angels there stand amazed, seeing that all the blessings in heavenly places are now all at His disposal. How did it happen?

First, I want to encourage you today. I know there are many of you who are trying to sort it ~~x~~ out. I am not trying to help you sort it out. I am trying to help you, by the HS to be sorted out. It is not the blessing which needs to be sorted out, it is we who need to be sorted out. We ~~xx~~ are like Jacob. God is absolutely ready to bless, but we are just unblessable. Some of us are too good to be blessed. Some of us are too strong to be blessed. We need a touch which is going to cripple us, so that we can cling and be blessed. So unbroken is my nature, that I go round mourning because I am not blessed. The NT does not make it clear that He died to bless me, that He rose to bless me, that He was glorified to bless me, that He came

clothed

Rivers of living water

unblessable

down in power to bless me! It is very clear, and yet we are not always blessed, because we are difficult to bless. Some of ~~max~~ us are so morally smooth that the HS can't catch us. We are just like a slippery fish. He touches here, we are there, we keep slipping to one side, refusing to be brought to the reality of what we are. *cray* And I want to say to you today, the HS is in business, and He intends to bless all of us by sorting us out, by clarifying things, the wonderful things we have been listening to. Do you realize that every truth, every exposition, every preaching has one aim - to glorify the Lord, of course, number one, and number two, to clarify confused faith. I hope there is no more confusion in your spiritual understanding. If there is still confusion, it is because you are hugging it. You simply won't let go of the confusion. I know there are many many serious minded Christians who think that to hang on in conviction is a sign of humility. The HS will convict you sufficiently that you may see the Lord Jesus. The HS will show you your sin that you may repent of it, not that you may sit on it. Now there are many people who sit on sin, and they think that is how to be humble. You go on scratching ~~your~~ your head and say, Now why did I act meanly like that? Why? and Why? and Why? Supposing the Lord Jesus told you why, then what? You see that is asking the wrong question. It is not, Why did I act in a mean way toward my brother? You acted in a mean way. That's that. Now what do you need? You need ~~the~~ to say to the Lord, Thank you, blessed Comforter, *the Comforter* that you have shown me my meanness in order that it might be taken away. No more wasting of time and going in circles. He said you were mean in acting like that. He said you were jealous of your brother. The question is not Why was I jealous? You were jealous! What do you want to do? The HS has ~~tax~~ shown you you were jealous. This is His blessed work - blessed work number one. And He does that not that you may hang on, but that you may present the jealousy to the cross. This is where He keeps pointing us all the time. Takes us from our emptiness, our weakness and feebleness, and He takes us to an amazing place. And let me tell you, the HS hasn't got two places - only one. Only one blessed place, please remember that. He will never take you into any other, because God has no other places, but has one place in which he blesses every sinner - ^{that} ~~it~~ is at the cross. Not the cross of a dead Saviour, that never blesses, the cross of a living Saviour, the glorified Lord applying His cleansing blood by the HS upon a guilty person's heart. The risen Lord in the HS applying his righteousness on the naked, guilty heart.

And I want to share with you Christ, the Dynamic for Life in the HS. On the Day of Pentecost, as they stood, those men and women, a trembling crowd of weak men and women -- many of them had suffered from sin and were still suffering from sins of doubt and confusion. Who could unconfuse Peter? From the background that he denied Him whom he loved three times. Tell me, what power on earth could have come and explained it carefully so that Peter is no longer confused? as to why he denied Him whom he followed for three years? Isn't that a deep confusion? How do you disentangle this man? How do you really get him out of this terrible mixup? And yet,

he came out. You meet him on the day of Pent., he is completely out. He is no longer the hard-hearted Peter suffering from the hangover of his guilt.

You know there are many of us even who have listened to the mechanics of forgiveness and the mighty work of the HS and the Lordship of Christ, and we still carry with us hangovers. Yes, I came to the Lord last night and asked Him for forgiveness, but I'm not rejoicing in it, I still have a hangover. I know He died for me of course, but how do you clarify it? Well, my dear friend today we are entering into the simple but deep secret how saints can repent and rejoice and live and say so.

