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Pamphlet Entitled
Elders & Deacons Meeting
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Now brethren, I am glad to gather together again to hear and make a record of what the Spirit of God has to say. In the form of these recorded minutes we have a guide. I could not have remembered all the things which I had stated during the last meeting but with the aid of these minutes, everything I had said came back to me. I want you to keep your personal file of these minutes up to date and read them over every so often because they are instructions to you and will make you aware of what is expected of you as an officer working in the vineyard of the Lord. It is impossible for us to work properly in one spirit unless we have a guide and that guide must be in accord with the Word of God.

The Holy Scriptures were written in the same way as are these minutes of our meetings. They were written by men who spake as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance... somebody recorded it and one day it was compiled and now we have the Holy Scriptures. The same Spirit which established the church on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, is the same Spirit which is abiding in us today because we follow the Word of God line upon line and precept upon precept. It is indeed a great privilege to be numbered with the Elders and Deacons of the Church of God in the last days. In your standing with the world, you are similar in learning and class as were those who established the early church by and through the help of the Holy Spirit. You are not learned men... you are not wise men... you are not great in the estimation of the world; therefore, you are the class which God can work through.

The Lord God gets the credit because He made the world out of nothing... and neither did He have anything to make it by. So that alone displays the wisdom of God. Wherever God can find one... purify his mind, cleanse his hands, establish his heart in righteousness, and that individual will humble himself so that he becomes willing and ready to follow the least impression God might make upon him, then God can be glorified. When one is great and noble in his own right, powerful in knowledge, they must count all they know nothing and forget it; for if they don't, God cannot be glorified in them. Not many noble... not many wise are called because God cannot be glorified by them. The Lord can get glory out of the man who is humble, whose heart He has cleansed and who will be led by Him. The big man, who is wise in his own conceit, must establish himself and appear to be great... his whole aim and object is to present himself, not Christ! But when Christ came, He didn't present Himself, He presented the Father. And when Christ was taken from the earth the Holy Ghost came. During the administration of the Holy Spirit, He does not present Himself, He presents Christ. The Holy Ghost brings to the remembrance of those who follow Christ, everything which Christ have taught. He doesn't add anything or neither does He take anything away... just reminds you of what Christ says. That's the Holy

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Ghost's position... that's all the Holy Spirit does. He guides you in the truth which was taught by Christ and calls to your remembrance those things the Saviour taught.

Now if you see a great man in the eyes of the world, one who is not willing to count all that he know and is doing to be nothing, that he might gain Christ, then he is contributing his great knowledge and power unto himself and not unto the Lord. The example we have is in the apostle Paul... educated at the feet of Gamaliel... a wise man in the wisdom of the world... but Paul never knew how small he was until Christ blinded him and he fell to the ground on his way to Damascus to persecute some of the saints. He found that he was helpless as Christ told him that he couldn't kick against the pricks. And if this way is pricking you, you too will draw back.

Jesus made Paul to know that it was He whom Paul was persecuting... not that little crowd... not that little illiterate group as he supposed, whom he thought were starting a new sect which was against the Pharisees, Scribes and Sadducees. Christ told him that he was kicking against something he couldn't overcome. Then at once Paul became humble in heart... with all of his learning, with all of his knowledge... right away he wanted to know what Jesus wanted him to do. He was wise and smart enough to know that he had met his match. It takes a smart man to know when he has met his match.

