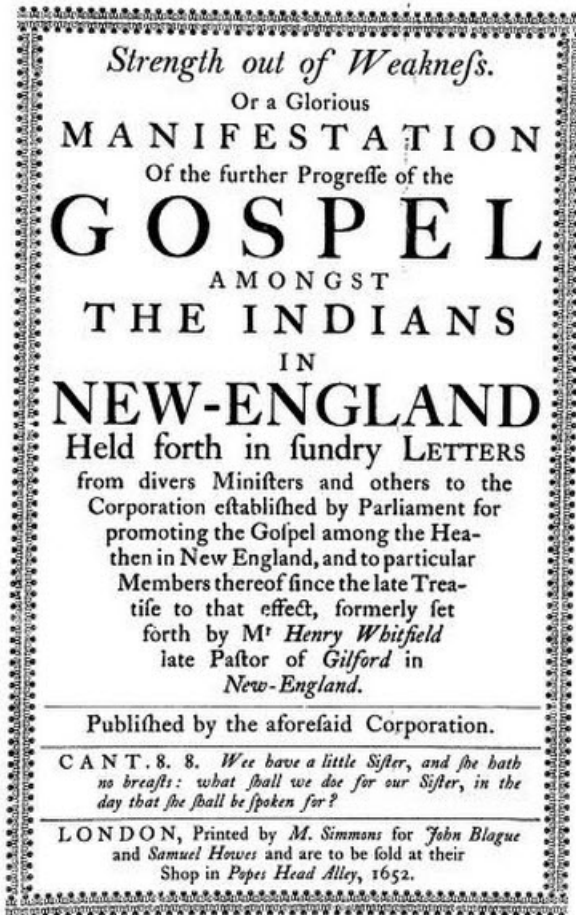


William French was the author of a letter written by him to "a godly friend in England," which was published in a book titled "Strength out of Weakness" published in London and re-printed by the Boston Historical Society, (Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., 3d S. vol. iv. p. 149-196) in which he gives a detailed account of the testimony of an Indian convert.



Original:

The best News I can write you from New England is, the Lord is indeed converting the Indians, and for the refreshing of your heart, and the hearts of all the Godly with you. I have sent you the Relation of one Indian of two yeares profession, that I tooke from his owne mouth, by an Interpreter, because he cannot speake or understand one word of English.

The first Question was;

Q. How did you come first to any sight of sinne?

A. His answer was, before the Lord did ever bring any English to us, my conscience was exceedingly troubled for sinne, but after Mr Mahew came to preach, and had been here some time, one chiefe Saga|more did imbrace the Gospel, and I hearing of him, I went to him, and prayed him to speake

something to mee concerning God, and the more I did see of God, the more I did see my sinne, and I went away reljoycing, that I knew any thing of God, and also that I saw my sinne.

Q. I pray what hurt doe you see in sinne?

A. Sinne, sayth he, is a continuall sicknesse in my heart.

Q. What further evill doe you see in sinne?

A. I see it to be a breach of all Gods Commandements.

Q. Doe you see any punishment due to man for sinne?

A. Yea, sayth he, I see a righteous punishment from God due to man for sinne, which shall be by the Devills in a place like unto fire (not that I speake of materiall fire, (sayth he) where man shall be for ever dying and never dye.

Q. Have you any hope to escape this punishment?

A. While I went on in the way of Indianisme I had no hope, but did verily believe I should goe to that place, but now I have a little hope, and hope I shall have more.

Q. By what meanes doe you look for any hope?

A. Sayth he, by the satisfaction of Christ.

I prayed the Interpreter, to tell him from mee that I would have him thinke much of the satisfaction of Christ, (and so he told him) I prayed him to returne mee his Answer.

A. I thanke him kindly for his good Counsell, it doth my heart good, sayd he, to heare any man speak of Christ.

Q. What would you thinke if the Lord should save you from misery?

A. If the Lord, said he, would save me from all the sinne that is in my heart, and from that misery, I should exceedingly love God, and sayth he, I should love a man that should doe mee any good, much more the Lord, if he should doe this for mee.

Q. Doe you thinke that God will doe you any good for any good that is in you?

A. Though I beleeve that God loves man that leaves his sinne, yet I beleeve it is for Christs sake.

Q. Doe you see that at any time God doth answer your prayers?

A. Yea, sayth he, I take every thing as an Answer of prayer.

Q. But what speciall answer, have you taken notice of?

A. Once my wife being three dayes and three nights in labour, I was resolved never to leave praying, till she had deliverance, and at last God did it, and gave her a sonne, and I called his name Returning, because all the while I went on in Indianisme I was going from God, but now the Lord hath brought mee to him backe againe.

By this time Captaine Gooking came to us, and he asked him this Questions:

Q. What he would thinke if he should finde more affliction and trouble in Gods wayes, then he did in the way of In|dianisme.

A. His answer was, when the Lord did first turne mee to himselfe

and his wayes, he stripped mee as bare as my skinne, and if the Lord should strip mee as bare as my skinne againe, and so big Saggamore should come to mee, and say, I will give you so big Wampom, so big Beaver, and leave this way, and turne to us againe: I would say, take your riches to your selfe, I would never forsake God and his wayes againe.

This is a Relation taken by my selfe, William French.

Translation in modern language:

William French wrote about a Native American who had been a Christian for two years. French interviewed him with the help of an interpreter because the Native American didn't speak or understand English. The man shared that even before English settlers arrived, he felt troubled by his sins. However, it was after hearing Mr. Mahew preach and seeing another prominent Native American convert to Christianity that he began to understand God and recognize his own sins more clearly. He described sin as a constant sickness in his heart and a violation of God's commandments. He believed that sin led to eternal punishment in a hell-like place, but now he held some hope of salvation through Christ's sacrifice.

The man expressed gratitude when encouraged to focus on Christ's satisfaction and felt heartened by discussions about Christ. He hoped that if God saved him from sin and misery, his love for God would be immense. He recognized that any good in him wasn't the reason for God's grace but rather believed it was because of Christ. He mentioned how he perceived God's intervention during his wife's difficult labor, naming his son "Returning" to symbolize his return to God from his previous beliefs. Even if he were to face greater hardships in Christianity than in his former life, he affirmed his commitment to God, valuing spiritual richness over any material wealth offered to revert to his old ways.

This account was personally recorded by William French, capturing the Native American's journey of faith and commitment to his new beliefs despite the challenges.