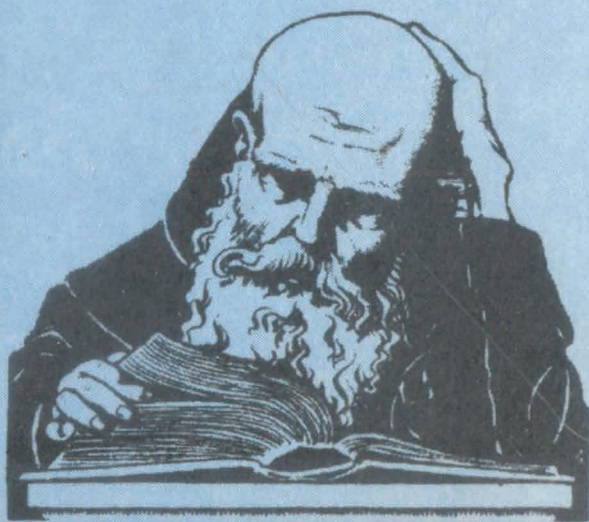


# INSPIRED INSIGHTS

R. STANLEY



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## INSPIRED INSIGHTS

“Unless Inspired Insights and “until” are of the Kingdom of God. “Unless” you are born of the Spirit, you cannot enter the Kingdom. “Until” you are baptized with the Spirit, you cannot expand the Kingdom.

□

All believers in Christ are theologians. But all theologians are not necessarily believers. “Theology is simply the knowledge of God — but, knowing God begins with a personal faith in Christ.

□

It is wrong to specify any particular believer as “gifted.” All believers are “gifted.” There’s no believer who is not gifted within the Body of Christ.

□

By dividing the people of God as clergy and laymen, we have made the latter a majority of lame men.

□

The Holy Spirit is either too poor or stingy if He has only nine gifts to give us. Let’s not dare to limit God to any list.

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□

If we collect all the unread Bibles from Christians, we will not need to print new Bibles for several years!

□

We talk so much about the pattern of the New Testament Church and ministry. Good — But, where is the power? I’d prefer a bullock cart to a Benz car that has no engine.

□

Beware of a Christless Pentecost as much as of a Pentecostless Christianity.

□

We have Bible-minus churches as well as Bible-plus churches. The former subtract the positive and explicit teaching of the Scriptures towards their traditions. To Christian life the latter add laws and regulations which the Bible does not plainly teach. We must stand for Bible plus-or-minus nothing, both, in our doctrine and deed.

□

The pastor who builds his congregation without the help of apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers is like the mason who tries to construct a building without carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, and electricians. Hardly does any minister have all the gifts. Even Moses and Solomon needed men like Bezaleel and Hiram for their building work.

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we were allergic to. That is the meaning of all things becoming new.

□

TB affects the lungs; TV affects the heart.

□

The Bible nowhere teaches that speaking in tongues is the only evidence of receiving the Spirit. On the other hand, it emphatically states that subduing the tongue is the ultimate evidence of true spirituality. We need gifts as well as fruits but we are known by our fruits.

□

When we reject salvation, we receive the grace of God in vain. When we neglect soulwinning, we receive the power of God in vain. The former is the sin of sinners and the latter the sin of saints.

□

Instead of challenging all Christians to “Go,” we called them to “Go or Send.” The majority decided to stay back and send others. Men always choose easy alternatives.

□

When Paul was converted, he became greatly burdened for his fellow Jews (Rom 9:1,2). But most of today’s preachers, who are Hindu or Moslem converts, have built a convenient camp and covetable pulpits among Christians. Don’t we yet realize that 83% of Indians are Hindus and 10% Moslem?

□

The success of a gospel campaign is measured in terms of how many non-Christians join the Church and not by how many Christians join the evangelist’s scheme or subscribe to his magazine.

□

Gathering of the Church is to edify the saints so they may evangelize the sinners for gathering them into the Church. Other reasons are secondary.

□

We don’t witness enough because we don’t believe enough. Unbelief mutes us (2 Cor 4:13; Lk 1:20).

□

The left hand of friendship is a prelude to the “right hand of fellowship.” Jesus embraced the friendship of sinners in order to establish the fellowship of saints. A fellowship of saints without friendship among themselves is not aromatic and that without friendship with outsiders is unattractive.

□

When we follow Jesus, He makes us fishers of men (Mt 4:19). When we love Him, He makes us shepherds of men (Jn 21:15-17). Bringing men to Christ and building them in Him are the twin responsibilities of every Christian. To be successful in this calling, we should constantly pattern our lives after Christ and passionately love Him.

while you pray. While the unbelievers are worshipping work, the believers should not worship worship.

□

For Judas, 30 silver coins were more precious than Jesus. But, for Mary, her Master was more precious than 30 silver coins. He earned 30 coins for betrayal and she emptied 300 for burial. “Lord, Examine me whether I serve You or money.”

□

Dear preacher friend, Do you aim at making people happy or holy? Are you simply inflating them with words of excitement or imparting to them divine equipments? Make sure your congregation will be a crown and not a shame to you before the judgement Seat of Christ.