Paul was not like the old colored man in this story. Among the white people, colored people have a reputation of cutting you... and that's true... they will cut you just as soon as to look at you... Bad women carry razors in their stockings and the men always carry knives. So this white man got in an argument with a colored man and during the heat of the argument, the negro invited the white man out in the alley for a fight, saying, "Lets you and I go out here in the alley and we'll fight this thing out. Knowing the reputation of negroes, the white man said, "No, I'm not going out there because the first thing you'll do will be to cut me." The colored man said, "I wont cut you, I'm going to beat you up with my bare fist." The white man said, "Oh no you wont either... if I thought you would fight fair and wouldn't cut me, I would come on out there and fight you because I believe I am just as good a man as you are but I am no match for a knife." The negro said, " Well, I wont cut you, come on out here." The white man said, "All right, if you promise that, I'll come on out there." So he went out in the alley to meet the colored man and they began to spar off at each other. All at once the colored man struck the white man on the jaw so hard that the force of the blow turned him around. The white man's face turned red and when he came back he hit the negro on the jaw so hard he knocked him down. And when the colored man started to get up, before he could get himself together the white man... bam!... he knocked the colored man down again. So bye and bye the negro scrambled to his feet and when the white man drew back to hit him again, the colored man reached in his pocket drew out his knife with the blade open and said, "I promised not to cut you but I think I got to cut you just the same."

Saul found out that he had more than his match, so he humbled himself and asked Christ what would he have him to do. Jesus wasn't going to tell him what he should do, so He sent him on to the place for which he had started (Damascus) and told Paul that there he would find Ananias, the man whom he was going to persecute, and that he would tell him what he should do. The Lord doesn't change His Plan no matter how big you are, or how great you might seem to be... He is not going to send you to a great man. If you are all ready a great man, He is going to send you to somebody very humble who respects and honor Him. And if you hear God through the humble person, you will be made wise. So Saul went on down to Damascus and stopped at the house of man named Judas.

And at the same time the Lord spoke to Ananias and told him that Saul was at the house of Judas and that He wanted him to go over and see Saul. But when Ananias heard the name "Saul" he said, "O Lord..." Wait a minute... I want you to see how that the Lord works with His people... He talks to them just like I'm talking to you. In fact you are hearing the voice of the Lord now through me; for I am speaking the Words of God. Any time one, I don't care who they are, speak the Words of God, you are hearing the voice of God. John said that he was a voice... that he was not the Christ... he was the voice of the Christ, telling you to make straight your path. The Lord talks to you by reasoning with you... He speaks to you in your mind, and you can hear His voice just as clear as you can hear my voice now. Then, if there is any question in your mind, you talk back to God by reasoning... asking the Lord... Lord do you think I should do this or the other... what should I do?

The Lord speaks to you just as He spoke to me about taking the seven vegetables and using them. I heard a voice, just like I'm talking to you. As I walked up into the market... for I had 375 milograms of sugar in my blood. The doctor told me to go to New York and be under the supervision of a specialist in order to find out how much insulin I would have to take the balance of my life... and that I would have to do it at once because I might fall in the streets. And as I walked into the market the Lord stopped me in front of the vegetable stand and told me to purchase a cucumber, pick up a tomato, get a head of lettuce, get a bunch of celery, get a bunch of carrots, get a green pepper and a package of spinach. Take them home and chop them up and mix with a little olive oil and eat them for bread and the sugar will go out of my blood... The Lord told me not to eat any starches and not to use sweets... use saccharin for sugar... you must have some sugar... take one spoonfull of ice cream, drink a glass of water and then eat another spoonfull of ice cream and I would have the taste of ice cream in my mouth in the beginning and at the end and being filled with water I would be satisfied.

What causes you to fill up with what you taste and love is your creave for the taste, but if you taste it and then fill up and then taste it again... you get the picture. I had never heard anything like that, never thought about it and what's more I didn't even like salads... my wife would make all kinds of salads but I would never eat them. So I knew it was bound to be the Lord speaking.