I want to take you to a picture which I love because it may help us to clarify this matter: clothed in love. The crowd of Christians that gathered on the first day of Pentecost were just like you and like me - a lot of hangovers, doubts like Thomas, full of bad tempers like John and James, the sons of thunder, hot-tempered ones. We are like that, we have all sorts of things here at Keswick. If you try to analyse yourself psychologically, this is not what you are here for. We came to stand in the exposure of our wonderful, dynamic redeemer. Of course He knows you with all of your psychological makeup, He does me. But He did not come here to analyse us and to leave us trembling, as it were, in a psychiatrist's office. He came here to show us what ~~we~~ ^{we} are in the light of who He is. And the HS came on the day of Pentecost; what did He do? He came sent by the mighty risen Lord. He knew how feeble those men and women were, how ignorant they still were about what Jesus taught them: "I am the Vine, you are the branches." Do you know it? It remained a figure of speech! And He came and breathed the Holy Spirit into them, but it remained a bit of a metaphor, until He came. And He was sent purposely to unconfuse the confused, to clothe the naked to liberate the prisoners, to ~~weak~~ make weak men and women live. And I believe you are going to live ~~if~~ as you expose yourself to Him.

Let me share with you another passage. This time from the OT. We are going to use this one as a clarifying passage - if you like, an illustrating passage from the OT to help us to see what has gone on in the new. It's rather a reversal, as it is usually the NT that clarifies the Old, but there are certain passages in the OT which are wonderful in showing you some clear point, because they are very picturesque in presentation.

I Samuel, 18:1 And I am going to share with you remember: Christ the Dynamic of Life. Christ, the one who empowers the weak. Christ who makes dead people live again, and defeated Christians can move and act in the power of Christ by the HS.

It is a story of King Saul at the palace when he invited a young man from Bethlehem named David to come into the palace to be there and to minister there. And this king had a son, called Jonathan, the prince royal.

"When he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David. And Jon loved him (David) as his own soul." Remember this is in a palace. Remember the king has invited a shepherd boy from Bethlehem, remember the shepherd boy has come into the palace for a ministry, but he is not a prince, he is

he is a shepherd boy. He is not a trained soldier, but he has overcome a Philistine. Because this young man, we are told in Scripture - the Spirit of the Lord was upon this young man from the beginning. That's why unusual things happened and yet outwardly this young man couldn't be more ordinary. A shepherd boy, not trained to fight, an ordinary man.. You find the king asking Abner, one of the captains, "Whose son is that?" The captain of the Armed Forces says, "Your majesty, I simply don't know his parents." Actually unknown, insignificant, no one knew anything about him - just like you and me, as it were, from nowhere. You say He takes insignificant people mere sinners from the road of life to introduce us into the wonderful palace of blessedness.

. . . Did you catch the word - the beginning at the prince loving the peasant; "And Jonathan loved David like his own soul." And it goes on, "And Saul took David into the palace and did not allow him to go out." How could that happen? You see David entered on the love of the prince. That's how you enter, ^{when} the HS has convicted you, He did not bring you into the blessedness by accident, you entered upon the love of the Prince of Glory. This is how the HS does it. He brings you from outside and the entrance is upon the finished work of the Prince of Glory. He loved us and gave Himself for us-that's how we entered. This is the first initial stage of how you can remain in the blessedness of the kingly presence. So David entered the palace upon the love of Jonathan, for Jon loved D like his own soul.

But how do you keep there? Don't you see D looking at himself and saying, But I am a peasant. My clothes, my whole demeanor, my character is fixed. I'm only a shepherd boy out ~~xxxx~~ there, how am I going to fit into this royal palace with all the mannerisms of kingly home? Wasn't he trembling with fear?

It's a wonderful thing. Some of you have been scared, haven't you? You hear that grace has brought you right into the center and Heaven is at your disposal. You are no longer a foreigner, but you are now a citizen and ~~x~~ also a member of the household of God, says Paul in Ephesians, blessed in all the heavenly blessings. And then you say, But I am very weak, theologically I am all over the place. How can I fit in? I know I have been defeated again and again. I'm not one of those people who have strong wills, mine is very weak. Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down. Sometimes I feel good, sometimes I weep. How can I fit in? Let me tell you how to fit in. Read it in Scripture.

How does a shepherd boy from Bethlehem remain at the palace and fit in? "And Saul took him in that day".... not tomorrow, this day...."and he would not let him return to his father's house. And Jon the prince made a covenant with D." Now some of you are saying, Yes a covenant, because D of course did that and Jon did that. Remember a covenant in the Bible is the grace of blessing ~~xxxx~~ the lesser. The one who has ~~the~~ blessing the one who has not, the powerful blessing the weak one. The prince is now making a covenant and he takes the initiative. The HS takes you in your rags and tatters and makes you stand at the cross of Calvary.

He opens your eyes to see the splendor in the face of JC. And then He says, Wait a minute, hold your heart, with bated breath you are going to see the entire heaven coming to you.