□

Too many sermons on “Never worry!” have reduced in us even the burden for lost souls. Too many messages on “Never fear!” have removed from us even the fear of God. Prophets who simply comfort the people without convicting or challenging them are out of balance (1 Cor 14:3; Heb 4:1).

□

God told Moses, “You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward” (Dt 2:3). I believe this is what the Spirit says to the Tamil and Malayalee preachers: “You have

circled around Tamilnadu and Kerala long enough; turn northward!”

□

Watering the fields in Egypt was by foot, whereas in Canaan the land drank water from the rain of heaven (Dt 11:10,11). This distinguishes the ministry done by mere human strength and that carried out with the power of the Spirit from Above.

□

God buried Moses in a spot known to no man. God took away Elijah to Heaven without a need for a grave. It was perhaps because God knew that even a key apostle like Peter would immediately launch out projects to build shrines for such saints on their graves (Dt 34,6; 2 Ki 2:11; Mk 9:5,6). Beware of all forms of idolatry!

□

When commissioning his son to rule God’s people and build His temple, David said to the congregation, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced” (1 Chron 29:1). But so many pastors and preachers exaggerate the gifts and abilities of their sons and daughters and appoint them as their heirs. Here lies a reason for the ruin of many ministries after the founders.

□

We preach and sing that God is moving one more time. When was He sleeping or idling?

□

To be at the feet of Jesus is more important than to be on foot for Him. But if the former does not lead to the latter, we have got it all wrong.

□

Millions perish outside the parish. The Chief Shepherd taught that the lost sheep was more important than the sheep safe in the fold. Therefore a pastor who is not missionary-minded is not a true shepherd.

□

I am repeatedly asked to explain how to discern the genuineness of prophesying. My simple answer is: Every tree is known by its fruit; so also every gift is known by its effect.

□

Taming the tongue surpasses talking in tongues. Failure in the former dissipates the power derived from the latter. At the Judgement Seat of Christ, our talks will be a factor of consideration and not tongues. I speak in tongues daily, but I beg God for strength to subdue my tongue.

□

In the day of the prophets, though people did not repent in their hearts they at least rent their garments. We do neither. Condemning the outward acts void of inner attitude is right, but being too critical may steal from us brokenness and repentance. Beware!

□

Jesus turned water into wine, but preachers turn wine into water. Paul mourned that he had to feed the Corinthians with milk instead of meat. But Christians today demand milk diluted and skimmed. I have a question: Should preachers lower the pulpit to the pew level or lift the pew to the pulpit?

□

Dear leaders of lifeless old Church? "Don't despise the small groups and fellowships God is raising all over the world. Remember," "A living dog is better than a dead lion!"

□

It was to a Church that was active in the exercising of spiritual gifts Paul gave regulatory instructions (1 Cor 1:4-8; 14:12). How foolish it is to talk about the misuse of gifts to a congregation where not even the basic gifts of tongues and prophecies are in operation!

□

Paul predicted that after his departure, savage wolves would come to devour the flock (Acts 20:29). Peter prophesied that after his death, seductive workers would come to deceive the flock (2 Pet 2:1,2). What an awesome responsibility on the secondline leaders!

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Unless we take time to ret cod speak TO us, we cannot expect Him to speak THROUGH us. Unless we spend time to speak To God,

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Instead of bearing the Cross and following Christ, we are simply wearing the cross and following the crowd. A greater tragedy is our ignorance of the difference.

□

A battery that is recharged frequently without being used will retire soon. Christians who get refilled in every meeting but never win souls rebate soon.

□

Peter identified Pentecost as the last days. After about 40 years, John asserted that they were living in the last hour (1 Jn 2:18). Now 2000 years later, are we not then living in the last minutes? Should we not therefore expect an unparalleled outpouring of the Spirit and an unprecedented ingathering of souls?

□

According to John's narrative, while cleansing the temple, Jesus drove away the cattlesellers and overturned the tables of moneychangers. But to the sellers of doves, He simply said, "Take away these things!" (Jn 2:14-16). Though leaders should be impartial, their dealings will have to differ from individual to individual.

□

When Hagar ran away from Sarah, Cod sent her back to her mistress. But again after

sixteen years God Himself sent Hagar away from the same mistress. Blessed are those who run not ahead of God or lag behind, but learn to stay put where God places them until He gives next orders.

□

It was told concerning Joseph that he was "a fruitful vine by a well" (Gen 49:22). Interestingly, thousands of years later, near his very well an adulteress was converted and instantly became a fruitful witness (Jn 4:5,6,16-18,39). Remember, Joseph fled adultery when he was young?

□

It is a false yardstick to measure a preacher's impact on society by the crowd he attracts. History is replete with men and women who were least popular in their times but who permanently affected people's minds by what they wrote or spoke even to individuals or small groups. I therefore exhort young ministers not to compromise on their convictions or dilute doctrines to become a star personality.