I went home and got down on my knees and said, "Lord if this is you speaking, in ten days I do not desire to have any sugar in my blood." And at the end of the ten day period I came right here to Newport News and went to doctor Stevenson, a friend of mine. I told him to take my blood-sugar. He wanted to know what was the matter, had someone told me I had diabetes? I told him to take my blood and see. He called the nurse at the hospital and made arrangements for me to go right over and have a test made. So, later that same afternoon I called him as he had suggested and the first thing he asked was who told me that I had sugar... why man you need sugar... you haven't got any sugar. Now he knew nothing of my conversation with the doctor in Washington, D.C. The very thing I asked the Lord had come to pass... "if this is you Lord, in ten days don't let any sugar be in my blood." He said that I didn't have enough sugar. So the Lord talks to you through the mind and you know when He is talking because the Spirit of the Lord will move upon you.. Just as I asked God, so was it done and that settle the matter.

Today I eat all the bread I want, all the ice cream I want, all the starches I want. Before being healed I had lost weight, I was very weak... I couldn't hold my water, I was for ever itching and I just couldn't drink enough water and I was hungry all the day long... but in ten days all of that weakness had gone, I was again able to hold my water and I became normal and I've been normal every since. There were times while I was preaching I had to lean on the pulpit for support because I didn't have the necessary strength. I never said anything about my condition to anybody but the Lord. Since the Lord renewed my strength I'm up feeling good... plenty of energy... go to bed at 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock every night and then up again at six in the morning... go all day... moving around just like a cricket... hollering and you don't know where I am.

The Lord is real but He must work in the humble heart. He cannot work in a proud heart. Now getting back to Paul, Ananias said that Saul, the man you want me to go see Lord makes havoc out of everybody who calls on your Name. The Lord answered saying that Saul has prayed now. Any time that one has talked to God and the Lord talks to them, you don't have to fear that person. Saul spent three years in a little mission down among those humble people whom he had started out to persecute. Paul was a great man among his people... educated at the feet of Gamaliel... a big member of the San Hendron Court... but when he went back to Jerusalem, he didn't want to bother them.

When Paul went back to Jerusalem he went out on a street corner and began to preach. And those who once knew him came around to look at him. And they said among themselves, Isn't that Saul of Tarsus? Isn't that the man who made havoc out of those little groups such as these wherever he found them? Now how is it that he preaches the same Christ whom he persecuted... he must have lost his mind... he must be crazy.. Old Paul heard them and declared aloud that he was not ashamed; for what he was preaching was the Power of God unto everyone who believed it. And whether you believe it or not it is the Power of

God. The Word of God preaches Christ... you preach Him too... don't preach yourselves... don't try to be anything in self... Amen! I don't care what the big or little fellow say, you pay attention to what Christ says. If you pay attention to what Christ says, He can use you. no matter how small or little you are... I don't care how much of nothing you are... the more of nothing you are the better He will like you. The moment you begin to try to be something He just can't use you. Don't never think about who thinks you are this or the other... don't think you are this or the other, remember you are nothing but what Christ makes you, if you are a true Child of God.

Now precious ones, we want you to take these instructions and follow them... Take the record like this is today... read it over and follow it... don't have it but follow it. I like the statement which Bro Pondexter made... He had been working hard all day and had just finished serving us with supper and I thought he wanted to eat his dinner. He had gotten up early this morning... I knew he had been going all day... And I said Pond, will you drop us by the church? You can run back and get your supper. He said, "I'm a preacher, aren't you going to have preachers meeting?" And I said, "Why yes we are!" And he said, "Well, I'm a preacher!" And I asked him whether he wanted to get something to eat? and he answered again, "I'm a preacher!" What he meant by that was that he was out just to eat. If something was going to be given whereby he might be made stronger spiritually, and given more knowledge... that he was a preacher and if the preachers were going to have a meeting, regardless of his not having something to eat, he felt that he ought to be there.

So precious ones, if you are a preacher of the Gospel of Christ, nothing should get between you and your duty. One thing I want to leave with you, and that is, we want the ministers and deacons to know that you represent lieutenants and captains in the Church of God. And you have never seen an army gathering together and mustering themselves up in ranks without the captains, lieutenants and sergeants being there to call the other soldiers to order. Now don't get the idea that because you are a preacher, you can come strutting in the church after the congregation has been seated. Don't get the idea that because you are a deacon, that you're to come to church after the appointed time just because you are an officer or a privilege character. You are suppose to be the light of the church, you are to be an example, one to whom others can look up to.

