

This Latter Rain Evangel article was derived from the pamphlet "Ethan O. Allen" by William T. MacArthur published around 1926.

Miracles Wrought Through Prayer and Fasting The Story of a Man Who Walked With God

ONLY a fisherman was Peter, steering his craft in and out amongst those of others engaged in like occupation on the blue waters of the Sea of Galilee. As these simple folk chatted together, none saw in Peter any distinguishing marks. They saw only Peter the fisherman, not the Peter of the Day of Pentecost; not the man whose touch restored strength and life to crippled limbs, or sight to blind eyes; not the Peter whose very shadow was a means of physical blessing as he trod the highways and hedges of ancient Palestine. One day there came the Nazarene, and He whose vision far surpassed that of mortal man, saw in this unlearned and uncouth fisherman, material to be used in the building of His Church. He saw in embryo the mighty apostle. Wonderful Personage, this Jesus, who transformed a fisherman into an apostle!

The Son of God is still transforming men of low degree into mighty warriors of faith. He sees in Carey the humble cobbler an instrument to blaze the trail for Christianity in heathen India. He sees in Jerry McCauley, the "river thief," the leader of a great host from the slime of what was called "Hell's Kitchen." He delights to take the

weak things to confound the mighty, the foolish things to bewilder the wise.

Thus God found Ethan Allen in the days when the doctrine of Divine Healing was in its infancy. A poor consumptive and unfit for hard labor, he was appointed superintendent of a poor farm in one of the New England states. Here were housed not only the indigent but also the feeble-minded and the harmless lunatics. A Methodist class meeting was being held in a country schoolhouse nearby, and God, knowing the possibilities wrapped up in that simple-hearted poor-master, drew him hitherward. The testimonies and prayers were fervent, and the Spirit of the Lord was present in power. At the close one of the leaders said to him, "Brother Allen, don't you think it is time for you to seek religion?" He was deeply impressed and went forward and accepted Jesus as his Savior. Great joy filled his soul and there was much rejoicing. Then in the enthusiasm of his newfound joy he said, "Brethren, if you will pray for me I believe this mighty power that has come upon me will heal my lungs." For a moment the class leaders were staggered. Such a thing was unheard of.

Then one spoke up and asked, "Does it not say 'They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover'?" They had read the scripture many times but they had never known anyone to take it literally. At the suggestion of some one to "Try it" they prayed, and to the astonishment of all but Ethan Allen, he was instantly healed.

Back to the poor farm he went and in his simplicity prayed for the sick under his care. He always quoted Mark 16:17, 18, as a basis of authority for praying for the sick and casting out demons. He early learned that epileptics and lunatics were possessed and controlled by demon power and in the All prevailing name of Jesus delivered many an afflicted one in that institution. He heard the Lord calling him to this ministry in an audible voice, saying, as He did to Peter and the other apostles, "Behold, I give you power over all the power of the enemy," and with childlike simplicity he accepted the gift, using the words and methods employed by the Lord Jesus Christ when on earth.

He believed that all sickness was either directly or indirectly the work of Satan, and invariably cast out the evil spirit before he prayed for the healing of the sick one. Some, he claimed were easily expelled while others were obstinate. He was a living exponent of God "choosing the things that are not to bring to naught the things that are." In the ecclesiastical world he belonged to "the things that are not," the "things which are despised," but through the Name of Jesus he *brought to naught* sickness, insanity, epilepsy,

and many incurable diseases. A minister who was well acquainted with him said he never knew him to ask God for anything he did not receive. Yet he did not pray for people simply because he was asked to do so. He always endeavored to ascertain if there was any hindrance and if there was he would not pray for healing though it was his own flesh and blood.

On one occasion his grandchild lay at the point of death. The grandmother in her concern lay the child on his knees and begged him to pray, but he refused, feeling it was the "chastening rod of the Heavenly Father." The father of the child (his son) had backslid and was living a careless life, far away from God. Finally, as they were insistent he said, "Well I will lay my hands on the child and if God gives me a burden I will pray." He did so but the child died. He knew God would not heal in the backslidden condition of its father, and said, "I knowed it was the rod."

To him the devil was very real, and he had many fierce conflicts with this unseen force; but he was fearless, having all confidence in the all-powerful name of Jesus. It was characteristic to hear him talk - first to the devil, then to the Lord, and lastly to the sick person. To the devil he would sometimes say, "Oh yes, you have had a fine time, haven't you? Yes, a fine time; but I am here now, and I'm going to put the Name of Jesus on you, and you cannot stand that." Then he would say reverently, "Blessed Jesus, You know me. You know that I stand on the Old Commission (meaning Mark 16:17, 18). Then turning to the sick one he would

say, "Now I am going to heal you in the Name of Jesus. He expected the healing to come then and there, and if it did not he simply renewed his efforts.

There was one case of a man who had been poisoned and was badly swollen. "Father" Allen, as he was familiarly known, had a great deal to say to the devil on this occasion, praying for every part of the man's body except his feet. The next day the man returned well, the swelling completely gone except from his feet. "Father" Allen was deeply stirred. "There," he said, "you see when you particularize you've got to be particular! I never said a word about them feet." Then turning on the devil, he said, "Oh yes, you thought because I never mentioned them feet that you'd just stay there. In the name of Jesus, come out!" The feet became normal almost immediately.

He often fasted before the Lord; in fact he would not take a difficult case until he had fasted, and in many cases he insisted in fasting by the side of the sick. A minister said that he once knew him to refuse both food and water for six days and nights. During this time he prayed for and received deliverance of an insane man. In extreme cases like this he said he always insisted on some near relative fasting as long as he did; saying that Jesus in dealing with children and irresponsible adults always acted in conjunction with parents or near relatives.