Covenant of love

"And the prince made a covenant." He took the initiative. Jesus has taken the first step for you, in your interest, on your behalf. Now I want you to stand with me there as we read this beautiful picture. 1 Jon took this step, covenanting with this poor boy from Bethlehem. Why? Where do you get the covenant? You know some of you seem to say, I have to be faithful, I have to be honest, I have to be sincere, I have to repent deeply. When are you going to make sure that you have reached the deepest place of repentance? Who is going to be the judge if your honesty is honest enough? --that your sincerity is presentable before the presence of Jehovah? If you wait until those things are, you are never going to get there. What was the basis of the covenant? The HS is showing us something very beautiful, because He loved him as his own soul. This is a covenant of love. It is based on the unchanging love of the Son of God, not your changing moods. If you base the covenant on your moods, it's just like the weather at Keswick - sometimes clear, sometimes dark, sometimes wet, or a little bit dry. These are your feelings, you know. You see the prince loved the shepherd boy as his own soul. This was the foundation of the covenant. This is how the shepherd boy can keep in the House of Plenty - because the prince loved the peasant as his own soul. And Jesus, of course is greater than Jon.

But what was the nature of this wonderful covenant, which can make a saint rejoice today and tomorrow and the day after forever. Words, words, word, we are suffering from too many words, and yet Christianity did not begin with words. It began in an action, eternal, the greatest action when God hung on a cross in blood and sweat like a criminal on your behalf, this is how it all began in a bloody action of love. Eternal love in grip with my need - this was not a covenant of words. Listen, let us wait with bated breath. After that covenant had been signed, David is now trembling ~~xxx~~ with excitement and fear, humility. He couldn't help it, you can't help it.

I don't know where they stood, whether it was in a particular room, or alone in a spot that was very very precious. The prince took him aside and he began to show him the meaning of the covenant of love in action. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe he had on and gave it to David. ~~Maxxxxxxxof~~ his armor and gave it to D. -- of his sword and gave it to D. ... of his bow and gave it to D..... of his girdle and gave it to D. And I want you to see the picture.

This is the dynamic of the HS. We can move from this picture. You see the peasant boy now standing there - throly amazed, deeply melted. The prince not only made a covenant of words, but he is now stripping, which is very touching.

And he strips himself of his robe and he puts it upon David. And he takes his armor and he gives it to D. And he takes his sword, he gives it to D. He takes his bow and he gives it to D. And he takes everything he has and he puts it on the

peasant. And David stands there complete in Jonathan! Complete like a prince, and the prince is a peasant.

Do you know the grace of our Lord J.C., that rich as he was, yet he became so poor that you who are spiritually poverty-stricken might be eternally rich through his poverty - that's the NT.

There the young man stood. Can you imagine that he left there just 1 intact? He is in shock! This is too much for me. Amazing grace - he could sing, couldn't he? And yet a sense of unfitness grips him. Can he help it? why? why? Why? Why do this for me - undeserved. A trembling sensitivity, a brokenness -- this is the meaning of Biblical brokenness. In the presence of the eternal king, greater than Jon is he. But let us linger a little bit on the story..

The covenant on which David entered into the palace was a covenant of love. His staying in was because the covenant became practical, fitting. It was not just a lovely covenant of words signed, no, that would never do. It had to become practical enough to equip the unequipped to live with the king. Yes you can hear the words at Keswick, but they will remain words for you until you enter into the practical possession of what you've been hearing. Only let me encourage you, it is all love. Take heart! It's all love. You can enter.

And the HS, you know, Paul says in ch 5 of Romans, the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the HS. He comes to baptize you into eternal love, and in that love you find one grace after another. Let me say this very carefully.

Is David beautiful? Don't you see that he looks like a prince? Is he still smelling of sheep? Is he still unequipped and weak? Isn't he completely glorious in the garments of the prince of glory? And the prince of glory, hasn't he really exchanged - he looked poor for your sake. Doesn't he look naked for your sake? Doesn't he look unarmed for your sake? Doesn't he look rather weak without a girdle of strength. MY! what has Jesus done for you? Let us move on.