It happens to be my lot, having seven churches and then trying to establish a great business program, to have to work all day long with my mind on a hundred different things. and at the end of the day before going to church, I have to let my wife and everybody else get out of the house, because the phone rings all day... sometime I have one phone at one ear and another at the other trying to reach Baltimore, New York or Philadelphia. Some mornings I've talked to New York, Philadelphia and Warren, Ohio before 7:00 o'clock. And very often, morning after morning, it's after 11:00 o'clock before I can put on my britches... up working too! Because by trying to give orders, make certain

contacts in order to keep things in line... I hope you don't think all this work is accomplished by just singing and shouting, do you? If you do, you are mistaken. And neither is your work accomplished with the responsibilities placed upon you as one individual, unless you do some hard work.

Leadership must be divinely lead... it calls for more than just talk to do what God has inspired me to do. Therefore I've got to let the Lord talk to me. So I wait until everyone is out of the house, cut off the phones and let the Lord clear my brains out... I have to do that! So that's why I come out a little late... after the service has started. I love to be there to hear the testimonies because that's where I get feed; for God speaks through the least person. I don't care how small you are, all I want to know is that your life is clean and I'll listen to every word you have to say. And I'm not sleep either... I've got my eyes and ears open because I know who God talks through. I know the voice of God the moment I hear it speaking through anybody and I also know the other voice when I hear it too. I have found that God dwells in the midst of His people and speaks to them through one or the other.

Each and every one of you will get your own if you listen to the testimonies of others when you gather together at the house of God. Whatever you need, if you don't think it means somebody else, will come your way if you are always listen for your part. You'll get it just as sure as you setting here. I want to say this to you too, you don't want to try and be Elder Michaux... saying the Elder doesn't come until such and such a time, so neither will I... don't be me... If you want to be somebody be Jesus... now you see what I mean... I can't always be to church at the appointed hour because of my responsibilities... they differs from yours.

So, every preacher, every deacon, if your services are at eight o'clock, you ought to be there... I mean if you are representing Christ. If you are just representing the office and not Christ you are fooling nobody but yourselves. To represent Christ you've got to be a light, and to be a light you've got to be an example and to be an example you have to suffer and deny yourself... just as Elder Pondexter did when I made mention of attending the Elders and Deacons Meeting. You will find that when you are getting ready to go out, you'll find time to do most any thing but if the Spirit of God comes to you and say lets pray, right away you will get in the biggest hurry you most ever did see. And when you get down on your knees you wont be able to half way pray for thinking that you will be behind time. You watch yourself in the morning when you are preparing to leave for work. When it comes time to pray, although you've had time to do everything else, if you are not careful, you will catch yourself looking up at the clock to see how near it is to the time you should be leaving. Satan wants to rush you when you begin to talk to God.

So we want you to establish this among the churches, that the preacher be there at eight o'clock, the deacons be there at eight O'clock, the next man

to be there is the usher and then the choir is to be there too.... If the people come... amen!... if they don't come... glory! You are there on the job which is indeed the proper thing. Please don't forget that... put that in your mind... I want to leave that one thought with you if nothing else. When the people come and learn to see you there, they'll be there. But if they come and don't see you... sometime they'll come and peep in the door... and if the deacon and preacher are not up there first, the people will hang around on the outside... There is nothing to lead them inside! And there you are at home, doing nothing but browsing around and wasting time. So we want this one thing if nothing else taken away from this meeting.