A minister once wrote him to pray for a sick woman and received the following reply on a post card, "All hail! I offered the words of castin' out as

they were given to me by the Holy Ghost, by the space of half an hour, and I feel sure the devil has gone out of the woman." The woman herself had been a teacher of Divine Healing and had seen many people healed in answer to her prayers, and in the natural would have resented his "words of castin' out," but she was sick unto death and could get no help from God. She finally called in several doctors and they pronounced her case as hopeless. They were unable to agree in their diagnosis but all admitted that she was beyond their help. For sometime the woman remained in this helpless condition and then the minister lost sight of her, having moved to a distant city. He often wondered about "Father" Allen's words of castin' out and whether in this case they had failed. Five years later he held a service in that same city and a portly woman came and shook hands with him whose name he could not recall. He learned that it was the same woman whom he left in a dying condition. "Tell me about it," he said. "There is nothing to tell," she replied. "All I know is that I awakened one morning to find myself in perfect health." She herself had no faith and apparently no one else had faith for her, but God could not deny His servant who had such childlike faith in Him.

At one time he had on his cheekbone an open sore, which was pronounced cancer. He fasted and laid hands on it, as he did for others, prayed and believed. The growth was checked but the sore was still there. After a time a brother said to him, "Brother Allen, the cancer seems to persist in its work," He replied, "Oh yes, I have not had time to

attend to it," meaning that he had so much to do for others that he could not take time to fight the devil and fast and pray until victory was manifest.

Sometime after, this same man met him and his face was fair and spotless. In speaking of it, Mr. Allen said, "It dried up like a coat button held in place by a shank. One day I picked it off the floor, where it had dropped. It had a fiber coming out of the cheek attached to it like the shank of a button. Oh I knowed it had to go!"

Into the Homes for Incurables it was his joy to go, to bring deliverance to those for whom there was no earthly help. Miss Musgrove of Troy, N. Y. wrote in 1924 of her remarkable experience when this humble instrument in God's hands was used in her healing. She had been a terrible sufferer for four and a half years, had many of the best physicians but the verdict of all was that her entire body was so completely worn out that recovery was impossible. She was taken to the Home for Incurables in Brooklyn, N. Y. in the early summer of 1881, with a letter to the matron saying that she might live until Fall, but God gave her the assurance that she should again engage in Christian work. Two Christian women who were acquainted with Father Allen's very fruitful ministry in behalf of the sick wrote her, asking if they might send him to pray for her healing. She prayed that if this was God's will to lead a woman, of faith in the Home to acquiesce, and when this woman read the letter she said, "I believe this is God's will." When Ethan Allen was asked to go, he inquired of the

Lord what he should do, and His answer was, "Go. I will raise her up for My glory."

He arrived at the Home about supper time and was asked to eat his supper before praying for her. His reply was characteristic: "No, the Lord has important work for me in this Home. I shall neither eat nor drink until it be accomplished." Then going at once to the sick woman he asked regarding her Christian experience. When he asked, "Do you believe that God is willing to heal you *now*?" she said "Yes." And as he laid on hands he told the Lord he believed on the authority of His Word she was healed. As they praised the Lord for healing new life thrilled and thrilled through her entire being. "The forty-two years since that hour have proved the healing permanent."

"Father" Allen's fast was not then over. He still refused food on the ground that the Lord showed him there were other cases in that Home, and also outside for whom He would use him, and while this special season of ministry lasted for several days, his fast continued, and it was remarkable that when the fast was ended he seemed as fresh as at the beginning.

One case in particular was remarkable, that of a very amiable young lady. When he commenced to pray for her he stated that hers was a case of demon possession. Some of the inmates of the Home were angry that he should make such a statement but he repeated it and obtained her permission to work with her on that ground. As soon as he commanded the evil spirits, which were tormenting her, to depart she became violent, even

using physical force against him and the onlookers at the same time upbraiding him. He was unmoved and continued to command the evil spirits to leave. At last she fell back on the bed as though dead, insomuch that some cried out, "He has killed her!" "She is dead!" But soon she aroused and praised the Lord saying, "I am healed."

On another occasion he was praying with a girl who was demon-possessed and trying to cast the devil out. The demon was slow in obeying the command, so Father Allen said, "I tell you what I will do. I will let you go into my pig at home." The young woman was then delivered as the demon gave up his hold. Meantime "Father" Allen's wife was at home and knew nothing about this occurrence. Only she noticed that something terrible had come over the pig; it apparently became insane and raced back and forth in the pen like mad. When her husband came home she said, "Oh Ethan, Ethan, I do not know what is the matter with our pig." He said, "I know what is the matter. I permitted that demon to go into our pig but I will not permit him to stay there." So, he cast him out and the pig was instantly delivered.

Ethan Allen was one of the first in America to teach and practice Divine Healing, and was contemporaneous with Dorothea Trudel who labored in Switzerland about the same time. Mr. Wm. T. McArthur, who has compiled these reminiscences in a little brochure, from which we have quoted, and who was personally acquainted with him, writes of his closing years:

"The last four years of his life were spent in California, where he lived in a bungalow which his son built for him. An aged relative cared for him, and she said that no matter who visited the home or what their business was, she observed that they spoke in hushed tones, as though they felt they were on holy ground. And what wonder! Behind the draperies sat the silent figure of one who had cultivated an acquaintance with God such as few have ever known. Given up to die at thirty, he was now at the age of ninety, no longer able to undertake long journeys, or to undergo long fasts, but is still officiating as priest in the holiest of all. 'Poor, yet making many rich.' And after all, is not the richest man in the world he who is on such terms of intimacy with Deity that he can ask what he will and have it done unto him? What millionaire would not gladly change places with him when the hour has come that must come to every man, when gold itself has lost its purchasing power, and only the name of Jesus possesses intrinsic worth!"

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