What was the purpose of all this dynamic? Read v.5 There is always a purpose. Have you stood amazed like this? Are you wondering why all this clothing, all this covering, all this provision, all this grace, all this beatification? Are you wondering why? -- "And David went out". . . you are going to go out of Keswick, aren't you - unless you want to build here three tabernacles and put a number of speakers in some of them, and create a few more denominations before you leave! But Keswick is a place where we came by the HS to stand and see. Oh give me sight that I may see, or if you like, When I survey the wondrous cross, when I take time to look at what it really means for me, when I examine the four corners of love, its height and depth, its length and width and in the embrace of that love I am amazed at myself, ^{for} because this is not what I am like. I am not like this by nature, I am ~~just~~ different, but I am amazed! Imagine David looking at himself - the garments Jonathan's, the weapons and armor - Jonathan's, the fort.//?? jonathans, the girdle J's - completely Jonathan. What songs can you sing under those circum-

Amazing Grace

stances: Jonathan, the center of him who made you complete when you were utterly incomplete. I hope there are some people listening carefully. Are you one of those incomplete ones? Then come and stand where David stood.

David went out.. You are going to go out into the cities, and I am going to go out to Uganda. And what happened? In your Authorized Version "he behaved wisely." The blessing of the HS, when He comes to ~~clothe~~ clothe you with the perfect righteousness of JC, when the fruit of the Sp is love, the love of Jesus, taking the place of your hatred. The peace of Jesus taking the place of your restlessness. Yes, the composure of the Son of God making you look composed even in danger. The HS comes so that the graces of the Son of God may cover your gracelessness. The HS came on Pentecost and he made Peter look beautiful. Oh colorless Christians, they take on color when the HS comes. Lifeless Christians, they become vibrating with reality when Jesus comes in the power of the HS. Oh yes, unmoving Xns become running Xns - you can't stop them, I've seen it in my country. They don't move until He comes, and when He comes, you can't stop them. The problem is not to encourage them, but just to help them to do a little less. They are going full speed. On the Day of Pentecost they were clothed in the garments of the Son of God. There stood many Davids and there stood the greater than Jonathan, the Prince of Glory, who ahung on Calvary, rising again, glorified eternally, coming back in power, and He entered the hearts of those men and my! it became a wonderful company of believers. You met them, they shook you with reality. They had their hands in the hand of Jesus, their sins forgiven, thei hearts liberated, they looked tremendous. No wonder they spoke in tongues. Are you doubtful about that? Some Christians are shocked. What shocks me is when ~~xxxx~~ Christians who speak in tongues (hard the tie?? that shocks me. It's like David looking at the garments and saying, I'm going to make a song on the garment - Oh wonderful garment! The garment was not important, it made David look at Jonathan - how wonderful he is! He clothed me! The song was Jonathan. So when Christians are blessed with all the heavenly blessings, our temptation is to have the blessing instead of the Blesser. Instaed of rejoicing in what He gives, we rejoice in the gift and forget the Giver and the gift dries up. Do you know why Christians take the gifts of God and use them like big sticks on each other's heads? If you haven't seen that, I have - in revival. A tremendous liberty has come and a man is jumpikng with joy who never jumped, particularly if he is an Anglican! Because you see I'm an Anglican, I know what I mean. And when you see them jumping in a church because God has come in glory, then you know what happens? The jumping is not bad, because the Master has ~~xxx~~ come, but He -- it has happened in your country. Let me give you a simple illustration in London. You know you are composed of a community of people - very reserved as we know. And I was in your company one day waiting for Her Majesty to come from Buckingham Palace. One of those days I was standing here 12 years ago. And I just stood there like an observer, and every English lady and gentleman was all composed - very lovely.

David in
Jonathan's
clothes

English people in the presence of their Queen
Very careful until she came out, then they lost themselves. As soon as she came on that beautiful horse, ladies didn't mind if their bag knocked another bag, gentlemen were waving and I stood back and said, Now for the first time I'm seeing real English people. I hadn't met them. They had to be disarmed by the presence of their queen in order to be themselves. This is exactly what happens when the Spirit brings the Lord. But the problem is this, when the Lord Jesus comes among His people, and the blessing and the marching soldiers and the booming guns, and the horses and everything comes in the trail, then do you know what happens to Christians? Oh, I saw the horse, and so unless you saw the horse as I did you are not a Christian as I am. I heard the sound, so unless you heard the sound and keep making it, you are not a Christian like me.

As I said, one of these Anglicans began to rejoice. He had come to clothe the naked and to set the prisoner free, and in the liberty people reacted differently. Some shouted, some cried, some jumped. Then it comes down to where someone who jumped says, Unless you jumped, you are not quite there. So you have to jump higher in order to show the blessing! And the one who shouted Hallelujah says, shout louder and then you have the blessing. Now the shouting is good, it's not bad. The gifts that come to Christians, coming from the glorious Redeemer should equip you to behave wisely. That's what he said here: David went out and behaved wisely.