Next, when your reports come in, we want you to show what time you got to the service each evening. If the service starts at 8 o'clock, you are suppose to be there at eight not at nine or ten. If you get there at 8:30, you liar, please put down that you got there at 8:00... and that record will be up there to greet you. You are not serving Elder Michaux, or the congregation, but Christ first and then your overseer here on earth and then the congregation next. So the first one you'll offend if you are not faithful, true and trueful is Christ. And the next one you offend is the congregation because you become a stumbling block... as a leader you ought to be in your place. And always watch so as to keep the Spirit of God alive among the people.

Now, the next thing I want to make clear to you is that as a minister or a deacon, never allow yourself to take sides with anybody. As an officer of the church, no matter how someone comes to you crying or talking about another never allow yourself to talk with any one about another person. Don't take sides with anyone, just say that you will look into the matter and give them an answer later. If you give an answer at all see to it that you give it against them. When they come complaining about what somebody said or done to them, say, well sister, if you are in Christ, no one can be against you... if you are in Christ nobody can hurt you. Say, now if that sister isn't living or acting right, you take it and go ahead and show them how to live the life of Christ. Give them that kind of an answer!

The devil is always trying to bind you as a leader to be on somebody's side. Don't be on nobody's side but God's. Don't care about what people say... for as soon as they find out they can no longer use you they will go behind your back and tell everybody about what a big hypocrite you are. Don't love any one better than you love the Lord. Now stamp that down in you minds. And another thing, we want you to be more faithfull in rendering service to the people in your community, whether they are Saints or Sinners. You must do unto your neighbor as you would have your neighbor to do unto you... no matter who it is! If you can render a service to a fellow who is in trouble, bdat... so long as you are not partaking of any sin. If he is sick, go in and pray with him and give him an encouraging word. Don't just pray for the Saint and look over thw sinner. Pray for the Saint and go over and say a kind word to the sinner.

You should never allow no week to pass by without you having visted some one in the hospital or someone's home and giving an encouraging word at sometime between the hours of service. Always encourage the saints to be kind and polite to all of their neighbors no matter how mean or contemptible they might be. Let the light shine out of the windows of your home into the homes which don't have the light of life that you have. When you come out on your porch, say "Good morning," even if it's the devil himself you meet... say "Good morning." Be separate but not selfish... be up but not stuck-up. Do you know how to do that?... be nice, kind and polite to everybody but don't be a servant to no one but God.

Number one, which I am repeating, we want to establish in this church that you Elders and Deacons be on time in attending the services at your church at the set time, whatever time that might be. We want to follow the principle if we are going to represent the Lord. In closing brethren, I want to admonish you to keep these meetings preeminent in your minds as Elders and Deacons representing the kingdom of heaven. We are ambassadors of Christ, telling men and women to be reconciled to God.

NOTICE: It was also established just before the benediction during our last meeting, that a questionnaire covering the main points of the meeting which could be found in the minutes of the previous meeting, would be mailed to each Elder and Deacon, and that everyone would be required to complete the questionnaire and return same that we might know and be assured that every one had read the minutes.

The following instructions for conducting Bed-Side Services in Hospital were given:

When you go to the hospital and began to have prayer at the bed side of a patient, you don't have to call on the Lord as though He is in Richmond; for He is right there by your side. You merely stand over the person with your hand on their head, and pray so that they, you and the Lord can hear you. And when you go to another bed, move around quietly... don't disturb the whole hospital... and let your conversations be in quietness. We want you to go to the hospitals and see the sick and invite them to the church when they are able to come. Go to their homes to see them while they are convalesing. You must do something to be a minister. Don't just pop in and out of here and say, I'm a preacher... do something. Now don't make a lot of noise while you are in the hospitals... you see signs all over the place... SILENCE! Be like the little boy when his mother got after him for not saying his prays. "Bcy, didn't I tell you to say your prayers?" "I said them mother!" Well I didn't hear you!" "I wasn't talking to you mommy." The little boy was talking to the Lord... he didn't have to holler out to his mother.

Now when you are at home and the Spirit of the Lord is upon you; holler as loud as you please... You are under you own vine and fig tree and you wont be offending anyone.