□

Prayer is deficient if it is just asking. Seeking end knocking must follow. Ask God for daily bread, but go seeking a job, knocking doors of opportunities. Divine power never overtakes human responsibility. Actionlessness is as sinful as prayerlessness.

we think of giving merely as our duty, we will be calculative; when We consider it a delight, we will be enthusiastic. One is legalism and the other love.

□

Doctrinal deviations and deceptions are more common among Pentecostals and Charismatics than among the Christians of mainline denominations. I once criticized the latter group for repeating like a parrot the creeds of the Church fathers. But now I realise that their liturgical repetitions have kept them from being carried away by every wind of doctrine. “Lord, forgive me for what I said in ignorance!”

□

Roman Catholics worship Marry who brought forth Jesus into the world. Protestants worship ministers, who bring them to Jesus. Both the groups are thus guilty of idolatry which God hates. Let’s repent.

□

The only fasting most of us know is fasting the Word of God, the Bread of Heaven. We eat at meal times compulsorily. Why don’t we have the same discipline to feed our soul? Why talk about material and physical prosperity when we suffer from spiritual poverty?

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□

My consistent two fold advice to Christian workers: Never be satisfied; Never be discouraged. Strive to do better and go deeper. Try again and never give up.

□

Paul a Church-destroyer became a Church-planter. Peter a coward of the worst sort turned be a daring witness. John a power monger was transformed into an apostle of love. Zacchaeus a corrupt tax-officer was converted to be an outstanding philanthropist. What have you become?

□

It was Jesus who asked His disciples to take swords as they were going to Gethsamane. But He rebuked Peter when he misused his sword. Similarly the gifts of the Spirit can be misused as toys for our enjoyment or trophies to exhibit our greatness. But they are given as tools to enable us fulfill the Scriptures in life and ministry (Mt 26:52,54).

□

Jesus commanded His disciples to raise the dead; but many pastors are killing the living by their dead sermons, meaningless traditions and lifeless rituals. And people pay to get killed! Dear lambs, escape these slaughter houses!

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□

We are called to be saints, and commissioned to be soldiers. Saints enjoy worship and soldiers enthuse warfare. If saints are not soldierly, the Kingdom will not expand. If soldiers are not saintly, the Kingdom will not exemplify. A Biblical Christian is a saint and a soldier at the same time.

□

We spread bad news about others. But we share not the good news of Jesus. The former is the misuse of the gift of speaking and the latter its disuse. Tongue is a fire. It can either burn people or bless them depending on how it is used. We will be judged for what we shouldn't have said and should have spoken.

□

Privileges are responsibilities. And responsibilities are privileges. It's childishness that enjoys privileges and evades responsibilities. It's burdensome when we fulfill responsibilities forgetting they are privileges. It's maturity to hold both responsibilities and privileges in proper balance.

□

In committee meetings there's discussion based on informations; whereas in prayer meetings we get direction because of inspiration. While both are necessary, the final orders must come from the Almighty (Prov 19:21).

□

In South India the number of Bible Schools and Colleges have multiplied in hundreds, but there are not enough students. Similarly there are numerous orphanages without enough orphans. Several orphanages have started enrolling semi-orphans and non-orphans. This is the regrettable result of sincere pastors and preachers selling their calling for dollars and deutchmarks.

□

The choice of Stephen and Philip by the disciples for serving tables was obviously not the best. Immediately after their appointment for the said responsibility they were seen as powerful open-air and frontier evangelists. Yes, no man or human institution, however godly, can frustrate God's calling concerning us when we stay committed with Him.

□

It is much easier to cast out a legion of evil spirits from a person than to get a congregation of Spirit-filled believers out to witness to the people. Certain kinds of devils will not go except by fasting and prayer. Certain Christians will not go out unless...

□

It is to those who would go to the end of the earth that Jesus promised He would be with them till the end of the world. Similarly it is to the Philippian believers who supplied the

□

Some Churches are just hospitals; the pastor's message week after week is only of comfort. Some other Churches are creches; the members are perpetual infants. Still some others are battlefields; there are constant infightings. Several others are old people's homes; traditions are worshipped there. But there's another type of Churches which are military bases where saints are trained and sent out as soldiers to fight the devil and free his captives. Which Church do you belong to?

□

The gifts of the Spirit are like the tools a carpenter uses to make furniture. When he sells his products, he does not explain to his customers which tools he used for what. In the same way the Bible does not describe the gifts but just the results. Overoccupation with definitions and descriptions of gifts is unhealthy.

□

The people could not stop the blind man from crying; he cried all the more (Mt 10:47,48). The Pharisees could not stop the children and the disciples from praising God aloud (Lk 19:37-40). The rulers of the temple could not stop the apostles from proclaiming the truth (Acts 4:18,19; 5:28,29). Here's a warning to the backslidden clergy and the

nominal Christians: "It is hard for you to kick against pricks!"

□

The keys of the Kingdom of Heaven were given to the Church. The keys of Hades and Death are with Christ. What a possibility to plunder Hell and populate Heaven!

□

God is heavyhearted; People are hardhearted; But we Christians are light-hearted. "Father, give tears to our dry eyes and send us to the unrepentant with your burden. Time is running out!"

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