Don't make the blessing a miserable thing
Do you behave wisely? When God had showered his blessing on the Solomon Islands, and He is moving mightily among those Sol. Islanders, thousands are sweeping into the kingdom - a mighty revival. Young people are witnessing everywhere, shouting Hallelujahs - good. When Christians are like that they are beautiful to look at. But because they are sinners, they take the very blessing and make it into a miserable thing. They use the blessing like a big stick to hit people on the head. And one man was saying, God has given me wonderful gifts of discernment, and I can see the truth; and He had and then the devil took over - the flesh took over. He came to church and said, I know your sin, I can show you what sins you committed last night. And he went round in the church telling people their sins, using the gift of discernment like a big stick to knock them on the head. It brought division and separation and misery, because eyes were taken from the Redeemer, the Giver and fixed on this particular gift. The gift therefore became divisive. The HS showers the gift - on Pentecost he showered everything you can think of. We've seen Him doing it in my country, in Uganda in 1941 when early times of revival began. We were just having all heaven showering in. In some churches they spoke in tongues and interpreted, but you never hear one word about it again. No one wrote a book about it. When they spoke in tongues or glorified the Lord, they just took it as a NT happening, but their eyes were fixed on the Master. They went outside, rejoicing that the gift came and they went on, ^{with the Giver} expecting some more. The more you have your gift, you stop Him from giving you some more.

Please open wide and come with me, and come if you feel naked and tired and unworthy. Those will not ~~be~~ disqualify you, because He clothes the unclothed. He helps

those who are helpless, He loves those who can hardly love themselves. And He is the Prince of Glory.

So David went out and behaved wisely. What next? He was accepted by the servants of Saul. Everywhere he went -- you know he was not a trained soldier and he became a captain, even like a general -- and yet all the soldiers and servants were very happy. ^{Why?} Because this man in the Spirit of God, with the humility of those wonderful things of the prince Jonathan, this man became such a man. Humble, broken, and they loved him for it. His successes did not make others jealous, they encouraged others to come in.

The Holy Spirit is here today. What is your problem? Reluctancy? Maybe your problem is that you're hugging your rags and tatters. You are David, but you are hugging those old shepherd boy clothes because you are familiar with them. Therefore, the HS is waiting above you, trembling with excitement. Can you please take your dirty clothes off? Will you please take those rags off, and I will cover you from head to foot with all that Jesus has.

"Oh, no, no, no, I dare not let go!" Therefore you stand there unblessed when all of heaven is at your disposal. Will you please come with me as we close. Will you come with me and simply stand in that blessed place. Go in Peter if you are impetuous. Go in John if you are bad tempered, Go in Thomas if you are a doubter, Go in Martha if you are one of those who burst out of the kitchen in anger. Go in anyone you like in the company, join us all. We are the same. When we stand before Jesus Christ, no one is better than the other. We all look wonderful when we are clothed with the righteousness of the Son of God. It's a beautiful thing, and if God the HS has come into your heart, has released you from inside, please don't look at the release. Look at the Releaser. Don't hug the gift, praise the Giver and walk on, remember every gift is given that you may behave wisely among the brethren, that you may build the Body and not knock the members on the head, that you may contribute to the needs of the saints and not despise them - aloofness does not say that a saint is full of the HS. Aloofness in the things of God says that the saint is still full of himself. When you are covered in the garments of Jonathan, you can't be proud. You are broken and humbled and rejoicing and then liberated. Now you can see David moving in and moving out ^{before} Saul and he is not worried because he is covered in the garments of another. Another one has taken charge. Another one is the manager. Your needs are taken care of because Jesus died and rose again. My dear saint, you are in for good things in your heart. Let Him take over in your mind and let Him clothe you. The Comforter is here. Are you resisting Him. Are you hardening yourself. Are your experiences in the way? Won't you let Him fill you with all that Jesus has for you (and for me)? And this is the joy. It is a continuous covering all the time, all the time, as He comes, as He is eternal. Not just once for all. As soon as you are covered, you remain covered day by day. Only when you discover that there are rags and tatters, repent

Hugging rags & tatters

*Don't hug the gift -
praise the giver*

whatever is filthy, whatever is proud, put it off. That means repent of it. Hand it over to the glorious Lord to kill, to bury and then He will cover you with His eternal, shining righteousness..

I am going to close there and ask you to sing a beautiful hymn of praise, for this is a moment of praise. If He has covered you, what do you want to do, add another bit? It is not a garment that needs to be patched. There are no patches here. It is a garment and you receive it and praise Him.

So we are going to praise Him, and I mean praising Him from the heart. And if you want a word of counsel - stay behind.

Lord I hear of Showers of blessing - let some drops now fall on me