

Carrie and George Montgomery's First Meeting with Maria Woodworth

The kind friends who welcomed us to this Coast, almost immediately informed us of a wonderful revival work in progress in Oakland, under a Mrs. Woodworth from Ohio. These friends reported that the power of God was so greatly displayed in these meetings, as to cause many to lose their strength and fall apparently lifeless, to the ground.

We found ourselves rather prejudiced and critical, and yet determined to prove all things and hold fast to the good. We attended our first meeting soon after our arrival, and we heard one of the most solid Gospel sermons to which we have ever I listened, delivered in great power of the Holy Ghost. The tent was crowded, between two and three thousand being present, and multitudes were turned away, for lack, even, of standing room. Although we have ourselves begun work in a Methodist Church in San Francisco, holding afternoon meetings each day we have felt so impressed with the Holy Ghost power in these Oakland meetings, and have so realized blessing to our own souls through them, that the present leading of the Lord for us is to attend Woodworth's meetings, and to listen to the fervent Gospel messages poured through her by the Holy Ghost.

Both Oakland and San Francisco are greatly stirred over these meetings. The devil is raising much opposition, through ministers and through the press. The papers publish the most atrocious falsehoods, but still the work goes on, multitudes of sinners are converted, believers are filled with the Holy Ghost, and the sick are often marvelously healed. Infidels who come to scoff are often laid hold of by God's power and joyfully converted. Mrs. Woodworth believes that we are living in the last times, that the coming of the Lord is very near, that this manifestation of the power of the

Holy Ghost in causing many of His people to lose their strength and to dream dreams, and to see visions, is in fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel 2:28, 29. Those who are deeply under this power of the Holy Ghost, often have the most marvelous visions of hell, and of heaven, and when they afterwards undertake to declare the awfulness of the one, and the bliss of the other, language fails them, and one can see written on their faces a little impress of the deep things which have been shown them.

Almost invariably they bring the message, "Jesus is coming soon. *Be Ready!*" After hearing Mrs. Woodworth handle the word of God with such Divine unction, it would seem like sacrilege to speak one word against her or against the work God is doing through her. Steps are now being taken to procure a new tent, twice as large as the present one (to hold five thousand), as so many are turned away each evening.

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