

SIDE A

LIVING THE LIFE EMPOWERED

"Where I go, you can't follow Me now; but you will follow Me afterwards."

John 13:36

" And he said to them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** (Mt 4:19)" It had been three years earlier when, Jesus had said - "**Follow Me,**" and Peter had followed no problem, the fascination of Jesus was on him, he didn't need the Holy Spirit to help him do it. Then he came to that place where he denied Jesus, where he failed. Later he receives the Holy Spirit, and now Jesus says again - "**Follow Me.**" There is nothing in front now except Jesus. The first "Follow Me" had nothing mystical in it, it was an external following; the second is internal.

So when they had eaten, Jesus said to Peter, "**Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me more than these**"? He said, Yes, Lord; you know I love you. Jesus said to him, "**feed my lambs**". He said again the second time, "**Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me**"? He said, Yes, Lord; you know I love you. Jesus said, "**Feed my sheep**". He said to him the third time, "**Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me**"? Peter was overcome and said to him, Lord, you know everything, and you know I love you. Jesus said, "**Feed my sheep. Truthfully I say to you, When you were young, you dressed yourself, and went where ever you wanted: but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you, and take you where you don't want to go**". He said this, to tell by what death he would glorify God. And when he said this, he said to him, "**follow me**". (John 21:15-19). Here we see true grace at work as Jesus gently forgives Peter for his denial of Him, three I love you's to counter the three denials.

During this time after the first and before the second Peter had denied Jesus swearing and cussing, he had come to the end of himself and all his power, and because of this there wasn't one strand of himself he would ever rely on again, and in his need he was now in a condition fit to receive instructions from Jesus risen from the grave. "He breathed on them, and said to them, **receive the Holy Ghost.**" No matter what changes God has made in you, never rely upon them, only on Jesus, and the Spirit He gives.

All our vows and resolutions end in chaos because we have no power to carry them out. When we come to the end of ourselves, not figuratively but really, we are able to receive God's Spirit. "**Receive the Holy Ghost**" - the idea is that of "being a container". There is only one "North star" in life now, and that is Jesus.

Adapted from Oswald Chambers My Utmost for His Highest.

THE FLIP SIDE

ALL OF ME

Project 86

Been swallowing my debris
Without a trace of dignity
I'm living a fallacy and
Been holding tight to all I can't keep
One memory
One memory
This time's the last I'll second guess
Your legacy
Your legacy
This time's the last I will forget

So can't you take
All of me
All of me
All of me?
Once and for all
Can't you take me?

I recognize the causes
Now I'm cutting all my losses
Severing all the hindrance
Shedding the viral skin of infection
You'd never believe the wolf I became (this time)
In moments of weakness and disarray (this time)
But now they can try to beat it out of me (this time)
I'm welcome to the challenge of emergency

Out of the halls of ruin
The slow burn slow steady climb this time
'Bout to reverse the movement
And I'm quite sure you know just where I'm heading